



# Annual Report 2021

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Towards age equality

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# FOREWORDS



## Ebbe Johansen, President

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2021 was the year of AGE's 20th anniversary. We celebrated it by launching an 'AGE of CONNECTION' website presenting the diversity of our membership ([www.age20.eu](http://www.age20.eu)), and with a remote toast at our online General Assembly in November, where we received greetings from former AGE Presidents and members of the European Parliament. All of them congratulated us on AGE's achievements over the last two decades. Now we look forward to being able to meet physically again.

Early 2021, the European Commission launched the EU Green Paper on Ageing, together with a wide public consultation. During the hearing phase, AGE gave a paper "Towards an EU Age Equal Strategy delivering equal rights at all ages". On the basis of the hearing, AGE organised an online meeting where the Commission presented the results of the consultation. Considering the Commission's position not to present a white paper on ageing, we addressed a letter to President Ursula von der Leyen, asking for an ambitious and coordinated approach to policies on ageing. In response, we were invited to meet with the Vice-President on Demography and Democracy, Dubravka Šuica which took place in January 2022.

This was a constructive meeting where our cooperation and continued dialogue was confirmed. Building on our paper-proposal to the consultation, specific actions can be now anticipated, for instance we will participate in the EU Care Strategy. The AGE 2021 Barometer, with its focus on participation, was also welcomed by the Vice-President. This regular survey on the daily realities of older people has highlighted areas that require more attention from governments, including support for volunteers who provide valuable social support to older people in complement public care services. Our conversation with the Vice-President also addressed lifelong learning and agreed on the need for further education of care staff.

In November, the Slovenian Presidency in collaboration with AGE and our member ZDUS - The Federation of Pensioners' Associations of Slovenia organised an international online conference "Human rights for all ages: Promoting life course perspective and intergenerational corporation to combat ageism". This was Building on the "Declaration on Aging" adopted by the EU trio presidencies: German, Portugal, and Slovenia in December 2020.

Finally, in 2021 AGE has successfully worked on engaging our members, attracting new members, and finding donors. This is bringing AGE in a stable position, and we look forward to fulfilling our strategic ambitions for our members.





## Maciej Kucharczyk, Secretary General

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2021 was a year of ongoing resilience efforts and strategic planning. Faced, individually and collectively, with the challenges of the persisting pandemic, we took the opportunity to look ahead and plan how to build back better and emerge stronger. The year was marked by the continued development of our membership base, the strengthening of the older people's movement with support of our allies to promote age equality throughout life, and the celebrations of AGE's 20th anniversary.

Above all, we adopted a 2022-2025 strategy. In response to changing environments, the document, developed with members, provides a method to ensure that as a European network and individual members, we work towards common goals. Underpinned by a common vision of a society for all ages, our aim is to increase AGE's capacity to maximise positive change for older people, enabling us to live fully in old age. Our new strategy enabled us to prepare an ambitious proposal for a strategic partnership agreement with the European Commission under its 'Citizens, Equality, Rights and Value' Programme. Our efforts paid off and we have signed the agreement which provides AGE with vital financial support to implement the annual work programmes for the next four years.

Through various contacts, our strategic partners in the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Member States have reassured us of their ambition to set a positive tone for ageing and older people, and to carry out the necessary reforms to seize all the potential of ageing societies. The provision of universal, high-quality long-term care, with respect for people's dignity, is a top priority. In 2021, we mobilised all our efforts around this goal. The EU Care Strategy, announced by the European Commission for the summer of 2022, will be a first concrete test to translate the commitment of policy makers to age equality into action.

Finally, our 20th anniversary was a great moment of reconnection between members, old and new friends, supporters and partners.

We are now looking forward even more enthusiastically to the physical reconnection in 2022, which we hope will give an even stronger dynamic to our network and advocacy work. Onwards and upwards!



