



Committee of the Regions

European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations



FORUM OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS

Brussels, 14 February 2012



Europeans are living longer and healthier lives today than ever before. Together with the low birth rates of the past decades, **Europe's population is ageing fast**, what brings a number of challenges for our societies. The increasing share of older people and the decreasing share of working-age persons in the total population will have **social, economic and budgetary consequences**; labour supply and employment will decrease, challenging economic growth, while the request for services by the ageing population will increase. The effects of population ageing will be felt across Europe, although not affecting all regions in the same way.

Staying active as we grow older is key for tackling this challenge. This is why the European Union designated 2012 as the "**European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations**". Active ageing is about creating a wide range of opportunities for older people to stay in control of their own lives, It can be achieved by providing them with employment possibilities, enabling to make an active contribution to society through voluntary work, and by allowing them to live independently for as long as possible thanks to healthy ageing and an age-friendly environment with adapted housing, infrastructure and services. Active ageing is also crucial to Europe's ability to achieve its ambitious goals under the **Europe 2020 strategy for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth**. The European Year 2012 is a huge opportunity to raise awareness, disseminate good practice and, most importantly, to launch some concrete actions at all levels.

In the beginning of the European Year the Committee of the Regions will invite local and regional stakeholders to discuss their contribution to the European Year 2012 during a one day **Forum, on Tuesday 14 February 2012**. The Forum will focus on the multilevel governance approach of the policy domain and will highlight how local and regional actors improve the conditions for active ageing in the three major thematic strands of the EY, each of which closely related to the competences of the CoR: **Employment, Participation in Society and Independent Living**. The Forum will consist of plenary sessions, bringing together European and regional policy makers, and of interactive workshops, presenting best practice from all over Europe.

By organising the Forum the CoR intends to make an important contribution to the European Year 2012. It should help to foster new initiatives at local and regional level and to build new partnerships for promoting active ageing and strengthening solidarity between generations.

Programme

Committee of the Regions, Rue Belliard 101, 1040 Brussels

10:00-11:00: Registration and welcome coffee

11:00-13:00: Plenary opening session

Welcome speeches:

- **Mercedes Bresso**, President of the Committee of the Regions
- **Koos Richelle**, Director-General, DG Employment and Inclusion, European Commission

Introduction:

- **Sarah Harper**, Director, Oxford Institute of Population Ageing

Debate: "Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations: what role for regions and cities":

- Moderator: **Ed Thorpe**, Thorpe European Services

- **Kartika Liotard** and **Lambert van Nistelrooij** (tbc), Members of the European Parliament, Intergroup on Active Ageing and Intergenerational Solidarity
- **Per Bødker Andersen**, Deputy Mayor of Kolding and Councillor of the Town Council, Denmark, Member of the Committee of the Regions
- **Anne-Sophie Parent**, Secretary-General AGE Platform Europe
- **Giuseppe Porcaro**, Secretary-General European Youth Forum
- **Roberto Bertolini**, Chief Scientist and Representative at the EU, World Health Organisation

13:00-14:30: Networking lunch

14:30-16:15: Parallel workshops

Workshop I:

Valorising the senior workers in regional employment strategies.

Encouraging older workers to stay in employment requires notably the improvement of working conditions and their adaptation to the needs of older workers, updating their skills and ensuring effective incentives for working longer.

Moderator:

- **Mia De Vits**, Member of the Flemish Parliament, Belgium, member of the Committee of the Regions

Case studies:

- **Dominique Pierret**, Valorisation and involvement of senior workers in enterprises, Institut Universitaire International Luxembourg and Unité de Formation et d'Education Permanente, Luxembourg
- **Eva Gehltomholt**, Akademie "2. Lebenshälfte", Brandenburg State, Germany
- **Jackie Langley**, The Older Workers Employment Network (OWEN), East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire, United Kingdom

Comment:

- **Robert Anderson**, European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions

Workshop 2:

Local integration and participation in society.

Local and regional authorities play an important role in improving the opportunities and conditions for older people to participate in society, thus avoiding social isolation and many of the associated problems and risks.

Moderator:

- **Catarina Segersten-Larsson**, Member of the Assembly of Värmland County Council, Sweden, Member of the Committee of the Regions

Case studies:

- **Angelika Gasteiner**, "On the bus with granny": Age-friendly public transport in Salzburg, Austria
- **Martina Mail** and **Dorothea Ewering**, Growing older in a diverse city, City of Gelsenkirchen, Germany
- **Daniela Milkova**, Ageing in the information society, Municipality of Dobrich, Bulgaria

Comment:

- **Jim Soulsby**, Coordinator for the Association for Education and Ageing (AEA), United Kingdom .

Workshop 3:

Regional approaches for healthy and independent living.

Health promotion, preventive health care and personal assistance maximise healthy life years, prevent dependency and make the environment more age-friendly allowing older people to stay as independent as possible

Moderator:

- **Irene Oldfather**, Lead Consultant, Long Term Conditions Alliance Scotland, United Kingdom

Case studies:

- **Elena Gentile**, New technologies and quality in care delivery, Regional Government of Puglia, Italy
- **Jose Vargas**, Tele-assistance, Regional Government of Andalusia, Spain
- **Rodd Bond**, Netwell Centre, Louth County, Ireland

Comment:

- **Hans Groth**, Chair of the Board of the World Demographic and Ageing Forum, Sankt Gallen, Switzerland.

16:15-16:30: Coffee break

16:30-17:15: Plenary closing session

Moderator: **Ed Thorpe**

Conclusions from the parallel workshops:

- **Mia De Vits**, moderator Workshop 1
- **Catarina Segersten-Larsson**, moderator Workshop 2
- **Irene Oldfather**, moderator Workshop 3

Key note speech:

- **Paola Testori Coggi**, Director-General DG Health and Consumers Affairs, European Commission

Closing remarks:

- **Arnoldas Abramavičius**, Mayor of Zarasai District Municipality, Lithuania, Chairman of the CoR Commission for Economic and Social Policy

Venue

Jacques Delors Building
Rue Belliard 101
1040 Brussels

Registration

Please register by filling in the online form on
www.cor.europa.eu/EY2012

Background documentation

All available presentations and background information, as well as the proceedings of this Forum, will be published on the Forum website
www.cor.europa.eu/EY2012

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Edited by the Directorate for Communication, Press and Events of the Committee of the Regions

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