



ANNUAL REPORT 2016

**Promoting
Older People's Rights
in Europe**



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For a short presentation of our mission, vision and objectives, please see [our pdf leaflet](#)

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Forewords



Marjan Sedmak

President of AGE Platform Europe

The world around us is changing, changing faster than ever up to now, and the timespan, usually called a foreseeable future, is shorter and shorter. Therefore the missed responses to this changing world shouldn't take us by surprise - the history abounds in it. On the other hand the history abounds of those - people and groups - that were able and witty enough to discover the ways out of historical cul-de-sacs, to indicate the tracks to the next stage of positive development, and by positive development we usually have in mind more stable peace, more welfare state and more democratic participation.

What I'm speaking about is of course everything connected to the Brexit, the main event in our European reality in 2016, event that will influence very much the work of AGE Platform Europe and which I consider the wrong reaction to the existing dilemmas, a sort of escapism into an old seemingly safe world, though this world does not exist anymore. AGE Platform Europe is an organisation of and for older people as stated in its Statutes. But this cannot and must not be an excuse for being passive. Our responsibility is not only to intercede on behalf of older people's rights and dignified life, our responsibility is also to hand-over this world to the younger generations as a safe and prosperous place worth to live in. And therefore we have to be part of those who are trying to ask themselves the right questions to be able to find the right answers to them. It's not an easy task, and because it's not easy we need even stronger alliances, including alliances with those who were or could become the victims of any new -exit. Especially older people are strongly encouraged not to erect walls of any kind, generational, racial, ethnic, national and other.

We are living in one world, so let us try to make this world friendlier to all and everybody - without running away from changes but confronting them with an open spirit and the wisdom of old age.

Anne-Sophie Parent

Secretary-General of AGE Platform Europe

2016 will remain in history books as a major turning point in many ways, not all welcome. AGE work in 2016 cannot compete with these dramatic events in terms of media coverage, but nevertheless we have worked hard with our members and our efforts have delivered some progress we can be proud of.



The energy we spent in past years to build the case for a **UN instrument to protect the rights of older persons** seem to have helped create a more open attitude among some key EU countries as we could see last December at the UN Open-Ended Working Group on the rights of older persons. Thanks to our members' contributions we enriched the reflection on the need and feasibility of a future UN convention.

With our members' feedback, we did our own review of the impact of the **UN Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing** on older people living in the EU and addressed recommendations to national governments on how to trigger positive policy change by building better synergies between MIPAA and relevant national policies. An exercise we want now to repeat once a year to monitor the situation of older people in Europe and the impact of national policies on their rights.

We managed to raise better awareness among EU policymakers and UN Committee on the rights of persons with disabilities, about the systemic, multifaceted and structural discrimination faced by older people with functional limitations and the risks of discrimination at the intersection of age and disability. Hopefully this will trigger policy change, and better attention will be paid to older persons in the implementation of the **UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**.

With other NGOs, we continued to push for the adoption of the **EU equal treatment directive** and gathered new examples of age discrimination in access to goods and services. We also actively promoted the **WHO campaign on combating ageism** and we are now trying to build synergies between the EU and WHO work on ageism.

In cooperation with the European Commission, ENNHRI and the Council of Europe, we organised a joint event to mark the International day on Awareness of Elder Abuse and focused on **violations of human rights of older persons in care, in particular the most vulnerable**, an issue we are now following with the Flemish and Biscay regional governments.

Thanks to our members, 2016 was a very productive year for AGE despite a difficult external context.

2016 in figures



9 Statutory meetings



6 Events (co-)organised
+/- 150 Contributions to events



19 EU projects

14

Task
Forces

gathering...

320 nominated
experts

had...

4 face-to-face meetings

10 virtual meetings



20

Press releases
& newsflashes



23

Position papers
& Policy briefs



12

EP reports
having received AGE
amendments



32

EU or global
consultations

1 renewed
website

+50.000
views

1 European
Parliament blog

+1.200
views

11 monthly
newsletters

+2.000
direct recipients



3.250 followers
+400 posts



325 likes
+40 posts

In 2016, AGE participated in...

31 consultative groups



European consultative groups

European Commission

- e-Health Stakeholders Group
- European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing Action group D4
- European Pensions Forum
- European Social Fund Transnational Network on Employment
- European Multi-stakeholder Platform on ICT Standardisation
- EU Health Policy Forum
- Expert Group on Senior Tourism
- Financial Services User Group
- Stakeholder Group of the Annual Convention on Inclusive Growth

The European Commission & Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD):

- Steering Group of joint project on effective social protection for long-term care

European Agencies

- Fundamental Rights Platform of the European Fundamental Rights Agency
- WG of Patients and Consumers Working Parties of the European Medicines Agency
- WG on Technical Specification on Interoperability of the European Railway Agency

Other European institutions

- Euro Retail Payment Board of the European Central Bank and its WGs on contactless payments and on instant payments
- European Economic and Social Committee liaison group with NGOs

European joint programmes

- The Ambient Assisted Living Joint Programme (AB)
- More Years Better Lives Joint Initiative Programme (AB)

AB= Advisory board
WG= Working groups



Civil society groups

- Design For All WG of the European consumer voice in standardization (ANEC)
- Strategic Advisory Group on Accessibility and Joint Working Group 5 Mandate 473 on Design for All of CEN-CENELEC
- eHealth and Access to medicines WGs of the European Public Health Agency (EPHA)
- Customer Liaison Group of CER (the Voice of European Railways)
- Steering Group and Management Committee of the Social Platform
- EU Inclusion Strategies Group of the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN)
- NGOs Alliance for a Democratic, Social and Sustainable European Semester



International consultative groups

United Nations

- Consultative Status with UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
- Member of the Advisory Group of the Economic Commission for Europe (UN-ECE) Generations and Gender Programme
- Member of the UN-ECE Expert Group on the Active Ageing Index
- Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing (OEWG)

Other international groups

- International Conference of NGOs (iNGOs) of the Council of Europe
- Steering Group of the Global Alliance for the Rights of Older People

AB= Advisory board
WG= Working groups

Highlights of the Year



■ Increased awareness of older people's rights among NGOs and policymakers

Many older people do not perceive human rights as something which is relevant to their day-to-day lives. Yet, human rights should not be an alienating concept understood only by lawyers, but a vehicle through which everyone can enjoy basic entitlements. This is why our work in 2016 aimed at raising awareness about how human rights work in practice, providing older people with the necessary tools to defend their rights, and flagging situations in which human rights are not equally enjoyed in old age. A **series of events and practical tools** improved the capacity of our members to monitor and promote human rights at grassroots level. Bringing concrete evidence from other groups, such as women, persons with disabilities and children, for whom human rights are a key advocacy tool and driver for change, we encouraged NGOs to start or continue using human rights in their work. With direct involvement of our members, we developed a [manifesto](#) that they can use to advance the rights of older persons in their country. Highlighting structural discrimination of older people and the failure of the existing instruments to address the full spectrum of their rights, we achieved a greater recognition of the need to take positive action at EU and UN level.

