



The European Older People's Platform
La Plate-forme européenne des Personnes âgées

CoverAGE

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EU Policy Developments

Council

Information material on health and social issues



The Swedish Presidency of the European Union has released a brochure on the most important health and social issues that it plans to pursue in the next few months. It also provides a calendar with related conferences details. The programme has been defined to match the priorities of the Presidency and to guarantee continuity in EU work with past and future EU presidencies.

http://www.se2009.eu/polopoly_fs/1.9649!menu/standard/file/EU%20Broschyr%20EN%20090623.pdf

Among those conferences, a conference on Healthy and Dignified Ageing will be held on 15 and 16 September 2009 in Stockholm and hosted by the Swedish minister for Elderly Care and Public Health Ms Maria Larsson. The overall objectives of this conference are to enhance dignity and quality of life for elderly people in Europe and to strengthen the cooperation and coordination between health and social sectors at European-, national- and regional level.

http://www.se2009.eu/en/meetings_news/2009/9/15/conference_on_healthy_and_dignified_ageing

Timeline for revision of EU's Lisbon Strategy

The Swedish Permanent Representative to the EU has said the Swedish Presidency would reflect on the EU's Lisbon Strategy for Growth and Jobs, with a focus on addressing (un)employment issues. The

intention is to pave the way for an agreement on the revised Lisbon agenda under the Spanish EU Presidency, in March or June 2010.

The envisaged timeline is:

- **Early autumn 2009:** Commission to launch a wide Internet-based consultation of European and national stakeholders on the post-2010 Lisbon Strategy (based on an issue paper).
- **Late 2009 / early 2010:** New Commission to present its formal proposals for Lisbon post-2010.
- **March 2010:** EU summit to adopt main policy orientations.
- **March 2010 / June 2010:** EU summit to provide more detailed decisions, including integrated guidelines, country-specific recommendations, a new type of Community Lisbon Programme and more developed proposals in specific policy areas (such as the EU's innovation strategy).

For more information, please contact Rachel Buchanan at rachel.buchanan@age-platform.org

European Commission

Barroso's Political Guidelines for next Commission stress the need to boost social and health services

On 3 September 2009, the President of the European Commission Manuel Barroso presented his political guidelines for the mandate of the next European Commission to the president of the European Parliament. The document sets out the objectives that president Barroso believes should inspire a political partnership between the Commission and the Parliament for the next five years. In this document, President Barroso puts forward 5 policy priorities:

- Making a successful exit from the crisis;
- Leading on climate change;
- Boosting the new sources of growth and social cohesion;
- Advancing people's Europe;
- Opening a new Era for Global Europe.

Mr Barroso recognizes ageing as a key challenge and insists on "the need to have healthy, fulfilling longer life spans. This also requires a thriving economy to supply sound public finances, so that we can pay for healthcare for the elderly".

"...with the ageing of our population there will be a need for more health and care services. This implies a need to give a boost to the overall development of the social and health services' sector, for instance by establishing a quality framework for public and social services, thus recognising their importance in the European model of society" (p. 24 in EN version and p. 28 in FR version). He also highlights the "big growth potential" of an ageing society in health care and social services ("white jobs") and the need to upgrade skills and quality of education (including wider take up of lifelong learning). The employment agenda should be adapted to respond to these changes and take into consideration issues, such as: development of teleworking, flexitime, longer active lives, work-life balance, flexicurity... (pp 20-24-26). Barroso supports the adoption of a "more inclusive approach in the workplace based on employee engagement and quality of work" and respecting gender equality, diversity and equal opportunity (p27).

The President of the European Commission also insists on the necessity to "do more to preserve the independence of the elderly" and to find sustainable ways to ensure healthcare and adequate pensions to older people, including vulnerable groups (p32).

Click below to access the document in English or in French:

http://ec.europa.eu/commission_barroso/president/pdf/press_20090903_EN.pdf

http://ec.europa.eu/commission_barroso/president/pdf/press_20090903_FR.pdf

This is excellent news for AGE who has been calling for measures to support active ageing and greater cooperation and solidarity between generations and for mandatory European quality standards for long term care based on outcomes for end users. We hope that the European Parliament will support our call as this will help move a big step forward in making the EU more age friendly and sustainable in the next five years.

Public consultation on European commission website: questionnaire to improve user friendliness and accessibility

The European Commission is inviting citizens to give comment and suggestions on the use and accessibility of its website through an on-line questionnaire available at:

http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/einclusion/policy/accessibility/web_access/survey/index_en.htm

The deadline for submitting your evaluation is **15th September 2009**.

AGE would like to encourage older people to seize that opportunity to send their comments and suggestions to ensure that the European Commission website becomes more age friendly.

Public consultation on post-i2010: priorities for new strategy for European information society (2010-2015)

The objective of the consultation, open to all citizens and organisations, is to help prepare a new EU strategy for the information society, as the current i2010 strategy is coming to a close this year. Deadline for consultation: **9 October 2009**.

All details at : http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/eeurope/i2010/pc_post-i2010/index_en.htm

European commission's Joint Programming initiative to coordinate research on Alzheimer's and other neurodegenerative diseases

The European Commission adopted on 22 July 2009 the Communication to the European Parliament and the Council on a European initiative on Alzheimer's disease and other dementias, in which European countries are invited to share their resources and coordinate their actions to tackle Alzheimer's disease and other neurodegenerative conditions. The European Commission would support national efforts in four key areas: prevention, including measures to promote mental well-being, and support early diagnosis, coordinating research across Europe, spreading best practice for treatment and care and developing a common approach to ethical questions – rights, autonomy, and dignity of people with dementia.

Click here to access the press release and the EC communication:

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/09/1171&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en>

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_information/dissemination/documents/com2009_380_en.pdf



KEA study for European Commission reveals contribution of "culture-based creativity to innovation"

In a press release issued in July, KEA, a Brussels-based consultancy, announced the result of its study on "The Impact of Culture on Creativity", carried out for the European Commission. The study stresses the high creative potential in Europe, the cross-sectoral and multidisciplinary aspect of creativity, its impact on the economy, technology and social cohesion and the importance of education through the art in shaping a creative environment.

