

Annual Report 2011

Our mission

AGE Platform Europe is a European network 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. Through its membership, AGE represents directly more than 30 million senior citizens across the EU.

AGE's work focuses on a wide range of policy areas that impact on older and retired people: anti-discrimination, employment of older workers, social protection, social inclusion, health, accessibility issues, new technologies and solidarity between generations.

Our vision and objectives

A comprehensive approach of ageing

Demographic ageing is changing our societies in fundamental ways. A comprehensive assessment and a reworking of our economic and social policy framework is needed if we wish to make our European social model sustainable and fair for all generations. This requires the adoption of a multidimensional approach to ageing and the involvement of all relevant actors including older people themselves in the design of solutions that are good for all age groups.

Demographic change as an opportunity

AGE sees the current demographic change as an opportunity to create an age-friendly society across the EU where all citizens, whatever their age, can enjoy equal rights and opportunities and are empowered to contribute to the wellbeing of their communities. Demographic ageing is too often perceived negatively and older people described as a burden to society and public budgets. This negative image does not do justice to the huge contributions older people make to society as workers, tax payers, volunteers, informal carers and consumers. A change of attitudes is needed to achieve an inclusive society and support greater solidarity and cooperation between generations.

Older people as self-advocates

AGE believes that older people should be able to speak out on their own behalf, in order to better defend their interests and express their very diverse needs. AGE therefore places great importance on older people's leadership and active involvement in all AGE activities and policy work.

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Foreword

Marjan Sedmak
President



AGE Platform Europe is now only eleven years old but nevertheless grown-up and mature. Its voice is strong and is there to be heard. Its messages and actions are considered and its influence in shaping the European Social Model is significant.

2011 was a year of hard work for everybody involved and consequently a year of much success. We can expect even more from 2012 that has already got off to a good start. Four years ago, AGE suggested to declare 2012 the European Year for active ageing and solidarity between generations. The then Commissioner Špidla and several Member States supported our vision of Europe as a friendly, creative, connective and intertwining meeting place for all generations. The European Year has arrived and will not finish here; it aims at producing changes by 2020 to achieve an age friendly European Union.

To reach such an epoch-making goal, there is a lot of work ahead, but we are proud that AGE has become a point of excellence where the dedicated endeavors of our staff meet the wealth of intellectual resources and experiences of our members coming from everywhere in the EU.

After the wide achievement we reached in 2011 with the European Charter of rights and duties of older people in need of care and assistance, in 2012 another project developing principles for the wellbeing and dignity of older people promises to become another important contribution to EU policy making to ensure the right to a dignified old age.

We know that the times are hard and many would prefer to continue to do business as usual. But important reforms are needed and we want to use the momentum of the European Year 2012 to ensure that lessons are learnt from the past and things will change for the better for all generations. Promoting active ageing will help bring the older generation back into the social fabric where they belong. In the last three or four decades our societies have developed very much on the concept of individualism. Now the time has come to strengthen the mutual responsibility of all generations and to remind everyone that we all belong to a shared European Union.

Foreword

Anne-Sophie Parent
Secretary General



2011 was a very special year for AGE: we celebrated our 10th Anniversary all together during our annual General Assembly in May and this was the opportunity to look at what AGE has achieved during its first decade of existence. We agreed that we had plenty of good reasons to celebrate. Our network has increased tremendously over these 10 first years not only in the number of older people we represent but also in terms of capacity to influence EU and national policy developments. The vision of a society for all that AGE members share is stronger than ever and extends now well beyond AGE membership. The whole EY2012 stakeholders' coalition shares this vision and supports the work we are doing to achieve an age-friendly European Union by 2020.

For the Secretariat, 2011 was particularly busy with the preparation of the European Year 2012 and the leadership of the growing EY2012 stakeholders' coalition, the launch of the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing, our campaign to promote an age-friendly environments, the launch of our new project on elder abuse and quality of long-term care, our involvement in a growing number of research projects and our participation in an increasing number of consultative or advisory bodies set up by EU institutions and bodies, etc. It was hard work, but our efforts have delivered positive results and we are proud to present you this Annual Report 2011 which summarises our main achievements and activities in 2011. I take this opportunity to thank all our members and experts, as well as my colleagues for their dedication to AGE and older people's cause.

This year, we have decided to present our report under a new format which, we hope, will be more attractive and reader-friendly. Your comments and suggestions are welcome to improve our publication in the future.

On behalf the Secretariat, who drafted this report collectively, I wish you a pleasant reading and thank you all for your interest on our work.

2011 at a glance

In 2011 AGE...

- organised 19 key events, some of which in cooperation with the European Parliament Intergroup on Ageing and Solidarity between Generations, the Committee of the Regions, the European Commission and the EY2012 stakeholders coalition;
- took part in more than 150 key EU and national events as speaker, moderator or rapporteur;
- wrote articles for more than 25 EU and national media;
- sent its newsletter, CoverAGE, to more than 1200 registered readers/organisations every month;
- issued 22 press releases on various EU and international key events or policy developments;
- issued more than 50 policy analyses, monitoring and advisory reports and 5 major publications;
- answered 15 EU consultations on diverse issues which have an impact on older people;
- Successfully proposed amendments to 9 European Parliament reports;
- launched a major EU project on older people's dignity (WeDo) involving 18 partners from 12 EU Member States;
- was involved in 10 large EU research projects;
- led the EY2012 Stakeholders' Coalition, which grew up from 19 to 54 members in 2011;
- cooperated with the European Women's Lobby (EWL), European Disability Forum (EDF), European Anti Racism Network (ENAR), European Anti Poverty Network (EAPN), European Roma Information Office (ERIO), European Consumers' Organisation (BEUC), European Blind Union (EBU), European Consumer Voice in Standardisation (ANEC) on issues of common interest or joint initiatives;
- elected a new President, Marjan Sedmak (Slovenia);
- organised 9 statutory meetings and 12 expert group meetings;
- increased its membership by 26 members (18 Full members and 8 Observers) and lost 12 members (due to the crisis);

- participated in various consultative groups or advisory boards set up by:

- **European Commission:**

- DG (Directory General) Justice:**

- Dialogue on the use of age and disability in financial products
 - Forum on article 5 of Gender Directive 2004/113/EC
 - Steering Group on 'Awareness raising in the areas of non-discrimination and equality targeted at civil society organisations'

- DG Health and Consumer Affairs and DG Information Society:**

- Steering Group of the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing (DG SANCO and INFOS)
 - e-Health Stakeholders Group
 - European Health Policy Forum (DG SANCO)

- DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion:**

- European Pensions Forum (DG EMPL)

- DG Internal Market:**

- Financial Services User Group (DG MARK)

- **European Economic and Social Committee**

- Liaison group with NGOs

- **European Fundamental Rights Agency**

- Fundamental Rights Platform

- **European Medicines Agency**

- Work Group of Patients and Consumers Working Parties

- **European Railway Agency**

- Work Group on Technical Specification on Interoperability – Persons with Reduced Mobility

- **ANEC**

- Strategic Advisory Group on Accessibility – Mandate 473 on Design for All

- **Ambient Assisted Living Programme (AAL)**

- Member of the Advisory Board of AAL Programme

- **United Nations – Economic Commission for Europe (UN-ECE)**

- Generations and Gender Programme**

- Member of the Advisory Group

- **World Demography & Ageing Forum (WDA).**

- Member of the Advisory Board

Highlights of the year

AGE 10th anniversary

2011 marked the 10th anniversary of AGE Platform Europe, set up in January 2001, following a process of discussion on how to improve and strengthen cooperation between older people's organisations at EU level. Within a decade, AGE has been able to advance older people's rights and facilitate their participation in the EU policy debate.

As mentioned in a **leaflet presenting ten of AGE's main achievements** during this decade, we managed to make significant progress in very diverse areas such as the promotion of greater solidarity between generations, equal access to good and services, the fight against poverty, older people's involvement in research programmes, gender equality, healthy and dignified ageing, etc.