Thanks to our work, the European Parliament has addressed in several reports and activities, the rights of older people and the need for further measures to adequately protect them. We also debated the added value of a **new UN Convention** that would target older persons and explored how NGOs can use the system of collective complaints of the Council of Europe to drive policy change. Our work in 2016 tackled some of the key barriers in the realisation of the rights of older persons, in particular, not factoring and involving older people in every policy decision that concern them; and lacking understanding of rights in old age and how they can be materialised in practice. At the same time we achieved greater visibility of older people's rights at EU and global levels, a legacy on which we will build for years to come.

■ Advancing older people's rights in socio-economic policies at EU and global levels

In March 2016, the European Commission published a proposal for a '**European Pillar of Social Rights**', to give substance to President Juncker's announcement of working towards a 'Social Triple A' for Europe. The proposal was followed by a long public consultation, open until December 2016. AGE built on the momentum of the consultation and led thorough discussions on almost all policy domains covered by the proposed pillar of social rights. [The outcome of this discussion](#) was approved by AGE's General Assembly and submitted to the European Commission in December. Many AGE members also got involved in national consultation events organised by the Commission or the European Economic and Social Council.

Meanwhile, AGE members were active on the **European Semester**, presenting their alternative assessments of policy reforms to their governments and representations of the Commission. AGE Secretariat supported AGE members through a webinar and discussions with the relevant task forces, and provided assessment and inputs to the work of the European Parliament at key moments of the Semester. AGE also continued to work in alliance with other NGOs via the Social Platform and the Alliance for a Democratic, Social and Sustainable European Semester.

On international level, AGE developed its own review of the **Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA)**, a United Nations-led process under which member States subscribed to key commitments for active ageing. The Commitments are reviewed every five years since 2002. Building on [AGE members' analyses of their national situations](#), AGE mapped the achievements of the MIPAA in view of the ministerial review in 2017. [AGE's analysis](#)



highlights structural discrimination of older people and the failure of the MIPAA to address the full spectrum of their rights. We also expressed concerns on the MIPAA failure to achieve coherence in policies that affect active and healthy ageing. This work enabled us to achieve a greater recognition of the need to take positive action at national, EU and UN level. The [Final Declaration of AGE's General Assembly 2016](#) stressed the lack of policy coherence, of visibility of the process, and of involvement of older people as stakeholders in the MIPAA process, and called for a new binding international legal instrument to protect the rights of older people.

■ Advancing the fight against elder abuse

As in the previous years, in 2016 AGE marked the World Elder Abuse Awareness Day with a high-level event organised jointly with the European Commission, the Council of Europe and ENNHRI (the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions) on 16 June, in Brussels. Under the title ‘**Fighting**



elder abuse in health and long-term care’, [the event](#) explored how to implement a rights-based approach to care. Speakers and panelists highlighted the factors that increase the risk of neglect and maltreatment of older persons with care needs, notably the lack of awareness of how to protect their dignity and the overburden of formal and informal carers. Participants also highlighted the lack of a rights-based approach in the access to and delivery of care services, and suggested ways to improve the situation, notably training care professionals as well as training and supporting informal carers. The event included discussions on how to make the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities more relevant for older dependent people.

The event, with a total attendance of around 100 participants, put once more elder abuse in the European agenda. In a [press release](#) issued by AGE and ENNHRI on the occasion of the event, the European Commission highlighted their increasing concern around the effects of demographic ageing on society while AGE reminded the urgency of building a society for all, where older people are treated in a dignified manner and have access to the quality care services they need.

■ Campaign on age-friendly environments

In 2012 AGE launched the Campaign “Towards and Age-Friendly EU by 2020” with the goal to shape a fair and sustainable society for all ages. Following the European Year 2012 for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations, the



European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing (EIP AHA) offered a key platform for AGE to promote age-friendly environments. Since then thanks to its active involvement in this process and the project “AFE-INNOVNET”, AGE managed to raise awareness and gather support for a [Covenant on Demographic Change](#) which

creates the necessary political and technical framework to support active and healthy ageing and develop age-friendly environments across the European Union.

Following the great enthusiasm emerging from the launch of the Covenant in December 2015, a group of 68 stakeholders - including AGE - founded the EU Covenant on Demographic Change as a new legal international association under the Belgian Law. All along 2016, the Covenant has grown and includes now 150 members. It was present in different key events such as the Congress of the European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR), the Conference 'Building the Future of Health' held under the auspices of the Dutch Presidency in Groningen and the European Week of Regions and Cities organised each year by the Committee of the Regions.

The Covenant has also started discussion with the World Health Organisation of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities to be recognised as the affiliate programme for the European Union. Last but not least, in October 2016 the [SEED project](#) supporting the launch of a European Silver Economy Awards started. AGE is a partner of the project and will ensure that it will work in synergy with the Covenant on Demographic Change.



The **Silver Economy Awards**
Powered by SEED



AGE work in 2016 to promote...

This chapter presents AGE's policy and research activities carried out in 2016. Both types of activities are mutually supportive: the projects in which we are involved are aimed to improve older people's lives and promote active, healthy and independent ageing and provide greater visibility to our policy work; in turn our policy work also feeds these project developments.

We only join European projects where our platform can add value, can bring the view point of older people in the discussion and can support the genuine implementation of the principle of user involvement.

Human Rights and age discrimination

■ Flagging the multiple forms of discrimination against older people



AGE paid particular attention to the structural ageism faced by older people in a number of areas of their lives. On the occasion of the EU Day of Solidarity between Generations we published a [paper](#) including numerous examples of discrimination in old age. Across all our work we flagged the persisting forms of discrimination at the intersection of old age and gender, stressing the disadvantaged position of women with caring duties in the workplace. On the International Women's Day we [warned against the increasing gender pension gap](#) and stressed how gender inequalities accumulate over the life course, leading to a much higher risk of poverty and social exclusion among older women. Furthermore, we contributed to a number of consultations on disability, exposing the deep structural and cultural factors that impede older people from having equal access to disability benefits, mobility allowances and support services when they need care and assistance. Our work fed into the [revision of the Council of Europe and the European Union Disability Strategy](#), where we argued that both need to take into account the multifaceted age discrimination against older people with functional limitations. Bringing forward examples from our members, we asked the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to address the age limits and other types of systemic discrimination faced by older people with support needs, in particular in the realisation of their [right to independent living](#). Thanks to our work in December 2016 the OHCHR [explained that disability benefits should not stop at retirement age](#). For the first time AGE was

invited to speak at the [High Level Group on Non-Discrimination, Equality and Diversity](#), which brings together representatives of the EU Member States and the European Commission. On this occasion and an event organised by the EU network of Equality bodies, Equinet, we discussed the [potential of extending the principle of 'reasonable accommodation'](#), which exists under EU non-discrimination law for people with disabilities. Extending the scope of this principle beyond disability would allow older workers to benefit from tailored solutions to continue working, for example in case of caring responsibilities, when their physical abilities decline, when they need retraining or when they want to gradually move into retirement.

