

ORGANIZACIJE STAREJŠIH, NJIHOVA UČINKOVITOST IN VPLIV V DRUŽBI

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SENIOR ORGANIZATIONS AND THEIR EFFECTIVENESS AND IMPACT IN SOCIETY

EURAG
Mednarodna konferenca
Ljubljana, 6. maj 2016

Zbornik prispevkov s konference

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KAZALO INDEX

Jožica Puhar	Predgovor Foreword 6 7
Karel Erjavec	Pozdravni nagovor Welcome speech 8 9
Martina Vuk	Pozdravni nagovor Welcome speech	..... 10 11
Tone Dolčič	Pozdravni nagovor Welcome speech	..... 12 13
Vera Pečnik	Pozdravni nagovor Welcome speech	..... 14 15
Jožica Puhar	Kratka predstavitev Slovenije Short presentation of Slovenia	..... 16 17
Marjan Sedmak	Aktivnosti in vloga AGE Platforme Activities and the role of AGE Platform Europe	..... 18 19
Dirk Jarré	Vloga Evropske federacije starejših v evropskih politikah staranja The role of the European Federation of Older Persons in European ageing policies	..... 20 21
Tomaž Banovec	Upravljanje dolgožive družbe, nov pristop v Sloveniji Managing a long-lived society; new approach in Slovenia	..... 22 24
Dr. Dušana Findeisen	DANET ali socialni kapital, ki vzdolž Donave spreminja družbeno zavzetost, delovanje in integriranost starejših Danube networkers (DANET) as social capital - changing older people's social engagement and integration along the Danube	..... 26 27
Jože Gašperšič	Projekt iCarer iCarer Project	..... 28 29
Dr. Mateja Kožuh Novak in Anja Šonc	Poskus mobilizacije starejših v Sloveniji za aktivno državljanstvo The attempt for mobilization of older persons in Slovenia for active citizenship	..... 30 32

Prof. dr. Ana Krajnc	Starejši potrebujejo novo znanje – izobraževanje starejših je del vseživljenjskega izobraževanja in delovanja	.....	34
	Older people need new knowledge – education of older people is a constituent part of lifelong education and active ageing	.....	36
Ana Ostrman	Projekt »Starejši za boljšo kakovost življenja doma«	.....	38
	The project »The elderly for better quality of life at home«	.....	39
Moira Allan	S pomočjo interneta je mreža "Daj naprej" kot tridimenzionalni tiskalnik	.....	40
	With the internet the "Pass it on" network is like a 3D printer	.....	41
Dana Pulencika	Latvijski seniorji in grožnja revščine	.....	42
	Latvian seniors and poverty threats for them	.....	44
Jaap van der Spek	Organizacije, aktivnosti in vpliv starejših na Nizozemskem	.....	46
	Senior organizations, their activities and impact in the Netherlands	.....	48
Miloslav Vajs	Organizacije starejših, njihova učinkovitost in vpliv v družbi	.....	50
	Senior organizations and their effectiveness and impact in society	.....	51
Raziel Zwang	Nekaj primerov iz Izraela	.....	52
	Some examples from Israel	.....	53
<hr/>			
Dirk Jarré	Povzetek zaključnih misli	.....	54
	Summary of the final remarks	.....	56
Jožica Puhar	Zaključni komentar	.....	58
	Closing remarks	.....	59
Kristina Ina Novak	LJUBLJANA - Zelena prestolnica Evrope 2016		
	Prva in edina Zelena prestolnica Evrope v srednji in jugovzhodni Evropi	.....	60
	LJUBLJANA - European Green Capital 2016		
	The first and only European Green Capital in Central and South Eastern Europe	.....	63

EURAG, evropska federacija starejših, beleži že preko 50 let obstoja. V članstvu vključuje predstavnike organizacij starejših in za starejše ter institucij iz 28 držav, s čimer presega okvire EU. Odprta je za vključevanje novih članov, ki izrazijo interes ter delijo iste cilje in vrednote, kot jih neguje EURAG, ki je neprofitna in neverska organizacija, neodvisna od vseh političnih strank.

Zagovarja vzdrževanje neodvisnega, samostojnega življenja, razvoj potencialov starejših, izboljšanje njihovega življenjskega položaja, zagotavljanje finančne varnosti, preprečevanje kakršnekoli diskriminacije in zlorabe na podlagi starosti, pravico dobiti oskrbo, ko je to potrebno, pomoč pri snovanju starosti prijaznih izdelkov in storitev, pravico do vključevanja v družbo in do odločanja o zadevah starejših ter zastopanje njihovih interesov v družbi nasploh.

Neguje zlasti kulturo izmenjave – ljudi, informacij, znanj, učenja, izkušenj in stališč, obenem pa sodelovanje in strpni dialog, spoštovanje in vrednotenje položaja drug drugega, izmenjave mnenj, stališč in izkušenj z drugimi organizacijami, skupinami in posamezniki, ki imajo za določena področja ustrezno strokovno znanje.

Za zaščito interesov deluje z drugimi evropskimi in EU organizacijami civilne družbe ter ima poseben status v okviru Sveta Evrope in v specializiranih organih OZN.

Generalni svet je na svojih srečanjih v zadnjih petih letih, odkar spremljam njegovo delo, v različnih državah oz. njihovih organizacijah starejših kot gostiteljicah obravnaval različne teme, ki zadevajo položaj in aspiracije starejših oseb. Na spremljajočih konferencah pa je evidencialno dobre prakse ali najbolj poudarjene izzive v posameznih državah:
Luksemburg: Aktualni problemi starejših v državah članicah in vključevanje EURAG v njihovo reševanje
Tirana: Pereči problemi in potrebe ob staranju v Albaniji
Praga: Kvaliteta življenja čeških starostnikov
Riga: Latvija in žgoča vprašanja njenih starostnikov
Berlin: Dostopnost do kvalitetnih zdravstvenih in negovalnih storitev kot osnovne človekove pravice
Pariz: Oblike družabnega vključevanja starejših v družbo
Večina rezultatov teh razprav je objavljena na spletni strani organizacije.

ZDUS je članica EURAG že preko 40 let. Že leta 2005 je bila gostiteljica EURAG kongresa in je ob tem izdala priložnostno tiskano publikacijo.

Lanskoletni prevzem vloge gostiteljice zanimivo sovпада s 70-letnico delovanja ZDUS v letošnjem letu. Tako daje možnost nekakšne inventarizacije položaja in učinkovitosti organiziranega delovanja starejše populacije v družbi.

S tem se je ukvarjala tudi letos organizirana mednarodna konferenca. Udeleženci so s svojimi prispevki prikazali dobre rešitve in uporabljene načine delovanja pa tudi prizadevanja in akcije, ki kljub naporom niso dale pričakovanih rezultatov. Na konferenci smo uvodoma uspeli na kratko predstaviti nekaj manj znanih zanimivosti Slovenije. Podrobno je bilo predstavljeno tudi naše glavno mesto – letos proglašeno za zeleno prestolnico Evrope.