EN: http://www.age-platform.eu/images/stories/EN/age_10_years_leaflet_en.pdf

FR: http://www.age-platform.eu/images/stories/EN/age_10_years_leaflet_fr.pdf

AGE's **General Assembly** covered a broad agenda and included some high-level external speakers including László Andor, Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion and Jan Jarab, Regional Representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. A special festive evening was organised with the participation of the Secretary-General of the Youth Forum, Giuseppe Porcaro, and a senior jazz band.

Towards the European Year 2012 for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations - promoting an age-friendly EU



Leading the growing EY2012 stakeholders' coalition, AGE successfully lobbied the European institutions and 2012 was declared the European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations (EY2012). With the approval of the European Parliament and the Council, the EY2012 proposal was formally adopted in July 2011.

More than 50 stakeholders are now involved in the **EY2012 Coalition**. Through a joint Manifesto, the EY2012 Coalition defined its common goal: creating an age-friendly European Union by 2020. This means fostering greater solidarity and cooperation between generations and enabling the active participation and involvement of all age groups in society.

The EY2012 Coalition also produced a Roadmap with concrete actions to be taken in 2012. The roadmap calls for the creation of a **European Age-Friendly Environment Network** and a **Covenant of Mayors on Demographic Change** to facilitate the promotion of active ageing and intergenerational solidarity at local and regional level.

In 2011, AGE also facilitated contacts and cooperation between the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the European Commission and encouraged EU institutions to import the objective and methodology of the **WHO Age-Friendly Cities programme** into the EU context.



Together with the Committee of the Regions and the European Commission, AGE also produced a brochure on **"How to promote active ageing: EU support to local and regional actors"** which provides information about EU funding opportunities. Waiting for the creation of the European Age-Friendly Environment Network, this is already a concrete support for all those stakeholders who are aiming at creating a more age-friendly European Union.

The European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing

End of November 2010 with the release of the flagship initiative “Innovation Union”, the European Commission launched a pilot European innovation partnership on active and healthy ageing (EIP AHA) which pursues a triple win for Europe:

- enabling EU citizens to lead healthy, active and independent lives while ageing;
- improving the sustainability and efficiency of social and health care systems;
- boosting and improving the competitiveness of the markets for innovative products and services, responding to the ageing challenge at both EU and global level, thus creating new opportunities for businesses.

The overarching target of this pilot partnership is to **increase the average healthy lifespan by two years by 2020**.

AGE was represented among the members of the **High Level Steering group** of the EIP AHA which designed and delivered the **Strategic Implementation Plan**. This Plan, released in November 2011, is the first step to make the partnership a reality thanks to the involvement and the commitment of all interested parties. It describes different types of actions in three main areas: health promotion and prevention, care and cure, active and independent living.

AGE devoted a lot of energy advocating for the EIP AHA to take a broader approach to healthy ageing and work on age-friendly environments that support independent living. Our efforts were successful as this is now one of the six key actions selected for phase 1 of the implementation of the EIP in the Communication released by the European Commission in February 2012. Meanwhile AGE has developed a partnership with the **World Health Organisation (WHO)** to submit a joint commitment in May 2012 on age-friendly environments where AGE will campaign to get a strong participation of local, regional and national authorities in the **WHO Age-Friendly Environments programme**. Thanks to AGE lobby, WHO and the European Commission have also agreed to work together on the promotion of age-friendly environments and the work of WHO on age-friendly environments is now promoted through the European Year 2012 activities and various EU instruments. An EU conference on governance of age-friendly environments is planned for June 2012 with the participation of WHO.

The WeDo project



2011 was an important year for the WeDO project, which developed and grew in a very promising way. This two-year project - launched in December 2010 - is coordinated by AGE Platform Europe and supported by the European Commission, DG Employment and Social affairs. It brings together 18 stakeholders (NGOs, public bodies, researchers and service providers) from 12 Member States and key EU level stakeholders. All partners are committed to working together to promote the wellbeing and dignity of vulnerable and disabled older people, to prevent elder abuse and to promote quality of long-term care.

We are jointly developing a **voluntary European Quality Framework for long-term care** in institutional, community and home care settings, inspired by the European voluntary quality framework for social services developed by the Social Protection Committee. This framework comprises a set of fundamental principles based on the **European Charter of Rights and Responsibilities of older people in need of long-term care and assistance** developed by the EUSTACEA project.

With the support of the Deutsches Zentrum für Altersfragen (DZA) who played a key role in the development of the German Charter of Rights for People in Need of Long-Term Care and Assistance and its implementation, and with the guidance of the Vrije Universiteit Brussels (VUB-BAS) who developed a methodological tool that has been successfully implemented in various “ageing well” projects set up by local authorities, the Partnership is also developing recommendations for **quality development, control and labelling tools** and a methodology on how to develop a **participative approach**.

In 2011, the WeDO project launched **12 national coalitions** and an **EU coalition** gathering a wide range of stakeholders committed to the project’s objectives. Each coalition gathered good practices related to long-term care. They successfully increased their cooperation with their ministries and the members of the Social Protection Committee working group on age (SPC-WG-AGE), and will develop strategies for the wellbeing and dignity of older people at national and EU levels in 2012. They will also finalise the European quality framework and the Guide for the wellbeing and dignity of older people.

Website : www.wedo-partnership.eu.

AGE 2011 work in to promote...

Older people's right to non discrimination and equal opportunities

Fighting age discrimination in employment

Throughout 2011 AGE pursued its campaign to combat age discrimination faced by older workers in employment by successfully lobbying for issues such as informal care, phased retirement, flexibility, lifelong learning and ergonomics to be included in the **European Parliament report on the Flagship Initiative on New Skills for New Jobs**.

AGE also participated as a leader in a project run by CSR Europe on "**Promoting the Business Case for Active Ageing**" which is preparing guidelines for companies on active ageing with thematic focus on two areas: employment and jobs, and product and service development. CSR Europe, AGE and the European Commission organised a very successful seminar in December to raise awareness of what can be done at company level to facilitate active ageing.

Fighting age limits in access to financial products

AGE's input was sought by the Polish Presidency on Article 2.7 of the draft Directive on equal treatment in access to goods and services which allows age limits in financial products, for the discussions in the **Council's Social Questions Working Group** meetings during the 2nd semester of 2011. AGE is pleased that the Danish Presidency has decided to continue working on the specific provisions regarding age in Article 2.7 during the first semester of 2012. Meanwhile AGE disseminated the results of its members' latest survey of good and bad practice in access to intra-EU travel insurance, complementary health insurance, mortgages and banking products.

Campaign to unblock the proposed EU Directive on equal treatment in access to goods and services

AGE continued to coordinate its work on the proposed directive with the European Women's

Lobby, European Youth Forum, European Disability Forum, European Network Against Racism and ILGA-Europe with the support of the Social Platform, and took part in joint meetings with Member States Permanent Representations to discuss the state of play on the draft directive and to coordinate our action.

A step forward on gender equality in financial products

After several years of joint campaign with Test-Achats (Belgian consumers' organisation) and European Women Lobby to ban gender discrimination in access to financial products, AGE welcomed the European Court of Justice (ECJ) ruling on the Test-Achats case (C-236/09, March 2011) which will **forbid differences of treatment on the ground of gender in fees and benefits** of insurance products as of 21 December 2012. In June AGE participated in the European Commission's Forum on Article 5 of the Gender Directive 2004/113/EC, to discuss with Member States, industry and stakeholders what impact this ruling will have on industry and consumers. AGE stressed that this ruling will have a **positive impact for older women** in complementary health insurance and insurance type private pensions. Following this debate, the European Commission issued guidelines for the interpretation of the ECJ ruling which clarify several points raised by AGE.

Enhancing consumers' rights

In 2011 AGE worked intensively on consumers' rights through our representation in the **Financial Services Users Group** where we highlighted the barriers older people face in accessing financial products and services such as private pensions and insurance. AGE also joined forces with other NGOs in a campaign led by the European Consumers' Organisation to move forward the discussions on **collective redress** and replied to the related consultation stressing the added value of such a legal tool for the 50+ generation. Visitors of the AGE website can now find information on AGE's work on consumers' issues under a separate section.