Click here for the study result and KEA press release:

<http://www.keanet.eu/impactcreativityculture.html>

GRUNDTVIG - GIVE programme on seniors' volunteering

"GIVE" (Grundtvig Initiative on Volunteering in Europe for Seniors) is a new initiative, which will be implemented from 2009. It consists of a scheme of grants to support Senior Volunteering Projects between local organisations located in two countries participating in the Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP). The new action pursues the following interlinked objectives:

1. To enable senior citizens to volunteer in another European country for any kind of non-profit activity, as a form of informal (and mutual) learning activity (learning and sharing knowledge).
2. To create lasting cooperation between the host and sending organisations around a specific topic or target group, and thanks to the exchange of volunteers.
3. To enable the local communities involved in the exchange of volunteers to draw on the potential of senior citizens as a source of knowledge, competence and experience.

For more information, please see: http://ec.europa.eu/education/grundtvig/doc986_en.htm.

Social Impact Assessment Peer Review - Synthesis report including AGE recommendations

DG EMPL recently published a synthesis report from the Peer Review on Social Impact Assessment that was held in November 2008 in Bratislava – as integral part of EU exchange and mutual learning process in

social inclusion. Alongside with the participating peer countries (Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Germany, Ireland, Norway and Romania) AGE together the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) took part in the meeting and presented the perspective of civil society and older people's organisations.

In its contribution to the debate, AGE stressed that an efficient and well implemented social impact assessment system can help assess the real impact of the ongoing policy reforms, such as liberalisation of services of general interest (in terms of their affordability, accessibility and quality); introduction of supplementary pension provision and/or private pension funds (in terms of adequacy of income and reduction of the risk of poverty) etc.

The above synthesis report also includes the recommendations AGE submitted during the debate (available through the attached link). AGE members are encouraged to disseminate the report (by including the link to the Peer Review web site) to both their members and/or other stakeholders interested in civil dialogue and social inclusion, such as members of parliaments, local authorities etc.

For the full text of the synthesis report, please see:

<http://www.peer-review-social-inclusion.eu/peer-reviews/2008/social-impact-assessment>

European Parliament

European Parliament magazine article on boosting female employment to help tackle the economic crisis

On 13 July the European Parliament magazine published an article on what the Swedish Presidency intends to do to boost female employment to help tackle the economic crisis. Here are the main points on the situation in Sweden:

- 79% of women are in work (just 5% fewer women than men are in gainful employment);
- An enviable parental leave provision (parents can share 390 days of parental leave - at 80% of earnings —as they wish);
- Almost half of the Parliament's members are female;
- Third position in the [Economic Forum's gender gap index](http://www.weforum.org/en/Communities/Women%20Leaders%20and%20Gender%20Parity/index.htm):
<http://www.weforum.org/en/Communities/Women%20Leaders%20and%20Gender%20Parity/index.htm>

Sweden is often praised for its efforts to combat gender inequality. As the economic crisis takes hold, the Swedish Presidency will look to maximise the untapped potential of female workers, and convince other EU leaders that the gender perspective must form an integral part of the Lisbon Strategy. A report on '*What gender equality can do for economic growth*' will be published by the Presidency in the autumn and used to feed into the Post Lisbon Strategy discussions. During their Presidency, the Swedish Government is hoping for progress on three key directives: the self employed activities directive, the maternity leave directive, the anti-discrimination directive.

For more details, please contact Zoe Catsaras, European Parliament Officer at coordinator.daphne@age-platform.org.

Other European and International Institutions

Council of Europe adopts Recommendation on disability and ageing



Strasbourg, 10.07.2009 – The Committee of Ministers adopted a recommendation “ageing and disability in the 21st century: sustainable frameworks to enable greater quality of life in an inclusive society” on 10th July 2009 in Strasbourg. The recommendation is addressed to 47 member states

Please visit the Website to obtain the full text:

<https://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=1470179&Site=DC>

For further information about health and disabilities issues please contact isabel.borges@age-platform.org, llenia.gheno@age-platform.org or kusuto.naito@age-platform.org

European Court of Human Rights sentenced Greece regarding the case "Zeybek v. Greece"

On July 9th, 2009, the European Court of Human Rights sentenced Greece to money penalty for violation of the European Convention on Human Rights, following Greece's refusal to provide Mrs. Zeybek as "the mother of big family" life long pension on the ground that her four children did not all have Greek nationality. The Court rejected the statement of the Supreme Administrative Court that the granting of the pension intended to meet the "need to preserve and promote the Greek nation", a criterion based not on Greek nationality but on national origin.

To access the article: <https://www.abttf.org/html/index.php?link=detay&id=2137&grup=4&arsiv=0>

To access the press release:

http://www.age-platform.org/EN/IMG/pdf_Zeibek_v._Greece_Chamber_judgement.pdf

United Nations: Obama signs UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities: historical step ahead for the rights of people with disabilities!



On 30th July US President Obama signed the United Nations Conventions on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD), which remains to be ratified by the US Senate before it can come into force. Countries that join in the Convention are to guarantee equal legal protection to all persons with disabilities and prohibit discrimination on the basis of disability. They engage themselves to develop and carry out policies, laws and administrative measures for securing the rights recognized in the Convention and enable people with disabilities to attain maximum independence and ability.

The European Union has already signed the convention and ratification is expected by the end of the year.

More information in the European Disability Forum (EDF)'s press release:

http://www.edf-feph.org/Page_Generale.asp?DocID=13874&thebloc=22161 or at:

http://www.edf-feph.org/Page_Generale.asp?DocID=13854&thebloc=13857

<http://www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?navid=13&pid=162>

Special Briefing: EU public consultation on EU Year 2012 on Active Ageing and Intergenerational Solidarity

By Anne-Sophie Parent

Will we get a European Year on Active Ageing and Intergenerational Solidarity in 2012?

