

Towards an age-friendly EU

AGE work in 2012

Annual Report 2012



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



The life without barriers

In 2005, the age-friendly cities initiative, conceived by WHO, made its appearance in what they call “the proper nick of time”. Based on experiences of 33 cities from different parts of the world, it expanded with the lightning speed in different directions and to different levels, triggering of many new approaches not only to the ageing society as such but to the society and its inclusion capacity in general.

At least three dimensions should be taken into account. The first is the territorial reach of the WHO initiative. Although at the beginning conceived as a reaction to the needs of the older population in the urban areas, it soon excited the interest in other, non-urban areas, developing into an initiative in favour of age friendly municipalities. And soon we started talking of age-friendly environments.

However, age-friendly environments are much more than physically, materially accessible surroundings and this represents the second dimension of the WHO initiative. Accessible environments mean accessible services, accessible community, accessible information and culture, in short: an accessible society. The starting point of age-friendly environments is the demolition of the barriers, not only in the physical surroundings but in the society and amongst the generations as well. Or better: in the first line. Age-friendly environments mean the inclusion of the older generation in the society and intertwining between the generations, it creates stronger community ties and more reciprocal responsibility.

The third dimension concerns stakeholders. There are not many national, regional and local authorities, NGO’s, service providers and others that could ignore the challenge of age-friendly environments. And there is a simple, but strong reason why it is so: the age-friendly environments are everybody’s friendly environments. It makes the world pleasant to all generations.

AGE Platform Europe remains one of active and important stakeholders in this endeavour. In 2011, the *Manifesto for an Age-Friendly European Union by 2020* “to ensure a fairer and more sustainable future for all generations” was conceived by AGE and co-signed by more than 50 partners. It includes a call for a Covenant on Demographic Change.

Foreword

Anne-Sophie Parent
Secretary General



After several years of hard work the European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations was launched in Copenhagen under the Danish Presidency and continued full speed under the Cyprus Presidency. Now that the Year is over, work goes on with the support of the Irish Presidency and very committed National Coordinators who wish to continue to work together with civil society to promote active ageing across the EU.

Why such a success? Because the topic of the Year obviously met the daily concerns of millions of citizens of all ages, public authorities at national, regional and local level, service providers, industry and researchers, and managed to present demographic ageing in a more positive light to counter the negative image of older people often described as a burden to society and a threat to public budgets.

AGE is now building on the outcomes of the EY2012 to promote age-friendly environments across the EU. Through the European Innovation Partnership for Active and Healthy Ageing, work has started to gather all stakeholders who share the same vision of a society for all ages and wish to help each other pursue their work to achieve an age-friendly by 2020.

2012 was also the 10th anniversary of the UN Madrid Action Plan on Ageing and the beginning of AGE work at global level. AGE was invited to join an expert group to prepare the meeting of the UN Open Ended Working Group on older people's rights and the Council of Europe drafting group on the human rights of older people.

The EU Ministers for Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumers Affairs acknowledged the need to better coordinate the initiatives taken by different governance levels to achieve greater outcomes and adopted guidelines for active ageing which reflect fully AGE's vision.

We now need your help to mobilise large numbers of policy makers and other stakeholders at local, regional and national levels, and want to use the momentum of the EY2013 of Citizens to encourage grass root senior citizens across the EU to get actively involved in our campaign for the creation of an EU Covenant on Demographic Change. Visit our website to see how you can join our campaign.

2012ⁱⁿ figures

In 2012 AGE...

- organised 16 external 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 160 key EU and national events as speaker, moderator or rapporteur;
- wrote articles for more than 20 EU and national media;
- sent 10 monthly newsletters, CoverAGE (in 2 languages), and 10 Special Briefings (in 3 languages) to around 2090 direct recipients;
- issued 23 press releases on various EU and international key events or policy developments and 15 newsflashes;
- issued 13 position papers and 5 major publications;
- answered 8 EU consultations on diverse issues which have an impact on older people;
- contributed directly to 8 European Parliament reports
- was involved in 8 large EU research projects;
- led the EY2012 Stakeholders' Coalition made of 68 members;
- organised 9 statutory meetings and 12 AGE expert group meetings
- increased its membership by 14 members (10 Full members and 4 Observers) and lost 1 member;
- participated in 18 consultative groups or advisory boards set up by:

European Commission:

DG 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)

DG Energy

- Vulnerable Consumers Working Group (DG ENER)

European Economic and Social Committee

- Liaison group with NGOs

European Fundamental Rights Agency

- Fundamental Rights Platform

European Medicines Agency

- WG of Patients and Consumers Working Parties

European Railway Agency

- WG 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

- Member of the Advisory Board of AAL Programme

More Years Better Lives Joint Initiative Programme

- Member of the Societal Advisory Board

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



European Year for Active Ageing
and Solidarity between Generations



European Year 2012 for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations

After having lobbied for several years to convince EU policy makers to declare 2012 European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations (EY2012), AGE and its members contributed actively to its implementation together with the EY2012 Stakeholders Coalition coordinated by AGE.

A very wide range of stakeholders were mobilised across the EU and took part in the EY2012, highlighting the need to review our economic and social policy framework to better meet the needs of the growing numbers of older people while enhancing solidarity between generations. As Commissioner Andor underlined at the Cyprus Presidency closing conference, the EY2012 succeeded in raising awareness at local, national and EU level of the need to create age-friendly environments across the European Union. It helped identify good practices and encourage policymakers and other stakeholders to make commitments in support of this common vision of a society for all ages.

Very fruitful collaborations were created at national level between AGE members and the EY2012 National Coordinators. In several countries, new policy initiatives were launched by national and local policy makers to support active ageing and create age-friendly environments, and AGE members are involved in the follow-up.

With the 70 members of the EY2012 coalition and other partners of the **European Partnership for Active and Healthy Ageing (EIP-AHA)**, AGE built constructive dialogue with public authorities, NGOs, service providers, industry, researchers, interested in the promotion of age-friendly environments. In the framework of the EIP-AHA, many of the collaborations that started during the EY2012 will continue in the upcoming years.

Thanks to AGE and EY coalition members, the EY2012 succeeded in mobilizing policy makers and other key stakeholders at local, regional, national and EU levels who now share the same vision of what can and needs to be done to achieve an age-friendly EU by 2020.

Launch of the European Quality framework for long-term care services



The European Quality framework for long-term care was launched on 14 November 2012 in the European Parliament as the main outcome of the WeDO project, a two-year project which started in December 2010. Coordinated by AGE and supported by the European Commission, DG Employment and Social affairs, WeDO brought together 18 stakeholders (NGOs, public bodies, researchers and service providers) from 12 Member States and key EU stakeholders.

This framework, which seeks to support the wellbeing and dignity of older people in need of care and support, includes a **common vision and analysis on quality long-term care in Europe**, as well as key principles and areas of action to improve quality of care for older people 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 is 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. The quality framework also includes recommendations for **quality development, control and labelling tools** and a methodology on how to develop a **participatory approach**.