# WHAT DID WE ACHIEVE IN 2021?

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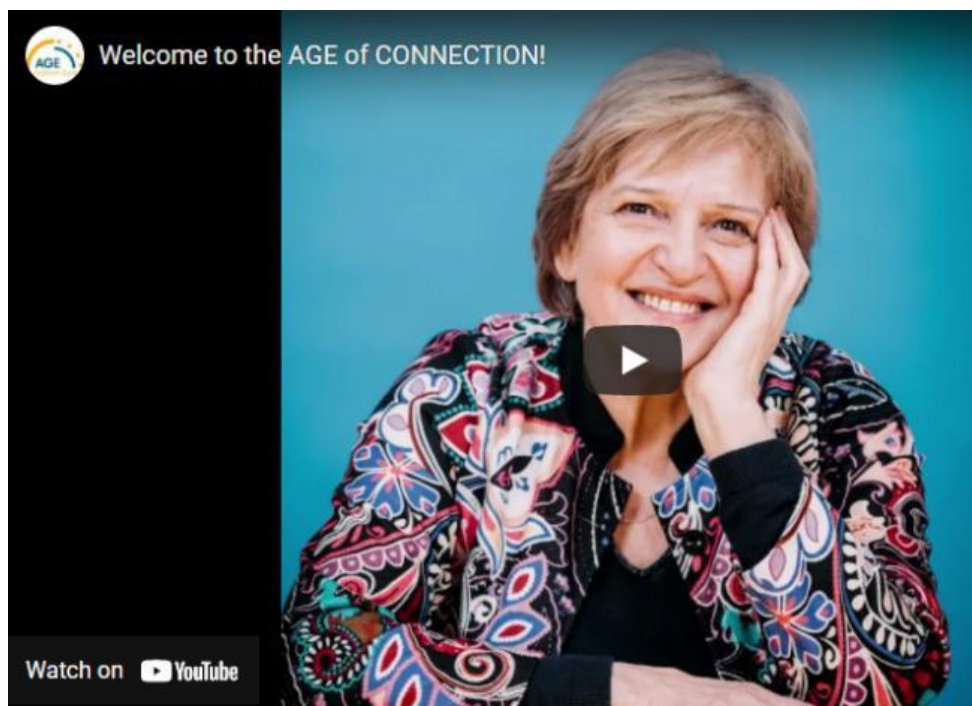


In 2021, drawing lessons from the pandemic, we deepened our reflection on the issues of ageism, equality and quality care for all. The highlight of our work in 2021 was the publication of our Age Equality Strategy, calling for the European Commission to ensure an equality that is for everyone, everyday and in practice. A timely contribution to EU-wide reflection on the impact of ageing launched as a follow-up to the EU Green Paper on Ageing. We developed another guiding document for our advocacy: a position paper on care and the change that need to be made in that area to improve older people's autonomy and participation. This new vision of care has been developed throughout the year with the active involvement of our member organisations as part of our rethinking care process.

Participation in older age was also the topic of our AGE Barometer 2021 which points out strengths and shortcomings across EU countries on life-long learning and education, volunteering and intergenerational exchange, consultation and participation.

Beyond EU borders, we actively campaigned for strengthening older people's rights with our campaigns *EU Leads the Rally* and *Lead With Us* in favour of a new United Nations convention on the rights of older people.

And finally, 2021 was also the occasion for us to celebrate the two decades of existence of our network, looking back at our past achievements and ahead to what still need to be done to achieve AGE's vision of a society for all ages.



# Age equality is the best strategy to reap the benefits of an ageing society

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Nobody should be discriminated or left behind because they are old. In our work, we strive to raise the direct voice of older people and increase awareness of the impact of ageism in our societies.

## More equality, no ageism

2021 saw the publication of the first [UN Global Report on ageism](#), which offered us the opportunity to continue our advocacy against ageism at EU level. Together with our members, we developed a strong contribution to the EU Green Paper on Ageing. Released on the occasion of the [EU Day of solidarity between generations](#), our [contribution](#) highlighted persistent forms of ageism, and called for the application of an [Age Equality Strategy](#) to mainstream the fight against ageism across all EU policy fields. Because we believe the EU's objective to build a 'Union of Equality' should help to better address age discrimination, we advocated all along 2021 for a dedicated follow-up to the Green Paper on Ageing: we supported a continuous dialogue between our members and the European Commissions' services in relation to the Green Paper on Ageing; we used different channels to highlight the added value of our proposal for an Age Equality Strategy, such as the [Conference on the Future of Europe](#), and [the President's speech on the State of the Union](#).

Together with the Slovenian Presidency of the EU and our Slovenian member organisation ZDUS, we organised the international [conference "Human Rights for All Ages: Promoting a Life Course Perspective and Intergenerational Cooperation to Combat Ageism"](#). The [conclusions](#) of the conference highlighted the need for specific and effective laws and measures to combat ageism, called for concrete steps towards a legally binding international instrument on the human rights of older persons and encouraged the upcoming Trio Presidencies of the Council of the EU, France, Czechia and Sweden, to pursue the work on ageing based on human rights and a life-course perspective.

## Campaigning for equal rights in old age

We launched the [#EULEadsTheRally](#) campaign aimed to increase political support for a United Nations' convention by the European Union and its Member States. Our campaign included tools for civil society organisations (handout for governments, template letter, key messages, social media cards, etc.) to engage in a discussion with government officials, and campaign at national level.

On the International Day of Older Persons on 1<sup>st</sup> October, our #LeadWithUs campaign called on EU governments to genuinely engage with older people to champion human rights for all ages. The campaign also invited older persons and their representative organisations to mobilise and ignite a vision of shared responsibility and power, moving away from stigma, charity and pity.