The public consultation launched by the European Union this summer to gather views on the possible designation of 2012 as European Year on Active Ageing and Intergenerational Solidarity is the result of long and active lobbying work by AGE and a group of European NGOs supporting our campaign. At the first Demography Forum in 2006, AGE and the European Youth Forum (YFJ) asked the European Commission to organise a conference on intergenerational solidarity, which took place in Slovenia on 28 and 29 April 2008 under the Slovenian Presidency. The overall objective of this conference was to launch a debate on how to initiate political change that would strengthen solidarity and cooperation between generations.

During this very productive conference the Slovenian Presidency proposed to declare 29 April the European Day of Intergenerational Solidarity, a suggestion initially made by AGE and YFJ. This Day was celebrated for the first time in April 2009 and helped raise public, media and political awareness on the issue and encouraged exchange of ideas and experiences throughout the EU.

Since then other NGOs have joined our campaign: AIM ([International Association of autonomous health insurance and social protection bodies]), European Association of Paritarian Institutions of Social Protection (AEIP), the European Liaison Committee for Social Housing (CECODHAS), the European Women's Lobby (EWL), the Confederation of Family Organisations in the European Union (COFACE) and Eurochild.

During the Slovenian conference, European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, Vladimir Spidla, promised to explore the possibility of having a European Year on Active

Ageing and Intergenerational Solidarity in 2012. The open consultation gathered great interest among very diverse stakeholders: NGOs from various sectors as well as employers' organisations, insurance industry, social security organisations, etc. showing how important the theme is in many areas of life. We hope that the outcome of this open consultation will deliver many interesting suggestions and will convince the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council to go ahead with the proposal.

Why do we need a European Year on Active ageing and intergenerational solidarity?

The economic and financial crisis we are now experiencing is a universal reminder of the importance of solidarity and social cohesion, not just during a crisis but also during times of growth and prosperity. This was also confirmed by the Euroflash survey published by the European Commission on 29 April 2009¹.

If solutions are found to adapt the present solidarity system to current society evolution, people will be able to fully benefit from the advantages that an ageing society can offer: longer and active lives, new job opportunities (namely in care, services, education and new technology), redevelopment of rural areas, enhanced social and public services through voluntary work, further opportunity for care to children and dependant people... in short, better quality of life and enrichment of a more "diverse and friendly" society where all generations can bring their contribution.

A European Year on Active Ageing and Intergenerational Solidarity would help raise awareness among local, national and European authorities, town planners, public transport operators, public health organisations, social service providers, architecture schools, social housing organisations, citizens, local national and European representatives, the media, schools, universities, civil society organisations, etc. of the need to adopt a new approach to policy making and planning based on more cooperation and solidarity between the different age groups. It would also be a good opportunity to promote a better image of older people and the contribution they make to society through paid and unpaid employment volunteering and informal care. 2012 will be able to build on the EU Year 2007 on Equal Opportunities for All and 2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion and 2011 Year on Volunteering.

What's next?

The European Commission is presently analysing all the responses received to the Open consultation and the new Commission will decide by the end of the year if it will go ahead and come with a proposal to the Council and European Parliament.

If all goes well, the proposal will then be discussed by the Council under the Spanish Presidency who has indicated that they will do their utmost to ensure a swift adoption by the Council before end of June 2010. The Belgian Presidency will then take over and will need to get the support of the European Parliament by end of 2010. The European Commission intends to organise a conference in April 2010 to mark the second EU Day on Solidarity between generations. If this is confirmed, it will be an excellent opportunity to push the debate forward and start preparing the EU Year 2012.

In 2011, provided that all institutions have come to an agreement on the proposal including the budget to be allocated for the Year, preparation can start under the lead of the European Commission.

Join our campaign to help 2012 become EU Year of Active Ageing and Intergenerational Solidarity?

The group of European NGOs are pursuing their campaign to ensure that the European Year 2012 will concretise. Citizens groups at national and local levels can contact their Social Affairs Ministers and Members of the European Parliament to bring them up to speed about the campaign and encourage them to express their support for the proposal for a European Year on Active Ageing and Intergenerational Solidarity in 2012. If you need help, do not hesitate to contact us and visit our website dedicated to the European Day at http://www.age-platform.org/EN/rubrique.php3?id_rubrique=87

All responses to the Open Consultation are available on the Commission website at:
<http://ec.europa.eu/social/consultationsSearch.jsp?langId=en&menuType=basic&consId=1>

AGE's response to the consultation can be accessed at:
<http://www.age-platform.org/EN/IMG/doc AGE Response to questionnaire ey 2012 FINAL-2.doc>

¹ http://ec.europa.eu/public_opinion/flash/fl_269_en.pdf

INFORUM report on e-inclusion in Hungary focuses on seniors

The Forum of the Hungarian IT Organizations for Information Society (INFORUM), a Non Governmental Organization which aims at establishing and developing Information Society in Hungary, has published a report on internet use and accessibility in Hungary in 2008. The report highlights the importance of a larger e-inclusion in a time of demographic ageing and economic crisis and states that only 16% of people aged 50+ in Hungary use internet and among them 60 % use it regularly (at least once a week). The profile of the typical 50+ internet user is similar to the typical (average) world wide internet user's profile: he/she has higher education, is working, lives in a multi-personal household and has a higher income.

Click here to access the report: <http://www.inforum.org.hu/documents/e-inclusion-in-hungary-2008-inforum-report/#more-646>

German (N)ONLINER Atlas 2009: overview of the results on internet use in Germany

In 2009 around 70 % of people in Germany are online. This is a 4 % increase compared to 2008. Both male and female use has increased, but there is still a significant difference in use according to gender (this is close to 14% higher for men). As regards age, internet use has grown in all age categories, especially among those in their 60s, but the gap between the 14-29 and the 50+ age groups is still huge: *the number of older users (44,9 %) is less than half of the number of younger users (94,5 %).*

ADSL remains the most widely used broadband access system in Germany.