Teme, ki spremljajo pojav staranja prebivalstva, so postale del aktualnega angažiranja družbenih dejavnikov. To kaže tudi odziv povabljenih na konferenco s strani vlade, varuha človekovih pravic in mestne uprave, ki so nagovorili vse udeležence EURAG srečanja, na konferenci pa prispevali svoje informacije in ideje ter ji zaželeli uspešno delo.

Ministrstvo za zunanje zadeve in Mestna občina Ljubljana sta dogodek podprla s sponzorskimi sredstvi.

Jožica Puhar je članica Strokovnega sveta ZDUS in je vodja organizacijske skupine in moderatorka konference.



Predsedstvo EURAG konference: Dirk Jarre (predsednik EURAGa), Jožica Puhar (ZDUS, moderatorka konference) in Dana Steinova (generalna sekretarka EURAG), med pozdravnim govorom župana Zorana Jankoviča.

Presidency of the EURAG conference: Dirk Jarre (EURAG President), Jožica Puhar (ZDUS, moderator of the conference) and Dana Steinova (EURAG General Secretary), during the welcome speech by Zoran Jankovič, Mayor of Ljubljana.

EURAG, The European Federation of Older People, has had over 50 years of existence. The membership includes the representatives of older people and for the elderly and the institutions from 28 countries, extending beyond the borders of the EU. EURAG is open to the integration of new members, who express interest and share the same goals and values as EURAG itself, being a non-profit and non-religious organization, independent from all political parties.

It advocates the maintenance of autonomous, independent living; the development potential of the elderly; the improvement of their living conditions; the assurance of financial security; the prevention of any kind of discrimination and abuse based on age; the right to receive care when needed; the assistance in creating age-friendly products and services; the right to social integration and decision-making on matters regarding the elderly as well as representing their interests in the society in general.

In particular, it nourishes the culture exchange of people, information, knowledge, learning, experiences and views; cooperation and tolerant dialogue; respect and evaluation of each other's situation; opinions, views and experiences with other organizations, groups and individuals who have relevant expertise in certain areas.

To protect the interests of older people, EURAG works with other European and EU civil society organizations and has a special status within the Council of Europe and the specialized UN bodies.

In the last five years, since I started monitoring its work, the General Council has discussed a variety of topics related to the status and aspirations of older people in different countries (and their organizations of older people) hosting such events. At the accompanying conferences best practices or the most highlighted challenges in individual countries were recorded: Luxembourg: Current problems of the elderly in the Member States and the integration of EURAG in solving these problems; Tirana: Urgent problems and the needs of the ageing in Albania; Prague: The quality of life of the elderly in the Czech Republic; Riga: Latvia and controversial issues of its older people; Berlin: Access to quality health and care services as a basic human right; Paris: Forms of social inclusion of older people in a society. The results of these discussions are mostly published on the website of the organization.

ZDUS has been a member of EURAG for over 40 years. In 2005 it already hosted the EURAG event – a congress. A printed publication has been issued about this event.

Last year's acquisition of the role of hosting the EURAG meeting interestingly coincides with this year's 70th anniversary of ZDUS and thus gives the possibility to make a kind of inventory of the situation and the effectiveness of organized elderly population in the society.

This year's international conference has also dealt with the same issues. The contributions of the participants show both, good solutions and already tested modes of action, as well as the efforts and actions which despite the efforts have not given the expected results. At the beginning of the conference we briefly managed to present some less-known attractions of Slovenia. Our capital city - this year's Green Capital of Europe – was also presented in detail.

The topics accompanying the phenomenon of ageing population have become part of the current engagement of social factors. This is also evident in the response of the invited to the conference - the government, the Ombudsman and the city administration, who welcomed and addressed all the participants of the EURAG General Council meeting, as well as introduced their information and ideas and wished a successful work at the conference.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Municipality of Ljubljana have shown their support by sponsoring the event.

Jožica Puhar is a Member of the ZDUS Expert Council and the head of the Organization Team and the Moderator of the Conference.

Spoštovane gospe, spoštovani gospodje!

V veliko zadovoljstvo mi je, da vas lahko v svojem imenu in v imenu Ministrstva za zunanje zadeve pozdravim na današnji konferenci.

Tudi slovenska vlada – kot večina vlad po svetu – si prizadeva oblikovati mehanizme in strategije, s katerimi bi učinkovito in do posameznika prijazno naslovili izzive, ki jih prinaša staranje prebivalstva.

Že v uvodu bi želel izpostaviti zelo pomembno vlogo, ki jo v Sloveniji pri teh prizadevanjih igrajo nevladne organizacije, humanitarne organizacije in civilna družba. Zelo pomembno je, da se civilna družba povezuje in pripravlja skupne pobude tudi na mednarodni ravni.

Demografske spremembe, ki se v večini držav odražajo kot staranje prebivalstva, so globalen pojav. Pred nas postavljajo ekonomske, socialne in pravne izzive. Odgovori nanje niso preprosti, zahtevajo materialne vire, predvsem pa širši medgeneracijski konsenz. Prav zaradi kompleksnosti te problematike je vladam zagotovo v pomoč, če pretehtane in utemeljene pobude za iskanje rešitev pridejo tudi s strani civilne družbe.

Tako so pred nekaj leti predstavniki Zveze društev upokojencev Slovenije Ministrstvu za zunanje zadeve predstavili mednarodna prizadevanja civilne družbe za mednarodnopravno ureditev pravic starejših. Odločili smo se, da tem pobudam prisluhnemo in jih skušamo vključiti v svoje zunanjepolitične aktivnosti.

Kot veste, sta mednarodna promocija ter zaščita človekovih pravic in temeljnih svoboščin ena od dolgoletnih prioritet slovenske zunanje politike. To se nenazadnje odraža v dejstvu, da je Slovenija trenutno že drugič članica Sveta OZN za človekove pravice, ki je primarno univerzalno telo za obravnavo vseh vprašanj s področja človekovih pravic. Svet za človekove pravice je l. 2013 imenoval go. Kornfeld Matte za neodvisno strokovnjakinjo za človekove pravice starejših oseb, s katero Slovenija odlično sodeluje in je bila prva država, ki jo je strokovnjakinja obiskala ter ocenila.

Menim, da je problematika zaščite pravic starejših tako specifična, da bi si zaslužila ločen mednarodnopravni instrument – po vzoru posebnih konvencij, ki obravnavajo nekatere druge ranljive skupine prebivalstva, npr. otroke in invalide. Tak pristop Slovenija zagovarja v mednarodnih organizacijah in v bilateralnih stikih z drugimi državami. Na tem področju so posebej aktivne nekatere latinskoameriške države, medtem ko je znotraj Evrope do takšnega pristopa še vedno kar nekaj zadržkov.

