

Cyprus High Level Presidency Conference

From Visions to Actions:
Closing Conference of the European Year of Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations 2012

Filoxenia Conference Centre, 10 December 2012

Organised by the Cyprus Social Welfare Services of the Ministry of Labour and Social Insurance, with the support of the European Commission (DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion)

The year 2012 has been designated as the European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations and intended to raise awareness of the contribution that older people make to society. It also aimed to facilitate the empowerment of older people, so that they can remain in charge of their own lives as long and as much as possible. Finally, it aimed to encourage social dialogue on issues of policy and research on active ageing and solidarity between generations.

Ongoing demographic changes presuppose relevant policy actions to deal with the resulting challenges. Most Member States of the European Union are currently characterised by an ageing population, the result of numerous social changes. Namely, there has been an increase in the life expectancy at birth, coupled with a decrease in the birth rates in the last 30 or 40 years. These demographic changes lead to significant challenges for families and individuals, as well as policy makers and other stakeholders. Average predictions show that, by 2050, the proportion of persons aged 65 and older will rise by 77%, while the working-age population will fall by 16% in the European Union (EU).

PROGRAMME

A substantial number of EU citizens experience old age as a time of marginalisation and poverty, with the current socio-economic crisis creating additional pressure. Compared to men, older women face particular difficulties in terms of isolation and risk of poverty (22% for female vs. 16% for male in 2008 for EU-27). As people live longer, the impact on every area of human existence is enormous. The challenge for all stakeholders is to facilitate and improve opportunities for active ageing in general and, in particular, for independent living, employment for older workers, healthcare and social participation. It is expected that successful achievements in the above areas will reduce the number of older adults who are socially excluded due to their age. At the same time, a culture of solidarity between generations should also be promoted and integrated into support systems, especially with regards to the above (policy) areas.

Against these challenges, which each member state and the EU are facing and having in mind the momentum gained during the European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations, this Conference aspires to:

- ✓ Celebrate the achievements and main highlights of the Year;
- ✓ Provide a forum for discussion on the ways to transform the momentum gained into concrete actions based on main the strands for active ageing and solidarity between generations;
- ✓ Enhance the commitment from key EU and national actors for political measures that are necessary in order to address the issues older people and all generations face;
- ✓ Identify and exchange good practices related to current policy reforms;

Working Languages of the Conference
English, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Greek

Monday, 10 December 2012

8:30-9:30

Registration - Coffee

9:30-10:00

Short video with the highlights of the European Year 2012

Welcoming addresses and introduction to the Conference

Moderator: Toula KOULOUMOU, Director of Cyprus Social Welfare Services

- *Demetris CHRISTOFIAS*, President of the Republic of Cyprus Statement presented by *Mr George IACOVOU*, Cyprus Presidential Commissioner
- *László ANDOR*, Commissioner of Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission

10:00-11:20

Session A: Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations - Current situation and untapped potentials

- ✓ *Agnes PARENT-THIRION*, EUROFOUND, *Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations - evidence from EUROFOUND surveys*
- ✓ *Prof. Gunhild HAGESTAD*, NOVA/Norwegian Social Research, Oslo, *Solidarity between generations: Accomplishments and remaining challenges*
- ✓ *Prof. Dr. Asghar ZAIDI* and *Prof. Dr. Bernd MARIN*, European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research, Vienna, *Presentation of an Active Ageing Index (joint project of the United Nations Economic Committee for Europe, the European Centre and the European Commission)*

Questions and Answers

11.20-11.40

COFFEE BREAK

Monday, 10 December 2012

11.40-13:40

Session B: Guiding Principles for Active Ageing - Lifting the barriers

Enhancing opportunities for employment, social participation, and independent living

Moderator & opening remarks, Thomas DOMINIQUE

Representative of the Social Protection Committee

Promoting Employment,

Introduction by Bernard H. CASEY, Institute for Employment Research, University of Warwick

- **Presentation of three good practices**
- **Sarah DEKKICHE**, CSR Europe, *Age management strategies*
- **Rachid BOUMALEK**, UNIZO, *Employment Services for Older People*, a practice from Belgium
- **Franco MORETTO**, Region Veneto, *Civil Service for Elderly*, a practice from Italy

Promoting Social Participation

Introduction by Renate HEINISCH, Member of the European Economic and Social Committee

- **Presentation of three good practices**
- **Elisabeth POTZINGER**, COFACE, *Granny Service*, a practice from Austria
- **Barbara GORIČAN**, Slovene Philanthropy, *Intergenerational Community Centre in Slovenia*, a practice from Slovenia
- **Marzena BREZA**, Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, *Development of the Third Age Universities in Poland as an element of the LLL process*, a practice from Poland

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Promoting independent living

Introduction by **Marjan SEDMAK**, AGE President

- **Presentation of three good practices**
- **Guillaume LEFEBVRE**, Siel Blue, *HAPPIER*, a practice from France
- **José Maria ALONSO SECO**, Institute for Older Persons and Social Services, *ENclaverural*, a practice from Spain
- **Constantinos PATTICHIS**, University of Cyprus, *Long lasting Memories*, a practice from Cyprus

Questions and Answers

13.40-13.50

Family Photo

13.40-15.10

LUNCH

15.10-17.10

Session C: Building on the achievements of the European Year 2012: What has been achieved and what is the way forward?

Moderators: Lenia SAMUEL, Hors Classe Adviser, and *Ralf Jacob*, Head of Unit for Active Ageing, Pensions and Health Care, DG EMPL, European Commission

- ✓ **Vitalija GAUCAITE WITTICH**, United Nations Economic Committee for Europe
- ✓ **Anne-Sophie PARENT**, Secretary General AGE Platform Europe, *Covenant of Mayors on demographic change*
- ✓ **Dr Lazaros S. SAVVIDES**, Mayor of Municipality of Strovolos, Cyprus
- ✓ **Sarah ROCHIRA**, Older People's Commissioner, Wales
- ✓ **Kathleen Lynch TD.**, Minister for Disability, Equality, Mental Health and Older People, Ireland
- ✓ **Sotiroula CHARALAMBOUS**, Minister of Labour and Social Insurance, Cyprus

Questions and Answers

PROGRAMME



Monday, 10 December 2012

17.10-17.25	Cultural Showcase - A taste from Cyprus
17.25-17.55	Press Conference, Jean Monnet Auditorium, Cypress media Centre
17.25	Departure from Filoxenia Conference Centre
18.00	Visit to the Cyprus Museum
	Cultural Event
	Dinner will follow at the Lefkosia Municipal Cultural Centre, Pyli Ammochostou (Famagousta Gate)
22.30	Departure to Hotels