Click here for the summary of the Atlas results in German: [NONLINER ATLAS 2009-results in German](#)

'Population of older people set to surpass number of children' according to US census report, 'An Ageing World: 2008'

A US census bureau report entitled 'An Ageing world: 2008' analyses the consequences of the ageing of the world's population and the challenges this presents globally. It puts forward the fact that within 10 years older people will outnumber children for the first time. This is already the case in certain EU Member States such as the UK. With 1 billion pensioners by 2040 and an increasing number of people aged 65+ (with an 870,000 increase per month), new burdens are being placed on care, social and health services and pension systems. Europe has the highest proportion of older people in the world, with 23 of the world's 25 'oldest' country populations. By 2040, more than one in four Europeans are expected to be at least 65 and one in seven at least 75. The report concludes that ageing '*represents one of the crowning achievements of the last century but also a significant challenge as proportions of older people increase in most countries*'.

This ageing demography is mainly consequent to the recent improvement in the health sector and to the sudden fertility rise after the 2nd world war ("baby boom).

The report is available on <http://www.census.gov/prod/2009pubs/p95-09-1.pdf>

For more information, you can read the following articles in English and French:

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/jul/20/census-population-ageing-global>

<http://www.seniorscopie.com/content/seniors-monde.html>



China to carry out rural social pension projects

China's State Council reached a decision at an executive meeting on 24 June 2009 to promote a new type of rural social pension pilot projects. The meeting, chaired by Premier Wen Jiabao, said building a new rural social pension system was key to reducing rural poverty and narrowing the gaps between urban and rural areas. It was also key to maintaining social stability and promoting domestic consumption.

According to the meeting, the new-type rural social pension pilot programs will be carried out in 10 percent of the counties this year. Rural residents above the age of 16 are all eligible to join the program.

The meeting also ordered local governments to strengthen supervision of pension funds.

<http://english.people.com.cn/90001/90776/90785/6685748.html>

<http://english.people.com.cn/90001/90776/90785/6731952.html>

Worldwide Campaign for the creation of a gender equality entity at the United Nations



The Gender Equality Architecture Reform (GEAR) and civil society organizations around the world have been campaigning to urge governments and their United Nations' representative to reform its current gender equality bodies and create a strong, single gender equality entity within the United Nations. The United Nations General Assembly is now to adopt a resolution on the reform of the UN gender equality architecture by 14th

September.

JOIN THE ACTION and sign the petition on: www.un-gear.eu

More info in GEAR's European Newsletter of Aug-Sept:

http://www.age-platform.org/EN/IMG/pdf_European_GEAR_Campaign_Newsletter_Aug09.pdf

European Guidelines for Learning in Later Life in Intergenerational, Intercultural and ICT-based Settings (IANUS project)

Join the International IANUS Awareness Conference on 16 & 17 October 2009 in Graz, Austria!

The IANUS project has brought together partners from Austria, Germany, Greece, Spain, Ireland, Italy, Poland, Sweden, Slovenia, and the United Kingdom

It has developed 'European Guidelines for Learning in Later Life Intergenerational, Intercultural and ICT-based Settings' answering the following key questions for older learners aged 50+:

- What are the key factors to promote successful learning in later life?
- Are these key factors different for different countries and learning contexts?
- What steps are necessary in European and national policy to foster learning in later life?

Through answering these questions, IANUS aims to provide policy guidance, practical tools, analysis of success factors and examples of good practice to enable improved opportunities for successful learning in later life. In addition, and through pan-national networks and piloting, IANUS seeks to answer crucial questions on learning in later life that will improve the quality, attractiveness and accessibility of learning opportunities and to highlight good practice in regard to intergenerational, intercultural and ICT-based settings. Through cross-national benchmarking, IANUS has identified and analysed the key features that contribute to positive learning experiences and the barriers that need to be overcome to learning in later life. Building on this, IANUS will further refine and develop guidelines to promote best practice in this area.

For more details please contact Dusana Findeisen, the Slovenia Third Age University, at

dusana.findeisen@guest.arnes.si or see: www.ianusllp.com

Launch of the French label « bien-vieillir - vivre ensemble » - Cities play an important part in the « successful ageing » of their population

In France, the label « bien-vieillir -vivre ensemble » was officially launched on 15 July 2009 as part of the national programme "Bien vieillir (Ageing Well) 2007-2009", carried jointly by the Ministries for Health, Youth and Sport, Employment, Social Affairs, Family and Solidarity and the Ministry of Urban Affairs in an attempt to meet the challenges of an ageing population. This label is intended to encourage French cities to become more "age friendly" and to promote active ageing. It seeks to support local policies which take into account the specific needs of older people and favour intergenerational relationships.

The procedure required for the label includes different steps: setting up a steering group, carrying out a city audit, building up a three-year action plan, result assessment, and exchange of experience and good practice within local and international networks.

Click here to access the related documents in French: [Cahier des charges label](#) - [Candidature label](#) - [Protocole audit urbain](#)

Label and guide to promote tourism and disability in the Basque region

The "Comité Départemental du Tourisme" of the Basque region has published a guide "Tourisme et Handicap 2009" gathering all sites and accommodation with the label "Tourisme et Handicap" (tourism and disability). This label provides objective and reliable information on the accessibility of tourism and leisure sites to people with hearing, visual, mental or motor problems.