Slovenija je znotraj Evropske unije zagotovo najbolj progresivna pri obravnavi mednarodne ureditve pravic starejših oseb. Tudi zato smo zelo zadovoljni, ker je EU prav na vztrajanje Slovenije vključila problematiko pravic in posebnih potreb starejših v svoj akcijski načrt s področja človekovih pravic in demokracije v odnosu do tretjih držav.

Zaradi zelo različnih pogledov, ki na temo pravic starejših krožijo znotraj mednarodne skupnosti, je odprt dialog izjemnega pomena. V tej luči je naše ministrstvo pretekli mesec na Brdu gostilo mednarodno konferenco z naslovom “Starejši: pravice za okrepitev vloge starejših”. Udeležili so se je predstavniki posameznih držav, mednarodnih organizacij in civilne družbe, njen namen pa je bil identificirati dobre prakse pri obravnavi pravic starejših in opredeliti mehanizme, s katerimi bi te prakse prenesli tudi na mednarodno raven.

Ob koncu želim poudariti, da se tudi na globalni ravni krepi zavedanje o tem, da je potrebno k izzivom staranja prebivalstva pristopiti aktivno in celovito. Razvojna agenda OZN do l. 2030, ki je bila sprejeta septembra lani v New Yorku, vključuje zavezo svetovnih voditeljev, da pri zagotavljanju trajnostnega razvoja nobena skupina prebivalstva ne bo pozabljena ali zapostavljena. Prepričan sem, da nam bo z dialogom in skupnimi prizadevanji uspelo to zagotoviti tudi za starejše.

Še enkrat se zahvaljujem organizatorjem za povabilo na konferenco, vsem udeležencem pa želim uspešno in zanimivo razpravo.



Dear ladies and gentlemen,

It's a great pleasure for me to welcome you on my own behalf and on behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at today's conference.

Slovenian government - like most governments around the world - aims to create mechanisms and strategies that would address the challenges posed by the ageing population effectively and friendly to individuals.

In the introduction, I would like to highlight the very important role of NGOs, humanitarian organizations and civil society in pursuing these efforts in Slovenia. It is of great importance that the civil society links and prepares joint initiatives at international level.

Demographic changes, in most countries reflected as the ageing of population, are a global phenomenon, presenting economic, social and legal challenges to us. Addressing these issues is not simple; it requires material resources as well as broader intergenerational consensus in particular.

Due to the complexity of this problem it certainly helps the governments to receive deliberate and justified initiatives for finding solutions also from the civil society.

Thus a few years ago the representatives of the Slovenian Federation of Pensioners' Associations presented the international efforts of civil society in international regulation of the rights of the elderly to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. We have decided to embrace these initiatives, and we are trying to include them in our foreign activities.

As you know, the international promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms are one of the long-standing priorities of Slovenian foreign policy. This is ultimately reflected in the fact that Slovenia is currently a member of the Council for Human Rights for the second time, which is primary universal body dealing with all issues related to human rights. Ms Kornfeld Matte, who was appointed independent expert on the human rights of the elderly by the Human Rights Council in 2013, has had excellent cooperation with Slovenia, which was also the first country visited and assessed by her.

I believe that the issue of protecting the rights of the elderly is so specific that it would merit a separate international legal instrument – following the example of specific conventions dealing with some other vulnerable population groups, such as children and the disabled.

Slovenia advocates such an approach in international organizations and in bilateral contacts with other countries. Some Latin American countries are particularly active in this

area, while within Europe there is still some reluctance to the approach.

Within the European Union Slovenia is certainly the most progressive in addressing the international regulation of rights of older persons. That is why we are very pleased that the EU, also at the insistence of Slovenia, has included the issue of the rights and special needs of older people in its action plan in the field of human rights and democracy in relation to third countries.

Due to the very different views on the rights of the elderly, which circulate within the international community, open dialogue is of utmost importance. In this light, our ministry hosted an international conference titled "Elderly: Rights to Strengthen the Role of the Elderly" in Brdo last month. It was attended by the representatives of various countries, international organizations and civil society. Its aim was to identify best practices in addressing the rights of the elderly and to identify the mechanisms carrying these practices to the international level.

In the end I would like to emphasize that the awareness of the need to approach the challenges of ageing population actively and comprehensively is also being raised globally. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of the United Nations, adopted last September in New York, includes a commitment of the world leaders that no population group will be forgotten or discounted in providing sustainable development. I am convinced that we will, through the dialogue and joint efforts, manage to provide for the elderly, too.

Once again I would like to thank the organizers for the invitation to the conference, and wish all the participants a successful and interesting debate.

Thank you.

Spoštovani visoki gostje, predstavniki organizacije EURAG in Zveze društev upokojencev Slovenije!

V veselje mi je, da vas lahko pozdravim v imenu Ministrstva za delo, družino, socialne zadeve in enake možnosti ter prenesem lepe pozdrave ministrice Anje Kopač Mrak, ki se zaradi nujnih obveznosti ni mogla udeležiti današnje konference.

Dovolite mi nekaj besed glede tega, kako se na ministrstvu soočamo z izzivi Slovenije na področju demografskih sprememb. Le-te namreč ne zadevajo samo starejše generacije, temveč tudi mlajšo in srednjo generacijo oziroma posledično celotno družbo. In jasno je, da ima to velik vpliv še posebej na področja sistemov socialne zaščite, kot so pokojninsko zavarovanje, dolgotrajna oskrba in zdravstveno varstvo.

Podaljševanje življenjske dobe in nizke stopnje rodnosti sta najbolj opazni značilnosti demografskega razvoja v Sloveniji v zadnjih desetletjih. Slovenija je trenutno glede deleža starejšega prebivalstva sicer še pod povprečjem Evropske unije, vendar iz dolgoročnih projekcij izhaja, da bomo že leta 2025 nad povprečjem EU28. Ob koncu te demografske tranzicije čez približno 40 let pa bo Slovenija spadala v krog držav z najvišjim deležem starejšega prebivalstva v EU.

Naj ta trend dolgoživosti slovenske družbe ponazorim še s podatkom, da je bilo pred dobrimi dvajsetimi leti v Sloveniji 33 stoletnikov, dandanes pa je pri nas že okoli 250 ljudi, katerih starost presega 100 let.

Enega obsežnejših odzivov na izzive staranja na nivoju Slovenije je predstavljala Strategija varstva starejših s pomembnim podnaslovom "Solidarnost, sožitje in kakovostno staranje prebivalstva", ki je bila sprejeta 2006.

S to strategijo je Slovenija želela omogočiti pogoje za kakovostno staranje in oskrbo naglo rastočega deleža tretje generacije ter povečati solidarnost in kakovost sodelovanja in sožitja med starejšo, srednjo in mlado generacijo.

