



European Federation for Older Persons

Fédération Européenne des Personnes Agées

Federazione Europea delle Persone Anziane

Bund der älteren Generation Europas

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Ideas on why EURAG is so particular and what is the added value it can offer

Due to its characteristics and membership composition, it does not make sense for EURAG to set up comprehensive documentations on the ageing of European populations nor to describe technical systems and existing policies in European countries related to ageing policies – like, e.g., social security systems, medical and social care systems, etc. These are sufficiently documented by the European Union's MISSOC data bank and scientific comparative social policy studies.

Where EURAG can really contribute, with considerable added value, is through input into to the political discussion and development of ageing policies by information and recommendations related to major preoccupations of older Persons in European society.

Among these highly relevant and realistic issues, which determine the quality of the daily life of older persons, are e.g. the following:

- ⇒ The large majority of older persons wants to age “at home” and not in institutions – but the structural conditions must be alright. Which needs and aspects must be taken into consideration?
- ⇒ Older persons need and want to choose particular and specific forms of medical and social services. Which are important criteria for such services – be they ambulant or stationary – to be matched?
- ⇒ Older persons have, by their personal condition and living arrangements, a strong need and desire to be in close contact with others. What can and must be done to successfully address these needs and prevent isolation and loneliness?
- ⇒ Older persons want – and have the right – to be closely involved and participate in decision-making processes concerning them and determining aspects of their situation. How to fully implement this right and insure informed participation?
- ⇒ European society is still full of discriminatory ideas, concepts and action against older persons. They constitute serious violations of the fundamental human rights of these persons. What can be done – and how – to fundamentally change this situation?

These are just a few aspects to possibly start with – at least in the internal debates of EURAG. There are, of course many more which also need to be taken into consideration. We should go on listing them and decide where we see the priority ones and how to address them.

Dirk Jarré, 11 January 2021