WeDO also 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 and developed strategies to pursue work at national and EU levels after the project ends. The project partners successfully cooperated with ministries and members of the Social Protection Committee Working Group on Age (SPC-WG-AGE).

At the end of the project all the national coalitions launched their national strategies and committed to continuing to take part in the **WeDO partnership**. The partnership was then open to new comers and partners in 4 new countries have already joined. Several Member States use or plan to use the Quality framework as a reference document for upcoming legislation on long-term care and the fight against elder abuse. The coalitions will continue to work formally through a growing WeDO Partnership which will meet virtually or, when possible, physically in EU or national events.

Follow upcoming WeDO activities on www.wedo-partnership.eu

AGE work in 2012 to promote

In 2012 AGE policy work focused on promoting...
> **An age-friendly EU by 2020:**



European Year for Active Ageing
and Solidarity between Generations



Contribution to the European Year 2012 (EY2012)

2012 was a very active year for AGE and its members. Under AGE's leadership, the **EY2012 stakeholders Coalition** expanded to 70 stakeholders who met on a regular basis, developed two roadmaps and organised joint activities to mark the European day of Solidarity between Generations on 29th April, the International Day for Older People on 1st October, the EY2012 awards and other events. The Coalition was regularly consulted by the European Commission and communication agency to ensure that EY2012 communication activities met our needs. AGE was also invited to participate in the EY2012 National Coordinators' meetings on behalf of the EY2012 coalition. Thanks to this close cooperation with the national coordinators, civil society organisations were actively involved in EY2012 national activities and large delegations of AGE and EY2012 Coalition members participated in the opening and closing events of the EY2012. AGE and the EY2012 coalition members were also often involved in the juries of the EY2012 national and EU Awards. All this delivered a vibrant Year with thousands of stakeholders involved across the EU.

All together the EY2012 coalition members implemented some 90 initiatives at EU, national and local level that were included in the EY2012 Coalition Roadmap. About 20 reports were written on how to promote active ageing and solidarity between generations. Trainings and ad hoc expert group meetings were also organised by a great majority of coalition members. AGE participated in more than 200 events to promote the EU Year.

Last but not least, AGE organised **three thematic seminars** on the need of age-friendly labour markets and social protection systems, age-friendly environments, as well as on the impact of the crisis on older people. These events were co-organised with the Committee of the Regions in order to promote a comprehensive approach of active ageing and reflect on what should be

done at grass-root level to adapt goods, products and services to the specific needs of all age groups. Those seminars also aimed to support our campaign on age-friendly environments and our call for an EU Covenant on demographic change (see next item).

Campaign on age-friendly environments



During 2012, AGE built on the momentum created by the EY2012 to promote its objective of an age-friendly European Union by 2020, the overall objective of the EY2012 Coalition Manifesto and AGE's main commitment to the EU Year. AGE also made sure that the mobilisation raised in 2012 will continue in the upcoming years by building synergies between the EY2012

and the **European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing** (EIP AHA-see chapter on healthy ageing).

In line with its commitment to the EIP AHA, AGE launched an on-line registration system to gather interested parties wishing to join a **virtual network on age-friendly environments** with three objectives:

- mobilising stakeholders at local and regional level;
- facilitating the exchange of information on EU policy dossiers and instruments relevant to age-friendliness;
- informing local and regional actors of all relevant developments in the field of age-friendly environments and networking opportunities.

The virtual network was launched at the beginning of June 2012 to enable a wider range of stakeholders to join our call for an **EU Covenant on Demographic Change**. It gathers now 155 interested parties. Members of the virtual network will be invited to join the thematic network on age-friendly environments that will be launched early 2014 with EU support. Meanwhile it has become a useful tool to keep local and regional authorities and other interested parties informed about what is happening at EU level, exchange examples of good practice and be more aware of the funding opportunities they can use in order to promote active ageing and intergenerational solidarity.

Throughout 2012, the **Committee of the Regions** (CoR) supported our campaign on age-friendly environments. Next to the three thematic seminar co-organised by AGE (see previous item), the CoR asked AGE to help them draft its **opinion on 'Active Ageing: Innovation – Smart Health – Better Lives'**, which was unanimously adopted in plenary session on 4 June 2012. In this document, the CoR stresses the need to promote age-friendly environments and calls on the European Commission to launch the EU Covenant as a legacy to the European Year 2012.

> The EY2012 objectives:

Active ageing in employment:

Non-discrimination in employment

In our position paper on the **impact of the implementation of the non-discrimination directive in the field of employment**, we stressed that while the transposition and implementation of the Employment Directive at national level initially provided the impetus for debates and change in many countries regarding the employment of older workers, age discrimination in the recruitment and retention of older employees not only still exists but has worsened with the economic crisis. It continues to be very difficult for its victims to seek redress as this form of discrimination remains so difficult and costly to prove and sanctions are minimal.

On 15 March AGE organised, jointly with the Committee of the Regions, a thematic seminar on **age-friendly labour markets and social protection systems**, to mark the EY2012. The seminar raised a series of key questions in relation to older people's participation in employment and stressed the need to promote innovative adaptation of the workplace to support their professional skills and physical capacities, the inclusion of health and safety measures at work and fair compensation in terms of wage and pension rights for those with informal caring obligations. Discussions highlighted the complexity of the current socioeconomic context and the need for more attention to be paid to the negative impact that the crisis has on older workers as well as to accommodating their evolving needs and addressing the implications of career length on pension rights i.e. for women who usually carry the burden of care responsibilities.

AGE also participated in the Second Career Labour Market Task Force where we contributed to discussions on how further job opportunities can be created for older workers and how they themselves can contribute to the creation of new jobs. We stressed the importance of fostering a more positive debate on active ageing and older workers, taking into account the diversity of older workers needs.

In September 2012 AGE was invited to take part in a panel discussion in the European Commission's high level conference on "Jobs for Europe" where we highlighted the strong discrimination faced by older workers in the EU and the need to adapt legislation to help older workers reconcile work and family life. The objective should be the promotion of an age and gender-friendly EU labour market with good jobs and decent wages for all by helping older workers to set up and invest in new companies that provide employment for them, boosting private and public investments in sectors where age and gender-friendly jobs can be created, i.e. green, white and coper (ICT) sectors, and promoting and investing in age-friendly environments to support longer and more productive working lives.

Lifelong Learning

AGE used the opportunity of the EY2012 to highlight the importance of lifelong learning **within and outside the work place** and the role that formal, non-formal and informal learning plays in enriching older people's lives, facilitating their active ageing and, more broadly, contributing to the creation of an age-friendly environment.

Members of AGE raised AGE's position on lifelong learning at expert conference on 'A society for all ages: Learning to live and learning for life! Future scenarios and strategies' under the Cyprus EU Presidency on 8-9 October, organised in collaboration with members of the FORAGE network.