Our campaign, addressing national governments, included concrete actions that can help speed up the process toward the adoption of a new UN convention and a better representation of older people's views in the ongoing discussions. Our call was picked up by MEP Jordi Cañas, who tabled a parliamentary [question](#) to the Vice-President of the European Commission and the High-Representative for External Affairs, Josep Borrell asking the EU to 'drive the initiative of a UN Convention on the rights of older persons'. Our #EULEadsTheRally initiative has been spotlighted in a recent [online global exhibition](#) for the human rights of older people.

### **Ageism in employment must end!**

For the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the directive banning age discrimination in employment, we finalised our pioneer critical report putting to the fore several examples of ageist biases used by European courts to justify discrimination in the labour market. Our key finding is that the directive has been often interpreted inconsistently and that important levers for age discrimination remain in many Member States, such as mandatory retirement or recognizing a formal link between age and the ability to perform certain functions. EU courts continue treating the discrimination on the ground of age as less serious, restricting the right of older people to access the labour market. The report came timely as it was taken up during the UN Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing's discussion on the right to employment. Our [report](#) became also the basis for an [article](#) in the Financial Times about how age discrimination laws fail to protect older workers and was also shared with legal professionals in the frame of a [European Law Academy training](#).

### **Training a new generation of ageism researchers and activists**

The [EuroAgeism](#) project continued its activities gathering evidence of ageism in various fields and providing recommendations of effective policy interventions to tackle prejudice, stereotypes and discrimination at different levels. It also examines the [synergies in research and policy](#). We supported the training of early-stage researchers in building their capacities to bridge policy and research and helped organise exchanges with policymakers and policy researchers. In 2021 we also run trainings for old age advocates, focusing on how to use the UN Global Report on Ageism and sharing experiences of self-advocacy among members and partners.

### **Hate speech and elder abuse are a denial of equality**

COVID-19 exposed various forms of hate speech against older persons, which are extreme manifestations of ageism, leading to exclusion and abuse. In our [response to an EU consultation](#), we called for more awareness and data as well as extending the list of EU crimes to cover also the ground of age. In 2021, we also continued our work with policymakers and media to [increase awareness of elder abuse](#) and [gender-based violence in old age](#) exposing several factors that render these phenomena relatively invisible and unaddressed.

Furthermore, we contributed to the released Compendium “[Experiencing Hate Speech: Responses, Coping Strategies & Interventions](#)”, based on interviews with people who experienced hate speech and on national reports elaborated by the European project SDD – Smart for Democracy and Diversity.

### **Older people are diverse yet equal**

We strive to respect differences and embed an intersectional approach in all our work. In 2021 our staff participated in two trainings with organisations of persons with disabilities and Roma networks to increase our own understanding and capacity to address issues of multiple disadvantages in old age. To give more visibility to our ongoing work on multiple discrimination and provide members with an additional entry point to relevant resources and actions, we have developed a dedicated [webpage](#). We also continued to work with our members and researchers at EU level to address inequalities based on gender and disability, including the [need to build bridges between the Green Paper on Ageing and the EU Disability Strategy](#). Moreover, we ensured that the multiple discrimination approach was included in our work on the [e-VITA](#) project and we helped European and Japanese researchers and developers of information and communication technologies to consider the diversity of older adults in the virtual coach developed as part of the project. Finally, AGE was selected to be part of the [EC Disability Platform](#), which aims to support the implementation of the Disability Rights Strategy as well as national disability strategies, plans or policies.

### **Older women and COVID**

On the occasion of the International Women's Day (IWD), we [highlighted various contributions of older women](#) to build the future after the pandemic. We emphasized the positive role models of older women, such as WTO chief Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala and Burmese leader Aung San Suu Kyi, but also examples from our own membership of women advancing the cause of equality for all. Our article marking the IWD also focused on the triple burden faced by [older women](#) in the era of COVID-19. As care services for children and adults have closed or restricted their access, it is mainly women who provide unpaid extra care work. Women are also in the majority in front-line care professions, which puts them at greater risk of infection. Thirdly, more women than men are using residential long-term care services, which suffer from a lack of protection and reduced treatment during the pandemic. An increase in gender-based violence against women was also noted.

### **Maintain access to cash, payments and financial services for older persons**

We teamed up with Finance Watch to generate the first EU-wide survey on access of older persons to financial services. Its conclusions, shared and discussed with our members before the publication by Finance Watch, fed a public [report shedding light on the importance of access to financial services](#) as well as some of the barriers that older persons face. The report concludes that age limits, digitalisation and poverty or low income present the main barriers older people's access to a basic set of financial tools and services. These include very concrete tools such as access to payments, management of bank

accounts, access to cash; but also, more sophisticated financial products such as travel or health insurance or mortgage.

Our former Secretary-General, Anne-Sophie Parent, chaired a working group of the Euro Retail Payment Board developing a [report on the access to cash](#), thanks to the input from our members. The report is a renewed reminder of the importance to access cash in a context with closing ATMs and bank offices.