Naj omenim, da je bil na podlagi strategije ustanovljen Svet za solidarno sožitje generacij in za kakovostno staranje prebivalstva v Sloveniji, ki je skrbel za uresničevanje strategije ter za izvajanje usklajene in kontinuirane politike na tem področju. Predsednica sveta je bila predstavnica starejših.

V začetku letošnjega leta smo na pobudo našega ministrstva pričeli s pripravo novega strateškega dokumenta, ki bo predstavljal pomembno nadgradnjo obstoječih resorskih dokumentov.

Z novo strategijo bi želeli prispevati k razumevanju, da prihodnja slovenska družba ne bo "velik dom upokojencev" z nerešljivimi problemi in napetostmi med generacijami, temveč da bo to vključujoča družba vseh generacij, ki bodo med seboj sodelovale in se spoštovale.

To pa bo možno le, če bo strategija doprinesla k temu, da se bodo vsi deležniki na tem področju zavedli svoje vloge in se tudi ustrezno aktivirali. Postaja očitno, da bodo spremembe zaradi staranja prebivalstva tako velike, da samo prilagoditve obstoječih rešitev pogosto ne bodo dovolj. Potrebne bodo tudi inovativne rešitve in takšne pristope bomo z novo strategijo spodbujali.

Nedvomno bomo še vnaprej spodbujali medgeneracijske aktivnosti, kot so npr. medgeneracijsko sodelovanje, sožitje in solidarnost.

Seveda pa ne moremo mimo ustreznega obravnavanja pravic starejših. Tudi v prihodnje bomo močno podpirali pravico do socialne varnosti, ki mora biti vključena v nacionalno zakonodajo. Ne smemo si dopustiti diskriminacije na bazi starosti.

Pomembno mesto v okviru naših prihodnjih aktivnosti pa vidimo predvsem v sodelovanju vladnih in nevladnih resorjev oz. civilne družbe. Ne predstavljamo si uspešne politike odzivanja na demografske spremembe brez sodelovanja z nevladnimi organizacijami, kjer v Sloveniji zavzema posebno mesto ZDUS (Zveza društev upokojencev Slovenije). Ena od pomembnih aktivnosti ZDUS-a, ki jo sofinancira tudi naše ministrstvo, je projekt Starejši za starejše. Ravno s tem projektom je ZDUS izpostavil pomembno poglavje solidarnosti, to je znotrajgeneracijska solidarnost, ter pomembno prispeval k dopolnjevanju klasičnega sistema socialnega varstva.

V kontekstu razvoja novih strateških usmeritev je pomembno tudi spodbujanje mednarodnega sodelovanja in izmenjave dobrih praks v evropskem in svetovnem prostoru.

V Sloveniji smo se tega vedno zavedali in bomo pomen mednarodnega sodelovanja tudi v prihodnje kar se da spodbujali, zato me izredno veseli, da smo že drugič gostitelji kongresa EURAG.

Vsem udeležencem kongresa želim uspešno delo in dobro počutje v našem glavnem mestu.

Distinguished guests, the representatives of EURAG organization and the Slovenian Federation of Pensioners' Associations!

It is my pleasure to welcome you on behalf of the Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities and send greetings from the minister Anja Kopač Mrak who could not attend today's conference due to urgent commitments.

Allow me to share a few words on how the ministry has been facing the challenges in the area of demographic changes in Slovenia. They do not only affect the older generations but also the younger and middle ones, and consequently the whole society. And it is clear that this has had a major impact, especially in the field of social protection systems such as pension schemes, long-term care and health care.

Longevity and low birth rates are the most notable features of demographic development in Slovenia in recent decades. As regards the proportion of the elderly population Slovenia is currently still below the European Union average, but long-term projections indicate that by the year 2025 we will be above the EU28 average. At the end of the demographic transition, in about 40 years, Slovenia will fall within the circle of countries with the highest proportion of older people in the EU.

Let me illustrate this Slovenian society longevity trend also with the fact that twenty years ago there were 33 centenarians in Slovenia, whereas at present there are already about 250 people aged 100+.

One of the large-scale responses to the challenges of ageing in Slovenia was represented by the strategy of care for the elderly, bearing an important subtitle 'Solidarity, Coexistence and Quality Ageing' adopted in 2006.

With this strategy Slovenia has sought to strengthen the conditions for quality ageing and care for a rapidly growing share of the third generation and to increase the solidarity and quality of cooperation and coexistence between old, middle and young generations.

I should mention that on the bases of the strategy the Council of Intergenerational Solidarity and Quality Ageing of the Population in Slovenia was established, responsible for the implementation of the strategy as well as the coherent and continuous policy in this area. The President of the Council was a representative of the elderly.

At the initiative of our ministry we started preparing a new strategic document earlier this year, which will represent a significant upgrade of existing departmental documents.

With the new strategy we would like to contribute to the understanding that the future Slovenian society will not be

'a big retirement home' with insurmountable problems and tensions between generations, but rather an inclusive society for all generations, who will cooperate and respect each other.

This will only be possible if the strategy will contribute to the fact that all the stakeholders in this field will become aware of their roles and will be appropriately activated. It has become obvious that the changes due to the ageing of population are so great that only the adjustment of existing solutions is often not enough. It will also require innovative solutions, and such approaches will be promoted in the new strategy.

Undoubtedly, we will continue to promote intergenerational activities, such as intergenerational cooperation, coexistence and solidarity.

Of course, we cannot ignore the adequate treatment of the rights of the elderly. We will continue to strongly support the right to social security, which must be incorporated into the national law. Discrimination based on ageing cannot be allowed.

An important place in the context of our future activities could be seen mainly in the cooperation of governmental and non-governmental sectors, civil society respectively. We do not imagine a successful policy response to demographic changes without participation of non-governmental organizations, among which ZDUS (The Slovenian Federation of Pensioners' Associations) takes a special place in Slovenia. One of the important ZDUS activities, which is also co-financed by our ministry, is the project »Seniors for Seniors«. It is precisely this ZDUS project that has highlighted the important issue of solidarity, i.e. intergenerational solidarity, and has contributed significantly to complementing the classic social security system.

In the context of the development of new strategic directions it is also important to promote international cooperation and exchange of good practices in Europe as well as the entire world.

In Slovenia, we have always been aware of this and will be promote the importance of international cooperation in the future as much as possible. Because of this I am extremely pleased that Slovenia is hosting the EURAG meeting for the second time.

I wish successful work and well-being in our capital city to all EURAG participants.

Spoštovane udeleženke in udeleženci!