Joint papers on older Roma and migrants

In 2011 AGE prepared two joint papers with the European Roma Information Office (ERIO) on **'Improving the situation of older Roma in the EU'** which summarised a series of interviews with older Roma done in summer 2010 as well as an extended joint paper on older Roma to mark the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty on 17 October 2011.

On the International Migrants Day on 18 December, AGE launched with the European Network Against Racism (ENAR) a joint paper on older migrants which seeks to promote their participation in employment, involvement in the community and independent living as a joint contribution to the European Year 2012.

Older people's right to free movement and equal access

Campaign on age-friendly environments

AGE campaigned all along 2011 to promote age-friendly environments. This was underpinned by the brochure published end 2010 "Towards Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Places for All Ages" and conveyed through different initiatives, especially the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing (EIP AHA). AGE is committed to set up a **virtual network of local and regional authorities** interested in working on age-friendly environments, and calls for the creation of a **European Covenant of Mayors on demographic change**. In addition to the EIP AHA and the preparation for the EY2012, AGE reinforced its collaboration with the Committee of the Regions, as well as with World Health Organisation (WHO) that leads the age-friendly cities network. WHO and AGE will submit a joint commitment to the EIP AHA to encourage local and regional authorities to join WHO age-friendly environment programme and to build bridges with the relevant EU policy processes and funding programmes.

A few steps forward on accessibility to new technologies

At the occasion of the **Digital Assembly** in June, AGE, ANEC (European Association representing Consumers in Standardisation), EBU (European Blind Union) and EDF (European Disability Forum) launched a joint campaign on **web-accessibility** to ensure that everyone is able to access Internet. This coalition successfully asked the European Commission to review its proposal for a legal act on accessible websites and to propose EU legislation to ensure that public websites are made accessible.

AGE and EDF joined Vodafone Foundation to launch an award to promote the development of **smartphone applications** to improve the lives of people with disabilities and older people and help them become more actively involved in society. An award ceremony rewarded 4 applications which improve the mobility, social participation, independent living and wellbeing of older people and persons with disabilities.

Accessibility in transport

In 2011, AGE together with EDF submitted a proposal to the European Commission for a **Passenger Forum**, to act as a permanent advisory board building on the experience of the End User Platform driven by AGE in the Mediate Project. We are pleased that our suggestion has been picked up by the European Commission who is now exploring ways to implement it.

The final conference of the AENEAS Project in April 2011 also gave visibility to the results of this project and allowed us to promote the initiatives of the AENEAS cities as concrete examples to support age-friendly mobility.

EU Access City Award

For two years now, the European Commission has awarded “accessible” cities or cities committed to improving their accessibility level. For the 2011 edition, AGE was asked to join the EU jury and to provide contacts of experts for the national juries. Salzburg was chosen as the winner, while seven other cities got a prize, e.g. Krakow. Both cities were AGE’s partners in the AENEAS project.

European network of academic experts in the field of disability (ANED)

The European Commission decided in 2011 to renew the contract of ANED and asked them to involve one expert from organisations dealing with older people’s issues. AGE was asked by ANED to participate in its work and to nominate one of its experts who shall provide the Commission with scientific support and advice, informed analysis of national situations and policy developments, advice in the fields identified in the European Disability Strategy and the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities ratified by the EU in 2011.

Standardisation

Standardisation can facilitate the development of accessible goods and services within the EU. This is why AGE collaborates on this issue with ANEC (European Association representing Consumers in Standardisation) and EDF (European Disability Forum).

In 2011, AGE was more specifically involved in two topics:

- The standardization mandate launched by the European Commission to include “**Design for all**” in relevant standardization initiatives (Mandate 473). It is underpinned by a Strategy Advisory Group on Accessibility (SAGA) in which AGE is involved.
- The standardization work in the railway sector for the revision of the **Technical Specification for Interoperability - Person with reduced mobility** (TSI PRM) led by the European Railway Agency. Two of AGE experts participate in this highly technical work.

Older people's right to active citizenship and participation in society

AGE contribution to the European Year of Volunteering 2011



All along 2011 AGE contributed to the achievements of the European Year on Volunteering 2011 (EYV2011) by taking an active part in the **Alliance Steering Group** and bringing in the older volunteering dimension into its activities including the development of its common policy work (P.A.V.E. document) and through its task force groups on employee volunteering and the legal framework for volunteering. With the help of its experts, AGE also identified and monitored measures introduced by Member States to promote older volunteering at national level.

In September AGE also organised a meeting of the Intergroup on Ageing and Intergenerational Solidarity to look at older volunteering in the context of active ageing and to make **a link between EYV2011 and the European Year 2012** for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations (EY2012).

Preparation for the European Year 2012 for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations



AGE supported the involvement of national and local organisations in the preparation for the European Year 2012 (EY2012) in providing information and materials to help them get involved and facilitate direct contacts with their **national EY2012 coordinators**, as well as the EY2012 communication agency managing the EY2012 official website. We also produced together with the EY2012 Coalition a **Manifesto for an Age-Friendly European Union by 2020** including a number of recommendations to the EU, stakeholders at national and local level and EU citizens to achieve an age-friendly European Union by 2020.

Together with the EY2012 Coalition, AGE produced a leaflet entitled '**European Year 2012: Everyone has a role to play!**' in order to provide citizens and organisations with useful contact and information. Together with the Committee of the Regions and the European commission, AGE also published a brochure on "**How to promote active ageing in Europe: EU support to local and regional actors**" which has become an EU official publication widely disseminated throughout the European Union.

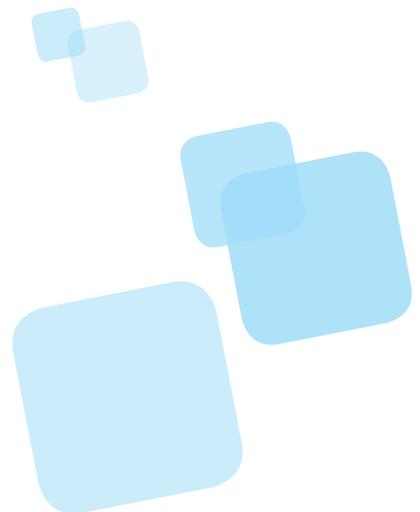
Life-long learning

AGE participated in the Grundtvig Expert Seminar on Dissemination in April 2011 and provided support to its national organisations to access Grundtvig and other programmes. We also contacted MEPs to express our concern over possible future lack of funding for the cross-border mobility of adult learners in future EU programmes.

An active role of AGE within the European Parliament



AGE believes that an active role in the European Parliament (EP) is key to voice older citizen's interests at EU level. AGE's action within the EP increased in 2011 thanks to the support of the **Intergroup on Ageing and Intergenerational solidarity**, with whom AGE co-organised policy debates in the European Parliament and cooperated on various campaigns. AGE's members took an active part in these activities: our Health Expert Group participated in an Intergroup meeting on 'medicines for older people' and members of our Council visited the EP before participating in an Intergroup event on the European Year 2012. We also took part in some Interest groups meetings on carers and volunteering. We actively contributed to the EP work on the European Year 2012 and successfully submitted amendments to a few other EP reports including **Martin Kastler's report on the EY2012**. AGE was actively involved in drafting the **Written declaration 2011/48 on the European Year 2012** which called for an age-friendly EU. Thanks to AGE members' efforts a high number of MEPs signed the declaration but unfortunately it did not gather the required number of signatures to be adopted by the European Parliament in plenary.



Older people's social protection

Monitoring the adequacy of pensions

In 2011, AGE analysed the **impact of national recovery programmes** on the adequacy of pensions. AGE members brought evidence of drastic cuts in public spending and, in particular, measures leading to a further reduction of the redistributive elements of pension systems to the detriment of those with shorter careers, i.e. women and migrant workers.