■ Improving older people's understanding of the human rights framework

Based on the Older Persons' [Self-Advocacy Handbook](#) that we launched in 2015, this year AGE went a step further developing practical summaries, template letters,



calendars with yearly milestones and communication material that can help older people advocate for their rights using the instruments of the Council of Europe and United Nations. We also included another chapter on our handbook explaining in an accessible language how the Council of Europe works, what it

does to promote older people's rights and how older people can use its various mechanisms. To increase understanding about why human rights concepts and approaches make a difference and how older people can use the international framework to drive policy change at national level, we organised a ['training' session](#) on the eve of our General Assembly. This seminar presented concrete examples of how human rights work in practice and of the type of action that NGOs can take in their country, building the capacity of AGE members to interact with and make use of international human rights bodies.

■ Influencing the international agenda on older people's rights

In 2016 we noted a growing acceptance from within the EU that more needs to be done to ensure an equal protection of older people's rights. This was partly due to AGE efforts to broaden the debate within Europe and to involve EU stakeholders, in particular the European Parliament. In a [joint event](#) with the EPP group of the European Parliament and the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI) we explored the added value of a new binding instrument and agreed that the rights of older persons need to be strengthened at EU and UN levels. Moreover, MEPs endorsed our call on the EU and its Member States to be actively involved in the UN Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing (OEWG) and to step up their efforts to protect and promote the rights of older people, including by

considering the elaboration of a new legal instrument. We also participated in a [high-level conference in Slovenia](#), which increased agreement on the need to improve the protection of older people's rights using the available mechanisms but also discussing the potential of a new UN Convention. With direct input from our members we developed a [consensual position](#) outlining older people's experiences and understanding of their human rights and how governments need to address them. This document was translated by several AGE members and shared with State officials in advance of the meeting of the OEWG. As a result of mobilization at national level the [OEWG session](#) concluded with a forward-looking decision to discuss in 2017 concrete elements that could be included in a new instrument. All these advancements were also facilitated by the work of the UN Independent Expert, who in her [final report](#) called for a new UN Convention and echoed AGE's conclusions, according to which the MIPAA does not offer adequate protection for older people's rights. Our own [assessment of the MIPAA](#) was developed using direct input from national NGOs and showcased its failure to trigger policy change in the field of ageing and, ultimately, to improve the situation of older people on the ground. Thanks to our active engagement and that of our members, older people's rights not only are firmly in the UN agenda but we also expect a lot more debate and consultation of older people's organisations across the EU in the near future.

Employment, Active Citizenship and participation

AGE continued to combat age-discrimination in employment and to advance the interests and needs of older workers in Europe in all relevant debates.



AGE highlighted especially the need to better address the **gender aspect of employment policies**. In response to the Commission roadmap on work-life balance for working parents and persons with care responsibilities, AGE compiled a [position on carer's leave and work-life balance for older workers](#): AGE highlighted that one in five older workers are caring for a dependent family member. In addition, the very low employment rates of older workers, especially of older women, reflect the challenges older workers face to reconcile work and care responsibilities. AGE called for a directive on carer's leave, bundled with an investment initiative into formal long-term care services. The position was a cornerstone of AGE's [response to the public consultation](#) on the issue and AGE's work with partner organisations in favour of an ambitious package on reconciliation policies.

AGE participated as well in discussions to prepare a report published by Eurofound looking at the potential of **flexible retirement schemes** in enabling longer working lives. AGE also contributed to the work of the European Network of Public Employment Services and the European Social Fund's transnational network on employment policies, highlighting the **challenges of older jobseekers to return to employment**, as they are at [particular risk of becoming long-term unemployed](#) or inactive. Working with social partners, AGE contributed to the discussions on a **Framework agreement on Active Ageing**, negotiated between European Social Partners. Last but not least AGE supported the campaign of the European Agency for Health and Safety at Work (EU-OSHA) focussing on '[Healthy workplaces for all ages](#)'.

To promote active senior citizenship and participation, AGE contributed to the work of the international think-tank 'International IDEA' in their study on **intergenerational democracy** in the time of demographic change.

AGE also actively promoted the project that involved AGE member 'Oudere Vrouwen Netwerk Nederlands' looking at [activating the 80+](#), and published a policy brief on [how to activate older people in senior volunteering](#).

■ Intergenerational linkages and social policy



FamiliesAndSocieties

The intergenerational linkages in the family, and their impact on the way of organising care for older relatives, were part of the research topics of [Families and Societies](#), a large European project analysing current trends in family relationships and the policy responses that may address the resulting new challenges. The project findings on care responsibilities and ideals – the different roles attributed to the family and the state across European countries – and the gender biases in work-life reconciliation policies were particularly interesting in view of feeding AGE's response to European Commission's roadmap on work-life balance. These have also fed AGE's reflections around the cultural variability in Europe, and its impact in the way social policies are planned and welfare is organised.

Adequate Income and fight against poverty and social exclusion

AGE stressed the increasing challenges related to adequate income for a dignified life in old age on various occasions. At the [Annual Convention on Inclusive Growth](#), we highlighted the life-time impact of in-work poverty on pension entitlements and the vulnerabilities created by recent pension reforms. AGE



contributed to a number of European Parliament resolutions, such as the [resolution on a gender dimension to poverty](#) and the motion for a resolution on the gender pension gap.

We continued supporting the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) in the campaign for adequate minimum income schemes that cover the entire life-cycle. We contributed to the [ROSEnet project](#), a COST research action that supports collaborations in research and policy to tackle the widening and deepening risks of exclusion of older people and the damaging gaps in understanding old-age exclusion across Europe and will continue over the next three years. AGE also collaborated with the European Parliament Intergroup on Poverty and Minimum Income.

Regarding pension reforms, AGE monitored the negotiations leading to the adoption of the recast directive on **'Institutions for occupational retirement provision' (IORP)**, regulating occupational pensions in Europe. The new directive contains more specific requirements for the governance of occupational pension providers and information to beneficiaries. AGE also collaborated with the European Youth Forum to a **report on social inclusion of young people after the crisis** – highlighting the consequences of non-standard employment for the pension rights of today's young. This collaboration will continue in 2017 and highlights crucial issues of solidarity between generations.

Dignified ageing: tackling elder abuse and ensuring access to quality care

In 2016, AGE renovated its call for a Europe where older people are treated in a dignified way and can access the long-term care they need. A highlight of the year was the well-attended 16 June event on **'Fighting elder abuse in health and long-term care'**, which gathered around 100 participants from AGE's member organisations, European and national institutions as well as civil society and service providers. The event contributed once more to **increasing the visibility of elder abuse at European level** and called for more action at all levels to tackle it.



AGE also developed its position around the **protection of older persons who have suffered abuse and violence**, in the framework of the implementation of EU Directive on Victims' Rights. In view of this work, AGE strengthened the cooperation with Victim Support Europe, the main network of victim support organisations. A survey around supporting victims of elder abuse revealed AGE's members' views on the matter and was the basis for [a specific position paper](#) published on 22 February 2017 to mark the European Day of Victims of Crime.

The work on tackling elder abuse and **calling for quality long-term care** also included participating to the steering groups of relevant initiatives such as the European Network on Long-Term Care Quality and Cost-Effectiveness and Dependency Prevention, and the joint European Commission-OECD project on measuring effective social protection for long-term care.