AGE stressed the added value of continued learning for people of all ages at the Commissions' conference 'On step up in later life: learning for active ageing and intergenerational solidarity' on 19-21 November.

AGE also did a lot of work during 2012 to ensure that future EU programmes will include lifelong learning. This included successfully tabling amendments for Martin Kastler MEP's report on the European Commission's future Erasmus for All programme.



AGE was actively involved in the **PEER project** which seeks to investigate and identify tools and applications that can be used to support peer-to-peer online learning of senior citizens and in the development of an information video clip about the project.



AGE also participated as supporting partner in the new **FORAGE project** which held its kick-off meeting in February 2012. AGE disseminated information about the project's aims to extend recognition of the value of learning for older people as a means of fostering inclusion, participation and intergenerational solidarity in European societies.

Active ageing in in the community and in society:

Volunteering and citizenship:



AGE successfully lobbied for an amendment to be tabled and adopted on age limits in the European Parliament resolution of 12 June 2012 on “Recognising and promoting cross-border voluntary activities in the EU (2011/2293(INI))”. The amendment gives the example of age limits in insurance policies as an obstacle to cross-border volunteering and calls on the Commission to publish a report identifying such obstacles:

No. 13. Calls on the Commission to publish a report identifying the obstacles to cross-border volunteering, *for example age limits in insurance policies*, and, where appropriate, legislative proposals

AGE participated in the campaign for the **European Year 2013 of Citizenship** (EYC2013) through the EYC2013 Alliance where it highlighted the opportunity that this EU Year presents to create synergies and build on the achievements made for older people during the EU Year 2012 on active ageing and intergenerational solidarity and the link to the EY2012 Coalition’s campaign for an age-friendly environment. AGE also emphasised the timeliness of the EYC2013 given the context of the approaching European Parliament elections in 2014 and the need to raise awareness among Europe’s older citizens on what the EU can do for them.

To prepare for the EYC2013 as well as to help older voters prepare for the next European Parliament elections, AGE issued an updated publication on “**Active senior citizens for Europe: a guide to the EU**” which informs older people on their rights as citizens of the EU as well as presenting the main legal and policy framework that is of relevance to them and supporting them to actively participate in debates to prepare the next Parliament elections. It also provides concrete recommendations on how older citizens can get involved in the participatory democracy mechanisms introduced by the Lisbon Treaty.

Involvement of AGE members in EU policy work:

AGE policy work is based on **regular consultation** of its members on the situation at national and local level. Our policy work is mainly informed by input from a pool of more than 100 experts nominated by our Council to provide national feedback and expertise on age discrimination, employment, lifelong learning and volunteering, social inclusion, pensions, health and long term care, new technologies and accessibility. AGE also directly consults its members through emails for feedback on specific documents, processes or amendments.

In addition to this, **delegations** are sent to external EU events or meetings, take part in advisory bodies, and report back to inform AGE work.

This involvement is key to help us define AGE priorities and draft recommendations that meet our members' needs and expectation and allow us to effectively voice the concerns of senior people across the EU.

Strengthening older people's social protection

In **response to the European Commission's White Paper on adequate, safe and sustainable pensions**, AGE, together with the European Women Lobby (EWL) and the Youth Forum (YFJ) issued a joint press release in which we welcome the strong gender dimension of the EU proposal but regretted the lack of effective employment measures for all age groups, including quality jobs for young cohorts and measures facilitating the retention of older workers in employment before moving to retirement.

Although we were pleased with the White Paper, we felt that it failed to come with more ambitious initiatives to better guarantee the safety of workers' savings and pensioners' entitlements in funded pension schemes. Even though Member States remain responsible for ensuring adequate and sustainable pension incomes in old age, the latest financial crisis has shown the limits of individual governments in doing so on their own. The above recommendations were reiterated in the **letter AGE sent to President Barroso** in October, calling on the Commission to develop a strong common supervision and regulatory system for financial markets and institutions.

Taking the opportunity of our **thematic seminar on age-friendly labour markets and social protection systems** organised in March, AGE brought together key policy stakeholders from national and EU levels, researchers and older people themselves to discuss the impact pension reforms have on current and future pensioners. Despite the different pension models in the EU, there was a broad consensus on the need to address the social impact of the shift from statutory pay-as-you-go to funded pension schemes and, in particular, from defined-benefit to defined-contributions pension plans. The seminar also brought further evidence on the negative impact the current reforms of social protection have on women and on the need to strengthen gender equality alongside life cycle and in access to adequate pension rights as a prerequisite for fairness of social protection systems.

Guaranteeing older people's right to dignity and quality of life

AGE members continued to **monitor the impact of economic and fiscal reforms on older people's lives** to assess how and to what extent the continued cuts in public spending undermine universality and accessibility of social protection systems. A **thematic seminar** organised by AGE together with the Committee of the Regions in June assessed the social impact of the reforms governments had been introducing since 2008. AGE member's feedback confirmed that although some Member States started to recover from the economic and financial crisis, the social crisis is far from being over and the risk of poverty among the older population keeps increasing.

Based on our members' feedback, AGE addressed **a letter to President Barroso** in October to influence the preparation of the Annual Growth Survey, which launches the 2013 European semester on economic governance. We urged the Commission to support Member States in pursuing economic reforms in a way that budgetary constraints do not undermine the essential role of social protection by preventing more people from accessing basic services, such as health and long-term care or decent housing, and from falling into poverty and exclusion.

Using grass-roots evidence, we produced a publication *'Older people also suffer because of the crisis'* to support AGE policy messages addressed to national and EU policy stakeholders participating in the second Convention on European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion. The paper highlighted the lack of financial resources as the major factor aggravating the vulnerability of older people and warned against further governments' cuts in public spending without a proper social impact assessment. These cuts reduce disposable income of older people who have to spend more money 'out of their pocket' on various services (e.g. health or long-term care, transport, etc.) that used to be provided for free or as special allowances. Our publication also addressed the non-income-related consequences of the economic and social crisis. Many older people are confronted with new forms of vulnerability, such as deep helplessness or distress, withdrawing gradually from family life, social participation in their communities, public and political involvement etc. We reminded that demographic change and the fight against poverty and social exclusion are closely interlinked and remain among the main challenges for the EU over the next decade. Therefore, AGE's message concluded, the European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion, underpinned by the European Commission Investment Social Package (to be issued in February 2013) should serve to reinforce the social dimension of the Europe 2020 Strategy.

In April AGE also reacted to the European Commission's assessment of the implementation of the 2008 **Recommendation on Active Inclusion strategy**. In our response, we deplored the overwhelming focus on economic reforms. The reduction of public deficits at any price prevents governments from implementing a comprehensive three-pillar active inclusion strategy based on

quality employment activation, adequate income support and affordable and universal services provision, and enhancing the social inclusion of people furthest from the labour market.

