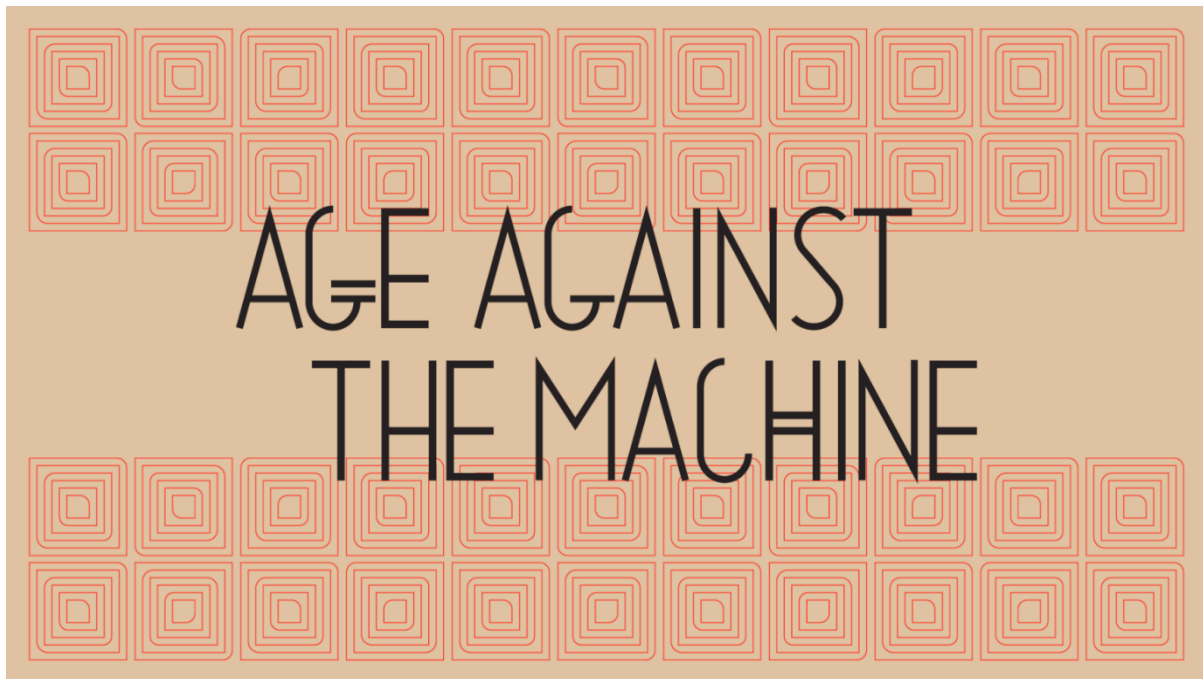


## "Time Machine" – An Unusual Encounter with the Future

From the [Red Cross of Serbia](#)



As part of the international project "**Age Against The Machine**," we continued our fight against ageism through activities marking October 1, International Day of Older Persons. The Red Cross of Serbia in collaboration with the "Novi Sad – European Capital of Culture" Foundation, an action called "**Time Machine**" was organized in the University City. Citizens had the opportunity to enter the "time machine" – a camper vehicle that "**provides insight into the potential future.**" After being photographed, with the help of a special filter, participants saw an older version of themselves, envisioning themselves in the future. This unusual encounter with the future was not just a visual shock – participants also pulled out notes from the "**basket of fate**", containing statistical data on discrimination and the challenges older people face. The statement we draw is our potential future, and our task is to think about it and already work on improving the position of older people.

Some of the discriminatory practices for which participants in the 'Time Machine' need to find solutions are:

- If you live in a nursing home and are immobile, they will bathe you, but only every 15 days!
- If you live in a village, have no one, no pension, can no longer work, but you own more than a hectare of land that might not even be worth much, you still won't be able to receive financial aid from the state!
- If you're an older woman, you won't be able to be the president of a local community, but your husband can!
- If you're an older woman and your husband has passed away, it's expected that you'll give up your inheritance — what do you need property for?

- If you're over 65, you don't need anything. Why would you need new clothes, why are you going to bars or restaurants, what kind of vacation do you need and from what?
- Do you want to work after retirement? Sure, but only selling ice cream or working in security!
- You can't get on the bus because the steps are too high, and where do you need to go anyway, given your age? Transport adapted for the elderly — they should just stay home and not roam around!
- If you're immobile, you can receive caregiving support, but first, you need to come in for an assessment of your capabilities. If you have no one to help you get there, you could ask them to come to you. When you complain, they tell you, "Figure it out, that's your problem."
- If you have cataracts and your vision is blurry, you'll wait a year for surgery.
- If you're a pensioner, you can get a cash loan, but just so you know, you can be no older than 80 when paying off the last installment, regardless of whether you receive your pension through our bank!
- If you've been diagnosed with incontinence, are functionally dependent, and poor, you can't get pads and diapers on prescription. That's just the law!
- If you're demented, you need to be locked in the house so you don't wander off. That's how the family cares for you, as there are no community services, no day centers where you could spend the day while they work!

Through interaction and direct confrontation with potential challenges of old age, we aimed to raise awareness about the importance of combating discrimination against older persons and remind everyone that dignity, as a human right, does not expire with age; we have the right to dignity throughout the entire life cycle.

**The international project "Age Against The Machine,"** led by the "Novi Sad – European Capital of Culture" Foundation, addresses the issue of ageism, specifically the fight against discrimination and violence towards older persons. **The Red Cross of Serbia** provides expert support to all partners in the research process related to ageism, which includes various forms of discrimination older people face, as well as the re-examination of existing legal regulations in Europe and partner countries.

**For additional information:**

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