Among other events, AGE was invited to join the discussions around **elder abuse in the home care of older persons living with dementia** organised 8-9 December by the German Ministry of Senior Citizens and the Observatory for Sociopolitical Developments in Europe. We reminded that structural ageism is one of the main sources of elder abuse and took the opportunity to promote the use of both the [European Charter of the rights and responsibilities of older people in need of long-term care and assistance](#) and the [European Quality Framework for long-term care services](#).

Our work included cooperating with Eurofound in the development of their study on **the role of the private sector in the provision of residential long-term care**. Both their study, which will include the input of AGE's members, and a specific position paper of AGE on this matter will be published in 2017.

■ **Quality long-term care: access to palliative care, integration and skills development**

On top of influencing European debates, AGE was also involved in European initiatives that are pushing for the improvement of long-term care services across the European Union.



[PACE](#) is working on access to **palliative care** in care and nursing homes in Europe. The project will produce three outcomes: (i) a mapping of palliative care in Europe; (ii) a large-scale representative study to examine quality of dying and palliative care in care and nursing homes in Europe; and (iii) a study of the impact of an innovative trial “PACE steps to success” method which aims to improve the quality of palliative care. The results will inform and assist policy and decision-makers at national and European levels.

15 June 2016, AGE organised the [mid-term Policy Conference](#) of the project at the Brussels office of the Council of Europe. This was a well-attended event where a wide variety of stakeholders had the opportunity to discuss the challenges regarding access to quality palliative care. Participants and panellists highlighted the need for a comprehensive understanding of palliative care, which requires challenging societal misconceptions –



which often wrongly associate palliative care to dying and oppose it to cure. The findings of the conference will feed into the final Policy Recommendations of the PACE project.

To improve long-term care services, the **integration of health and social care** is critical. Several European initiatives are piloting integration, among which SmartCare and SUSTAIN.



[SmartCare](#) concluded in August 2016. This project gathered **9 European regions** planning to implement integrated care systems. The project defined technical requirements for an online platform where health and social care professionals can share information and coordinate the care they deliver. AGE lead the Users' Advisory Board, a group of 6 European organisations representing older people, informal carers and care professionals, that visited all 9 regions and analysed the challenges they are facing. The project showed the overall satisfaction of users with integrated care, and contributed to building AGE's understanding of the challenges and opportunities surrounding integration of care.



The second project in which AGE is involved is [SUSTAIN](#) (Sustainable tailored integrated care for older people in Europe), a 4-year project dedicated to improving the way care services for older adults are currently delivered and organised. The project selected **14 care services in 7 countries** (Austria, Estonia, Germany, Norway, Spain, Netherlands and United Kingdom) where care provision is analysed. In 2017 the 14 sites will implement different improvement plans focused on the needs and desires of the older adults to achieve integrated care. A roadmap will be designed for the stakeholders to scale-up integrated care in Europe. AGE made sure to inform SUSTAIN partners about the importance of older people's involvement in the co-creation process of care plans. AGE will work in the coming year to ensure that project outcomes empower care recipients, and that they allow AGE members to learn more about integrated care, so that they can advocate for quality integrated care in their own countries and regions.



Currently in Europe there is a **mismatch between skills of homecare professionals and the skill needs of homecare recipients**. AGE is currently involved in a project called [CARESS](#) which aims to close that gap. CARESS has identified the skills and competences of all professionals involved in delivering care at home across Europe, as well as the gaps between those and the needs of older persons and their informal carers. On this basis, the project is developing an online platform that will provide access to this information in a handy

manner and will allow visitors to create training modules to address the skills mismatch. AGE is notably responsible for the Advisory Board, which includes three members of AGE's task force on Dignified Ageing, which will seek to ensure that CARESS delivers quality outcomes. AGE is also contributing to disseminate project findings.

Consumer rights and financial services

AGE work in the field of financial services was structured by the European Commission's action plan for the 'Capital Markets Union'. Two public consultations were carried out, to which AGE replied. The first one covered the **green paper on retail financial services**: credits and mortgages, life, housing and motor insurances, and investment products. AGE highlighted the undue age limits that exist in some insurances, such as motor or travel insurance, and issues with the lack of portability of private health insurance entitlements when moving between EU member states. In the consultation on a **possible EU framework for personal pensions**, AGE called for more transparency about all costs involved when contracting private pensions. AGE took the view that it is desirable to have a European framework providing security for personal pensions, although it should not be used to water down existing statutory pensions.



Within the [Financial Services Users Group](#) (FSUG), AGE took the lead on an outsourced research on the [performance and adequacy of pension decumulation practices in 4 EU countries](#).

Within the [Euro Retail Payment Board](#) set up by the European Central bank, with the support of De Nederlandsche Bank, AGE managed to keep the issue of accessibility of retail payments on the agenda and to set up an informal group which will identify practical issues faced by consumers with special needs in accessing retail payments in the EU; study best practices set up by EU Member States, banks or consumer organizations; conduct further analyses on common accessibility features for retail payments that will be coherent and interoperable across the Single Market.

Age-Friendly Environments

2016 was a very active year for AGE with regard to the promotion of age-friendly environments to support equal opportunities for ageing persons, thanks to the work conducted in partnership with the Covenant on Demographic Change:



- Helen Campbell (AGE Vice-President, Age & Opportunity, Ireland), represented AGE at the Congress of the Council of European Municipalities and Regions (Nicosia, April 2016) where she moderated a session dedicated to age-friendly environments;
- AGE was a partner and actively participated to the Conference 'Building the Future of Health' (Groningen, June 2016) held under the auspices of the Dutch Presidency of the European Union.
- AGE also participated in a range of events at national level, where we had the opportunity to raise awareness and create synergies in relation to age-friendly environments (June 2016 event in Poland/Lubljin, September 2016 in Bilbao/Spain, November 2016 in Paris/Conference of the Francophone Network of Age-Friendly Cities – RFVAA).

■ Ageing well in European cities

AGE also took opportunities of the on-going discussions at EU level around the Urban Agenda to highlight the issues linked to urbanisation and ageing. A paper entitled [“Applying the Right to the city to older persons: seizing the opportunity of the EU Urban Agenda”](#) was published in May 2016 and presented to the Urban Intergroup of the European Parliament.



Similarly AGE was involved in the European Innovation Partnership on Smart Cities and Communities in which it advocates for co-creation at local level, i.e. the involvement of citizens - notably older citizens - in the design, development and implementation of public policies (e.g. [‘Inclusive Smart Cities: a European Manifesto on Citizen Engagement’](#) conference on 23rd November). We also established synergies with the European Week of Regions and Cities by organising, together with the Covenant on Demographic Change, an event entitled “Smart cities and communities for all: how to become smart and age-friendly” hosted by Fundacion Galicia Europa in October 2016.

To support a practical perspective, AGE is involved in the [Mobile Age](#) Horizon 2020 project that works for the **inclusion of seniors in digital public services** thanks to the development of user-friendly mobile applications based on open government data.



Mobile Age supports older people’s involvement in their communities, helps them benefit from open government data and mobile technologies, and thus contributes setting up age-friendly environments and policies directly at local level. The project tests **mobile applications at co-creation workshops**: the Mobile Age’s approach is applied in cities and counties that are already providing innovative approaches for

the participation of senior people in the development of city services, namely Bremen (for social inclusion), South Lakeland (for independent living), Zaragoza (for a safer and more accessible city) and the Region of Central Macedonia (for the management of personal health information).