In the **Social Investment Package**, issued in February 2013, the Commission partly reflected on AGE response to the consultation by recognizing the need to increase efforts to develop measures tailored to specific vulnerable groups, notably the young, older unemployed people, and women.

Healthy Ageing and independent living:

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

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

AGE devoted a lot of energy advocating for the EIP AHA to **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 the first phase of implementation in the Communication released by the Commission in February 2012. Meanwhile AGE has developed a partnership with the **World Health Organisation** and submitted a commitment in May 2012 on age-friendly environments (AFE). AGE committed to set up and moderate an **EU virtual forum on AFE** to link stakeholders (public authorities, NGOs, service providers, industry, researchers) interested in the promotion of AFE at local, regional, national and EU level. With its partners and forum members, AGE calls on the Commission to launch an **EU Covenant on Demographic Change** to create the necessary political framework to bring together local and regional authorities across the EU who want to find smart and innovative solutions to support active and healthy ageing and develop age-friendly environments.

Looking at the implementation of the commitments, AGE is involved in **Action Group D4** which gathers all stakeholders interested in AFE and activities are being implemented according to an action plan drafted and agreed by all of them. The Stakeholders’ conference (6 November) was the opportunity to present this action plan and to link with potential new partners.

In parallel, AGE continued to liaise with the European Parliament and worked closely with some MEPs regarding the opinion report to be released on the EIP AHA.

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

AGE continued to be actively involved in EPHA's activities and supported EPHA's advocacy work, notably by signing the joint open letter to President Barroso to quickly release the Tobacco Product Directive and improve transparency in EU policy making process.

EPHA Annual Conference (6 June) on *"Restructuring health systems: how to promote health in times of austerity?"* was very much in line with the work done by AGE on the impact of the crisis on older people. As AGE experts underlined, public services must be protected and sustained as one of the most effective way to ensure universal access to treatments and social services. EU decision-makers were called to act and take the lead over financial markets to avoid turning the economic crisis into a health and social crisis.

eHealth

AGE work on eHealth is shared between the policy work and the projects. After our participation in the renewed **group of eHealth stakeholders** was confirmed by the European Commission, the group started meeting in March 2012. Different working groups were set up and AGE decided to be involved in two of them: (1) Access of patients to the electronic medical record – led by the European Consumer Organisation (BEUC) and (2) eHealth and health inequalities – led by EPHA. AGE also participated in **different events** related to eHealth and contributed in bringing older people's perspective: COFACE Seminar on *"E-Health: Challenges and opportunities for families"* (19 April), eHealth Week (7 May), Presidency dialogue on eHealth organised by the 'Danish local, regional and research Co-op Brussels' (15 May) and eHealth Acceptance Conference (5-6 November).

Work with the European Parliament

In 2012, AGE was involved in the joint Meeting of the Intergroup on Ageing and Solidarity between generations and the MAC interest group on *"Cancer control for older people"* (24 January) which covers different issues from cancer screening to health insurance through the investment in public health. A joint event was also organised between the Interest group on Carers and the Intergroup (27 March) to discuss the **role of carers in ensuring solidarity between the generations** in today's society as well as on the important contribution made by carers to the economy.

In addition to these events, AGE was also very active in **influencing reports drafted by MEPs** such as the initiative opinion on prevention of age-related diseases of women or the report on the Health for Growth Programme 2014-2020.

Quality long-term care and fight against elder abuse - WeDO Project



Quality long-term care and fight against elder abuse were among our work priorities in 2012. Besides the launch of the *European Quality framework for long-term care services* in the European Parliament at the end of the WeDO project, we have continued to advocate to maintain elder abuse high on the EU agenda and to make sure that the link with fundamental rights and the European Year 2012 was supported.

With the WeDO project EU coalition we developed an **EU strategy for the wellbeing and dignity for older people in need of care** which includes four main objectives:

- the adoption of a European Quality framework for long-term care;
- age-friendly environments across the European Union;
- an EU legal and policy framework for the elimination of all forms of discrimination in care, including ageism and elder abuse, and
- the promotion of adequate protection and support to older people in need of care, formal and informal carers and volunteers across the EU, including the smooth cross-border provision of services.

AGE was actively involved in the work of the **Social Protection committee working group on ageing** (SPC – WG – AGE) during the whole year 2012 to inform SPC members on the development of the WeDO quality framework, contribute to the staff working paper on long-term care being prepared by the European Commission and to the upcoming communication on long-term care. AGE was also involved in the work of the Social Platform on bias violence (violence committed against a group of population), where it worked to link the concept of bias violence with elder abuse.

Finally, through its work on human rights, AGE worked actively on fighting elder abuse and protect older people's dignity in care, promoting the '*European Charter of the rights and responsibilities of older people in need of long-term care*' in the **United Nations** and the **Council of Europe** debates. In particular, the Council of Europe Recommendation was inspired and based on the rights enshrined in the Charter and its accompanying guide.

ICT, Transport and Built environment

Accessibility

This is a wide area of work where AGE works on different dossiers.

In view of the preparation of the **Accessibility Act**, AGE submitted a contribution stressing the need for binding legislation and EU standards to ensure the promotion of Design-for-All in all the goods and services one needs to function in today's society. This piece of legislation to be proposed by the European Commission intends to improve the market of goods and services that are accessible for persons with disabilities and older persons, based on a "design for all" approach. This business friendly initiative will include binding measures to promote procurement and harmonisation of accessibility standards.



In the area of new technologies, AGE and EDF (European Disability Forum) joined Vodafone Foundation for the second year to launch the **Smart Accessibility Awards** promoting 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.

In the area of transport, AGE joined a wide coalition of European organisations representing the transport industry and the transport passengers to call upon the Council of the European Union and the European Parliament to uphold the article on accessibility of transport infrastructure for all users in the proposal for revised **TEN-T Guidelines and the Connecting Europe Facility**.

Last but not least, AGE was also actively involved in the third edition of the **EU Access City Award** through which the European Commission awarded "accessible" cities or cities committed to improving their accessibility level. For the 2012 edition, AGE was asked to join the EU jury and to provide contacts of experts for the national juries. Berlin was chosen as the winner, while seven other cities got a prize, e.g. Nantes and Stockholm.

Standardisation

Standardisation can facilitate the development of **accessible goods and services** within the EU. This is why AGE collaborates for example with ANEC (European Association representing Consumers in Standardisation) and EDF.

In 2012, AGE was more specifically involved in **three working groups**:

- 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.
- The ICT Standardisation Platform, a key component of the reform of the EU standardisation system, whose role is notably to identify ICT technical specifications that are not national, European or international standards and which may be referenced, primarily to enable interoperability, in public procurement.