Dovolite, da vas pozdravim kot predstavnik Varuha človekovih pravic RS, ki se med drugimi svojimi nalogami prioritetno ukvarja s problematiko tako imenovanih ranljivih skupin. Različna odprta vprašanja in probleme, s katerimi smo se ukvarjali v več kot 20-letnem delu, lahko najdete v naših letnih poročilih, ki so vsa objavljena tudi na naših spletnih straneh. Zadnje letno poročilo – za leto 2015 – smo že napisali in v kratkem ga bomo predali predsednikoma republike in državnega zbora. Tudi v njem je nekaj vprašanj, ki bodo prav gotovo spodbudila široko razpravo v okviru vlade, kasneje pa v državnem zboru. Naj omenim le vprašanje neenakopravnosti starejših, ki v institucijah brez koncesije nimajo enakih pravic iz obveznega zdravstvenega zavarovanja kot drugi starejši.

Temeljni problem slovenske družbe v zadnjih letih, ki še posebej prizadene ranljive skupine, je revščina. Nizke plače ne zagotavljajo možnosti prihrankov kakor tudi ne primernih pokojnin. Zaradi tega se revščina pri starejših pokaže za še posebej kritično. Iz čedalje večje revščine starejših, ki že sama po sebi pomeni kršitev njihovih pravic, zlasti pravice do socialne varnosti in pravice do dostojanstva, pa pogosto izhajajo dodatne kršitve, ki se izkazujejo predvsem kot nasilje nad starejšimi.

Pri Varuhu pogosto obravnavamo različne oblike nasilja ožjih sorodnikov nad starimi in bolnimi, ki imajo edini sicer redne, pa vendarle nizke dohodke, s katerimi morajo preživljati tudi mlajše, praviloma brezposelne sorodnike. Starejši so čedalje pogosteje na željo sorodnikov odpeljani iz institucionalnega varstva v domačo oskrbo, kjer pa ni nikakršnega nadzora nad njihovo nego in pogoji bivanja.

Čas je, da se politika končno poenoti, kako in v kakšnem minimalnem standardu bo starejšim zagotavljala dolgotrajno oskrbo ter iz katerih virov bomo zagotavljali za to potrebna sredstva. Pri sanaciji bank so se sredstva kar hitro našla, pri skrbi za stare in bolne pa njihovih virov politiki nikakor ne najdejo.

Tudi na podlagi včerajšnjega posveta v Izoli lahko ocenim, da slovenska oblast premalo zaupa organizacijam civilne družbe, ki ne predstavljajo vedno le alternative trenutni politiki, temveč so ji lahko v veliko pomoč, saj razpolagajo z znanjem, kadri, izkušnjami, časom in predvsem voljo. Organizacijam starejših bi zato morali prisluhniti tako pri snovanju politik kot pri njihovem izvajanju. Pričakujem, da bo tudi današnja konferenca prispevala k temu cilju in vam želim uspešno delo.

Distinguished participants,

Allow me to greet you as a representative of the Human Rights Ombudsman, whose priority task, among other things, is dealing with the problem of so-called vulnerable groups.

Various open issues and problems we have been dealing with in more than 20 years of work can be found in our annual reports, all of which are also published on our website.

The latest annual 2015 report has already been written and will shortly be handed over to the President of the Republic and the National Assembly. It also contains a few issues that will certainly encourage a broad debate within the government and later in the National Assembly. Let me mention only the question of inequality among older people, who do not have equal rights under the compulsory health insurance in institutions without concession, compared to other older people.

The fundamental problem of Slovenian society in recent years, which affects vulnerable groups in particular, is poverty. Low pay does not ensure savings nor suitable pensions. As a result, poverty of the elderly appears to be particularly critical. The growing poverty of the elderly, which itself constitutes a violation of their rights, especially the right to social security and the right to dignity, often results in additional violations that are recorded primarily as violence against the elderly.

The Ombudsman often treats various forms of violence of the next of kin against the old and sick. They are the only ones to receive regular, yet low incomes, which are used for supporting their younger, mostly unemployed relatives. At the request of the relatives, older people are more and more frequently removed from institutional care to home care instead, where there is no control over their care and living conditions.

It is time that the policy is finally unified in how and to what minimum standard the elderly will be provided long-term care and provide the sources for the necessary funding. When it comes to the rehabilitation of banks the assets are quickly found, but for the care of the old and the sick resources cannot be found at all.

On the basis of yesterday's conference in Izola, I can say that the Slovenian authorities insufficiently trust civil society organizations which do not always only represent an alternative to the current policy, but can also be very helpful, because they have the expertise, personnel, experience, time and the will.

The organization of older people should therefore participate in both, the planning of policies as well as their implementation. I expect that today's conference will contribute to this aim and wish all of you successful work.

Spoštovani visoki gostje, dragi prijatelji!

Izražam vam dobrodošlico v imenu Zveze društev upokojencev Slovenije. Imamo čast, da gostimo to pomembno srečanje prav letos, ko naša federacija praznuje 70-letnico obstoja. Z nizom prireditev, tudi z današnjim dogodkom, bomo proslavili jubilej in poudarili pomen organiziranega delovanja za doseganje ciljev. V našem primeru je to doseganje rezultatov v prizadevanjih za boljši položaj in dostojanstvo starejših oseb.

Naša organizacija je članica več mednarodnih organizacij. Preko 40 let smo tudi člani EURAG. Zelo cenim njeno delovanje in to, da s svojim članstvom presega okvire EU ter tako v širšem prostoru uveljavlja svoje poslanstvo.

Tako kot EURAG je tudi ZDUS neodvisna, neprofitna, nevladna organizacija starejših, ki deluje za starejše in preko tega v aktualnih življenjskih razmerah za vse generacije. Smo največja nevladna organizacija v Sloveniji z blizu 230 tisoč člani, kar je približno polovica vseh starostnih upokojencev. Naši člani delujejo v 520 društvih, klubih in aktivih, ki se združujejo v 13 regionalnih združenj, konstitutivnih delov naše zveze.

Naši cilji so enaki ciljem EURAG in drugih seniorskih organizacij v Evropi, zato jih ne bom posebej navajala. Omenim naj le, da se posebej posvečamo življenjskim pogojem upokojencev, vključno z ohranjanjem nivoja pokojnin, in aktivnostim naših društev, katerih člani z vrsto dejavnosti poskušajo zagotoviti aktivno in kvalitetno staranje sebi in drugim starostnikom v svojem okolju.

Izvajamo vrsto nacionalnih in mednarodnih projektov. Zelo smo ponosni na projekt »Starejši za starejše«, v okviru katerega deluje skoraj 4000 prostovoljcev. Enako pomembna sta spodbujanje aktivnega državljanstva starejših in razvoj dolgožive družbe. Ljudje cenijo pravno svetovanje, pomoč pri izboljšanju življenjskega okolja in življenjskih razmer starejših, izobraževanje in različna usposabljanja, ki jih organiziramo zanje. V športnih dejavnostih, rekreaciji in kulturnih dogodkih je vključenih preko 11.600 prostovoljcev, ki jih organizirajo in vodijo.