Accessibility and standardisation

As key component of age-friendly environments, accessibility is essential to support independent living and universal access, and so avoid the social isolation of older people. And standardisation constitutes an effective tool to enable accessibility.

■ European Accessibility Act

The European Commission issued the long awaited [European Accessibility Act in](#) December 2015. 2016 was a busy year in relation to this key piece of legislation. AGE decided to join forces with the [European Disability Forum \(EDF\)](#) and with [ANEC](#) (the voice of consumers in standardisation), to advocate for an ambitious text, and supports the [Pay-ABLE](#) platform to advocate for accessible self-service payment terminals which are key to access goods and services across the EU. AGE first released a [contribution to the EU consultation](#) in relation to the proposal for a European Accessibility Act (EAA) tabled by the European Commission. We then worked on amendments to be proposed to the European Parliament and had several meetings to present our position to the EAA. We also participated in consultations and events at the European Economic and Social Committee and the European Parliament.



■ Web-accessibility and ‘digital inclusion’

The European Accessibility Act is complementary to the [web-accessibility directive](#) which was finally adopted in 2016. AGE also worked in close collaboration with the [European Disability Forum \(EDF\)](#) and [ANEC](#), the voice of consumers in standardization, notably to put pressure on the Council of the European Union and make sure it will adopt a text that will largely cover all websites managed by public authorities, as well as related mobile applications. Together we published a [joint press release](#) in March ahead of the Council meeting.



From a more technical perspective, AGE also covered web accessibility issues in the frame of the [Prosperity4all](#) project that aims to develop a new **ecosystem for accessible technologies**. In this multiannual project, AGE worked to ensure that older people’s voices

were heard by sharing end-user stories collected among our members and partners and we helped disseminate the project's outcomes to a large variety of stakeholders.



Accessibility and digital inclusion have also been central topics for the [JamToday](#) project that supports the creation, implementation and deployment of **educational games**. Particular attention has been paid to the inclusion of vulnerable groups such as children at risk and seniors. AGE, as partner, has ensured that older persons' needs are taken into account during the whole process, and has directly involved some members' representatives keen on new technologies and games in the game jams.

■ Access Cities Award

In 2016 the implementation of age-friendly environments at grass-roots level was also at the core of AGE activities and our participation in the [EU Access City Award](#) was very important in that regard. AGE members were actively involved in national juries to provide their expertise and experience regarding accessibility in cities. AGE was again member in the European jury that makes the final selection of cities to be awarded, and was represented by Liz Mestheneos (Hellas 50+, Greece and former President of AGE).



■ Standardisation

In 2016, things have moved forward in our standardization activities notably:



- Rail sector: Frans Moltzer (NL) and Peter Rayner (UK) played a key role in representing AGE in working groups of the European Railway Agency notably to prepare the mapping of the accessibility of railway stations across the European Union. They also actively participated in events organized by the European Commission to promote accessibility of the rail for older people.
- Built environment: AGE supported a call of ANEC, the voice of consumers in standardization, to keep high level standards for lift following a negative internal vote in the European Standardisation Bodies. AGE also positively answered to the invitation of the European Standardisation Bodies to join the working group dedicated to the built environment.

AGE is moreover involved in the [PROGRESSIVE](#) project that focuses on the standardisation needs in the field of information and communication technologies (ICT) for active



and healthy ageing (AHA). Launched in October 2016, the project explores new ways to increase **older people's engagement and inclusion in standardisation processes**; AGE is in charge to set up and implement consultation processes with relevant stakeholders all along this two-year project.

■ Silver Economy

In the framework of the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing, the topic of the Silver Economy has emerged and is carefully considered both by the European Commission and the Committee of the Regions. The European Union is thus encouraging national and regional governments to boost the potential of the Silver Economy in various fields, such as health care, housing, transport, new technologies and tourism among others. By doing so, it creates a major drive for innovation, employment and growth at the local and national level.

Since October 2016, AGE Platform Europe, together with other EU stakeholders has set up the first **Silver Economy Awards**, powered by the EU-funded [SEED project](#). This first European-level awards scheme will involve members of the European Covenant on Demographic Change in a peer review selection process, and will seek to reward innovative and creative digital supported solutions that demonstrate a

significant impact on the improvement of the quality of life of the ageing population; support the creation of age-friendly environments across Europe; create a pan-European movement that acknowledges and exploits the opportunities brought about by demographic change and innovation; and mobilise many different actors (social entrepreneurs, citizens, designers, brand retailers, researchers...) and economic sectors.



■ Tourism

Senior citizens' contribution to the European tourism industry is significant in terms of number of people with the possibility to travel and their support to combat the challenge of seasonality, thus stimulating economic growth and jobs in Europe. Acknowledging this, the European Commission co-funded projects on off-season tourism for seniors in Europe, and in 2016 AGE participated in two of them.



The [EUROSEN - Europe for Seniors](#) project pursues an economic objective (which is to strengthen the European tourism industry with a specific focus on the micro, small and medium enterprises) and a social objective (which is to

combat loneliness and foster the active life of senior citizens), by involving older people in touristic initiatives both as travellers and hosts of the visiting guests. To reach its economical aim, the project works with small villages, rich in natural and cultural diversity, and supports them to attract visitors from well-known and close destinations. To reach its social goal, EUROSEN wants to **engage the tourists in recreational activities that follow local traditions**. This concept is referred to as 'Clusters of Local Culture'. In 2016 AGE carried out an extensive survey (780 respondents) across the EU and analysed needs and preferences of travellers aged 55+ (read a [short summary of this survey here](#)), which has informed the definition of those Clusters.



If local tourism is at the center of the EuroSen project, international and European tourism is at core of the [OFF TO SPAS](#) project which developed a Central European transnational balneological tourism product for seniors focusing on two **spa destinations**, Heviz in Hungary, and Covasna in Romania. This was set up to extend the market of medicinal and thermal tourism. AGE supported the research on health tourism development (market study on seniors' needs and expectations, surveys, comparative analyses, and study tours where AGE members got directly involved).

Healthy Ageing

In 2016 AGE's work to promote healthy ageing was very much linked to the [European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing \(EIP AHA\)](#), in which AGE largely led the work in relation to age-friendly environments (within the so-called 'D4 Action Group') as a key area to support active and healthy ageing. 2016 was notably marked by the [second EU Summit on Digital Innovation for Active and Healthy Ageing](#). We were an

official partner of this key event which gathered more than 1.500 participants in Brussels and gave us the opportunity to promote our activities and underline how key users' involvement and a comprehensive approach of ageing are to design a sustainable future for all generations.

We were also involved in the work conducted for the [VulnerABLE project](#), which seeks to explore how to improve the health of people who are living in vulnerable and isolated situations across Europe. The project targets specific vulnerable and isolated populations such as older people. We participated in the scoping interview at the start of the project and then contributed in meetings to discuss the interim findings of the consortium and provided with further input.