Transport

Transport and mobility are essential to ensure participation and equal opportunities for all while enriching the whole society. Involving the concerned passengers at all stages of the designing, development and assessment phases of transport services, i.e. taking into account their needs, wishes and constraints, is a pre-requisite for assuring those services will fully satisfy the users, will be effective and allow the fulfillment of the passengers' rights to mobility. In 2012, different EU consultations gave the possibility to AGE to reiterate this message:

- the consultation on the implementation of the action plan on **urban mobility** in which AGE response points out the need for integrated policies and accessible mobility and cities, in line with its call for age-friendly environments.
- the consultation on **Passenger Rights in Urban Public Transport and Taxis** in which AGE reminded of its joint call with EDF for a Passenger Forum at EU level.

AGE also participated in the preparation of the EU Guidelines on the application of Regulation on the **rights of disabled persons when travelling by air**. These interpretative guidelines should give clarity to industry and consumers, and assist national enforcement bodies (NEBs) in the uniform application and enforcement of the Regulation.

At the European Parliament level, AGE successfully influenced the own initiative report on passengers' rights in all modes of transport.

The Internet of Things

AGE submitted a contribution to the **consultation of the European Commission** on the Internet of Things recognising the significant progress it could bring to address societal challenges and to improve the daily life of the growing number of older people across the EU. AGE took this opportunity to call for privacy, safety and security protection, especially when such applications deal with sensitive data, i.e. health status, and when they might be used by more vulnerable groups.

Housing

AGE collaborates regularly with **CECODHAS Housing Europe** on cross cutting issues of housing and ageing. For instance, AGE took part in a seminar on "Preparing the future: ageing and affordable housing" (28 November) to reflect on the long lasting tribute of European social housing organisations to develop "flexible" and accessible houses in order to allow the elderly to live independently in their own homes and keep on participating in the social, cultural and economic life of their communities.

Research Projects:

Being the largest network representing older people in the EU, AGE is often asked to join EU projects to bring the perspective of our members. We only join European projects where our platform can add value, can bring the viewpoint of older people in the discussion and can support the genuine implementation of the principle of **user involvement**.

The role of AGE in projects varies widely, but our objective in all of them is to voice older people's perspectives, to effectively involve end-users at all stages, and to ensure the main **ethical and legal issues** are correctly addressed.

AGE's activities in research projects are fully financed by the projects' programmes, namely the 7th Framework Programme and the Competitiveness and Innovation Programme (CIP).

In 2012 AGE was involved in the following European research projects:

Dreaming - For user-friendly tele-monitoring systems



In 2012 the Dreaming project (*Elderly Friendly Alarm Handling and Monitoring*) concluded randomised control trials across six pilot sites to assess the impact of tele-monitoring on the health and quality of life of older people with chronic conditions. As project partner, AGE was in charge of the management of the Dreaming Advisory Board, comprised of experts who overlooked the project activities and provided useful recommendations. A **document** summarising the main comments and lessons learned, based on the outcomes from the Advisory Board visits, is available in AGE website, while the publication by IOS Press on the DREAMING project entitled '*Is Ambient Assisted Living the Panacea for Ageing Population?*' includes the Advisory Board's feedback in the project, highlighting its role and contribution in the project.

Home Sweet Home - Comprehensive solutions for independent living



Home Sweet Home (*Health Monitoring and Social Integration Environment for Supporting Wide Extension of Independent Life at Home*) tests a comprehensive home assistance service in Belgium, Ireland, Italy and Spain, where the project holds pilot sites. Since 2010, AGE has managed the project Advisory Board, which provides a critical vision to the project. Following an individual visit in Latina in April 2012, the Board met in Antwerp in December and provided further insights and advice on the technology in use and its relationship with the tested users and their various degrees of frailty.

Veritas embeds the Design for All principle



Veritas (*Virtual and augmented Environments and Realistic user Interactions To achieve embedded Accessibility designS*) develops simulation-based and virtual reality tools to test the accessibility of assistive technologies and product design in order to ensure that future products and services are being systematically designed for all.

AGE represented the users' view point in this project, contributed to dissemination tasks, in particular to the release of the project newsletter, and fed the project with insights coming from the European policies and practices, highlighting synergies between VERITAS and other initiatives at policy and project level.

eAccess+ for eAccessibility



eAccess+ (*The eAccessibility thematic network*) aims at promoting web- and e-accessibility in all relevant events and at developing a portal of information on e-accessibility. The portal of information is called 'Hub' and is available at the following link: <http://hub.eaccessplus.eu>.

AGE provided information on several sections, including '*Documents accessibility*', '*Working with users*' and regularly publish information on the portal on research projects, European Commission's initiatives, etc.

As representative of older people, AGE was consulted in various occasions and had the chance to present the seniors' perspective on ICT in a wide number of the European events.

Atis4All boosts accessible assistive technologies



ATIS4ALL is a thematic network on assistive technologies, aiming at proposing a new version of the **EASTIN** portal, which currently offers reliable information on inclusive products and services. The new version being prepared, called the Atis4all collaborative portal, will enable a virtual and active community of persons and organisations ('supporters') interested in assistive technologies to exchange news, interesting links, funding opportunities, good practices, and relevant blogs, while offering supplementary options on the EASTIN portal like product rating and comments.

AGE gives voice to older people's concerns on accessible and reliable assistive technologies and the eAccessibility within this platform, helps raise awareness of their challenges at the European level, while contributing to the dissemination of the project's findings.

AALIANCE 2 – The Strategic Road Map for Ambient Assisted Living



AALIANCE 2 (*The European Ambient Assisted Living Innovation Alliance*) works for updating and improving the previous Aaliance Strategic Road Map for Ambient Assisted Living (AAL), providing the most recent development on the standardisation in AAL, increasing contacts with a wide range of organisations in AAL (including the USA and Japan), and establishing an AAL Market review.

AGE provided older people's views in the different deliverables, especially the Market review and the Strategic Roadmap, and followed the project's standardisation work. This latter item is particularly relevant for AGE, considering our involvement in the ICT Standardisation Platform and in the SAGA, the CEN Group working on the Mandate 473 to include 'Design for All' in relevant standardization initiatives. AGE's efforts aimed at coupling the project activities with the policy work and viceversa.

GOLDENWORKERS – An ICT Road Map for Long-Term Employability

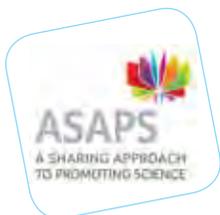


The GOLDENWORKERS_project identified emerging technologies and socio-economic trends for active ageing at work and developed a final Road Map supporting policy makers, entrepreneurs and research bodies to extend professional active life making use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT).

AGE brought forward older people's views and concerns on new technological models, offered the knowledge gathered so far through research projects and policy monitoring, and set forth European policies on active ageing in employment.

<http://youtu.be/aSf2adc-dJc>Besides, AGE delivered the project's '*Ethical Recommendations*', highlighting the issues at stake, from an ethical perspective, when new technologies enter in the workplace, and providing practical recommendations, directly embedded in the final Road Map.