More details in French in the following article:

<http://www.lejpb.com/paperezkoa/20090710/146511/fr/Tourisme-et-handicap--defi-pour-le-CDT-64>

Promoting seniors' employment: French law to improve the protection of older workers in the crisis

A decree (no. 2009-560 of 20 May 2009) has recently been adopted in France and will force companies employing at least 50 workers to elaborate an action plan or an agreement on dealing with older workers employment. The agreement (or action plan) will last a maximum of 3 years and include:

- Figured targets for recruiting or retaining older people at work.
- Measures in favour of recruiting or retaining older people at work, with the choice of three actions from the following list:
 - ⇒ Recruitment of older workers in the company;
 - ⇒ Anticipation of professional career development;
 - ⇒ Improvement of working conditions and prevention of arduous work;
 - ⇒ Skills and qualifications development and access to training;
 - ⇒ Adjustment at the end of career and the transition between work and retirement;
 - ⇒ Knowledge and skills transmission and mentorship.
- Follow up and reporting on the measures taken and targets achieved.

Companies which fail to comply and do not have an agreement or an action plan on older workers' employment. By 1 January 2010 will be charged a penalty of 1% of the total wages.

For more information please see Article L. 138-24 to L.138-27 of the 'Code de la sécurité sociale' (available only in French).

News about AGE

Lifelong learning



Best Practice Project Award for mature@eu

The mature@eu project, of which AGE is a partner, is one of six projects winning the "Keeping on Track" Best Practice Award. An international consortium, consisting of several Leonardo da Vinci national agencies and other pertinent organisations, chose the winners out of a pool of 300 European projects.

The project, which supports employers' recruiting and selection of mature aged persons, was presented by Maria Schwarz-Woelzl ([ZSI](#)) and Marek Snapka ([RPIC-ViP s.r.o.](#)) at an award ceremony held on 5 June in the presence of representatives of the European Commission, the Czech Presidency of the European Council, and the OECD.

More information about the ceremony as well as the reasons for this award are available at: <http://www.mature-project.eu/award.html>

AGE was represented at the [Keeping on Track Conference in Prague](#) by Tony Maltby, Chair of AGE's employment expert group, in a roundtable workshop discussion on older workers.

For more information, contact Rachel Buchanan at rachel.buchanan@age-platform.org

AGE wishes to congratulate Maria Schwarz-Woelzl and the MATURE partners for this brilliant achievement!

Volunteering



Launch of European Year of Volunteering 2011 'Let's Slogo!' competition

This competition, organised by the Alliance for the European Year of Volunteering 2011 (of which AGE is an active member), is open to everyone who feels inspired by volunteering and who would like to contribute to the visual image of the Year by putting into words (slogan) or an image (logo) the values which volunteering represents in Europe. The winning slogan and logo will be used to promote the Year across the European Union.

The period for submission of proposals started on 17 August and closes on 18 September 2009.

More information is available at: <http://www.eyv2011.be/>

Anti-Discrimination

Joint position with European Women's Lobby (EWL) and Test Achats on implementation of Article 5 of the Gender Directive 2004/113/EC

AGE, together with the European Women's Lobby and the Belgian consumers' organisation Test-Achats prepared a common position on the implementation of Article 5 of Directive 2004/113 on gender equality in relation to access to goods and services. Article 5 relates to insurance products in particular. This review of Article 5 is a timely and unique opportunity to put an end to the exception to the right to equal treatment between women and men that was introduced in paragraph 3 of this Article.

Directive 2004/113 lays down a framework for combating discrimination based on sex in the access to and supply of goods and services. Article 5 of the Directive, however, provides a limited exception in respect of the use of sex as a factor in the calculation of premiums and benefits in insurance and related financial services. AGE, EWL and Test-Achat prepared their contribution together as follow-up to their common actions taken when the goods and services directive was adopted in 2004. At that time, we repeatedly argued in favour of a strong text that prohibits, without exception, discrimination between women and men for services that are sometimes compulsory or that are vital in today's life and help to achieve the full integration of all women into society on an equal footing with men i.e. insurance and financial services and products.

The joint paper responds to the Commission's questionnaire to prepare the next meeting of the Forum on the implementation of Article 5 of Directive 2004/113/EC on 9 September 2009.

The full text is available here: <http://www.age-platform.org/EN/spip.php?article786>.

For more information, contact Rachel Buchanan at rachel.buchanan@age-platform.org

AGE's secretariat thanks Maude Luherne for her active contribution to AGE's work on age and gender discrimination as a stagiaire in June and July.

Health

EPHA Policy Meeting 15 July 2009

AGE attended the Policy meeting of the European Public Health alliance that took place on 15 July 2008. During the meeting AGE had the opportunity to hear a representative from the Swedish permanent representation speak about the priorities of the Swedish Presidency in the area of Health. Amongst those relevant are effective use of medicinal products; Healthy and dignified ageing; Access to effective antibacterials; Prevention of alcohol-related harm; Combating poverty and social exclusion; Labour market inclusion. The Swedish Presidency wants to contribute to a shift in perspective of the view of ageing and to improve the health of older people while reducing costs. Sweden and several other Member States are giving priority to efforts to provide dignity in elder care. To achieve this, there is a need for improved coordination and cooperation between institutions working with health and social issues. Focus must be placed on the older person. The Presidency aims to put older people's issues on the EU agenda in a longer-term perspective starting with a high level Conference on Healthy and Dignified Ageing, 15–16 September in Stockholm. For further information about the Swedish presidency on the area of health visit: http://www.se2009.eu/en/the_presidency/about_the_eu/employment_social_policy_health_and_consumer_affairs#tabs_7_176_tab3-tab



REMOTE project website is now available

REMOTE (Integrated and modular system for remote health and social care to support independent living of elderly with chronic conditions living in rural and isolated areas) is the new project funded by AAL (Ambient Assisted Living) Joint program. The project aims at defining and establishing a multidisciplinary approach to R&D of ICT for addressing older people facing with geographic and social isolation in combination with chronic diseases (hypertension, arthritis, asthma, stroke, Alzheimer, etc.) and lifestyle risk factors (obesity, blood pressure, smoking, alcohol abuse, etc.)