On the other side, AGE participated in activities linked to older patients. Indeed, AGE is a member of the Patients and [Consumers Working Parties at the European Medicines Agency \(EMA\)](#) and is represented by Barbro Westerholm (SPF, Sweden, former Vice-President of AGE). Barbro participated in the meetings and provided the perspective of older people on issues such as pharmacovigilance or the need for medicines to better adapt to the ageing population.

AGE also worked in close collaboration with [two external partners](#) in 2016:

- SCA, a Swedish multinational company producing hygiene products for incontinence care. This partnership aimed to raise awareness of the issue of continence care thanks to a survey conducted in four countries. The objective of this cooperation was to better understand the needs of patients and their carers in that particular field, which remains a taboo issue.
- **Colgate**, a multinational dental product company. In the framework of this partnership, we supported Colgate's effort to improve older people's dental health and help to disseminate within our network an [interactive eLearning programme](#) developed for anybody who is responsible for caring for older adults, whether at home, or in a residential centre.

AGE policy work is moreover supported by a set of on-going studies and practical work around healthy ageing and long-term care. Here it is an overview:

■ Healthy ageing studies



ATHLOS

The [ATHLOS](#) project (Ageing Trajectories of Health: Longitudinal Opportunities and Synergies) has identified the determinants of healthy ageing from early stages of life onwards and is now working on trajectories and scenarios to encourage the development of appropriate health and social policies improving older population's well-being. AGE is directly involved in the definition of "who is old" and contributes to the involvement of stakeholders in the setup of scientific and practical scenarios for healthy ageing.



As from January 2013, AGE was involved in the [MOPACT](#) project, whose aim was to make longevity an asset for economic and social development and to mobilise the potential of active ageing in Europe. AGE role in the project was to represent older people's views, but also to enhance the participation of senior citizens, help in the selection of case studies, provide feedbacks and inputs and include AGE experts participated in various stakeholders meetings dedicated to the engagement of users. Through a carefully planned iterative process, MOPACT built a compendium of essential state-of-the-art and foresight intelligence upon which to develop the policy, practice,

service and product developments and innovations required to make longevity an asset for social and economic development.

2016 was the opportunity for AGE to organise the final event of the project, providing key EU speakers active and involved in the topic of active ageing, such as MEP Heinz Becker, Ruth Paserman (Deputy Head of Cabinet of Commissioner Marianne Thyssen), Michel Servoz (Director General of DG Employment and Social Affairs).

It was also the opportunity to convey executive summaries of the policy briefs produced by the researchers of MOPACT. The project findings in the ten different research fields will be finalised in February 2017.

■ Healthy ageing practices



In Europe between 13.5 and 29.7% of older adults living at home are malnourished or at risk for malnutrition. The [PROMISS](#) project (“PRevention Of Malnutrition In Senior Subjects in the EU”) understands the relationships between food intake, food characteristics, physical activity, poor appetite, malnutrition and poor health among older adults. It especially focuses on the prevention of protein-energy malnutrition, as so far most research in older adults has been focused on treatment of malnutrition by providing extra protein and energy, which led to weight gain but no convincing effects on health and functional outcomes. Moreover, the project will look at reasons to explain **poor appetite** among older persons, seen as the key towards the prevention of malnutrition, and will try to explain the loss of taste and smell. PROMISS will then research the food preferences and attitudes of older adults with regard to food intake, food characteristics, and physical activity. The identification of senior consumers’ preferences and attitudes is a requirement for the food industry to meet the growing senior consumer market with adequate products.



Malnutrition, sedentariness and cognitive decline are the three main causes of disease and premature death. The [Doremi](#) project investigated early warning signs of malnutrition as well as physical and cognitive deterioration. The solutions provided were tailored to the specific needs of the users, and took as well into account individual preferences and cultural differences (e.g. for the diet application and the cognitive games). AGE contributed to include older people’s views in the applications developed and in raising awareness of its members about what the market offers to improve older people’s quality of life with respect to malnutrition, sedentariness and cognitive decline. AGE task forces on Healthy Ageing and Accessibility actively participated to the project discussions and final conference.



Frailty is also among the key area where to study concrete solutions for healthy ageing. Therefore AGE joined the [FrailSafe](#) project which aims at better understanding **frailty** thanks to data collected through sensor devices, like a smart vest, a dynamometer or beacons to measure the indoor movements. The analysed data will produce recommendations that will prevent and/or reduce the onset of frailty among older people and enable them to age healthily at home. Volunteers have been selected in France, Cyprus and Greece to test the FrailSafe study in 2017. Thanks to their feedback, clinicians and technical experts will be able to readjust the FrailSafe methodology. AGE actively contributes to the project, especially via simplifying communication towards the general audience and raising awareness on the existing and up-coming solutions against frailty.



Again on practices, the [i-PROGNOSIS](#) project is worth being highlighted, as it proposes an innovative approach to capture the risk of transition from healthy status to Parkinson's Disease. During the first year of the project, AGE developed dissemination and communication activities and contributed to make older people's voice heard while the smart devices to be used for early detection of the disease were under development.



Healthy ageing in practice means also to liaise health and social pathways at local level. The [Urban Health Centres 2.0](#) (UHCE) project promotes **early detection of frailty, management of polypharmacy and prevention of falls** for active and healthy ageing in European cities. The project has developed, implemented, and evaluated a UHCE model in five European cities acting as pilot sites. Via AGE, the project linked to the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing and the Covenant on Demographic Change.

About AGE network



■ AGE structure

Our action in 2016 was supported by AGE structure which is organised in such a way as to reflect its main mission of representing older people's interests and needs across the EU and building their capacity to speak on their own behalf and influence EU policy developments.

Regular meetings with our members and experts were held throughout the year to advance our action 2016 work priorities and implement our work programme, provide input on specific dossiers and address management and organizational issues.

- **AGE General Assembly:** is AGE governing body and is composed of all full member organisations. They met in November to take stock of AGE action in 2016 and decide on the work priorities for 2017.
- **AGE Council:** is composed of national representative(s) elected by AGE Full member organisations in their country. It meets twice a year and is responsible for the overall implementation of the work programme and for policy decisions.
- **AGE Executive Committee:** is composed of the President, four Vice-Presidents, a Treasurer and a Secretary. It meets 4 times a year and is responsible for providing policy guidance and ensuring that the statutes and internal rules are adhered to.
- **AGE Accreditation Committee:** deals with all issues around membership, including new applications for membership and to forward its recommendations to the Council and the General Assembly.
- **AGE Task Forces:** 12 Task Forces informed AGE's work on specific policy dossiers related to age-friendly environments, the European Semester, human rights, employment & citizenship, adequate income, fight against poverty, consumers' rights, financial services, health, dignified ageing, accessibility, senior tourism. Their members are experts nominated by AGE members. They worked mainly through e-mail exchange and met occasionally in Brussels.
- **AGE Secretariat:** is responsible for the day-to-day management of the association and for liaising with the EU institutions.