AGE took part in the Peer Review on 'Balancing the Security and Affordability of Funded Pension Schemes' to reiterate its **call for more solidarity between and within generations** when reforming pension systems. Pension adequacy, a decent minimum income for all pensioners, safeguards for workers' savings and pensioners' provisions, as well as possibilities to extend working lives for those who wish or need to work longer, are all areas where substantial improvements are needed to restore national social protection systems and rebuild citizens' confidence.

Promoting gender equality in pensions

When advocating for adequate pensions for all, AGE paid a particular attention to the gender dimension, calling for **more redistributive elements in pension schemes** to support women who provide most of the care to children and other family members. Anticipating the publication of the European Commission's White Paper on pensions, AGE addressed a message to President Barroso, reminding that gender equality is one of the core values of the EU. We asked the White Paper to address the issue of gender income gap in old age and to prevent this gap from increasing in the future as a result of the drastic reforms that are introduced in social protection schemes across the EU. **Gender equality in pension rights** is crucial to fight poverty and social exclusion among older women.

In a Peer Review conference organised by Germany on 'Effects of life courses on women's pensions', AGE warned against the impact of measures strengthening the link between individual contributions and benefits as this will hurt women more than men and increase the gender gap in old-age income unless **tailored-made compensations** are introduced to address the women's life courses. Given the trend across the EU to rely more on supplementary pensions, AGE also urged for effective measures to reduce the persistent career and pay gender gaps which impacts negatively on women's access to these schemes.

AGE was pleased to see that the European Commission picked up several of its recommendations in its **White Paper on Pensions** which includes a strong focus on the gender dimension of pension reform.

AGE members' engagement in the European Semester

In March, AGE sent a letter to the European Council asking for measures to strengthen the adequacy of social protection systems in line with the Lisbon Treaty's social clauses and Europe 2020 objective to reduce poverty and social exclusion. AGE deplored the **lack of a coherent social response to the crisis** to prevent additional social and economic costs in future. While asking for socially sustainable measures, AGE urged national governments to ensure **adequate pensions for all and guarantee a minimum old-age income**, access to decent jobs and quality basic services, as well as for anti-age discrimination policy in employment. AGE argued in favour of a balanced socio-economic policy agenda to underpin the realisation of the Europe 2020 objective of inclusive growth.

AGE members mobilised their efforts at national level to influence the new EU economic policy coordination process – the so-called European Semester. Since it is almost exclusively focused on the exit from the crisis and lacks transparency around the involvement of civil society, it was difficult for social NGOs to defend the principle of social fairness and adequacy of social protection within the European Semester. AGE deplored that 2011 National Reform Programmes (NRPs), which underpin the implementation of the Europe 2020 strategy, largely ignored social issues, and did not mainstream them across the macro-economic approach to reforms. Our policy positions questioned in particular **governments' predominant focus on reducing excessive public deficits** – through further cuts in public expenditure – without analysing their impact on older people, in particular the most vulnerable, such as older women and the 'oldest old'.

Regarding the governance of the first European Semester and the NRPs, AGE regretted the lack of guidance and accountability of the process, as well as the lack of political will to involve civil society in the planning of the NRPs.

Older people's right to dignity

Defining standards for a decent and dignified life

In 2011 AGE pursued its campaign for an adequate income in old age, aiming at preserving decent standards of living for a dignified ageing. In 2011, AGE reiterated its call for a clear definition of what an adequate old-age income should entail in national contexts i.e. through developing so-called **baskets of goods and services for older people**. The objective of such baskets is to address the changing needs older people have as they age to reflect the fact that the cost of goods and services one needs when ageing increases much faster than inflation. AGE pledged in favour of breaking down this basket per gender and old age sub-groups, and take into account also access to quality health and long-term services, decent housing, heating, public transport, long-life learning, social or civic participation etc.

Addressing the needs of the most vulnerable older people through the European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion

Throughout 2011 AGE supported its members in the monitoring of the implementation of the Europe 2020 poverty reduction target. National strategies on social inclusion address very unequally the poverty risk among older people. Therefore, AGE was urging European and national policy-makers to introduce **measures to fight both relative income poverty and material deprivation among people aged 65+** - in particular in Central and Eastern countries where living conditions in old age are the worst. To combat effectively the specific causes of poverty and social exclusion among older population, AGE also called for the breakdown of national targets on poverty reduction by age and gender subgroups.

AGE forwarded its members' recommendations to the first Convention on the European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion co-organised by the Commission and the Polish Presidency in mid-October. Our members coordinated a **thematic workshop on fighting poverty and social exclusion of older people** at this Convention. In addition to policy recommendations on poverty reduction, AGE asked governments to seize European and national platforms against poverty to support the European Year 2012 and use it as a momentum to enhance social inclusion for all population groups and help create an inclusive and age-friendly EU by 2020.

Elder Abuse and quality of long-term care

Elder Abuse and quality of long-term care were among our work priorities in 2011. Besides the launch of the **We DO Project** that is looking at how to prevent elder abuse through improving quality of long-term care services, we have continued to advocate to maintain elder abuse high on the EU agenda and to make sure that the link with fundamental rights was understood and supported.

AGE was actively involved in the preparation of the **Conference on Elder Abuse** organised in November by the European Commission. We brought a large delegation of AGE members, provided input on the agenda and suggested speakers. The purpose of the conference was to take stock of the achievements of recent EU projects related to elder abuse and to exchange views about what needs and could be done at national and European level to protect the dignity and well-being of older people.

AGE was also invited to take part in the **Social Protection Committee working group on ageing** (SPC-WG-AGE) to present our WeDO project and **draft European Quality Principles for Long-Term Care** and to contribute suggestions for the staff working paper on quality of long-term care that will be published by the European Commission in 2012.

In addition, we encouraged the European Commission to reinforce their cooperation with the World Health Organisation on both elder abuse and quality in long-term care.

In October 2011, AGE was invited to take part in the **Peer Review** organised by Sweden on *"Closing the gap – in search for ways to deal with expanding care needs and limited resources"* where we put forward our position on long-term care and discussed with representatives of different member states how to overcome the challenges they are facing to ensure quality long-term care and a dignified old age to all.

We also contributed to the work of the Social Platform on care through our participation in the **working group on Services of General Interest** and in their annual conference in December devoted to care.

Older people's right to healthy old age

European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing (EIP AHA)

AGE was very actively involved in the Steering Group of the EIP AHA, participating in numerous meetings to draft the **Strategic Implementation Plan**, co-organizing a workshop on age-friendly environments, disseminating information about the EIP AHA to external interested parties, **building bridges** between other EU policy processes which can help the EIP achieve better outcomes such as the EY2012, the work done by DG Move on accessible transport, and DG Justice on accessibility of goods and services.

AGE was invited to many conferences and events to present the EIP AHA to a wider audience and we used these opportunities to promote a **broader approach to active and healthy ageing** based on the definition of the World Health Organisation. For more information about the EIP AHA, see the article under Highlights of the Year.

Pharmaceutical issues

For many years AGE had been advocating to improve the safety of medicines and make sure that medicines are tailored to older patients' specific needs, in particular polymedicated and frail elderly patients. Following our call, the **European Medicines Agency (EMA)** decided to launch its **geriatric medicines** strategy and set up a specific working group. This will strengthen our involvement in EMA work through the working group of Patients' and Consumers' Working Parties, in which two AGE experts are involved.

Involving older people in **clinical trials** is also key to ensure adequate geriatric medicines. A Directive is being revised and AGE participated in the consultation held by the European Commission. EMA is also working on improving participation of older people in clinical trials.

EU Health Policy Forum

The aim of the Health Policy Forum is to bring together European health stakeholders to ensure that the EU health strategy is open, transparent and responds to the public concerns.

In 2011, we took part in the meetings where we played an important role in linking with the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing.

We also contributed actively to the common position issued by the EU Health Policy Forum on **chronic disease** to feed in the strategy to be developed in 2012, making sure that the life-course perspective and the concern of older people were taken into account.