Please visit the Website for more information: <http://www.remote-project.eu>

For further information about this project please contact isabel.borges@age-platform.org, llenia.gheno@age-platform.org or kusuto.naito@age-platform.org

European Campaign on Smoking and Blindness

The Royal National Institute of Blind People is campaigning, with the collaboration of several issue related organisations, to raise awareness on the causal link between smoking and age-related macular degeneration (AMD) and for the introduction of written and pictorial warnings about the link between smoking and blindness on tobacco products.

More information:

http://www.age-platform.org/EN/IMG/pdf_RNIBP_EU_campaign_on_Smoking_and_Blindness.pdf

AGE supports this awareness campaign and encourages its members to support it as well.



A Conference for the Health Millennium Development Goals

The Brussels partners of Action for Global Health have started organizing a Cross-Europe Conference on the Health Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), that will take place in the European Parliament on December 9th 2009. On **December 8th a Conference pre-meeting with civil society is planned**, in order to discuss common messages and Conference outcomes, as well as how the Action for Global Health Brussels network could be expanded by working more closely together with new partners on the health MDGs and health systems strengthening.

For information, please contact Frazer Goodwin (Global Health Project Manager - European Public Health Alliance, member of Action for Global Health) at f.goodwin@epha.org

Transport

DG TREN Workshop on Vulnerable and Unprotected Road User Safety 15 July 2009-07-16

On 15 of July 2005 AGE participated in a workshop organised by the European Commission on Vulnerable and Unprotected Road User Safety. The objective of the workshop was to discuss the definition of who is a vulnerable and unprotected road user and whether or not a further definition will be helpful for future road safety work i.e. to consider a framework for addressing vulnerable and unprotected user problems and intervention; to identify the key road safety problems involving users and the interventions which are likely to reduce death and serious injury and finally , to identify priority actions at EU, national, regional and local levels to achieve reductions in deaths and serious injuries and which can contribute towards the preparation of the 4th EU Road Safety Action Programme 2011-2020. AGE highlighted the need for training of transport planners and authorities on making road and transport management system more accessible and safer for older people. The issue of shared spaces in cities (i.e. for cars, pedestrians, motorbikes, etc) was also raised by AGE as a dangerous idea for people with limited mobility putting the safety of older people at risk.

For further information about this workshop please contact isabel.borges@age-platform.org or kusuto.naito@age-platform.org



The AENEAS Network: the next training workshop

Do you know that walking is the most important transport mode for older people and that the fear of falling is one of the most important fears for them?

Do you want to learn about practical experiences of European cities directed at the mobility of older citizens?

The AENEAS Network refers to a community of about 50 cities and organizations that are looking for energy-efficient urban mobility solutions (walking, public transport, cycling, car sharing and public bicycles) for older people. The network is free and open to national and regional members, such as city administrations, public transport operators and authorities.

As part of the network activities AENEAS is presenting the next well-prepared **training session**, foreseen in Donostia - San Sebastián (Spain) in 28-29 October, 2009 on **Walking and traffic safety**, addressed to transport planners and other practitioners working directly with older people on urban transport issues. It will contribute to transfer knowledge among different European cities.

Participation is free! You can register for the training workshop by completing the registration form available via the AENEAS website.

Moreover, to join in the AENEAS Network is easy: just fill out the [network registration form](#) available in the same website. Your “user needs” information is very important for the planning of the exchange activities within AENEAS. If possible we would also like to receive a Good Practice Description of one of your past projects on Mobility of Older People.

For information, please contact AGE Secretariat (Kusuto Naito and Ilenia Gheno) and visit the web site <http://www.aeneas-project.eu>.

Meet over 500 transport practitioners and researchers at the European Transport Conference (5 - 7 October 2009)



The ETC, now in its 37th year, is the key annual event for sharing innovation, best practice and networking with colleagues. The Conference offers plenty of space for networking and in-depth presentations and discussions, committed to a common cause of moving forward the transport agenda in Europe and its neighboring countries. **Papers** are presented by active professionals and researchers, selected by the most respected members of the transport profession in Europe.

Further information about the location and practical aspects: www.aetransport.org

Information and Communication Technologies

AGE workshop: “Towards a New Ageing Vision: The Contribution of ICT Industry and Businesses”, Brussels, 6 October 2009

AGE is organizing a workshop in collaboration with the European Commission, where stakeholder will have the opportunity to meet and exchange ideas, visions, guidelines or milestones in the coming years.

Technology businesses are invited to send a (max) 2 page written document and to present their ageing vision (at work and/or at home and/or in the community) in ten minutes during the workshop.

More information at: <http://www.age-platform.org/EN/spip.php?article789>

Readers' page

Eurofound study on the crisis supports integrated responses to tackling unemployment



According to a new report from the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions in Dublin, comprehensive crisis packages rather than isolated initiatives focusing on fostering growth in the labour market are far more efficient ways of moving European economies out of recession,. The report, ‘*Tackling the recession: Employment-related public initiatives in the EU Member States and Norway*’, examines the measures that governments and trade unions in these countries are taking, in an attempt to maintain jobs or minimise job losses.

The report highlights a range of practical solutions and it finds that avoiding unemployment is a far more efficient strategy for job protection in the medium-to-long term than attempts to remedy it through active or passive labour market policies. It also asserts that social dialogue plays an essential role in ensuring fair and inclusive arrangements against the background of the recession. However, the involvement of social partners in the development and implementation of recession measures differs across Europe with regard to the level and extent of their integration in policy design.

To access the report: <http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/emcc/erm/studies/tn0907020s/tn0907020s.htm>



INPES survey on older people's expectations regarding health prevention and communication

The French national institute for health education and prevention, INPES (“Institut National de prévention et d'éducation pour la santé”) has published the results of a survey carried out in 2005 collecting about 100 older people's comment and expectations as to health prevention and communication, which on

the whole should be less caricatural, more positive and better adapted to older people's individual situation (dependency or independency). The report is available in French at:

<http://www.inpes.sante.fr/CFESBases/catalogue/pdf/1192.pdf> and for a summary of this result:

<http://www.inpes.fr/CFESBases/equilibre/pdf/Lettre50.pdf> (article on p.3)

"New" vision on ageing in Japan

An article from the Japanese magazine *Asahi* is really in line with the older people's expectation on a more positive way of communicating mentioned above. According to its author, since ageing is a perfectly natural process bringing maturity and acute life understanding, the expression "anti-ageing" should be replaced by "for ageing", which implies "a willingness to age with grace, instead of fighting it".