■ AGE governing bodies and secretariat

Executive Committee



Mr Marjan Sedmak, President
Slovenia



Ms Hilde Hawlicek, Vice-
President
Austria



Ms Helen Campbell, Vice-
President
Ireland



Mr Kees Geveke, Treasurer
Netherlands



Ms Heidrun Mollenkopf, Vice-
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Full Members

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Belgium	Maddie Geerts (OKRA, trefpunt 55+)
Bulgaria	Todorovska Nadezhda
Cyprus	Androulla Paschalidou (Pancyprian Federation for the Welfare of the Elderly)
Czech Republic	Lorman Jaroslav (Zivot 90)
Denmark	Ebbe Johansen (DaneAge/Aeldresagen) Bent Guul (DaneAge/Aeldresagen)
Estonia	Andres Ergma (Estonian Association of pensioners Societies)
Finland	Björn Sundqvist (Association of Swedish-Speaking Pensioners in Finland) since November 2015
France	Jean-Pierre Bultez (Les Petits Frères des Pauvres) Jean-Michel Hôte (AGE France)
Germany	Heidrun Mollenkopf (Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der Senioren-Organisationen (BAGSO) e.V.)
Greece	Ioannis Drymoussis (50+ Hellas)
Hungary	Imre Semsei (Gerontology Science Coordinatioon Center)
Ireland	Helen Campbell (Age and Opportunities)
Italy	Elio D’Orazio (ANCESCAO) Zuluaga Camillo
Malta	Saviour Attard (National Council for the Elderly)
Netherlands	Kees Geveke (ANBO)
Poland	Elzbieta Iwanicka (Forum 50+) Hanna Nowakowska (Forum 50+)
Romania	Gheorghe Chioaru (National Federation Omenia)
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United Kingdom	Chris Walsh (AGE UK) Ken Bluestone (AGE UK)
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EU organisations	Pascal Champvert (E.D.E.) Joke De Ruiter (OWN Europe)

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Romania	Marin Iancu (National Federation "SOLIDARITY" of Pensioners of Romania)
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Sweden	Martin Engman (SPF Seniorerna)
United Kingdom	Steve Edwards (National Association of Retired Police Officers - NARPO) Mike Duggan (Civil Service Pensioners Alliance)
EU Federation	François Genelle (FIAPA Europe) Elisabeth Dispaux (ESU - European Senior Citizens Union) Rune Bugge Persson (NOPO - Nordic Older People's Organisation) Arlette van Assel (EURAG)
EU organisation	Elena Weber (E.D.E.) Andrea Ferenczi (OWN Europe)

■ AGE Members - 2016

Austria:

Pensionisten Verband

Belgium:

CD&V-senioren

Courants d'Âges asbl - Réseau de l'Intergénération

Enéo (ex UCP)

European Federation of the Community of Sant'Egidio (observer member)

Federatie Onafhankelijke Senioren (FedOS)

Les Aînés du CDH (associate member)

OKRA, trefpunt 55+

Respect Seniors

S-Plus vzw

Vlaamse Ouderenraad vzw

Vrouwenraad BE (associate member)

Bulgaria:

Charity Association Donka Paprikova
Bulgarian Red Cross

Croatia:

Foundation Zajednicki put
The association of social workers Zadar
The National Pensioners' Convention of Croatia (NPCC)

Cyprus:

Pancyprian Welfare of the Elderly

Czech Republic:

Zivot90

Denmark:

DaneAge/Aeldresagen

Estonia:

The Estonian Association of Pensioners' Societies

Finland:

The Association of Swedish-Speaking Pensioners in Finland

France:

A. C. S. Bull
Action de Coordination de Lieux et d'Accueil aux Personnes Âgées (ACLAP)
Association des Retraités d'Air France
Confédération Française des Retraités
Entente des Générations pour l'Emploi et l'Entreprise (EGEE) (observer member)
Fédération des anciens du groupe Rhône-Poulenc (FARP)
Fédération Nationale des Associations de Retraités
FIDES (Fédération Interrégionale pour le Développement de l'Emploi des Seniors)
Fondation de l'Armée du Salut (observer member)
Générations Mouvement - Fédération nationale
Information Défense Action Retraite (IDAR)
Les petits frères des Pauvres
Mouvement Chrétien des Retraités (observer member)
Old Up
Seniors Entrepreneurs
Union des Anciens du Groupe BP
Union Fédérale des Retraités des Banques
Union Française des Retraités
Union Nationale des Retraités (UNAR-CFTC)
Union Nationale Interprofessionnelle des Retraités U.N.I.R. CFE/CGC

Germany:

Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der Senioren-Organisationen
Kuratorium Deutsche Altershilfe, Wilhelmine-Lübke-Stiftung e.V.
Sozialverband VdK Deutschland E.V. (observer member)

Greece:

50Hellas+

Hungary:

Gerontology Science Coordination Center

Ireland:

Active Retirement Ireland
Age & Opportunity
Senior Help Line

Italy :

50 & più

Anecomit - Associazione Nazionale fra Pensionati ed Esodati della Banca Commerciale Italiana

Anziani e non solo soc. Coop (observer member)

Associazione Lavoro Over 40

Associazione Nazionale Anziani e Pensionati (ANAP)

Associazione Nazionale Centri Sociali, Comitati Anziani e Orti (ANCESCAO)

Associazione Nazionale Pensionati (CIA)

ATDAL Over 40

CNA Pensionati

ENEA aps

FAP ACLI

Federanziani

Federazione Nazionale Sindacale delle Associazioni dei Pensionati del credito (FAP Credito)

Federpensionati Coldiretti

Over 50 Della Confeuro

S.a.pens. Sindacato Autonomo Pensionati

Sindacato Nazionale Pensionati della Confagricoltura

SOLIMAI - societa cooperativa sociale a r.l. (observer member)

Università dei 50 & più

UNITRE University of Third Age

Japan:

Japan Productive Ageing Research Centre

Lithuania:

Lithuanian Pensioners Union, "Bociai"

Malta:

Grand Parents Malta

National Association of Pensioners

National Council for The Elderly

Netherlands:

ANBO

Nationaal Ouderenfonds (NFE)

Nederlandse Vereniging van Organisaties van Gepensioneerden (NVOG)

Oudere Vrouwen Netwerk - Nederland

Protestants Christelijke Ouderen Bond (PCOB)

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Poland:

Fundacja na Rzecz Kobiet JA KOBETA (Foundation for Women's Issues)

Portugal:

APRE - Associação de Aposentados Pensionistas e Reformados

UNIFAI - Unidade de Investigação e Formação sobre Adultos e Idosos

Romania:

National Federation Omenia/Federatia Nationala Omenia

National Federation "SOLIDARITY" of Pensioners of Romania

Slovakia:

Forum Pre Pomoc Starsim (Forum for Help to Age, National Network)

Slovenia:

Affirmative Seniors (observer member)

Mestna zveza upokojencev Ljubljana (MZU)

ZDUS – Zveza drustev upokojencev Slovenije

Spain:

Asociación de Profesores Universitarios Jubilados
Catalonian Federation of Elder Associations (FATEC)
Confederación Española De Organizaciones De Mayores (CEOMA)
Federación d'Organitzacions Catalanes de Gent Gran, Dones i Família (FOCAGG)
Federación Territorial de Asociaciones provinciales de pensionistas y jubilados de alava,
Guipuzcoa y Vizcaya
Spanish Red Cross
Unión Democrática de Pensionistas (observer member)