Participation in European Public Health Alliance's work (EPHA)

In 2011, AGE actively supported EPHA's campaign on **health inequalities**, notably by signing and promoting the Charter on Health Equity. The collaboration with EPHA was also of great importance on specific dossiers such as the new directive proposed by the European Commission on **Information to patients on prescribed medicines**. This dossier, opened in 2008, is quite controversial, and working in coalition is very important to influence the debate.

AGE also took part in EPHA monthly meetings, which were good opportunities to report back on the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing to the wider public health community.

eHealth

AGE work done on eHealth is shared between policy work and projects. In 2011, AGE was involved in the **eHealth week** held under the Hungarian Presidency, which was an opportunity to present the perspective of older people with regard to the use of new technologies in health.

We contributed as well to the consultation of the European Commission for the **eHealth Action Plan 2012-2020** and hope that our comments on the need to promote a rationale use of new technologies will be taken on board.

Meanwhile our participation in the renewed group of eHealth stakeholders has been confirmed and the group will start meeting in March 2012.

Intergroup meetings on health issues

In 2011, AGE co-organised with the Intergroup on Ageing and Solidarity between Generations **two meetings on healthy ageing**. The first one was linked to the launch of the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing. It was the opportunity to better explain AGE's position and role in the Steering Group and to listen to the contribution of different stakeholders. The second meeting was focused on medicines for older people and welcomed the launch of EMA new strategy on geriatric medicines. It was the opportunity for members of the Health Expert Group to attend and contribute to the work of the European Parliament.

Solidarity between generations

A cross-cutting issue

In 2011 AGE's work focused on mainstreaming the issue of solidarity between and within generations in areas such as volunteering, employment, the reform of pension and long-term care systems in Europe. Throughout its action, AGE sought to foster more fairness and solidarity between older and younger, but also, beyond the age groups, between poorer and richer and between men and women.

Together with the EY2012 stakeholders' coalition, AGE lobbied the Council and the European Parliament to **broaden the scope of the 2012 European Year** on Active Ageing proposed by the European Commission and include solidarity between generations in the title and objectives of the Year. Both the Council and the European Parliament (Martin Kastler's report) supported our call and the scope of the European Year was broadened to "active ageing and solidarity between generations".

Under AGE leadership, the EY2012 Coalition adopted as main goal for the European Year 2012 the **creation of an age-friendly EU by 2020** focusing on the need to adapt our society to the current needs of all age groups. This coalition, which increased from 19 to 54 stakeholders, developed a manifesto and roadmap which outline our objectives and commitments for the Year.

EU Day of Solidarity between Generations, 29th April



AGE took a very active part in the **EU high-level conference** "Towards the European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations (2012)" organised by the European Commission on 29 April to mark the EU Day of Solidarity between Generations.

Representatives of AGE and EY2012 coalition were invited to speak and present initiatives and examples of good practice which aim at fostering intergenerational exchanges and cooperation.

To mark the day, the EY2012 Coalition launched a **joint leaflet on the EU Year 2012**, which calls for everyone to get involved and stresses the importance of adopting an intergenerational approach in many areas with recommendations addressed at EU, national and local levels. The objective of this publication was to inform the public about the EY2012 and to mobilize as many stakeholders as possible to support the Year's objectives.

Strong support to older users' involvement

One of AGE's main guiding principles is to help **older people be self-advocates** and speak on their own behalf. This objective is mainstreamed in AGE's work at policy level, in projects and in the increased participation of its members and experts in debates and initiatives that concern them.

Through our participation in a high number of projects AGE has managed to strengthen older people's involvement in EU research. Our role in these projects is to bring the views of older people in research development, stressing the heterogeneity of this end user group, exploring ways of efficient user participation, promoting early involvement and ensuring that ethical issues are addressed.

In 2011 we used our experience in this field to draft a **practical guide on user involvement** which will be published soon. It builds on many of our project activities that provide evidence of the added value of user's involvement (more information can be found in the following pages). AGE's contribution in promoting user involvement was also demonstrated through the increasing number of requests for AGE to join projects and advisory groups.

AGE also worked towards the establishment of a **Passenger Forum**, a permanent group of stakeholders giving advice to the European Commission on issues around transport and accessibility.

AGE participated in high-level groups in areas important for older people, such as clinical trials, pharmaceutical issues, eHealth, standardization, air passengers' rights and financial services. In the field of Ambient Assisted Living (AAL) we were represented in the AAL Forum that took place in Lecce in September 2011 while our long-term contribution was recognised through the nomination of AGE in the **AAL Advisory Board**. Last, AGE's targeted collaboration with the Vodafone Foundation in the frame of the **Smart Accessibility Awards** is a concrete example of narrowing the gap between developers and users and so ensuring the development of products that are effectively adapted to the widest range of users.

AGE involvement in research projects

Using the Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) to improve older people's lives

AALIANCE²



The AALIANCE² project aims at creating a long-term network of organisations (research institutes, technologies providers, users) working in the field of Ambient Assisted Living (AAL). It is the continuation of the first AALIANCE project which developed a Roadmap and a Strategic Research Agenda in the same field.

The project only began its activities end of 2011. AGE's work is planned to be transversal, as we will provide links with other European AAL initiatives. Our role is particularly important for building a sustainable AAL community, voicing the users' point of view in standardisation issues, promoting user involvement and disseminating the project outcomes to a wider audience of policy makers at EU and national levels and local and regional actors.

OASIS - Open Architecture for Accessible Services Integration and Standardisation



In 2011 the OASIS project came to an end. During 4 years OASIS had developed and tested a set of solutions enhancing older people's independent living, sociability, autonomous mobility, and flexible work-ability. These technologies are designed to *'speak to each other'* acting as a single system which responds to the user's individual needs and they are *'open'*, meaning that other applications can be easily integrated in the OASIS system in the future. A final User Forum

was organised by AGE in Italy gathering more than 110 participants from all over Europe and beyond. Older people, their carers and experts in user needs tested the OASIS applications and their online training modules, discussing with the developers about their functions and potentials, and providing their final feedback. Additionally, AGE brought together the Scientific Advisory Board, a board of international experts, for a final meeting to gather their views and further advice on the applications, their interoperability and the possible deployment of OASIS beyond the project.

VERITAS - Virtual and augmented Environments and Realistic user Interactions To achieve embedded Accessibility designS



VERITAS, the project developing ICT tools (tools based on the use of new technologies) and virtual environments to improve the design of accessible products, reached two years of activities. In the User Forum that was organised by AGE in Nottingham in September 2011 VERITAS shared some interim results and gathered feedback from beneficiaries (older people and persons with disabilities). During this meeting beneficiaries provided their comments for the task analysis, an important exercise for the creation of the project's simulation environment, thus ensuring that VERITAS reflects reality in the studied application areas and allowing the partners to cross-check its methodology and its findings.

AGE also delivered two newsletters informing interested parties on synergies between VERITAS and other initiatives at the policy and project level.

Futurage - A Road Map for Ageing Research



The Road Map for European Ageing Research developed by FUTURAGE was launched in October 2011. It aims to tackle the grand challenge of Europe's ageing population and provide the research agenda for ageing over the next 10 years. AGE contributed significantly to the production of the Road Map, ensuring that both the views of older people are represented and their complex needs understood to inform the Road Map's recommendations. In addition to the detailed research priorities, the Road Map includes as key recommendations the need to engage older people in research and to better coordinate existing and future studies, two of the main claims made by AGE's experts involved in FUTURAGE consultation process.

eAccess+ - The eAccessibility Thematic Network



2011 was a key year for this thematic network aiming at establishing and developing a cooperative platform for coordinating, supporting and improving the implementation of eAccessibility throughout Europe. AGE contributed to both reinforcing the network of stakeholders and disseminating the project news, not only via its articles but also writing on the project hub about the involvement of older people in research and policy making. These efforts will help compile the project roadmap for bridging the widening gap between the potential of ICT/AT (Assistive Technology) and e-Accessibility for people with disabilities and older people on the one hand and the actual implementation of eAccessibility on the other hand with a focus on web accessibility.