A view on ageing that could contribute to challenge old age prejudices and break the taboos.

Click here to access the article: <http://www.asahi.com/english/Herald-asahi/TKY200907200046.html>

AARP Global Network annual report 2008



AARP Global Network, an association of national non-profit organizations serving the needs of the older population in countries around the world, has issued its annual report for 2008, which you can access here:

http://www.aarp.org/aarp/About_AARP/annual_reports/2008_Global/Letter_from_the_P_resident/

First UK National Meeting on ageing in people with Autistic Spectrum Conditions

The Institute for Ageing and Health of the Newcastle University is organising its first National Meeting to address the ageing process and problems the people with [Autistic Spectrum Conditions](#) face. It will take place in **Newcastle** on **29 October 2009**.

Click here for the full programme of the meeting: <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/iah/autism/>

International Conference: "ICT that makes the difference"

The Future of Ambient Intelligence and ICT for Security: the conference, that will be held in Brussels, on November 22nd -25th, 2009, is a first International Conference of an EU funded initiative aiming at developing a strong and operational link between both groups of activities.

Similar cross-border structures and discussions have been successfully established in the last 30 years between the scientific, industrial and social communities involved in biotechnology and biomedicine. The conference will pay special attention to lessons learned from this experience and **calls for papers and posters** (deadline: September 1st) on the future of the computer and internet, on Ethical, Socio-economic, and Legal Aspects of ICT – ESLA, on the relation between the virtual and the real (ICT-Enhanced reality; Crime in cyberspace; Robots as experts in law and surgery; Robots as Personal Humanoid Assistant) and many other topics.

For more information: <http://www.ICTthatmakesthedifference.eu>

The Second International Workshop on Open Source in European Health Care: Crossing the Borders - OSEHC 2010: 22 - 23 January 2010 - Valencia, Spain

After the very successful 1st International Workshop on Open Source in European Health Care- OSEHC 2009, this second edition calls for proposals out of the area of AAL, in conjunction with the 3rd International Joint Conference on Biomedical Engineering Systems and Technologies - BIOSTEC 2010.

Ambient Assisted Living (AAL) is a relatively young area of research. The increase in life expectancy and the simultaneous growth in the number of age related diseases call for a close collaboration of all stakeholders involved in the care process for the elderly.

As the subtitle "*Crossing the borders*" suggests, OSEHC 2010 is interested in FLOSS applications out of all areas of health care and related fields like biomedicine and would like to stimulate the exchange of knowledge, experience and hopefully software modules between different fields of research and different applications. Furthermore OSEHC 2010 welcomes contributions and ideas that focus on collaboration between projects and application in the area described above. Deadline for regular **Paper Submission**: October 13th, 2009

The Open Source in European Health Care Workshop (OSEHC) is **calling for submissions of demonstrations and use cases** of open source software in health care, biomedical informatics and AAL.

For information: <http://www.biostec.org/SEHC.htm>

"Lifelong Learning and Wellbeing" Conference: a call for papers



The European Association for the Education of Adults EAEA and the Finnish Adult Education Research Society are organizing a "LIFELONG LEARNING AND WELLBEING" Conference on January 27-29th 2010 in Tuusula, Finland. This conference welcomes papers on **research, case studies and projects** relevant to the theme. Its aims are: good practices sharing, contact sharing and idea exchange and mutual learning.

A selection of papers will be published in LLinE in 2010.

Conference themes include: Mental and physical wellbeing and learning, Education and wellbeing, Wellbeing at work, Wellbeing across Europe, Conceptions of wellbeing and learning across generations
Deadline for abstracts: **October 15, 2009.**

For information on possible themes for abstracts, please visit the websites: www.eaea.org and www.protsv.fi/ats/

Book review: "She and He in Slovakia – Gender and Age in the Period of Transition", Búturová Z. et al. 2008, Bratislava, Institute for Public Affairs.

In the framework of a three-year-EQUAL project, developed between 2005 and 2008, called "Plus for Women 45+", 8 Slovakian authors present a pioneering study of the societal developments that Slovakia underwent for nearly two decades after the Velvet Revolution in November 1989 and the fall of communism, from both a gender and an age perspective. Based on data, statistics and a sociological approach, it places great emphasis on describing the life situations of Slovak women and men, as well as on analyzing their views of the changes in their country in the light of their ideals and expectations. With a pay gap among the greatest in Europe, Slovakia is still far from reaching equality between men and women, and the consequences of its' ageing population weighs heavily on older women shoulders.

For more information: http://www.ivo.sk/buxus/docs//publikacie/subory/She_and_He.pdf

'Tackling age discrimination in employment', Elise MUIR, Fondation politique

Everyone agrees on the principle of equality for all regardless of age, but age discrimination in employment is still a really tough issue that questions the position of seniors (and youth) in the labour market. For instance, the employment rate of people aged 55-64 was 38.3 percent in the European Union in 2007, and is particularly low in France in terms of the European average and far from the rate of 50 percent fixed by the Lisbon Strategy. France follows a particular trend of a low employment rate among seniors. It is therefore no surprise to see that 46 percent of French people interviewed on their perception of age discrimination responded that this is very or quite extensive.

