



JOINT PRESS RELEASE

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European Day of Solidarity between Generations, 29th April

Fostering intergenerational solidarity and cooperation through age-friendly environments: the right answer to Europe's demographic challenge

AGE Platform Europe, the Confederation of Family Organisations in the European Union (COFACE), Eurochild, the European Women's Lobby and the European Youth Forum unite to celebrate the European Day of Solidarity between Generations and raise awareness of the need to address Europe's demographic challenge by adapting the way our societies function to enhance intergenerational links in the context of an ageing Europe. They remind of the key role each generation plays - and should be empowered to play - to ensure a sustainable future for all of us in Europe, whatever one's age.

Enhanced solidarity between the different age groups can help combat age stigmatisation and achieve the EU's goal of promoting active and healthy ageing as a response to Europe's demographic challenge. It could also help address other societal challenges, such as gender equality, work-life balance, youth unemployment, rising care needs, etc.

Promoting intergenerational solidarity means more than bringing together children and older people on occasional circumstances, it is about creating supportive economic and social environments which naturally foster exchange and cooperation across generations in our everyday lives and value the contribution of all age groups in society. This means rethinking our economic and social policies so as to mainstream intergenerational solidarity and cooperation in all areas of our lives and ultimately create **age-friendly environments** that make it possible for citizens of all ages to take part in society, contribute and support each other.

“Longer life expectancy is an achievement we can only be proud of if age is no longer a barrier to one’s inclusion and participation in social and economic lives. Creating age-friendly environments that break down this barrier and make it natural for people of all ages to meet and support each other is, according to AGE members, a prerequisite to ensure the sustainability of our European societies, states [AGE Platform Europe](#) Secretary-General, Anne-Sophie Parent.

“The social impacts of the economic crisis can be mitigated by investing in intergenerational solidarity and learning. For a stronger Europe in the future, the various generations - young and old - need the opportunity to learn from each other and with each other. Not only will this help them to develop skills but also actively contribute to a truly age-friendly Europe”, highlights Jana Hainsworth, Secretary General of [Eurochild](#).

Johanna Nyman, President of the [European Youth Forum](#), further comments “We are delighted to mark the EU Day of solidarity between generations. Recent times have been tough for young people, but other age groups have suffered too and it is only through working together that we can improve the lives of everyone, no matter what their age, in Europe. Each generation can learn from, as well as teach, others and so taking opportunities to create solidarity between generations and tackling the ‘us versus them’ rhetoric is vital!”

“Solidarity between generations is necessary to creating a new vision for the future and providing sustainable solutions to the current social, economic and demographic crisis”, adds Joanna Maycock, Secretary General of the [European Women’s Lobby](#). “A gender-equal and sustainable model for society, in which equal sharing of economic resources across generations and equal caring for each other, are fundamental principles. Strengthening and listening to women’s voices across the generations is crucial to this process.”

“Family remains the main source of intergenerational solidarity. Family policies providing for resources, time and services should be implemented in EU Member States. Leaving family carers to provide all the care for dependent elderly people undermines the social inclusion, health and gender equality of these families”, states [COFACE](#) President Annemie Drieskens

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Useful links

- AGE work for greater solidarity between generations: <http://www.age-platform.eu/age-work/age-campaigns/solidarity-between-generations>
- Some examples of intergenerational good practices in Europe: <http://www.age-platform.eu/good-practices/intergenerational-solidarity>
- AGE work to promote age-friendly environments: <http://www.age-platform.eu/age-work/age-policy-work/age-friendly-environments>

Note to the editor



AGE Platform Europe is a European network of organisations of seniors and representing over 40 million older people in Europe. AGE aims to voice and promote the interests of the 190 million citizens aged 50+ in the European Union and to raise awareness of the issues that concern them most. www.age-platform.eu



COFACE as the Confederation of Family Organisations in the European Union, brings together a large number of civil society organisations with the aim of giving a voice to all families and representing the issues most important to them at the European level, with 58 member organisations in 23 countries of the European Union. www.coface-eu.org



Eurochild
Putting children at
the heart of Europe

Eurochild advocates for children's rights and well-being to be at the heart of policymaking. We are a network of organisations working with and for children throughout Europe, striving for a society that respects the rights of children. We influence policies, build internal capacities, facilitate mutual learning and exchange practice and research. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child is the foundation of all our work. www.eurochild.org



The **European Women's Lobby** (EWL) is the largest umbrella organisation of women's associations in the European Union (EU), working to promote women's rights and equality between women and men. EWL membership extends to organisations in all 28 EU member states and the three candidate countries, as well as to 20 European-wide bodies, representing a total of more than 2000 organisations. www.womenlobby.org



The **European Youth Forum** (YFJ) is the platform of youth organisations in Europe. Independent, democratic, youth-led, it represents 99 National Youth Councils and international youth organisations from across the continent. The Forum works to empower young people to participate

actively in society to improve their own lives, by representing and advocating their needs and interests and those of their organisations towards the European Union, the Council of Europe and the United Nations. For more information, visit www.youthforum.org

For more information, please contact:

Anne Mélard
Information and Communication Officer
AGE Platform Europe
www.age-platform.eu
Tel: +32 2 280 14 70
Fax: +32 2 280 15 22
E-mail: anne.melard@age-platform.eu



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