# Towards a new vision of long-term care

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The rapid ageing of the population in Europe makes it urgent to rethink our long-term care systems, whose shortcomings have been brought to light by the devastating impact of COVID in residential care and older people's access to care.

## Rethinking our vision of care

Throughout the year, we conducted four workshops with our members to build our vision of long-term care from scratch, following the experiences of the pandemic and the growing awareness that access to quality long-term care will be a defining challenge in the context of demographic trends.

[The outcome of this process](#) acknowledges the strengths of current long-term care systems in Europe, and analyzes the shortcomings, laid bare by the pandemic. These shortcomings mainly relate to ageism, with an impact on the quality of care. Lack of coordination and cooperation between health and social care, unattractive working conditions leading to insufficient quality of care, problems of access and affordability. We put forward that a rights-based vision of care is needed, focusing on what care is to achieve: realizing the rights to autonomy and independence throughout the lifespan.

2021 also saw the publication of a long-awaited document, the [Joint report of the European Commission and the Social Protection Committee on Long-Term Care](#). The report outlines the increased demand for long-term care and issues to access care. It estimates that one in three persons in need for long-term care and support does not have the ability to receive it.

AGE contributed to the reaction [of the Social Platform](#) to the report, published alongside the contribution of social partners.

## Shaping the European Care Strategy

Our reflection process came timely, as the European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen announced [a European Care Strategy](#) during her State of the European Union Speech in September. This Strategy will be developed by the Commission throughout the first half of 2022. To accompany this process, AGE organised [a joint workshop with the Red Cross EU Office and AGE member ZDUS](#). In the follow-up, we developed a common vision of care with the European Red Cross.

Our Secretary-General presented the outcome of our reflection process at a [hearing on a new long-term care model](#) organised by the European Economic and Social Committee. We also encouraged Members of the European Parliament to ask [a written question on the European Care Strategy](#). In its response, the European Commission indicated that it will cover care across the life course, including the issues of quality of care, working conditions and the situation of informal carers.



## Need for a European inquiry on the impact of the pandemic on long-term care

In January 2021, our [Secretary-General addressed the European Parliament](#) on the lessons learned from the pandemic in the context of long-term care. He reiterated our demand from 2020 for a European investigation into the impact of the pandemic in this sector, and to draw the lessons learnt by improving with no delay the quality of care for older people. Maciej Kucharczyk declared: *“e cannot lose any more time to build a true right to long-term care.”* We further promoted our demand jointly with the European Public Service and the European Disability Forum during [an event with MEPs](#) which presented the outcomes of national and regional enquiry committees on the impact of the COVID-19 on long-term care.

## Strengthening prevention and promoting age-friendly environments to support autonomy

In January 2021, the United Nations officially kicked off the [Decade of Healthy Ageing \(2021-2030\)](#) that brings together diverse sectors and stakeholders to collaborate on ageing issues. Since the very beginning, we have decided to [support, promote and get engaged](#) into this Decade. And this commitment is noticeable in the various EU-funded research projects we are involved in, making sure to apply an inclusive and co-design approaches with older adults. They all contribute to one or more of the four action areas recommended by the UN to contribute to healthy ageing:

- Action area 1) changing how we think, feel and act towards age and ageing: the [Dreamlike Neighbourhood](#) project compiled real-life stories, raising the voices of older people. Likewise, the [SHAPES](#) project collected real-life stories of older people and older people with disability as a starting point to challenge ageism.
- Action area 2) developing communities in ways that foster the abilities of older people: the [Homes4Life](#) project worked on an EU certification scheme for age-friendly housing which will offer more housing options to older people and give them the choice to live where they want to. The [Urbanage](#) project set up inclusive co-design processes to collect the urban accessibility challenges faced by older people in their cities to make them age-friendly. Via the [Pharaon](#) project, we organised a [webinar addressed to the WHO to inspire other regions across the world by the research on ageing financed by the European Union](#).
- Action area 3) delivering person-centered integrated care and primary health services responsive to older people: the [ValueCare](#) project makes sure to focus on what is important to older people when they receive care by involving them in the co-design process of its innovative care pathway. One of the [Digital Health Europe](#) project priorities was to identify digital solutions that build the relationship and strengthen cooperation between citizens, patients, and healthcare providers.
- Action area 4) providing older people who need it with access to long-term care: the [InAdvance](#) project aims at identifying patients in need of early palliative care to improve their quality of life.

Rooting for a healthy lifestyle across the life course, we were involved in the [PROMISS](#) project, focusing on protein intake among older people living at home. AGE drafted and shared [recommendations for older people](#) on tackling protein malnutrition with AGE members in multiple languages, including practical tables showing how much protein different foods contain and an online tool (the [Protein Screener](#)) to maintain an adequate protein intake.



# Beyond COVID: enhancing equal participation of older people

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Enhancing older people's participation is the key challenge to address the need and the impact of an ageing population. The urgency to value and strengthen the role of all generations in society and support cooperation and solidarity is another lesson of the COVID pandemic.