ATIS4 all – Accessible devices and services at hand



ATIS4all is a European Thematic Network whose main objective seeks to facilitate everyone's access to the most suitable accessibility technology according to their needs, preferences and contextual characteristics (e.g. ICT solution, environment constraints, user device, language, etc.). For this purpose, ATIS4all works on an open, collaborative portal (EASTIN 2.0) offering reliable information on inclusive products and services, and cutting-edge technological trends. AGE closely cooperates with the European Disability forum (EDF) for ensuring the user-friendliness of the information and its provision, reminding designers and developers of the needs of older people and persons with disabilities, as well as for presenting the portal and its services to the wider European networks working in the new technologies.

Goldenworkers - Towards an ICT Research Agenda devoted to employment



Starting in October 2011, the main goal of Goldenworkers project is to identify emerging technologies and socio-economic trends, new models of extending professional active life and novel application scenarios in the area of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) for active ageing at work, leading to the definition of a beyond the state-of-the-art research agenda.

AGE contributes to the project's three main strands of activity: the research community, by bridging the knowledge gathered so far thanks to its involvement in research projects and European policies; companies and public service organisations, by addressing them older people's concerns and needs; policy makers, by providing recommendations on policy and public service design to include ageing workers through the innovative use of ICT.

Working for the mobility needs of our ageing society

AENEAS - Attaining Energy-Efficient Mobility in an Ageing Society



Coping with the challenges of our ageing societies implies to tackle the mobility patterns and needs of older people. The Aeneas project organised high level trainings promoting mutual exchange of information and know-how on green ways to promote the mobility of seniors, at local level thanks to the involvement of five European cities and at European level, thanks to a comprehensive online good practice database including case studies from all over Europe and gaining greater visibility through the Final conference, organised by AGE, partner of Aeneas, at the Committee of Regions in Brussels in April 2011. This successful event attracted many European stakeholders and drew lessons from the AENEAS experience to encourage the transfer of best practices to other cities.

Caring about health care and independent living at home

DREAMING - Elderly Friendly Alarm Handling and Monitoring



As DREAMING reaches the end of its lifetime in 2012, 6 pilot sites are using eHealth applications, emergency services and teleconference tools to promote older people's independent living at home and cut down social and health care costs. In the frame of a continuous engagement of experts in the DREAMING activities, AGE organised a pilot visit in Barbastro where the Advisory Group interacted remotely with a user and investigated the impact of the technology for the professionals. The discussions focused on the benefit of the technology for the user, the change of roles of the health professionals and the expected economical advantages. In addition, an individual visit was organised in the Heby pilot site providing useful insights on the use and uptake of the DREAMING technology in Sweden.

Home Sweet Home - Health monitoring and sOcial integration environMENT for Supporting WidE ExTension of independent life at HOME



In 2011 the Home Sweet Home services, which include domotic devices, alarms, videoconferencing, health telemonitoring, daily planning and brain games, were deployed in pilot sites in Belgium, Ireland, Italy and Spain. AGE, in charge of managing the project's Advisory Board, collected feedback from its members on a number of deliverables and communication material and started planning the next pilot site visits for 2012. We also provide constant links with the main EU policy developments in the field of eHealth and inform partners on important events where the project could be presented.

About AGE network

AGE structure

The internal structure of AGE is organised in such a way as to reflect its main mission, which is to represent older people's interests and needs across the EU and build their capacity to speak on their own behalf and influence EU policy developments.

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

General Assembly

The General Assembly is the governing body. All full Member organisations have voting rights. The General Assembly meets annually to adopt the work programme, budget and applications for membership. It elects the President who must come from an organisation "of" older people.

Council

AGE member organisations elect their national representative(s) at the Council, which also includes representatives of the European networks. It meets at least twice a year and is responsible for the overall implementation of the work programme and for policy decisions.

Executive Committee

The Executive Committee is composed of the President, four Vice-Presidents, a Treasurer and a Secretary. It is responsible for providing policy guidance and ensuring that the statutes and internal rules are adhered to. The Executive Committee meets at least 4 times a year.

Accreditation Committee

The role of the Accreditation Committee is to deal with all issues around membership, including new applications for membership and to forward its recommendations to the Council and the General Assembly.

Expert groups

Expert groups are set up to inform AGE's work in specific policy areas. For the moment AGE has six expert groups on age discrimination, employment, social inclusion, pensions, health, new technologies and accessibility. The experts are nominated by the Council members. They meet twice a year and work in-between through e-mail exchange.

Secretariat

The Secretariat is responsible for the day-to-day management of the association and for liaising with the EU institutions.

Communication and Information

Media Coverage

AGE is regularly interviewed by written and audiovisual media on ageing related issues. In 2011 a higher focus was drawn on issues such as the European Year 2012, the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing (EIP AHA), active ageing, pension reforms, volunteering, intergenerational solidarity, Vodafone Smart Accessibility Awards,...

A number of these articles are listed on AGE website at: <http://www.age-platform.eu/en/age-a-the-media/age-in-the-news>

Communication tools

AGE's three main communication tools are its website, monthly newsletter, and printed publications.

Website:

AGE's website (www.age-platform.eu) provides updated information on AGE's policy work in the field of ageing (according to 6 main policy areas), current EU policy development, events, funding opportunities, useful materials, good practice, and useful links. AGE website is available in English and French.

Newsletter:

11 editions of our monthly on-line newsletter, CoverAGE, were published in English and French (RapportAGE). The Special Briefing is translated into German, Italian, Spanish and Polish.

CoverAge is distributed on line to our 165 member organisations representing around 30 million older people in Europe, but also to a wide and growing range of other stakeholders interested in ageing issues: public authorities, EU officials, NGOs, services providers, researchers, industry, etc. <http://www.age-platform.eu/en/coverage>

Publications:

In 2011 AGE printed the following publications (this Annual Report not included)

- How to promote active ageing in Europe - EU support to local and regional actors / available in [EN - FR - DE](#)
- European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations 2012: Everyone has a role to play! / Année européenne pour le vieillissement actif et la solidarité entre les générations 2012: Nous avons tous un rôle à jouer! / in [EN - FR - ES - IT](#)
- AGE 10th Anniversary leaflet / [EN - FR](#)
- Guide for Civil Dialogue on Promoting Older People's Social Inclusion / in [English, Bulgarian, Czech, Swedish, German, Italian, Polish](#) and [Slovak](#).

Membership of other European organisations

EAPN



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.

EPHA



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.

Social Platform



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

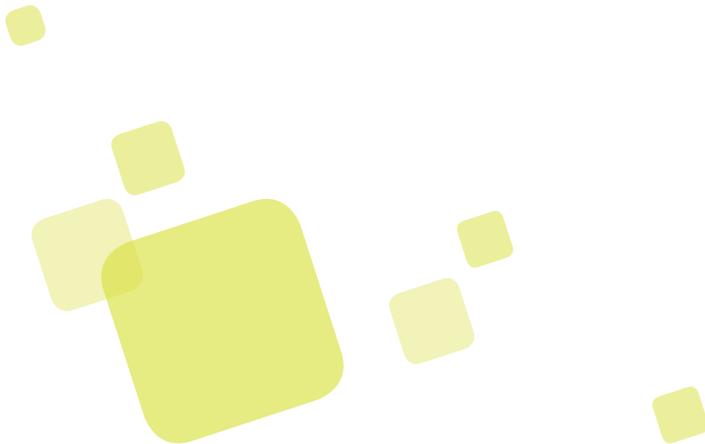
As in previous years, AGE's main activities in 2011 were financed partly by membership fees and donations (18%) and partly by a grant from the European Community Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity (PROGRESS) managed by DG Justice (82%).

In addition to this core funding, AGE received a grant for the WeDO project. It is a European project cofinanced by European Commission Directorate General for Employment and Social affairs (80%) and by its partners (20%). It is coordinated by AGE Platform Europe, and gathers 18 partners from 12 EU member states.

AGE has continued its work on European Research Projects throughout 2011, besides being involved in new proposals.