Aktivnosti na mnogih področjih družbe in mnogo dejavnih članov ZDUS-u omogočajo vključevanje v procese sprejemanja pomembnih odločitev v državi, predvsem s posredovanjem naših stališč in predlogov. Državni organi, ki oblikujejo normativne akte, sicer redko sprejmejo naše sugestije in jih vgradijo v zakonske in izvršilne predpise – pa vendar smo na dobri poti.

Spoštovani,
ta konferenca nam vsem daje priložnost, da dobimo nekaj vpogleda, kako se z izzivi starejših spoprijemajo v drugih okoljih. Daje tudi priložnost za izmenjavo izkušenj urejanja skupnih zadev v prostoru, kjer živimo.

Veselim se vaših cenjenih prispevkov in upam, da gre za večinoma dobre prakse.

Konferenci želim uspešno delo, vam pa prijetno bivanje v Ljubljani.



Distinguished guests, dear friends,

I wish you a warm welcome on behalf of the Slovenian Federation of Pensioners' Associations. We have the honour to host this important meeting in the year in which our federation celebrates its 70th anniversary. With a series of events, including today's event, we will mark this anniversary and highlight the importance of organized activities to achieve the objectives. In our case we would underline achievements to improve the status and dignity of older persons.

Our organization is a member of several international organizations. Over 40 years we have also been a member of EURAG. We greatly appreciate its performance and the fact that the results of the work of the organization extend well beyond the borders of the EU.

Similar to EURAG, ZDUS is also an independent, non-profit and non-governmental organization working for the elderly and in the current living conditions for all generations. We are the largest non-governmental organization in Slovenia with almost 230 thousand members, about a half of which are old-age pensioners. Our members operate in 520 clubs, local associations and bodies which merge in 13 regional associations, the constituent parts of our Federation.

The goals of our Federation have the same objectives as EURAG and other senior citizen organizations in Europe, so I will not list all of them. Let me just mention a special care for the living standard of pensioners and the attention to our local associations where members try to ensure active and quality ageing for themselves and for other older people with a range of activities in their environment.

We are active in national and international projects. We are especially proud of the project "Seniors for Seniors" with involvement of almost 4000 volunteers. Of the same importance is the promotion of active citizenship of older people and the development of a long-living society. People appreciate legal advice, the help to improve the living conditions of the elderly, as well as education and different trainings we provide for them. Sports activities, recreation and cultural events are involving over 11,600 volunteers organizing and leading these events.

Being active in many fields of the society and having a lot of active members encourages ZDUS to actively participate in decision-making in the country, by contributing our views and proposals. National bodies which are preparing regulations rarely take our suggestions and incorporate them into their legislative and executive acts. But we are on the right track.

Ladies and gentlemen, this conference gives us the opportunity to get some insight into how the elderly are facing the challenges in different environments. It also gives us the opportunity to exchange experiences of dealing with the common issues of the environment we live in.

I am looking forward to hearing your valuable contributions, hopefully, mainly good practices.

I wish this conference and you all successful work and a pleasant stay in Ljubljana.

Gospo in gospodje,
minister, državna sekretarka, namestnik varuha človekovih pravic, dragi prijatelji iz EURAG-a, predstavniki medijev, spoštovani udeleženci!

Dovolite mi, da začnem z današnjo konferenco, ki jo organiziramo v okviru srečanja Generalnega Sveta EURAG. Dobrodošli v naši mestni hiši, ki nam danes prijazno ponuja gostoljubje. Dragi prijatelji, člani EURAG, dobrodošli v Ljubljani. Želim vam prijetno bivanje in mnogo lepih vtisov o naši živahni prestolnici.

Preden začnemo s programom našega dnevnega reda, bi vam rada v kratkih obrisih predstavila Slovenijo. Vem, da to ni prvo srečanje EURAG v naši državi, nisem pa prepričana, da ste uspeli bližje spoznati nekatere njene značilnosti. Rada bi poudarila nekaj ne prav vsakdanjih vidikov, o katerih ne morete brati v dnevnem časopisju.

Slovenija je ena od »starejših« držav. Na svetovni lestvici smo na 20. mestu s 23,5 % prebivalcev, starejših od 60 let, in na 45. mestu glede na GDP na osebo (23.295 \$).

Druge značilnosti socialne in makroekonomske narave so takšne, kot so značilne za majhne države, ki so ob spremembi političnih sistemov in ekonomskih politik prešle na tržno kapitalistično ureditev.

Majhna država potrebuje podoben upravni aparat kot velike in tako je stalno prisotna razprava o javnem sektorju. Smo v procesu pomembnih strukturnih reform. Sem spadajo sistem upokojevanja in ohranjanje vzdržnih pokojnin, ohranjanje zdravja z ustreznim zavarovanjem, nujna ureditev dolgotrajne oskrbe in še kaj, za vse to smo se zavezali.

Slovenija je članica številnih mednarodnih organizacij in povezav. Podobno kot države v EU imamo urejen sistem storitev socialne države in obvezna zavarovanja zanje. Za dva milijona prebivalcev veljajo enaka proračunska in bilančna pravila, med ostalimi tudi urejanje položaja starejših in upokojencev.

Država je soočena z velikimi pričakovanji volivcev na socialnem področju, čeprav nekatere značilnosti ne kažejo slabega stanja. Smo na 19. mestu na svetovnem seznamu indeksa socialnega varstva (»Social Protection Index« z vrednostjo 81,6) in na 15. mestu po lastnini avtomobilov na prebivalca. Pri tem smo uvrščeni za Švico in Nemčijo pa pred Poljsko in Velko Britanijo. 85 % prebivalcev stanuje v svojih bivalnih enotah.

Na teritoriju okrog 20.000 km² imamo 212 občin, nekatere zelo majhne. V dveh urah vožnje pridemo z visokih gora na morje. Smo med najbolj gozdnatimi pokrajinami v Evropi. Imamo tudi največjo biotsko raznovrstnost. Letos je Ljubljana

postala zelena prestolnica Evrope, več o tem boste slišali pozneje.

Zanimive so nekatere posebnosti naše kulture. V Veliki Britaniji izdajo nekaj več kot 2870 knjižnih naslovov (novi naslovi na 1 mio prebivalcev, 2013) z okrog bilijon potencialnih kupcev in bralcev. Sledita ji Slovenija in Tajvan, s katerim si delimo drugo in tretje mesto na svetu s 1813 naslovi.