## **AGE Barometer shows that older people's participation needs more support**

Our [AGE Barometer](#) sheds light on the situation of older persons in their country and provides a comparative view with EU recommendations. For our third edition, AGE members from 15 countries responded and provided insights on three topics: education and life-long learning, volunteering and intergenerational exchange; participation and consultation.

The results show that older persons are a vibrant part of our societies and crucial to the functioning of many charity initiatives. They take actively part in our democracies and are keen on improving their skills and competences, also after retirement. Yet, in all these domains, there are no specific policies to address older persons' needs, and particularly to aim for the inclusion of the most vulnerable. The [results](#) are a call for action to provide supporting frameworks and to include older persons as full citizens.

The AGE Barometer was launched publicly on 16 February 2022 during an online event.

Our Barometer 2021 closes a cycle of three years that includes three publications on different topics, designed to cover all policy areas that are relevant to older persons and are addressed in various international and EU processes.

## **European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan creates a modest follow-up for Europe 2020 Strategy**

The European Commission published in spring the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan, and the Portuguese Council Presidency held a social summit in Lisbon to boost commitments by Member States for the implementation of the Pillar, adopted in 2017. The Action Plan foresees a continuation of the Europe 2020 social strategy and sets targets for EU Member States to be attained by 2030. These targets are relevant to older persons:

- Reduction of poverty and social exclusion by 15 million persons relative to 2019
- Increase participation in education and learning of all adults to 60% of participation within one year

- Increase the share of persons with at least basic digital skills to 80% of people until 75 years
- Increase employment rates to 78%

Still, in our assessment, no specific measure is foreseen to target older persons.

In 2020, we aimed to shape the Action Plan by [participating in a major consultation](#) putting a focus on adequate income and long-term care. Around the Social Summit, we [provided a thorough assessment](#) of the Action Plan and supported [Social Platform in its commitment to the targets](#) during the Porto Social Summit. We also [issued a press release](#) calling for a better inclusion of older persons in achieving these targets.

## **AGE highlights Pension Adequacy in an official EU report and during the European Retirement Week**

AGE was invited to respond to the officials of the European Commission and the Social Protection Committee, alongside the reactions of European social partners. In our contribution, we highlighted the growing issue of old-age poverty and social exclusion, an issue likely to be exacerbated by the medium-term impact of the pandemic and demographic change. We also underlined the persisting extent of the gender pension gap and question the social sustainability of current pension systems. Finally, we emphasized that supporting supplementary pensions (second and third pillar) might come to the expense of income into the first pension pillar, the only one to have a function of social solidarity for life events such as unpaid care, disability or unemployment.

We were able to outline these views at different events, such as a discussion on the gender pension gap with Members of the European Parliament and during the official launch of the Pension Adequacy Report.

We also participated in a group of organisations consisting of pension providers, investors' representatives, social partners and other stakeholders around pensions for the first European Retirement Week. Our Secretary-General provided an input statement for the opening of the week, with Commissioner Mairead McGuinness (responsible for financial services) bringing a keynote address. AGE organised an [event on pension adequacy across the pillars](#) during this week, looking at adequacy, the fiscal and environmental sustainability of supplementary pensions and the increased risk of exclusion due to the pandemic.

## **Individual learning accounts to support employment and social participation of older persons**

The European Commission called for contributions on life-long learning and education policies, an opportunity for us to highlight the first results of the AGE Barometer and [to take position on the promising concept of 'Individual Learning Accounts'](#). In our view, these accounts could help in creating a culture of life-long learning, if they are sufficiently credited by employers or public authorities and



backed-up with paid educational leave and guidance policies. We also [made our voice heard](#) in a number of events around the Social Summit.

## Impact of digitalisation

Telework, online classes, e-shopping, digital banking, instant messaging... The COVID-19 crisis has speeded up the digitalisation of our society and an increasing number of people - of all ages - are becoming digitally involved. Yet, this fast digitalisation is also pushing aside a growing number of people, [preventing them to access essential services as highlighted by AGE members](#). This is why, we and our members kept on working with the European Retail Payment Board (European Central Bank), contributing to the [Final report on access to acceptance of cash](#).

Also, we worked for a right-based approach to digitalization, including against disinformation using an intergenerational approach. As partner of the [DIGITOL](#) project, we supported the creation of tools to combat disinformation, such as the [DIGITOL academy](#) and [resources](#) like the DIGITOL handbook and toolkit.

Through the [FAITH](#) project, we involved our members to map good practices supporting online transactions in the third age.

For [eVITA](#) we created a non-exhaustive list of [key ethical principles](#) requested for the development of the technologies and to be considered as a guide for the project's designers, developers and researchers across the various stage of the project. This list includes accessibility, security, privacy, safety, affordability, availability, empowerment, reliability and respecting dignity criteria.