ASAPS - A Campaign for Active and Healthy Ageing



ASAPS (*A Sharing Approach for Promoting Science*) calls on AGE to bring the older people's perspective, especially related to cognitive ageing and seniors' life styles. Since its earliest stages (October 2012), project has been based on the users' effective engagement. AGE co-produced, disseminated and analysed an on-line questionnaire on the fears, worries and hopes of people related to their health, the use of internet and new technology. Moreover AGE started recruiting project

ambassadors for all European Countries, who support both on the dissemination side, by reaching out to senior citizens, and by being directly involved in some project activities, namely its campaign for promoting active and healthy ageing.

Solidarity between Generations

AGE seeks to strengthen the current European social model and values based on the solidarity between generations, which we think can bring a sustainable response to the current societal challenges in reducing social exclusion and the risk of poverty, fostering social cohesion, supporting employment and gender equality, helping lighten the costs of care for the public purse, etc.

To that goal, AGE addresses the intergenerational solidarity as a **cross-cutting issue** mainstreamed throughout its work and campaigns.

European Year 2012



Thanks to the intense lobbying campaign run by AGE and the EY2012 Coalition to widen the scope of the EY2012, the issue of solidarity between generations was added into the objectives of the Year, and the Coalition worked throughout 2012 to promote intergenerational solidarity across Europe in order to ensure a comprehensive approach of active ageing and support the creation of an age-friendly EU as a long-term response to demographic ageing.

AGE promoted EU initiatives, such as the [generation@school project](#) and EU, national and local good practice examples. AGE also encouraged its members, partners and relevant stakeholders to join or propose initiatives.

European Day of Solidarity between Generations



AGE used the occasion of the EU Day and the framework of the EY2012 to raise awareness of the key role of intergenerational solidarity in supporting active ageing and give more visibility to the large numbers of relevant initiatives organised all over Europe. AGE and the EY2012 Coalition sent a joint press release and AGE moderated a live debate on Twitter on the topic of solidarity between generations, in which about 45 organisations or individuals took part.. AGE also dedicated a special briefing on that topic in the April's issue of its newsletter, CoverAGE.

Campaign on age-friendly environments



AGE has also focused on the cooperation and mutual support of the different age groups in this campaign, whose overall objective is to contribute to the creation of a European society of all ages, which means a society that allows and enables all generations to take an active part in their communities in terms of activities and policy-making.

> Non discrimination and fundamental rights

Non discrimination within the EU

Upcoming Rights, Equality and Citizenship programme

AGE has been heavily involved in campaigning for its interests to be upheld in the new Rights and Citizenship programme for the period 2014-2020 which will replace the current Progress programme. This has included individual and joint lobbying of both the Commission and the Parliament with the other EU funded equality networks and other organisations promoting non-discrimination, in particular to broaden the focus of the new programme beyond rights to include equality, equality between women and men and the principle of non-discrimination.

Multiple discrimination: Joint position papers with ENAR, ILGA and Autism Europe

AGE launched a series of joint papers on equality issues affecting specific groups of older people at the Equality Summit in Nicosia, Cyprus, on 22-23 November 2012, which were drafted in collaboration with other EU non-discrimination and equality networks to emphasise the need to take into account the increasing number of older people in the EU who are facing multiple discrimination.

These papers include:

- a joint policy paper with the European Region of the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association on *'Equality for older lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex people in Europe - November 2012'* which focuses on the situation of older LGBTI people and suggests relevant best practices and policy recommendations.

- a joint AGE-ENAR position paper on *The voices of older ethnic and religious minorities and migrants: raising awareness of their rights to promote their participation in employment, involvement in the community and independent living as a contribution to the European Year 2012 for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations* which draws on testimonies and concrete examples of good and bad practices to shed light on the situations on the ground and call for policy changes beyond EY2012.
- a paper in collaboration with Autism Europe on *The Rights of Ageing People with Autism*, stressing that older people with autism face problems resulting from both their disability and the ageing process. In addition, informal carers of people with autism are often older people themselves who have to cope with their own ageing challenges.

Joint NGO campaign on anti-discrimination directive

AGE continued its work with other non-discrimination networks to campaign for the anti-discrimination directive which during 2012 took the form of information gathering and exchange with Member State's Permanent Representations from Austria, Cyprus, Finland, Ireland, the Netherlands and Spain. AGE members also followed debates at national level and participated in a European Parliament Hearing in the perspective of unblocking the proposed horizontal directive where we brought forward flagrant examples of age limits and discrimination in access to financial products.

Consumers' Rights

In 2012 AGE continued to pinpoint the challenges older people face as consumers within the **Financial Services Users Group** (FSUG) set up by DG Internal Market to advise the Commission in the preparation of legislation and policy initiatives which affect the users of financial services. In addition to contributing to a number of FSUG positions such as the reform of the banking sector and principles of consumer protection, AGE also responded to a Consultation on bank accounts where we highlighted the need to ensure equal access with an accent on banking fees and a basic account for all. AGE also replied to a consultation on card, internet and mobile payments, stressing that environmental and personal factors may affect older people's ability to use payment systems and electronic options should not exclude consumers from using a range of payment options.

In addition, AGE became involved in a new Working Group set up by DG Internal Market to discuss the issues of **vulnerable consumers in the area of energy**. This group discussed the current state of play across EU Member States, defined drivers of energy vulnerability in order to understand its complexity and its dynamics, focused on the need to implement energy efficiency improvements for all consumer groups and contributed to debates on the transformation of the EU's retail energy markets.

Human Rights

In the European Union

The momentum of the EY2012 gave AGE a unique opportunity to stress the rights of older citizens as a prerequisite to creating an age-friendly EU and to build bridges with the discussions on a strengthened protection of older people's rights at the global level. In the frame of the **Fundamental Rights Platform annual meeting**, AGE led a 'The floor is yours' workshop on promoting older people's fundamental rights, which addressed how to increase older people's awareness of their rights, how to put these into practice, and how to create inclusive age-friendly societies. Our concrete engagement to promote seniors' rights was also reflected in the EY2012 Roadmap and our General Assembly Declaration while the outcomes of the three thematic seminars fed into this work.

At the global level



Since 2010 AGE has decided to support the campaign led by a group of NGOs for a **UN Convention on the rights of older people**. In May 2012 we were invited to take part in a United Nations Expert Group Meeting to bring the point of view of older people in the EU into the global debate. In August, AGE was asked to take active parts in 4 out of 5 working sessions in the **Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) on Ageing**, established by the UN General Assembly to consider the existing human rights framework and identify possible gaps and how best to address them. AGE's contribution in echoing the voice and interests of EU's older citizens enabled to shed light on how far older people's rights are protected by the EU and its Member States. In 2012 AGE also officially joined the **Global Alliance for the Rights of Older People** and participated in an international conference aiming to build EU support for new human rights instruments.



