



Press Mention

EU elections are important
for older citizens

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www.age-platform.eu

EU elections are important for older citizens

In two months, on 9 June, Sweden will go to the polls! We will be electing 21 members of the European Parliament (EP) and there are many candidates to choose from - or tick: 353 people are standing for the eight parliamentary parties! The entire EU will elect 720 MEPs from the 27 member states.

An election debate

will be held in Stockholm on 20 May between the parliamentary parties' top candidates for the European Parliament. The debate is about older people issues in the EU and is co-organised with SPF, PRO, SKPF Pensionärerna and News55.

It is up to each country to manage the elections, but there are some common principles they must follow. The elections take place over four days, 6-9 June.

The number of MEPs from a political party elected to the European Parliament is proportional to the number of votes the party receives. EU citizens residing in another EU country can vote and stand for election there. Each citizen can only vote once.

The average candidate from one of the eight Swedish parties' electoral lists is just over 44 years old on election day. The Social Democrats have the lowest average age and the Christian Democrats the highest. There are two eighteen-

year-olds: Samuel Ablahad (S) and Maja Nilsson (L). The Liberals also have the oldest candidate, the former chairman of the Labour Party. MP and Minister Hadar Cars, 90.

All parties except M have chosen to specify the professions of their candidates. The most common are municipal councillor, Member of Parliament, regional councillor, entrepreneur and Member of the European Parliament.

Average age of candidates

The chart shows the average age of the candidates on the eight parties' electoral lists on election day on 9 June 2024.

Genomsnittlig ålder hos kandidaterna

Grafiken visar den genomsnittliga åldern på valdagen den 9 juni 2024 bland kandidaterna på de åtta partiernas vallistor.



Grafik: Europaportalen • Källa: Vallmyndigheten • Skapad med Datawnapper

Graphic Translation:

Average age of the candidates.

The graphic shows the average age on election day, June 9, 2024, among the candidates on the eight parties' electoral lists.

- The Social Democrats: 40.6 years
- The moderates: 40.9 years
- The Sweden Democrats: 42.3 years
- The Green Party: 42.9 years
- The Centre Party: 43.2 years
- ***AVERAGE*: 44.1 years**
- The Liberals: 45.5 years
- The left party: 47.4 years
- The Christian Democrats: 47.8 years

Graphics Europaportalen Kalle Vallmyndighetes Created with Datawnapper



Martin Engman

SPF Seniorerna is very active at national level ahead of the EU elections. Responsible for EU issues at the organisation's office is **Martin Engman**, Head of Public Policy, who has very helpfully provided SeniorDraken with valuable input for this article.

- "The issues we are pushing in the European Parliament elections have been developed together with our sister organisations in the EU within the framework of the umbrella organisation AGE Platform Europe," says Martin. SPF Seniorerna is a member and a voice for Sweden's seniors.

- We want a Europe for all ages. Just think, most of the children now being born in the EU can expect to live to be over 100 years old! But unless we change the way we view and manage ageing, we will all miss out on the benefits and opportunities of living longer.

- We are all ageing but inequalities accumulate over our lifetime. If we do not adopt a life cycle approach, we will continue to exclude people and we will not see diversity in old age.

- We are all ageing but ageism prevents us from reaching our full potential and can even affect our health, well-being and life expectancy. If we do not take age discrimination as seriously as other forms of discrimination in law and practice, we will deny ourselves the opportunity to fully participate in society on equal terms with others," said AGE Platform Europe and SPF Seniors through Martin Engman.



Maciej Kucharczyk

Maciej Kucharczyk is the Secretary General of AGE and his message is clear:

- We call on the candidates: as a future Member of the European Parliament, you can ensure that the EU deals adequately with the ageing population and works towards a society where all ages are welcome!

- We therefore call on the next European Parliament to promote age equality and to extend the existing EU legal framework on age discrimination beyond the labour market.

- We need to raise people's awareness of ageism by promoting initiatives to eliminate ageist practices and promoting educational campaigns to counteract stereotypes about older people.

- This can be achieved by the EU promoting the adoption of an age-equality strategy, says AGE's new president for the past year, German sociologist and gerontologist Heidrun Mollenkopf, 83. But this requires good coordination between the European Commission's directorates, to be ensured by the Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers, responsible for equality issues.

AGE Platform Europe

is a European network of organisations working for the interests and rights of older people. It includes SPF Seniors. With the vision "Towards a society for ALL ages", AGE advocates an inclusive society that focuses on well-being, independence and equal participation in all aspects of life. On the internet: www.age-platform.eu.