AGE was partner of 10 projects dedicated to the well-being of older people when dealing with new technologies, health, accessibility and sustainable mobility. Those projects, financed mainly by FP7 and CIP PSP, are Aeneas, Dreaming, Oasis, FuturAge, Veritas, Home Sweet Home, GoldenWorkers, AAliance2, e-Access+ and ATIS4All. AGE participation in EU research projects is most often covered at 100% by EU funding.

Depending on the number of projects we are involved in and the resulting volume of work, AGE income and expenses vary from one year to the next.



Income Statement - In Euro	31/12/2011	31/12/2010
Income		
European Commission grant	1.028.132,90	1.292.113,32
Membership fees	112.995,10	110.297,03
Members contribution to GA costs	16.550,00	11.830,00
Financial income	4.798,98	6.167,23
Co financing projects	40.066,98	113.936,45
Other income and donations	56.601,70	22.575,01
	1.259.145,66	1.556.919,04
Expenses		
Staff expenses	777.963,09	853.819,79
Travel and accommodation	188.799,50	302.300,82
Services	163.442,40	235.594,78
Administration	128.165,85	164.946,94
	1.258.370,84	1.556.662,33
Surplus/(Deficit)	774,82	256,71
BALANCE SHEET	31/12/2011	31/12/2010
Assets		
Fixed Assets		
Tangible fixed assets	462,70	0,00
Financial fixed assets	34.273,57	29.171,95
	34.736,27	29.171,95
Current Assets		
Account receivable	269.183,26	339.146,07
Cash	232.883,13	379.010,99
Prepaid expenses	3.663,01	3.730,50
	505.729,40	721.887,56
Total Assets	540.465,67	751.059,51
Liabilities		
Equity		
Reserves	10.618,10	10.618,10
Profit carried forward	52.640,37	52.383,66
Profit of the year	774,82	256,71
	64.033,29	63.258,47
Debts		
Accounts payable	230.590,39	367.407,22
Social debts	129.109,51	65.834,87
Deferred revenues	116.732,48	254.558,95
	476.432,38	687.801,04
Total Liabilities	540.465,67	751.059,51

AGE governing bodies and secretariat

Executive Committee



Ms **Liz Mestheneos**, President
Greece
(until May 2011)



Mr **Willy Peirens**, Vice
President
Belgium



Mr **Marjan Sedmak**, President
(since May 2011)
Slovenia



Mr **Jean-Pierre Bultez**
(since November 2011)
France



Ms **Louise Richardson**,
Vice-President
Ireland



Mr **Martin Van Rooijen**,
Treasurer
Netherlands



Ms **Halina Potocka**,
Vice-President
Poland



Ms **Maria Petkova**, Secretary
Bulgaria

Secretariat

Anne-Sophie Parent – Secretary General - annesophie.parent@age-platform.eu

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Nena Georgantzi – Research Project Coordinator and Legal Officer -
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Alice Sinigaglia – Logistic and Campaign Officer - alice.sinigaglia@age-platform.eu

Maude Luherne – European Parliament Officer & Project coordinator -
maude.luherne@age-platform.eu



AGE Council Members

President: Marjan Sedmak (Slovenia)

Full Members

Austria	Kummer Walter (Pensionisten Verband)	Ireland	Louise Richardson (Age and Opportunities- Ireland)
Belgium	Willy Peirens (OKRA, trefpunt 55+)	Italy	Elio D'Orazio (ANCESCAO) Perricone Ottaviano (Sindacato Nazionale Pensionati Della Confagricoltura)
Bulgaria	Maria Petkova (Charity Association Hospice Miloserdie)	Lithuania	Satas Juozas (Lithuanian Pensioners' Union "BOCIA")
Cyprus	Paschalidou Androulla (Pancyprian Federation for the Welfare of the Elderly)	Malta	Azzopardi Moses (National Association of Pensioners)
Czech Republic	Jan Lorman (Zivot 90)	Netherlands	Martin Van Rooijen (Age Platform Netherlands)
Denmark	Lis Leadbetter (DaneAge/ Aeldresagen)	Poland	Halina Potocka (Forum 50+) Ewa Kominek (Foundation Samaritanu)
Finland	Norrback Ole (Association of Swedish-Speaking Pensioners in Finland)	Portugal	Ivone Ferreira (Vencer o Tempo)
France	Jean-Pierre Bultez (Les Petits Frères des Pauvres) – since November 2011 Etienne Goulley (FNAR)	Slovenia	Marjan Sedmak (Mestna zveza upokojencev Ljubljana)
Germany	Ruth Brand (Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der Senioren-Organisationen (BAGSO) e.V.) Annette Scholl (Kuratorium Deutsche Altershilfe, Wilhelmine-Lübke-Stiftung e.V.)	Spain	Eduardo Carrascal (Confederación Española De Organizaciones De Mayores) Guillermo Mariñas Losada (APUJ - Asociaciòn de Profesores Universitarios Jubilados)
Greece	Liz Mestheneos (50+ Hellas)	Sweden	Karl Erik Olsson (Swedish Association of Senior Citizens)
Hungary	Imre Semsei (Gerontology Science Coordinatioon Center)	United Kingdom	Jim Dunlop (Civil Service Pensioners' Alliance) Irene Kingston (Age Concern Northern Ireland)

EU Federation Alain Koskas (FIAPA Europe)
 Elisabeth Dispaux (ESU)
 Curt Persson (NOPO - Nordic
 Older People's Organisation)
 Dirk Jarré (EURAG)

**EU
 organisation** Angela Cluzel (E.D.E.)
 Bruno Machiels (EZA -
 Europäisches Zentrum für
 Arbeitnehmerfragen)

Substitute Members

Austria Hilde Hawlicek (Pensionisten
 Verband)

Belgium Jean Hallet (UCP -
 Mouvement Social des Aînés)

Czech Republic Oldrich Stanek (Zivot 90)

Denmark Ebbe Johansen (DaneAge/
 Aeldresagen)

Finland Pirkko Karjalainen (The
 Central Union for the Welfare
 of the Aged)

France Marie-Claire Galibert
 (Confédération Française des
 Retraités)
 Jean-Christophe Merle
 (Action de Coordination
 de Lieux et d'Accueil aux
 Personnes Âgées - ACLAP)

Germany Ute Borchers-Siebrecht
 (Senioren Union der CDU in
 Niedersachsen)
 Jeannette Arenz
 (Der Paritaetische
 Wohlfahrtsverband)

Ireland Sylvia Meehan (Age and
 Opportunity)

Italy Claudio D'Antonangelo (CNA
 Pensionati)
 Giuseppe Torrente (Sindacato
 Autonomo Pensionati
 S.a.pens.)

Malta Carmel Mallia

Netherlands Kees Geveke (ANBO)

Portugal Susana Santos (Associação
 Valorização Intergeracional
 e Desenvolvimento Activo -
 VIDA)

Spain Belén Sánchez Martín
 (Confederación Española De
 Organizaciones De Mayores)
 Jose Campo ((ASPUR -
 Asociación de Profesores
 Universitarios Jubilados)

Ingela Lindberger (Swedish
 Association of Senior
 Citizens)

Sweden Syd Ashby (Civil Service
 Pensioners
 Alliance)

Kate Davidson (British Society
 of Gerontology)

EU Federation Sonia Guaragna (FIAPA
 Europe)
 An Hermans (ESU)
 Ralf Friberg (NOPO)
 Dana Steinove (EURAG)
 Wilfried Schlüter (E.D.E.)

