

MANIFESTO

for the European
Parliament
elections 2014

AGE Platform Europe is a European network of around 165 organisations of and for people aged 50+ which aims at voicing and promoting the interests of the 150 million senior citizens in the EU and raising awareness on the issues that concern them most.

Our vision is that of a society for all ages, free from age discrimination and stereotypes and based on solidarity and cooperation between generations, where everyone is empowered to play an active part in the community and enjoy equal rights and opportunities in all stages of life regardless of age, sex, race or ethnic origin, religion or belief, social or economic status, sexual orientation, physical or mental condition, or need for care.

Achieving a society for all ages will require decision-makers and all relevant stakeholders to take collective responsibility for designing new ways of organising our societies to ensure a fairer and more sustainable future for all generations and to tackle the ongoing economic and social crisis. Civil society's involvement in policy-making at all levels should underpin European integration based on democracy, transparency and the participation of all citizens in shaping our societies.

We call on the candidate MEPs to look to creating an **Age-Friendly European Union** through ensuring that EU policies and initiatives will:

- 1- Promote equal opportunities and the realisation of human rights for all
- 2- Guarantee the adequacy, fairness and sustainability of Europe's social and health protection systems
- 3- Ensure universal access to goods and services, in particular to the built environment, ICT, mobility and public services
- 4- Support the right to grow and age in good mental and physical health
- 5- Create age-friendly labour markets and economy
- 6- Involve older persons in all policy and research processes that concern them
- 7- Protect the right for all to live and die in dignity

AGE Platform Europe calls for the re-establishment of the Intergroup on Ageing and Solidarity between Generations to keep these issues high on the EP's agenda.

1**Promote equal opportunities and the realisation of human rights for all**

- ✓ Fight against age and multiple discrimination in all relevant policy processes, notably by unblocking the draft Directive on implementing the principle of equal treatment between persons irrespective of religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation, proposed by the European Commission in 2008
- ✓ Enhance the protection of older persons' human rights, in particular by ensuring the EP involvement in the drafting of the EU's position within the framework of the UN Open-ended working group on ageing, providing thus the EU with a clear mandate by its citizens; call for the establishment of a EU multi-stakeholder dialogue group to discuss the rights of older persons
- ✓ Mainstream the Council of Europe's Recommendation on the promotion of the human rights of older persons into the EP work
- ✓ Monitor the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, bearing in mind the intersection of age and disability
- ✓ Enhance gender equality in access to financial and insurance products, in particular through the monitoring of the implementation by insurers of the EU rules on gender-neutral pricing (ECJ ruling C-236/09 on Test-Achats)
- ✓ Improve the image of older people and promote a more positive vision of ageing in the EP work, e.g. calling for action to combat age stereotypes in the media
- ✓ Monitor the situation of the most vulnerable groups of older people such as older women, older persons with disabilities, older migrants, ethnic and religious minorities; including Roma, older lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or intersexual (LGBTI), older people experiencing poverty and disadvantage, and older people in isolated rural communities

2**Guarantee the adequacy, fairness and sustainability of Europe's social protection and social inclusion systems**

- ✓ Ensure the effective application of the Lisbon Treaty's transversal social clauses 8, 9 and 10 in the implementation of the Europe 2020 Strategy while integrating a strong social dimension into the European Semester
- ✓ Guarantee adequate income in old age for all as the fundamental goal of any pension model, notably by implementing the EU agenda on pensions, taking the EP resolution on an Agenda for Adequate, Safe and Sustainable Pensions (2012/2234(INI)) as a basis
- ✓ Call on the European Commission to table a Directive on minimum income, including minimum pension, as a tool to fight against poverty among all age groups – this should be equivalent to at least the poverty threshold defined as 60% of the national median equalised disposable income
- ✓ Promote reference budgets for an adequate income – based on a basket of goods and services adapted to different age groups' needs – in order to assess whether poverty threshold allows a decent life and guarantees personal dignity across the life cycle
- ✓ Transpose EU poverty reduction target – as set out in the European Platform against Poverty – in all relevant national and EU policy processes
- ✓ Mainstream gender equality into all EU policy processes to ensure the same access to adequate social protection in old age for women and men

- ✓ Support the development and adoption of a European Quality Framework for Long-term Care Services inspired by the WeDO project¹

3 Ensure universal access to goods and services, in particular to the built environment, ICT, mobility and public services

- ✓ Promote accessibility in all areas to support independent living and decrease the cost of dependency on public budgets while improving the quality of life for all, notably by calling for a strong and ambitious European Accessibility Act
- ✓ Set accessibility as a pre-condition for all EU funding which supports the development of infrastructure
- ✓ Support standardisation initiatives as a key tool to enhancing accessibility and design-for-all
- ✓ Support e- and web-accessibility to enable and further improve access to information and services for all
- ✓ Support the European Innovation Partnership on Smart Cities and Communities as a tool to adapt urban spaces to the needs of the EU's ageing populations

4 Support the right to grow and age in good mental and physical health

- ✓ Promote physical and mental health and a life course perspective in all EU policies to ensure active and healthy ageing
- ✓ Give a budgetary priority to health promotion, disease prevention and reduction of health inequalities
- ✓ Consider spending on care services for older dependent persons as an investment in support for employment and not merely as a cost to public budget
- ✓ Ensure access to safe and adequate medicines and treatments for all, as well as independent and transparent information on these medicines and on the outcomes of clinical trials
- ✓ Support the implementation of the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing and assess progress achieved in increasing by two years the Healthy Life Years indicator by 2020

5 Create age-friendly labour markets and economy

- ✓ Improve the reconciliation between private and working lives, in particular by proposing a EU Directive on carers' leave for workers with informal care duties
- ✓ Improve the working conditions for all age groups by supporting a new EU Strategy on Occupational Safety and Health at Work 2014-2020
- ✓ Support quality stable jobs for older workers, including older women, and call for action to facilitate transitions between jobs and from work to retirement
- ✓ Promote the business case for age diversity at work, notably as a tool to fight against both youth and older workers' unemployment

¹ <http://www.wedo-partnership.eu/>

- ✓ Use the knowledge, experience and know-how of older generations by promoting intergenerational learning and exchange at work
- ✓ Foster informal and non-formal learning for people of all ages in order to facilitate their active participation in both paid and unpaid work

6 Involve older persons in all policy and research processes that concern them

- ✓ Support civil dialogue as set out in the Lisbon Treaty (Article 11) as a key principle for governance processes at EU level
- ✓ Commit with your fellow MEPs to meet annually with civil society organisations in your country to collect their views on all relevant EU dossiers and report on your own actions
- ✓ Require through the European Semester process that Member States consult civil society organisations when they draft their National Reform Programmes, in particular when economic reforms will impact on social inclusion, pensions and health and long-term care
- ✓ Support the use of relevant EU funding instruments to foster older citizens' active participation in community and volunteer activities
- ✓ Use the existing participatory structures at national level such as citizens' councils or other local consultative structures to connect older citizens' groups with their MEPs and other policy-makers
- ✓ Ensure genuine and early user involvement in all relevant EU-funded research activities as a criterion for allocation of EU funding

7 Protect the right for all to live and die in dignity

- ✓ Protect dignity in old age and call for the launch of an initiative to guarantee the right for all to live and die in dignity
- ✓ Call on the European Commission to develop an EU-wide strategy to help Member States fight against elder abuse

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