Sweden:

SPF Seniorerna

Switzerland :

Age Stiftung (observer member)

Turkey:

Healthy Community Association
Türkiye Emekliler Derneği (Turkey Retired Persons Organisation) – TIED (observer member)

United Kingdom:

Age Northern Ireland (observer member)
Age UK
British Society of Gerontology
Civil Service Pensioners Alliance
Homeshare International
International Longevity Centre Uk (ILC-UK) (observer member)
National Association of Retired Police Officers (NARPO)
National Union of Rail, Maritime & Transport Workers (RMT) (observer member)
Public Service Pensioner's Council (PSPC)
The National Federation of Occupational Pensioners (observer member)
Wise Age

United States:

AARP (Global Ageing Programme) (observer member)

European Federations:

EURAG - Europäisches Zentrum für Arbeitnehmerfragen
European Senior Citizens Union – ESU
European Senior Organisation – ESO
FIAPA Europe (Fédération Internationale des Associations de Personnes Agées)
NOPO - Nordic Older People's Organisation

European Organisations:

European Association for Directors and Providers of Long-Term Care Services for the Elderly (E.D.E.)
European Association of Homes and Services for the Ageing (EAHSA)
Groupement Européen de Retraités des Caisses d'Épargne, Banques et Institutions Similaires
Older Women's Network - Europe
Seniors of the European Public Service

■ Membership of other European organizations



AGE is member of the [European Anti-poverty Network \(EAPN\)](#), is an independent network of non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and groups involved in the fight against poverty and social exclusion in the Member States of the European Union. AGE aims to bring the older people's perspective in EAPN's work and help develop solutions to prevent and address poverty and social exclusion in old age.



[European Public Health Alliance \(EPHA\)](#) represents around 100 organisations active in the public health sector (patients organisation, health professional, national or European association working on specific public health thematic, etc.). EPHA aims to promote and protect the health interests of all people living in Europe and to strengthen the dialogue between the European institutions, citizens and NGOs in support of healthy public policies. AGE joined EPHA in 2008 and has since then been closely cooperating on health issues of interest to older people.



The [Platform of European Social NGOs \(Social Platform\)](#) is the alliance of representative European federations and networks of non-governmental organisations active in the social sector at European level. AGE's role in Social Platform is to voice older citizens' concerns and defend their rights within this EU social network.

■ Financial information

AGE's policy activities in 2016 were financed by membership fees and donations (20%) and by the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme (REC) of the European Union (DG Justice) (80%).

AGE continued its work on European Research Projects throughout 2016, besides being involved in new proposals. AGE was partner of 20 projects dealing with new technologies, health, accessibility, sustainable mobility and senior tourism. Those projects, financed mainly by FP7, CIP PSP, and H2020 are: Doremi, Escape, Families & Societies, Haivisio, JamToday, Mopact, Prosperity4all, Pace, Smart Care, UCH 2,0, Athlos, Caress, Eurosen, Frailsafe, I-Prognosis, MobilAge, Off To Spa, Progressive, Promiss, Seed and Sustain. AGE participation in EU research projects is 100% covered by EU funding.

In addition to the REC programme, AGE was also involved in the AFE INNOVNET project, a European thematic network funded by CIP ICT PSP Programme. The project started in February 2014 and concluded on 31 January 2016 with the official establishment of the Covenant on Demographic Change. The Covenant was set to become the new EU-wide association gathering local, regional and national authorities, civil society organisations, universities, and businesses that commit to cooperate and implement evidence-based solutions to support active and healthy ageing as a comprehensive answer to Europe's demographic challenge. More information on: <http://www.agefriendlyeurope.org/>

For more information about AGE Financial Resources, visit our website at: <http://www.age-platform.eu/financial-resources>

Sponsors

This publication was published with the support of the 'Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme' of the European Union and donations from the following AGE members and sponsors:

The logo for NOPO (The Nordic Older People's Organisation) features the word "NOPO" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. Above the letters "O" and "P" are horizontal blue bars of varying lengths, creating a stylized graphic element.

THE NORDIC OLDER
PEOPLE'S ORGANISATION
Faglige Seniorer
Landsfelag Pensjonista
Landssamband Eldri Borgara
Eläkkeensaajien Keskusliitto ry
Eläkeläiset ry
Pensjonistförbundet
Pensionärernas Riksorganisation
SKPF Pensionärerna
NOPO, c/o PRO, Box 3274,
SE 103 65 Stockholm
www.pro.se

The logo for CSPA (Civil Service Pensioners' Alliance) features the acronym "CSPA" in a large, bold, blue, sans-serif font. A red swoosh underline is positioned beneath the letters "S" and "P". Below the acronym, the full name "CIVIL SERVICE PENSIONERS' ALLIANCE" is written in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font.

www.cspa.co.uk

The logo for SCA (Care of Life) features a stylized graphic of three interlocking loops in blue, green, and dark blue. Below the graphic, the letters "SCA" are written in a large, bold, blue, sans-serif font, and the tagline "Care of Life" is written in a smaller, blue, cursive font below it.

SCA is a leading global hygiene and forest products company that offers personal care, tissue and forest products in about 100 countries. With more than 50 years of experience in continence care SCA develops solutions and products that help improve dignity and the quality of people's lives. It works closely with carers and their organisations and strives to develop the understanding that well organized and professional continence care ensures substantial benefits to individuals as well as society as a whole.

SCA has joined AFE-INNOVNET to contribute with its knowledge and expertise in elderly care to developing a society for all ages and creating age-friendly environments.

www.sca.com

The logo for Colgate features the word "Colgate" in a white, bold, sans-serif font, set against a red rectangular background with a white border.

Colgate was a partner with AGE Platform Europe in 2016. In the framework of this partnership, we supported Colgate's effort to improve older people's dental health and help to disseminate and promote within our network an interactive eLearning programme developed for anybody who is responsible for caring for older adults, whether at home, or in a residential centre.

www.healthcarecpd.com/course/colgate-delivering-better-oral-health-for-older-adults

AGE Platform Europe is a European network of organisations of and for people aged 50+ which aims to voice and promote the interests of the 150 million senior citizens in the European Union and to raise awareness on the issues that concern them most. AGE is involved in a range of policy and information activities to put older people's issues on the EU agenda and to support networking among older people's groups. Our guiding principles hold that a change of attitudes is needed to achieve a European society for all ages and that there is a need to promote solidarity between generations in a way that recognises older people's contributions to society.

By joining AGE Platform Europe, you are doing more than expressing support for AGE's work. AGE members also gain the possibility to:

- Participate in an organisation with a strong and effective voice at EU level;
- Make their voice heard in the network's work and help AGE bring forward the point of view of older people on EU issues that concern them;
- Receive regular information on relevant developments relating to older and retired people;
- Receive up-to-date information in relation to EU funding opportunities, proposals to participate in EU-wide projects and support for the drafting of your own projects;
- The opportunity to share and exchange information with other AGE members.



AGE Platform Europe

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This publication is co-funded by the **Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme** of the European Union. Its contents are the sole responsibility of AGE Platform Europe and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Commission.