But digitalization is not only about the online world: everyday objects can become "smart" if enriched with technology and supporting our autonomy. This was the case in the [Maturolife](#) project, which developed a smart and fashionable sofa, shoes and shirt which were tested online by AGE members towards the end of the project in 2021.



# ABOUT OUR NETWORK

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# Our mission and values

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## Vision

### **A society for ALL ages.**

AGE's vision encompasses an inclusive society, based on well-being for all, solidarity between generations and full entitlement to enjoy life, participate in and contribute to society. At the same time, each person's rights and responsibilities throughout their life course have to be fully respected.

## Mission

AGE celebrates longevity as one of the greatest achievements of humanity. We seek to combat ageism, promote human rights throughout the life course, reduce inequalities and enable everyone to live a full and dignified life.

## AGE's core values and guiding principles

- **Respect for human dignity and human rights, freedom, democracy, equality, and the rule of law**, the European Union's fundamental values, unite our members.
- **Human rights and dignity do not diminish with age** and must be respected throughout each individual's life course.
- **Older people are self-advocates.** Everyone should be supported to speak on their own behalf as the ultimate experts of their own lives.
- **Older women and men are a resource for our societies** through their contributions through work, volunteering, informal care, creativity, experience and as consumers.
- **Intergenerational solidarity strengthens inclusion and justice between generations** respecting and benefiting everyone's experiences, sensibilities, and expectations.
- **Age-friendly environments** are essential for equitable and inclusive communities for all ages.

# Our membership and governance

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## Executive Committee

AGE ExCo is composed of the President, four Vice-Presidents, a Treasurer and a Secretary. It meets four times a year and provides strategic guidance on advocacy work and ensures the smooth running of the organization in accordance with the statutes and internal rules.

### Members:

- Ebbe Johansen, President
- Anthony De Giovanni, Vice President
- Regine Matthijsen, Vice President
- Jose-Luis Tejedor, Vice President
- Christina Rogestam, Vice President
- Elena Weber, Secretary
- Jean-Michel Hôte, Treasurer

## Administrative Council

AGE Administrative Council is composed of national representative(s) elected by AGE Full member organisations in their country. It meets twice a year and is responsible for the overall running of the organisation and the implementation of work programmes.

President: Ebbe Johansen

### Members:

#### Full Members

##### *National Organisations*

- Austria: Harald Glatz
- Belgium: Pierre-Jacques Marchal
- Bulgaria: Nadezhda Todorovska
- Croatia: Ines Vrban
- Cyprus: Alexis Michaelides
- Czech Republic:
- Denmark: John Kirstein
- Estonia: Ergma Andres
- Finland: Filip Hamro-Drotz
- France: Claude Connan / Bernard Bazot
- Germany: Ina Voelcker / Barbara Kahler
- Greece: Ranga Myrto
- Hungary: Imre Semsei
- Ireland: Ciaran McKinney

- Italy: Juan Camilo Zuluaga / Giorgio Grenzi
- Malta: Anthony De Giovanni
- Netherlands: Christine Nanlohy
- Norway: Jan Davidsen
- Poland: Grzegorz Zober / Piotr Nakonieczny
- Portugal: Anabela Paixão
- Romania: Giorgică Bădărău
- Slovakia: Gálisová Ľubica
- Slovenia: Jožica Puhar
- Spain: Angel Yaguë Criado / José Luis Tejedor
- Sweden: Martin Engman
- Switzerland: Roland Grunder

##### *European Federations*



- Alain Koskas (FIAPA)
- Ghislaine van Halewyn (ESU)
- Christina Tallberg (NOPO)
- Joseph Bertrand (ESO)

## **Substitute Members**

### ***National Organisations***

- Austria: Hilde Hawlicek
- Belgium: Maddie Geerts
- Bulgaria: Maria Petkova
- Croatia: Višnja Fortuna
- Cyprus: Maria Dodou
- Czech Republic:
- Denmark: Ebbe Johanssen
- Estonia:
- Finland: Raimo Ikonen
- France: Claude Waret / Jean-Michel Hôte
- Germany: Heidrun Mollekopf /
- Greece: George Pavlidis
- Hungary: Laszlo Patyan
- Ireland: Maureen Kavanagh
- Italy: Fabio Volponi / Giuseppe Zaffarano
- Malta: Gaetan Naudi
- Netherlands: Regine Matthijsen
- Norway: Arne Halaas

### ***European Organisations***

- Elena Weber (EAN)
- Elizabeth Sclater (OWN Europe)

- Poland: Katarzyna Otachel / Radosław Kraczkowski
- Portugal:
- Romania: Gheorghe Chioaru
- Slovakia: Iveta Cereyova
- Slovenia:
- Spain: Jose-Ramon Landaluce / Jordi Romero
- Sweden: Christina Rogestam
- Switzerland:

### ***European Federations***

- Camille Gautard (FIAPA)
- Leif Hallberg (ESU)
- Kalivi Kivisto (NOPO)
- Frieda Ardies (ESO)

### ***European Organisations***

- Pascal Champvert (EAN)
- Maria Petkova (OWN EUROPE)

## Secretariat

Based in Brussels, AGE Secretariat is responsible for the day-to-day management of the association and for liaising with the EU institutions.