The article describes how the use of age criterion has evolved considerably over the last years in France and asserts that in the new demographic context, characterized by an ageing population, new reflections have to be made on maintaining people of all ages in the labour market, as well as on the evolution between age and work capacity or the nature of work. Since the 1990s, the European Commission has launched a strong impetus to fight against all forms of discrimination through the adoption of many tools giving a higher judicial dimension to this issue. AGE is quoted in the article for its actions with other NGOs to denounce the differences made by the European institutions between the different types of discriminations (and the lax treatment of age discrimination) and its call for the adoption of an improved text of directive proposed by the Commission in July 2008 that aims to protect the rights of citizens against discrimination in access to goods and services.

The article is available in French here:

http://www.fondapol.org/fileadmin/uploads/pdf/documents/Etude_Discriminations.pdf

"Senioren aktiv" conference in Germany

On 15 and 16 June the German national agency for Education organised, in collaboration with the "Zentrum für Allgemeine Wissenschaftliche Weiterbildung der Universität Ulm" (Centre for adult scientific education of the Ulm University) a conference entitled "Senioren aktiv – Europäische Bildungsprojekte für und mit Seniorinnen und Senioren im Programm GRUNDTVIG". This conference was introduced by the German Minister for Education and Research, Prof. Dr. Annette Schavan, and followed by a presentation on "Kreativität im Alter" (creativity in old age) by Prof. Dr. Andreas Kruse from the Gerontology Institute of the Ruprecht-Karls-Universität of Heidelberg. Workshops were organised on three topics: seniors and new

media, intergenerational learning and senior voluntary work. During these workshops, different GRUNDTVIG programmes were presented as well as various examples of best practice. The programme and the conclusions of the conference are available in German at http://www.na-bibb.de/senioren_aktiv_1281.html

New brochure of NIACE on "Readability"

The National Institute of Adult Continuing Education (NIACE) in Leicester (UK) published a brochure about producing clearly written and easy to read materials. "Readability" shows how both the design and readability level of texts can be adjusted to ensure that those with difficulties do not encounter an unnecessary barrier. It covers areas such as the use of white space, appropriate font choice and sentence length, as well as offering a readability test that helps determine how accessible a text is to a disadvantaged reader. The brochure can be downloaded [here](#).

Conferences

http://www.age-platform.org/EN/article.php?id_article=515

Publications

The Law of Older People, by Cafer Tufan Yazıcıoğlu, 1584 pp., available in Turkish only.

This book, published by the Turkey Retired Workers Organisation, aims at promoting the older people law as a new branch of law. It deals with a wide range of issues concerning the elderly: social services, pension system, social spending and protection, non discrimination, health, employment, lifelong learning...

For more information on the book, you can write to: ted@ted.org.tr.

Flexibility and Employment Security in Europe - RUUD J. A. MUFFELS (Ed.) Labour Markets in Transition. Edward Elgar Publishing (The Lyptatts, 15 Lansdown Road, Cheltenham, Glos, GL50 2JA, UK. Tel: (44-1242) 226934 - Fax: 262111 - email: info@e-elgar.co.uk - Internet: www.oup.com).2008, 407 pp. ISBN 978-1-84720-464-6.

Pensions in Europe, European Pensions - DAVID NATALI. The Evolution of Pension Policy at National and Supranational Level. Presses Interuniversitaires Européennes / Peter Lang (see above). 2008, 290 pp, €31-90. ISBN 978-90-5201-460-9.

Advancing EU Anti-Discrimination Law: the European Commission's 2008 Proposal for a New Directive, article by Mark Bell published in The Equal Rights Review, Vol. Three (2009) http://www.age-platform.org/EN/IMG/pdf_Book_chapter_on_draft_directive_by_Mark_Bell.pdf

Study on Media and Diversity publication

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=618&langId=en>

Eurofound's publication on demographic change and social services

<http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/pubdocs/2008/106/en/1/EF08106EN.pdf>

Call for Proposals

Call for proposals for Innovative transnational actions

The French organisation Racine, which is responsible for managing the European Social Fund (ESF) programme 'Innovating transnational actions' in France, will be launching a call for proposals from **15.09.09 to 06.11.09**. This call aims at supporting "Innovative Transnational Actions" in the field of employment, social inclusion and professional training.

More information at:

http://www.racine.fr/frontblocks_racine/navigation/news/InformationinEnglish-62-204918-1.htm

Click below for the press release in French and a registration form for an information meeting in Paris on 18.09.09:

http://www.age-platform.org/EN/IMG/pdf_Racine_-_appel_a_projets_-_communiqu_e_presse.pdf

http://www.age-platform.org/EN/IMG/pdf_Racine-coupon_inscription.pdf

Study to explore the potential of ICT components and systems manufacturing in Europe

The study is expected to investigate the potential of ICT components and systems manufacturing in Europe and thus to contribute to the Community's decision process regarding the future orientation and structuring of European ICT components and systems research in the last stages of FP7 and in FP8.

Deadline for submissions of tenders: **14.09.2009**

http://ted.europa.eu/Exec;jsessionid=95B4DA55C40E282DABC041E2581A8AA8.instance_1?DataFlow=N_one_doc_access.dfl&Template=TED/N_one_result_detail_curr.htm&docnumber=193370-2009&docId=193370-2009&StatLang=EN

USable Transatlantic Idea Competition: Call for submissions

The Körber Foundation's USable Transatlantic Idea Competition seeks to encourage civic engagement in Germany by awarding initiatives inspired by the US and Canada every two years. This year's theme is "Mover wanted! Civic Engagement of Generation 50+". Ideas, projects and initiatives are sought concerning the voluntary civic engagement of people aged 50+.

The deadline for submissions is **31 October 2009**.

For more info: <http://www.koerber-stiftung.de/en/civil-society/usable.html>

Did you know that?

Coffee as effective Alzheimer treatment? In a recent study on Alzheimer affected mice, caffeine has proved to have positive effect on memory performance and cognitive ability.

To access the article: <http://www.globalaging.org/health/us/2009/caffeine.htm>

If you would like to contribute with news stories, please contact AGE – The European Older People's Platform Information and Communication Officer Anne Mélard at: anne.melard@age-platform.org