V Sloveniji uporabljamo dvojino v knjižnem in govornem jeziku. Smo Slovani in živimo med germanskim in romanskim svetom. Kulturni in drugi vplivi se prepletajo in nas bogatijo. Zgodovina pa do nas ni bila vedno prijazna, kar ilustrirajo tudi številne cerkve. Imamo jih kar 2890 ali eno za vsakih 700 prebivalcev. So pa tudi del bogate kulturne dediščine. Med pomembnimi kulturnimi privlačnostmi moram omeniti arhitekturo Jožeta Plečnika, ki jo boste opazili na popoldanskem ogledu mesta.

Geografska lega in nujnost za vse več znanja prinašata obsežno obvladovanje tujih jezikov. Izobraževanje je razvito na vseh nivojih vključno s 5 univerzami. Skoraj 85 % mlade populacije predstavljajo študenti terciarnega nivoja izobraževanja. Smo športniki, planinci, odlični smučarji. Smučanje se razvija na 81 smučiščih in v 7 snežnih parkih. Ljubimo naravo in, kjer je možno, jo zaščitimo. Imamo en narodni park, tri regijske in 44 lokalno zaščitene področij.

In ne nazadnje, smo med prvimi petimi državami na svetu glede na varnost, merjeno v 148 državah po različnih kriterijih.

Slovenija ima zgodovinsko utemeljeno organizacijo raznih društev in civilnih pobud in ena od največjih takih asociacij je naš ZDUS.

Zahvaljujem se za prijazno pozornost.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Minister, state secretary, deputy ombudsman, dear EURAG friends, media representatives, dear participants, welcome at our international conference, organized by ZDUS in the framework of the EURAG General Council meeting. Dear EURAG friends welcome in Ljubljana. I wish you a pleasant stay and many beautiful impressions of this lively capital.

Before we begin with our conference program, I would like to present you Slovenia in a short outline. I know that this is not the first EURAG meeting in our country, but I believe you have not managed to get to know all of its characteristics. I have selected some interesting facts which mostly cannot be read in the daily newspapers.

Slovenia is one of the "older" societies. On a global scale it takes the 20th place with 23,5 % of the population aged 60+ and the 45th place in relation to GDP per capita (\$ 23,295).

Other features of social and macro-economic nature are those characteristic of small countries, which with the change of political systems and economic policies devolved to a market economy (capitalist) regime. (Data can be found on www.stat.si in the English language)

A small country needs a similar administrative apparatus as the big ones, therefore debates on the public sector are constantly present. We are in the process of significant structural reforms. This includes the retirement system, maintaining sustainable pensions and good health with adequate collateral arrangements, necessary long-term care, and more - we have been committed to all of them.

Slovenia is a member of numerous international organizations and associations. Similar to other countries in the EU Slovenia has regulated system services of a social country, subject to compulsory insurance. For two million of inhabitants the same budget and balance sheet rules apply, among others also the regulation of the situation of the elderly and pensioners.

The country is faced with high expectations of voters in the social field, although some features do not indicate a bad condition. We are in the 19th place of the world list of "Social Protection Index" (with the value of 81.6), and on the 15th place in the ownership of cars per capita. Thus we are ranked right after Switzerland and Germany and before Poland and Great Britain. 85 % of the population lives in their own living units.

The territory of around 20,000 km² is divided into 212 municipalities (communities), some of them very small. High mountains and the seaside are a two-hour drive apart. Slovenia is one of the most forested regions in Europe. It also has the highest biodiversity. This year, Ljubljana has become the green capital of Europe. You will hear more about it later.

There are some interesting peculiarities of our culture. The UK has a bit more than 2870 titles edited (new titles per 1 million of population, 2013) with around a billion potential customers and readers. The UK is followed by Slovenia and Taiwan with 1813 titles published. Taiwan and Slovenia share the second and the third place in the world.

Dual grammatical forms are used in written and oral form in Slovenia. We are Slavs living between the Germanic and Romance world. Cultural and other influences intertwine and enrich us. The existence of many churches illustrates that the history has not always been kind to us. We have more than 2890 churches or approximately one per 700 inhabitants. This is a part of our rich cultural heritage. In this respect I also have to mention the architecture of Jože Plečnik, which you will be able to admire on the afternoon sightseeing tour.

Geographical location and the urgency for more and more knowledge bring in the extensive use of foreign languages. Education is developed at all levels, including 5 universities. Almost 85 % of young inhabitants are students on the tertiary level of education. We are athletes, mountaineers, great skiers. We have 81 ski resorts and 7 snow parks. Our people love nature, which is protected wherever possible. We have one national nature park, three regional and 44 local protected areas.

Last but not least, we are among top five countries in the world regarding the security measured in 148 countries according to different criteria.

Slovenia has historically justified the organization of various associations and civil initiatives, ZDUS being one of the largest.

Thank you for your kind attention!

AGE Platform Europe je evropska mreža organizacij starejših in za starejše od 50 let, njen cilj pa je izražati in podpirati interese 150 milijonov starejših ljudi v Evropski uniji ter spodbujati zavest o zadevah, ki so zanje najpomembnejše. AGE je vključena v vrsto političnih in informativnih dejavnosti, da bi tako vprašanja, ki zadevajo starejše, postavila na dnevni red delovanja Evropske unije in hkrati podprla mreženje med organizacijami starejših. Naše vodilno načelo pravi, da je treba spreminjati navade, če hočemo ustvariti evropsko družbo za vse starosti, in da je treba zagotoviti takšno solidarnost med generacijami, ki bo priznala prispevek, ki ga družbi dajejo starejši ljudje.

Pred osmimi leti je izbruhnila gospodarska kriza in prinesla veliko neprijetnih presenečenj zlasti starejši generaciji, to je generaciji, ki je z desetletji trdega dela v Evropi ustvarila neizmerna bogastva in ki zato po pravici pričakuje, da bo užila svojo starost v skladu s svojim prispevkom k blaginji naroda. In ki še vedno, zvečine neopazno, prispeva k blaginji svoje družine, soseske in skupnosti.

Leta 2015 se je AGE lotila ugotavljanja vpliva politik Evropske skupnosti in njenih članic na pravice starejših. Skozi celoto naših politik smo usmerjali pozornost na problematiko sovraštva do starejših, diskriminacijo, zlorabe, družbeno izključenost in revščino, hkrati pa tudi na dobre prakse, ki postavljajo v ospredje pozitiven pogled na starost in ki obravnavajo starejše ljudi kot posameznike s pravicami, ne le kot prejemnike socialne pomoči. Opirajoč se na odzive naših članic smo opozarjali na dejstvo, da utegnejo pokojninske reforme v posameznih državah ter reforme zdravstva in dolgotrajne oskrbe povečati revščino, neenakost in družbeno izključenost starejših. Prizadevali smo si opolnomočiti starejše, da bodo sposobni braniti človekove pravice, ki jim gredo, in se v ta namen tudi učinkovito organizirati. Uspehi pri tem so utrlj pot za delo, ki naj bi ga opravili v letu 2016, to je za vključevanje pravic starejših v vse politike Evropske unije, vključno s krepitvijo sposobnosti naših članov, da spremljajo kršitve človekovih pravic v vsakdanjem življenju ter ocenjujejo uresničevanje Madridskega mednarodnega akcijskega načrta za starejše (MIPAA). Če povzamem, se je AGE Platform Europe ukvarjala: z uveljavljanjem pravic starejših na ravni Evropske unije in na globalni ravni, s kampanjami v prid starosti prijaznemu okolju, z mobilizacijo v prid starosti prijazni Evropski uniji, z Evropskim semestrom, z zadevami, ki so bile povezane s človekovimi pravicami, problemi zaposlovanja starejših, z aktivnim državljanstvom in socialno vključenostjo, s primernim dohodkom in z bojem zoper revščino v starosti, s pravicami potrošnika, z zdravim in dostojanstvenim staranjem, z dostopnostjo in standardizacijo ter celo s seniorskim turizmom.