### Staff members in 2021:

- Maciej Kucharczyk -Secretary-General
- Hanan Soussi - Office Manager
- Nathalie De Craecker - Administrative Assistant
- Anne Melard - Information & Communication Officer
- Estelle Huchet – Memberships and Campaigns Officer
- Julia Wadoux - Policy Coordinator for Health, New Technologies & Accessibility
- Nena Georgantzi – Policy Coordinator on Human Rights & Non-Discrimination
- Philippe Seidel - Policy & EP Liaison Officer
- Borja Arrue Astrain - Project & Policy Officer on long-term care & elder abuse
- Ilenia Gheno - Research Project Manager
- Nhu Tram - Research Project Officer
- Vera Hoermann – Research Project Officer
- Samuele Verucchi – Research Project Officer
- Stefan Hopf – Early-Stage Researcher



# AGE Members in 2021

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## **Austria:**

Pensionisten Verband

## **Belgium:**

CD&V-senioren

Entr'Agés asbl

Enéo (ex UCP)

Les Aînés du CDH (associate member)

OKRA, trefpunt 55+

Respect Seniors

Vlaamse Ouderenraad vzw

Vrouwenraad BE (associate member)

## **Bulgaria:**

Bulgarian Red Cross

## **Croatia:**

Foundation Zajednicki put

The association of social workers Zadar

The National Pensioners' Convention of Croatia (NPCC)

## **Cyprus:**

Pancyprian Welfare of the Elderly

PA.SY.D.Y. Pensioners Union

## **Czech Republic:**

Zivot90

## **Denmark:**

DaneAge/Aeldresagen

## **Estonia:**

The Estonian Association of Pensioners' Societies

## **Finland:**

The Association of Swedish-Speaking Pensioners in Finland

The Finnish Pensioners' Federation

**France:**

Action de Coordination de Lieux et d'Accueil aux Personnes Âgées (ACLAP)

Alim50plus

Association des Retraités d'Air France

Confédération Française des Retraités

Fédération Nationale des Associations de Retraités

Génération Mouvement - Fédération nationale

Information Défense Action Retraite (IDAR)

Old Up

Union des Anciens du Groupe BP

Union Française des Retraités

Union Nationale des Retraités (UNAR-CFTC)

Union Nationale Interprofessionnelle des Retraités U.N.I.R. CFE/CGC

**Germany:**

Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft der Senioren-Organisationen (BAGSO)

Sozialverband VdK Deutschland E.V. (observer member)

HelpAge Germany (Associate members)

**Greece:**

50Hellas+

**Hungary:**

Gerontology Science Coordination Center

**Ireland:**

Active Retirement Ireland

Age & Opportunity

**Italy:**

50 & più

Anpecomit - Associazione Nazionale fra Pensionati ed Esodati della Banca Commerciale Italiana

Anziani e non solo soc. Coop (observer member)

Associazione Lavoro Over 40

Associazione Nazionale Anziani e Pensionati (ANAP)

Associazione Nazionale Centri Sociali, Comitati Anziani e Orti (ANCESCAO)

Associazione Nazionale Pensionati (CIA)

ATDAL Over 40

CNA Pensionati



Federazione Nazionale Sindacale delle Associazioni dei Pensionati del credito (FAP Credito)  
Federpensionati Coldiretti  
Over 50 Della Confeuro  
S.a.pens. Sindacato Autonomo Pensionati  
Sindacato Nazionale Pensionati della Confagricoltura (ANPA)  
SOLIMAI - societa cooperativa sociale a r.l. (observer member)  
UNITRE University of Third Age  
Uscire Insieme Onlus

**Malta:**

Grand Parents Malta  
National Association of Pensioners  
National Council for The Elderly

**Netherlands:**

Nederlandse Vereniging van Organisaties van Gepensioneerden (NVOG)  
Oudere Vrouwen Netwerk - Nederland  
KBO-PCOB  
Gouden Dage  
Stichting Jan Nagel 50+

**Norway:**

The Norwegian Pensioners' Association, Pensjonistforbundet

**Poland:**

Seniors BONUM VITAE

**Portugal:**

APRE - Associação de Aposentados Pensionistas e Reformados  
CASO50+ - Centro de Atendimento e Serviços 050+

**Romania:**

National Federation Omenia/Federatia Nationala Omenia

**Slovakia:**

Forum Pre Pomoc Starsim (Forum for Help to Age, National Network)

**Slovenia:**

Mestna zveza upokojencev Ljubljana (MZU)  
ZDUS – Zveza drustev upokojencev Slovenije