In parallel, the **Council of Europe** started elaborating a Recommendation on the promotion of older persons' human rights and AGE has been actively involved in the meetings of the drafting group ensuring that the human rights challenges faced by older people are adequately addressed in the text that will be finalized in 2013.

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 voice 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.

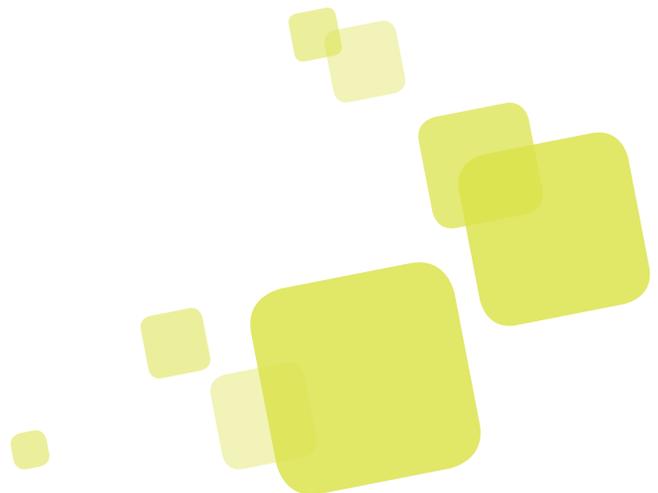
Expert groups

Expert groups are set up to inform AGE's work in specific policy areas. The experts are nominated by the Council members. They meet twice a year and work in-between through e-mail exchange. Our experts are divided into six expert groups:

- Anti-Discrimination Expert Group (ADEG) which deals with age discrimination in employment and in access to goods and services;
- Employment Expert Group (EEG) which covers issues around active ageing, employment of older workers, lifelong learning and volunteering, ,
- Health and Social Services Expert Group (HEG) which addresses issues around healthy and dignified ageing;
- Social Inclusion Expert Group (SIEG) which deals with poverty and social exclusion of older people
- Social Protection Expert Group (SPEG) which tackles mainly pensions reforms;
- Universal Accessibility and Independent Living Expert Group (UAIL) which covers new technologies, accessibility of the built environment and transport.

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 2012 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:

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

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 2012 AGE printed the following publications (this Annual Report non included)

- *EY2012 Coalition Manifesto for an Age-Friendly European Union by 2020* (in **EN, FR, IT, ES, NL, SL, BG** and **PL**)
- *EY2012 Coalition Roadmap towards and beyond the European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations 2012 (EY2012):* **EN, FR.**
- *European Quality framework for long-term care services: full version + summary* (both available in **ten languages**)
- *Active Citizens for Europe: A guide to the EU* (in **EN** and **FR**)
- *Older people also suffer because of the crisis* (available in **EN** and **FR** and translated into **ES - Catalan**)

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 organisations active in the public health sector (patients' organisations, health professionals, national or European associations working on specific public health issues, 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 2012 were financed partly by membership fees and donations (19%) and partly by a grant from the European Community Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity (PROGRESS) managed by DG Justice (81%).

In addition to this core funding, AGE received a grant for the WeDO project. It is a European project co-financed by European Commission Directorate General for Employment and Social affairs (79%) and by its partners (21%). It is coordinated by AGE, and gathers 18 partners from 12 EU member states.

AGE has continued its work on European Research Projects throughout 2012. 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	31/12/2012	31/12/2011
Income		
European Commission grant	1.163.795,68	1.028.132,90
Membership fees	137.753,87	112.995,10
Members contribution to GA costs	16.550,00	16.550,00
Financial income	4.548,10	4.798,98
Co financing projects	79.198,35	40.066,98
Other income and donations	42.577,62	56.601,70
	1.444.423,92	1.259.145,66
Expenses		
Staff expenses	846.303,55	777.963,09
Travel and accommodation	230.108,21	188.799,50
Services	213.387,31	163.442,40
Administration	154.079,58	128.165,85
	1.443.605,64	1.258.370,84
Surplus/(Deficit)	818,27	774,82
BALANCE SHEET	31/12/2012	31/12/2011
Assets		
Fixed Assets		
Tangible fixed assets	817,40	462,70
Financial fixed assets	38.640,57	34.273,57
	39.457,97	34.736,27
Current Assets		
Account receivable	425.736,14	269.183,26
Cash	139.626,50	232.883,13
Prepaid expenses	6.394,20	3.663,01
	571.756,84	505.729,40
Total Assets	611.214,81	540.465,67
Liabilities		
Equity		
Reserves	10.618,10	10.618,10
Profit carried forward	53.415,19	52.640,37
Profit of the year	818,27	774,82
	64.851,56	64.033,29
Debts		
Accounts payable	366.067,93	230.590,39
Social debts	123.380,65	129.109,51
Deferred revenues	56.914,67	116.732,48
	546.363,25	476.432,38
Total Liabilities	611.214,81	540.465,67

AGE governing bodies and secretariat

Executive Committee



Mr **Marjan Sedmak**,
President
Slovenia



Mr **Jean-Pierre Bultez**
Vice-President
France



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



Mr **Martin Van Rooijen**,
Treasurer (until Sept. 2012)
Netherlands



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



Mr **Kees Geveke**
Treasurer (since Nov. 2012)
Netherlands



Mr **Willy Peirens**,
Vice-President
Belgium



Ms **Maria Petkova**,
Secretary
Bulgaria

Secretariat



Anne-Sophie Parent – Secretary General -
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Maciej Kucharczyk – Managing Director -
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Hanan Soussi – Office Manager -
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Rachel Buchanan – Policy Officer for non-discrimination and employment -
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Julia Wadoux – Policy Officer for Health, ICT and Accessibility - julia.wadoux@age-platform.eu

Anne Melard – Information and Communication Officer - anne.melard@age-platform.eu

Ilenia Gheno – Research project coordinator - Ilenia.gheno@age-platform.eu

Nena Georgantzi – Research Project Coordinator and Legal Officer - nena.georgantzi@age-platform.eu

Alice Sinigaglia – Logistic and Campaign Officer - alice.sinigaglia@age-platform.eu

Maude Luherne – Project coordinator - maude.luherne@age-platform.eu

Ophélie Durand – Policy and Project Assistant - ophelie.durand@age-platform.eu

AGE Council Members

President: Marjan Sedmak (Slovenia)

Full Members

Austria Hilde Hawlicek
(Pensionisten Verband)

Belgium Willy Peirens
(OKRA, trefpunt 55+)

Bulgaria Maria Petkova (Charity
Association Hospice
Miloserdie)

Czech Republic Jan Lorman (Zivot 90)
Ebbe Johansen (DaneAge/
Aeldresagen)

Estonie Ergma Andres (Estonian
Association of Pensioner`
Societies)