A source of knowledge

You can find all the information you need about the EU here: www.europaortalen.se. Surf around if you want to know "everything" about the Union we have been part of since 1995, almost 30 years!

Author: *Bengt Magnusson*

[SPF Seniors](#) | AGE Member



I DET HÄR NUMRET Den 9 juni äger EU-valet rum och hur det inverkar och påverkar oss pensionärer får du lite orientering om på sid 10-11. Redaktionen har varit på seniormässan i Paris, se om detta på sid 12-13. Porträttet presenterar akvarellisten Amie Hultqvist (sid 8), ålderismen bekämpas på sid 7 och om vårdval läser du på sid 17. Bland annat!

Om du har bytt eller nyligen skapat en ny e-postadress: Vänligen anmäl detta till vår e-postadress: draken.spf@gmail.com

Magazine - Front Cover

EU-valet angeläget för äldre medborgare

Om två månader, den 9 juni, går Sverige till val. Då ska vi välja 21 ledamöter till Europaparlamentet (EP) och det finns många kandidater att välja bland – eller kryssa: hela 353 personer kandiderar för de åtta riksdagspartierna! Hela EU väljer 720 ledamöter från de 27 medlemsländerna.

Det är upp till varje land att hantera valet, men det finns några gemensamma principer som de måste följa. Valet äger rum under fyra dagar, 6-9 juni.

Antalet ledamöter från ett politiskt parti som väljs in i Europaparlamentet är proportionellt mot det antal röster som partiet får. EU-medborgare som är bosatta i ett annat EU-land kan rösta och ställa upp i valet där. Varje medborgare kan bara rösta en gång.

Den genomsnittliga kandidaten från något av de åtta svenska partiernas vallistor är drygt 44 år på valdagen. Lägsta snittåldern har So-

cialdemokraterna, den högsta har Kristdemokraterna. Två antoningar finns med: Samuel Abtbad (S) och Maja Nilsson (L). Bland liberalerna finns även den äldsta kandidaten, 74-åriga riksdagsledamoten och ministern Hadar Cars, 90.

Alla partier utom M har valt att ange vilka yrken kandidaterna har. Vanligast är kommunalnär, riksdagsledamot, regionråd, företagare och Europaparlamentariker.

Genomsnittlig ålder hos kandidaterna

Diagrammet visar den genomsnittliga åldern på valdagen den 9 juni 2024 bland kandidaterna på de åtta partiernas valistor

Parti	Genomsnittlig ålder (år)
Socialdemokraterna (S)	~44
Kristdemokraterna (KD)	~45
Liberalerna (L)	~46
Miljöpartiet (MP)	~47
Centern (C)	~48
Östra Nyland (ON)	~49
Östra Nyland (ON)	~50
Östra Nyland (ON)	~51
Östra Nyland (ON)	~52
Östra Nyland (ON)	~53

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AGE Platform Europe är ett europeiskt nätverk av organisationer som arbetar för äldre intressen och rättigheter. Där ingår SPF Seniorerna. Med visionen "Med ETT samhälle för ALLA åldrar" förespråkar AGE ett inkluderande samhälle som fokuserar på välbefinnande, självständighet och lika deltagande i alla delar av livet. På Internet: www.age-platform.eu.

En kunskapskälla som heter duga när det gäller EU hittar du här: www.europaportalen.se. Surf runt på den om du vill veta "allt" om den Union vi tillhör sedan 1995, snart 30 år!

– Därfor uppmanar vi nästa EU-parlament att främja jämlikhet mellan olika åldrar och att utvärdera EU:s befintliga juridiska ramverk gällande åldersdiskriminering till att inte enbart handla om arbetsmarknaden.

– Vi måste öka människors medvetenhet om åldersism genom att främja initiativ för att eliminera åldersdiskriminerande praxis samt främja utbildningskampanjer för att motverka stereotyper om äldre personer.

– Detta kan åstadkommas genom att EU verkar för antagandet av en strategi för åldersjämlikhet, säger AGE:s nya ordförande sedan ett år, den tyska sociologen och forskaren i gerontologi Heidrun Mollenkopf, 83. Men det kräver en god samordning mellan EU-kommissionens direktorat, som ska säkerställas av Generaldirektoratet för rättsliga frågor och konsumentfrågor, ansvarigt för jämlikhetsfrågorna.

Text och redigering: Bengt Magnusson

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You can stop the perpetuation of ageism!

Please read our [one-pager](#) on communicating on older persons in a non-stereotypical way.

About AGE Platform Europe

AGE Platform Europe is the largest European network of non-profit organisations of and for older people. We elevate older people's voice, bringing their experience and aspirations to the table to celebrate ageing and fight for equality at all ages.

Contact us

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