**Spain:**

Asociación de Profesores Universitarios Jubilados (ASPUR)  
Catalonian Federation of Elder Associations (FATEC)  
Confederación Española De Organizaciones De Mayores (CEOMA)  
Federacion d'Organitzacions Catalanes de Gent Gran, Dones i Família (FOCAGG)  
Federacion Territorial de Asociaciones provinciales de pensionistas y jubilados de alava, Guipuzcoa y Vizcaya (FEDERPEN)  
Spanish Red Cross  
Union Democratica de Pensionistas (UDP)

**Sweden:**

SPF Seniorerna

**Switzerland:**

Conseil Suisse des Aînés

**Turkey:**

Türkiye Emekliler Dernegi (Turkey Retired Persons Organisation) – TIED (observer member)  
65+ Elder Rights Association

**United Kingdom:**

British Society of Gerontology  
Civil Service Pensioners Alliance  
International Longevity Centre UK (ILC-UK) (observer member)  
Wise Age

**European Federations:**

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

**European Organisations:**

European Ageing Network  
Groupement Européen de Retraités des Caisses d'Épargne, Banques et Institutions Similaires  
Older Women's Network - Europe  
Seniors of the European Public Service

# Consultative groups and external membership

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In 2021 AGE took part in:

## 12 EU consultative groups

AB= Advisory board  
WG= Working group

### European commission

- Consumer Policy Advisory Group
- e-Health Stakeholders Group
- EU Health Policy Forum
- Financial Services User Group
- The European Commission & Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Steering Group of joint project on effective social protection for long-term care
- Victims' Rights Platform

### Other European institutions

- European Central Bank: Euro Retail Payment Board
- European Economic and Social Committee: Liaison Group with Civil Society
- European Parliament: Interest group on Solidarity between Generations

### European Agencies

- Fundamental Rights Agency: fundamental Rights Platform
- European Medicines Agency: Patients and Consumers Working Parties
- European Railway Agency: WG on Technical Specification on Interoperability

## 6 Civil society groups

- Global Alliance for the Rights of Older People (GAROP)
- European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN)
- European Public Health Alliance (EPHA)
- European Covenant on Demographic Change
- Finance Watch
- Social Platform

## 6 International consultative groups

### United Nations

- UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC): Consultative Status
- Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing (OEWG)

- UN-ECE: member of the Standing Working Group on Ageing
- NGO Committee on Ageing at the UN-Geneva Headquarters
- WHO Europe – Accredited as Non-State Actor & WHO Global Network of AGE-Friendly Cities and Communities – Network affiliate

**Other international group**

- Council of Europe: International Conference of NGOs (iNGOs)





# Communication tools

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**Website:** [www.age-platform.eu](http://www.age-platform.eu)

**+395** web-articles posted on AGE website

**267.500** page views – **119.949** visitors

**Newsletter CoverAGE:**

[www.age-platform.eu/newsletter-coverage](http://www.age-platform.eu/newsletter-coverage)

**11** editions + around **3000** subscribers

**26 Newsflashes** to AGE members

**7** Press releases

**Social Media:**



[@AGE\\_PlatformEU](https://twitter.com/AGE_PlatformEU)

**7.377** followers - **396** tweets



[@ageplatformeurope](https://www.facebook.com/ageplatformeurope)

**2.542** followers - **87** posts



[AGE Platform Europe](https://www.linkedin.com/company/AGE_Platform_Europe)

**1.477** followers - **71** publications

**Blogs**

#AgeingEqual campaign: <https://ageing-equal.org>

**22.617** visitors – **38.657** pages viewed

European Parliament news: <https://towardsanagefriendlyep.com>

about **1.763** views, **1.030** visitors

## Our funders and budget

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AGE's policy activities in 2021 were financed by membership fees and donations (20%) and by the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme (REC) of the European Union (DG Justice) (80%). In 2021, AGE received additional incomes such donations from Essity and Facebook; and a grant from the Region of Biscay's to support our work on long term care.

AGE continued its work on European Research Projects throughout 2021, besides being involved in new proposals. AGE was partner in 16 projects dealing with new technologies, health and care, and age-friendly environments. Those projects, mainly financed by the European Horizon 2020 Programme are: DigitalHealthEurope, Digitol, EuroAgeism, Homes4Life, InAdvance, Maturolife, Nestore, Pharaon, Promiss, Shapes, ValueCare, Dreamlike Neighbourhoud, E-Vita, Faith, Urbanage and Smart for Democracy and Diversity. AGE participation in EU research projects is 100% covered by EU funding.

For more information about AGE Financial Resources, visit our website at: <http://www.age-platform.eu/financial-resources>



## AGE in brief

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 200 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 recognizes older people's contributions to society.

By joining our network, you will express your support and be able to:



Interested in becoming a member of AGE? Visit our website:

[www.age-platform.eu/membership](http://www.age-platform.eu/membership)



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