Finland Norrback Ole (Association of
Swedish-Speaking Pensioners
in Finland)

France Jean-Pierre Bultez
(Les Petits Frères des Pauvres)
Etienne Goulley (FNAR)

Germany Ruth Brand
(Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft
der Senioren-Organisationen
(BAGSO) e.V.)
Ute Borchers-Siebrecht
(Senioren Union der CDU in
Niedersachsen)

Greece Liz Mestheneos (50+ Hellas)

Hungary Imre Semsei (Gerontology
Science Coordinatioon Center)

Ireland Louise Richardson (Age and
Opportunities- Ireland)

Italy Elio D’Orazio (ANCESCAO)
Perricone Ottaviano
(Sindacato Nazionale
Pensionati Della
Confagricoltura)

Lithuania Satas Juozas (Lithuanian
Pensioners’ Union “BOCIA”)

Malta Azzopardi Moses (National
Association of Pensioners)

Netherlands Martin Van Rooijen (Age
Platform Netherlands)
Kees Geveke (ANBO) - since
November 2012

Poland Halina Potocka (Forum 50+)
Ewa Kominek (Foundation
Samaritanu)

Portugal Ivone Ferreira (Vencer o Tempo)

Slovenia Marjan Sedmak (Mestna zveza
upokojencev Ljubljana)

Spain Eduard Garcia Freixedes
(FOCAGG)
Mercè Mas Quintana (FATEC)

Sweden Karl Erik Olsson (Swedish
Association of Senior Citizens)

United Kingdom Clint Elliott (National
Association of Retired Police
Officers - NARPO)

Irene Kingston (Age Concern
Northern Ireland)

EU Federations Alain Koskas (FIAPA Europe)
An Hermans (ESU)
Curt Persson (NOPO - Nordic
Older People’s Organisation)

Dirk Jarré (EURAG)
EU organisations Boris Koprivnikar (E.D.E.)
Joke De Ruitter (OWN
Europe)

Substitute Members

Austria	Sabine Wlazny (Pensionisten Verband)	Malta	Carmel Mallia (National Council for the Elderly)
Belgium	Jean Gengler (UCP - Mouvement Social des Aînés)	Netherlands	Régine Mathijssen (NVOG)
Cyprus	Paschalidou Androulla (Pancyprian Federation for the Welfare of the Elderly)	Portugal	Susana Santos (Associação Valorização Intergeracional e Desenvolvimento Activo - VIDA)
Czech Republic	Oldrich Stanek (Zivot 90)	Spain	Antoni Segura Farré (FOCAGG)
Finland	Pirkko Karjalainen (The Central Union for the Welfare of the Aged)	Sweden	Carlsson Stickan (Swedish Association of Senior Citizens)
France	Marie-Claire Galibert (Confédération Française des Retraités) Jean-Christophe Merle (Action de Coordination de Lieux et d'Accueil aux Personnes Âgées - ACLAP)	United Kingdom	Syd Ashby (Civil Service Pensioners Alliance) Kate Davidson (British Society of Gerontology)
Germany	Annette Scholl (Kuratorium Deutsche Altershilfe, Wilhelmine-Lübke-Stiftung e.V.) Claudia Kaiser (BAGSO - Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der Senioren-Organisationen)	EU Federations	Sonia Guaragna (FIAPA Europe) Elisabeth Dispaux (ESU) Ralf Friberg (NOPO) Dana Steinove (EURAG)
Ireland	Helen Campbell (Age and Opportunity)	EU organisations	Wilfried Schlüter (E.D.E.) Christ Laura (OWN Europe)
Italy	Claudio D'Antonangelo (CNA Pensionati) GiuseppeTorrente (Sindacato Autonomo Pensionati S.a.pens.)		

AGE Members - 2012

Full Members

Austria: Pensionisten Verband

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

Bulgaria: Association for Social Support • 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 • Old Up • Seniors Entrepreneurs • Union Fédérale des Retraités des Banques • Union Française des Retraités • Union Nationale des Retraités (UNAR-CFTC) • Union Nationale Interprofessionnelle des Retraités • Union Nationale Retraités Personnes Agées

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

Greece: 50+ Hellas • Open Centre for the Protection of the Elderly (K.A.P.I.)
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 • ANCESCAO Coordinamento Provinciale di Latina • Anecomit - Associazione Nazionale fra Pensionati ed Esodati della Banca Commerciale Italiana • Associazione Nazionale delle Università della Terza Età – Unitre • ANAP - Associazione Nazionale Anziani e Pensionati • Associazione Nazionale Pensionati - CIA • Associazione Nazionale Terza Età/Attiva – ANTEAS • Associazione Lavoro Over 40 • • 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 • Philips Vereniging van gepensioneerden Eindhoven en omstreken (PVGE vereniging voor senioren) • Protestants Christelijke Ouderen Bond • UniekBO • Vakcentrale CNV

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

Portugal: Associação Valorização Intergeneracional e Desenvolvimento Activo • Vencer O Tempo • Envelhecer com Prazer • UNIFAI- Unidade de Investigação e Formação sobre Adultos e Idosos

Romania: Alzheimers Society Romania-Timisoara Branch

Slovakia: Forum pre pomoc starsim - narodna sie

Slovenia: Anton Trstenjak Institute of gerontology and intergenerational relations • Mestna zveza upokojencev Ljubljana • The Slovenian Third Age University

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

Sweden: Swedish Association of Senior Citizens • Sveriges Pensionärers Riksförbund

United Kingdom: Age UK • Age Northern Ireland • 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 Institute of Adult Continuing Education - NIACE • National Pensioners Convention • Older People's Commission for Wales • Public Service Pensioner's Council • The Beth Johnson Foundation • Wise Owls Employment Agency • UnLtd: Foundation for Social Entrepreneurs

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

Europäischen Zentrum für Arbeitnehmerfragen – EZA • European Association for Directors and Providers of Long-Term Care Services 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 •

Accession Country

Croatia: The National Pensioners Convention of Croatia (NPCC)

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 **Germany:** Sozialverband Vdk Deutschland e.V

Ireland: Atlantic Philanthropies

Italy: Consorzio Anziani e Non Solo • Solimai - Società Cooperativa Sociale a r.l

Japan: Japan Productive Ageing Research Centre

Netherlands: Nationaal Ouderenfonds (NFE)

Portugal: CO (OP)RAÇÃO • Instituto de Beneficencia Maria Conceição Ferrao Pimentel (Instituto Da Saozinha)

Spain: Design for All Foundation • Union Democrática de Pensionistas

Switzerland: Age Stiftung (The Age Foundation) • CURAVIVA

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

United Kingdom: Action for Ageing • Age Scotland • Fairpensions • Institute of Lifelong Learning - Leicester University • International Longevity Centre Uk (ILC-UK) • School for Health Nursing and Midwifery, The 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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By joining AGE Platform Europe, 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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