**EU
 organisation** Leo Pauwels (EZA -
 Europäisches Zentrum für
 Arbeitnehmerfragen)

AGE Members - 2011

Full Members

Austria: Pensionisten Verband

Belgium: CD&V Senioren • Coordination des associations de Seniors • Courant d'Âges • Federatie Onafhankelijke Senioren • Institut Européen Interuniversitaire de l'Action Sociale • Les Aînés du CdH • OKRA, trefpunt 55+ • Respect Seniors • S-Plus vzw • UCP - Mouvement social des Aînés • Vlaams Ouderen Overleg Komitee vzw

Bulgaria: Bulgarian Red Cross • Charity Association Hospice Miloserdie • Third Age Foundation

Cyprus: Pancyprrian Welfare of the Elderly

Czech Republic: Zivot 90 Federation for the

Denmark: DaneAge/Aeldresagen

Estonia: The Estonian Association of Pensioners' Societies

Finland: The Association of Swedish-Speaking Pensioners in Finland • The Central Union for the Welfare of the Aged

France: A. C. S. Bull • ACLAP (Action de Coordination de Lieux et d'Accueil aux Personnes Agées) • Amicale des Anciens d'Alstom • Amicale des retraités du groupe Saint-Gobain • Association des Retraités d'Air France • Association des Retraités ESSO • Confédération Française des Retraités • Fédération des anciens du groupe Rhône-Poulenc • Fédération Nationale Avenir et Qualité de Vie des Personnes âgées (FNAQPA) • Fédération Nationale des Associations de Retraités • Fondation Nationale de Gérontologie • Information Défense Action Retraite • Les Aînés Ruraux - Fédération Nationale • Les Petits Frères des Pauvres • 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

Germany: Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der Senioren-Organisationen (BAGSO) e.V • Der Paritaetische Wohlfahrtsverband • Kuratorium Deutsche Altershilfe, Wilhelmine-Lübke-Stiftung e.V.

Greece: 50+ Hellas

Hungary: Budapest Association of Pensioners • Gerontology Science Coordination Center

Ireland: Active Retirement Ireland • Age Action Ireland Ltd • Age and Opportunity • Irish Association of Older People • Irish Senior Citizens Parliament • Older Women's Network – Ireland • The Senior Help Line

Italy: 50&Piu • ADA - Associazione diritti anziani • Associazione Nazionale delle Università della Terza Età – Unitre – Università Tre Età • ANAP - Associazione Nazionale Anziani e Pensionati • Associazione Nazionale Pensionati - CIA • Associazione Nazionale Terza Età Attiva – ANTEAS • Associazione Lavoro Over 40 • Associazione Nazionale Anziani e Pensionati • Associazione Nazionale Centri Sociali, Comitati Anziani e Orti • ATDAL Over 40 • CNA Pensionati • Eta Libera – Associazione Di Volontariato • FAP ACLI - Federanziani • Federazione Italiana Pensionati Attività Commerciali • Federazione Nazionale Sindacale delle Associazioni dei Pensionati del Credito • Federpensionati – Coldiretti • Fondazione Sviluppo Europa • Italian Institute for the Quality of Life • Over 50 Della Confeuro • Progetto Italia Duemila • S.a.pens. Sindacato Autonomo Pensionati • Sindacato Nazionale Pensionati Della Confagricoltura • UNIEDA – Unione Italiana Educazione Degli Adulti • Università dei 50&piu

Latvia: Association Balta Maja

Lithuania: Lithuanian Pensioners Union, "Bociai"

Malta: National Association of Pensioners • National Council for the Elderly

Netherlands: ANBO • Nederlandse Vereniging van Organisaties van Gepensioneerden (NVOG) • Oudere Vrouwen Netwerk – Nederland • Protestants Christelijke Ouderen Bond • UniekBO • Vakcentrale CNV

Poland: Foundation Samaritanu • Fundacja na Rzecz Kobiet JA KOBIEȚA (Foundation for Women's Issues)

Portugal: Associação Valorização Intergeracional e Desenvolvimento Activo • Vencer O Tempo • Envelhecer com Prazer

Romania: Alzheimers Society Romania-Timisoara Branch

Slovakia: Forum pre pomoc starsim - narodna sie

Slovenia: Anton Trstenjak Institute of gerontology and intergenerational relations • Mestna zveza upokojenecv Ljubljana • Slovene Federation of Pensioners • The Slovenian Third Age University

Spain: Age Concern Spain • Asociaciòn de Profesores Universitarios Jubilados • CEOMA - Confederaciòn Española De Organizaciones De Mayores • Elderly Program Officer - Social Welfare Dep. - Spanish Red Cross • Federacion Territorial de Asociaciones provinciales de pensionistas y jubilados de alava, Guipuzcoa y Vizcaya • FOCAGG (Federaciò d'Organitzacions Catalanes de Gent Gran, Dones i Família)

Sweden: Swedish Association of Senior Citizens • Sveriges Pensionärens Riksförbund

United Kingdom: Age UK • Age Northern Ireland • Age Scotland • Age Concern Slough & Berdshire East • Age Sector Platform •

British Society of Gerontology • Civil Service Pensioners Alliance • Homeshare International • National Association of Retired Police Officer (NARPO) • National Federation of Occupational Pensioners • National Pensioners Convention • National Institute of Adult Continuing Education - NIACE • Older People's Commission for Wales • Public Service Pensioner's Council • The Beth Johnson Foundation • Wise Owls Employment Agency

European Federations

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

European Organisations

Europäisches Zentrum für Arbeitnehmerfragen – EZA • European Association for Directors of Residential Care Homes for the Elderly – EDE • 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 •

Observer Members

Albania: Albanian Society for All Ages

Belgium: ABVV – Senioren

Chili: Centro de Capacitacion Cec

France: EGEE Entente des Générations pour l'Emploi et l'Entreprise • Fondation de l'Armée du Salut • Old Up

Germany: Sozialverband Volk Deutschland e.V

Ireland: Atlantic Philanthropies

Italy: Consorzio Anziani e Non Solo • Solimai

Japan: Japan Productive Ageing Research Centre

Portugal: CO (OP)RAÇÃO

Spain: Design for All Foundation • Union Democrática de Pensionistas • FATEC (Catalonian Federation of Elder Associations)

Switzerland: Age Stiftung (The Age Foundation) • CURAVIVA

Turkey: Türkiye Emekliler Derneği (TIED - Turkey Retired Worker Association) • Turkish geriatrics Society

United Kingdom: Action for Ageing • Institute of Lifelong Learning - Leicester University • International Longevity Centre Uk (ILC-UK) • The School for Health Nursing and Midwifery, University of the West of Scotland

United States: AARP (Global Aging Programme)

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**« Rassembler, Représenter,
Défendre, Promouvoir »**

La Confédération Nationale des Retraités regroupe 4 Fédérations :

- *Confédération Nationale des Retraités*
- *Fédération Nationale des Associations de Retraités*
- *Les Aînés Ruraux. Fédération Nationale*
- *Union Française des Retraités*

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CSPA
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National Association of Retired
Police Officers - NARPO

E.D.E.

www.ede-eu.org

ageUK
Improving later life

www.ageuk.org.uk

Daily Centers of Activity for Seniors, City of Ljubljana



The program of Daily centers of activity for seniors in the City of Ljubljana has grown from the need to react to the new need of the older people in urban environment. In principle, the philosophy of old age changed: not care as such, but supporting measures for prolonged self-determined life became a central issue. The new paradigm expects an elderly person to remain active for as long as possible in the social environment where s/he feels at home, to cope on her/his own with the problems that come with ageing, to make independent decisions, to remain interested in public affairs, and to help others when possible.

In 2005, Ljubljana Union of Older People Associations (MZU Ljubljana) with financial participation of Municipality of Ljubljana and of the Ministry of labour, family and social affairs took the initiative to organise DCA for Seniors. What should become their characteristic, is the fact that older people themselves participated in mapping the needs, assessing the volume of responses to them and conceiving and executing programs. Low accessibility threshold is typical of such form of integration of the elderly Ljubljana citizens, and also of those relatives who have an older member in their family.

The experience of senior organizations in assessing the quality of life and the living conditions of its older citizens became a precious source for the design of what later got the title ***The concept of DCA for seniors in Ljubljana***. It is still useful as a tool: to create opportunities for active ageing at the local level; to monitor the involvement of older people in the policies of active aging, and in other participatory processes; to support the process of creating inclusive neighborhoods; and to support the process of creating age-friendly communities.

Meaning for the volunteers: taking over meaningful tasks; putting into action their own view of purposeful operation; obtaining reputation and self-respect; implementation of ideas; gaining new experiences; transferring own knowledge to others; spreading social contacts.

By joining AGE, 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 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.

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