



Making Europe more social and supportive: it does concern me! Europe is about us!

THEMATIC WORKSHOP:

Active ageing – dependency – inter-generational relations

Co-facilitators:

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Issues

In brief

European policies have a direct impact on the life of elderly people, and even more since the entry into force of the Lisbon Treaty on 1 December 2009 (it gives new competencies to the European Parliament extends qualified majority voting to numerous policy areas). So the associations involved in the defense of the rights of the elderly people and all the concerned citizens have more possibilities to be able to defend actively the interests of the elderly people towards the European institutions.

Numerous reforms must precisely been introduced in order to promote equal opportunities at all ages and modernize social policy systems, include those in favor of elderly people, through the European union. Thus, this workshop provides the opportunity to bring together and capitalize the expertise and claims of each participant in order to influence the effectiveness of European Union policy in this field.

Some of main issues on which the European institutions could have an impact are as follows :

- How can we help retired people with low incomes to find accommodation when they can no longer live at home alone?
- How can we overcome the loneliness experienced by people still living in their own homes?
- How can we facilitate relationships between the generations (“Semaine Bleue” French national week for retired people and the elderly; meeting young children at a party)?

<p>What is the European Union doing or failing to do in this area?</p>	<p>Several portfolios of commissioners of the European Commission concern policies related to the elderly people's rights, as, for example, the e-inclusion of the elderly people, the research on ICT and the ageing, the single market for the long term care, the integration of the ageing issue in the regional policies, life-long education and training, older people's participation in volunteering, promotion of healthy aging, the social inclusion and the fight against poverty, the fight against abuse and violence against older persons, the European Pact on Mental Health in elderly people, the equality between men and women during old-age.</p> <p>However, the European public policy and initiatives should be more able to ensure the efficiency of the Europeans social protection and health systems, to protect the rights of the elderly people to live in dignity, to support the right of age in good physically and mentally health or to increase the involvement of the elderly persons in policy process and researches concerning them.</p>
<p>Current regulations and laws in this area <i>(where relevant)</i></p>	<p>European policies and texts directly concerning elderly people (non exhaustive list) :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Europe 2020 Strategy (it promotes the social inclusion, in particular through the poverty reduction) ; - The European Employment Strategy (it is intended to help some disadvantaged groups, as the older workers, to access the labour market) ; - The Article 10 of the consolidated version of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (1 December 2009) : fight against the various forms of discrimination, including that based on age; - The Race Directive (2000) : this directive concerns the implementation of the principle of equal treatment between individuals irrespective of racial or ethnic origin (2000/43/CE), which is very important for elderly people from ethnic minorities, in the areas of employment, training, education, access to social security and health care, access to goods and services, including housing; - The Employment Directive - The European Charter of Fundamental Rights; - The Open Method of Coordination in the areas of social protection and inclusion: it was developed, amongst others, in the area of pensions, which must be adequate and sustainable, long term care etc. - The «Ambient Assisted Living » Programme.

Questions, focal points	<p>- How do other European countries address these issues and how to establish a cooperation system and exchange of best practices in those areas between the European countries?</p> <p>- How can Europe take the issue of ageing and advanced old age into account and how to have an impact on European policies in this way?</p>
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Suggested workshop facilitation approach:

- Individual presentations of the participants.
- Set out the issues, present the current situation of the elderly people in Europe and present the main key-words.
- Brainstorming on the main points of consideration which deserve to be discussed.
- Accounts from people directly concerned by the issue and time allocated for discussion and sharing of ideas on best practice in those areas, etc. The question can be raised of what further contribution the European Union could make to the rights of elderly people.
- Conclusion:
The production of a final document based on the following question: What demands and avenues for thought should be communicated to members of parliament within the framework of the European elections? This document is intended in a broader sense to act as an advocacy resource in other fora.

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