AGE je leta 2012 sprožila kampanjo pod naslovom »Za starosti prijazno Evropo do leta 2020«, njen cilj pa je oblikovati pošteno in vzdržno družbo za vse generacije.

Kot nadaljevanje Evropskega leta 2012 za aktivno staranje in solidarnost med generacijami je program European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing (EIP AHA) ponudil AGE ključno izhodišče za promocijo starosti prijaznega okolja. Po zaslugi aktivnega vključevanja v ta proces je naši evropski organizaciji starejših uspelo okrepiti zavest o pomenu takšnega okolja in pridobiti podporo za novo akcijo, ki se imenuje Evropski sporazum o demografskih spremembah.

Leto 2015 je bilo zahtevno leto, a če strnem, je bilo tudi dvakrat bolj hvaležno. Leta 2015 se je morala AGE Platform Europe odzivati na nekatere stare probleme in poiskati številne odgovore na nove. In spet smo ugotavljali, da smo bolj uspešni, če gre predstavniška demokracija z roko v roki s participativno, če gre etabrirana politika z roko v roki s civilno družbo, vlada pa s skupnostjo. In ponovno smo lahko ugotovili, da ostaja pisano pravo, fixo aere, tisto torej, ki je zapisano v bron, kot pravi pesnik Ovid, nepopolno brez visokih etičnih standardov. Ni bilo prvič v zadnjih 15 letih, da je morala AGE Platform Europe prepričevati evropske ustanove o svoji vlogi in pomenu v procesu demokratične izmenjave mnenj in sugestij, potrebnih za celostno odločanje o zadevah. Na teh področjih je včasih težavno meriti uspeh, toda: mar je boljši in z dokazi bolj podprt uspeh teh naporov, kot je Evropski sporazum o demografskih spremembah decembra 2015 in visoko število nosilcev, ki so se vanj vključili? Prav s tem sporazumom smo ugotovili, da je starosti prijazno okolje vsem prijazno okolje in da so generacije, ki živijo vsaksebi, manj uspešne od tistih, ki živijo skupaj.

Odmevi krize se še niso poglobili, ko smo soočeni z novo platjo krize – na naša vrata trkajo begunci, ki iščejo varen pristan. Zato bi se morali zavedati – in razumeti, da živimo v enem svetu in da se človeške katastrofe, vojne, lakota, ne dogajajo več nekje daleč proč in da lahko, četudi so zemljepisno oddaljene, usodno potrkajo na naša vrata. Žrtve teh tragedij so tudi starejši ljudje in otroci. Živimo pač v enem svetu in te tragedije konec koncev nalagajo obveznosti tudi nam.

AGE Platform Europe is a European network of organisations of and for people aged 50+, which aims to express and promote the interests of 150 million senior citizens in the European Union and to raise awareness of the issues concerning older people. 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 are based on the belief that a change of attitude is needed to achieve a European society for all ages and that there is a need to promote solidarity between generations in a way older people's contributions to society will be recognized.

Eight years ago the economic crisis broke out and brought many unpleasant surprises, particularly to older generations, to those who with decades of hard work brought enormous wealth to Europe and who rightly expected to enjoy their old age in accordance with their contributions to the wealth of their nation - and who still contribute, mostly unnoticed, to the welfare of their families, neighbourhood and communities.

In 2015 AGE set out to assess the impact of the policies of EU member states on the rights of older persons. Throughout our policy work we have been drawing attention to the situations of ageism, discrimination, abuse, social exclusion and poverty, and to good practices which promote a positive vision of old age, treating older people as individuals with rights instead of welfare recipients. Based on our members' feedback, we repeatedly exposed the fact that the national reforms in pensions, health and long-term care are likely to increase poverty, inequalities and social exclusion of older people. We have strived to empower older people to be able to claim their human rights and to be effectively organized in this respect. These achievements pave the way for the work that we will do in 2016 to mainstream the rights of older people across all EU policies, including the capacity improvement of our members to monitor human rights violations at grassroots level and evaluating the outcomes of the implementation of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing. To sum up, AGE Platform Europe has worked on: advancing older people's rights at EU and global levels, campaigning on age-friendly environments, mobilisation for Age-Friendly EU, European Semester, human rights issues, older peoples' employment problems, active citizenship and social inclusion issues, adequate income and fighting against poverty in old age, consumer rights, healthy and dignified ageing, accessibility and standardisation and even senior tourism.

In 2012 AGE launched the Campaign "Towards and Age-Friendly EU by 2020" with the goal to shape a fair and sustainable society for all ages. Following the European Year 2012 for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations, the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing (EIP AHA) offered a key platform for AGE to promote age-friendly environments. Thanks to its active involvement in this process, AGE managed to raise awareness and gather

support for a Covenant on Demographic Change.

2015 was not an easy year, it was a rather demanding one. But all in all, it was twice as rewarding. In the year 2015 AGE Platform Europe had to deal with some old issues and find many answers to many new questions as well. And we once again realized that we are all better off when representative democracy goes hand in hand with the participatory democracy; when the established politics go hand in hand with the civil society and the government with the community. And we could once again realize that the written law, *fixo aere, fixed in bronze*, as Ovidius wrote more than 2000 years ago, remains imperfect without high ethical standards. Not for the first time in the last 15 years, AGE Platform Europe had to convince the renovated European institutions of its importance in the democratic exchange of ideas and suggestions, needed in the entirety of the decision-making processes. Sometimes it is difficult to measure successful achievements in these areas, but is there any better and more substantiated proof of the success of the effort than the establishment of the European Covenant of Demographic Change in December 2015 and the high number of stakeholders ready to participate? With the Covenant we realized that age friendly environment is an environment friendly to everyone, and that generations living apart are less prosperous than those living together.

The echoes of the crisis still haven't subsided, but we are already confronted with the new face of the crisis – refugees knocking on our door, looking for a safe harbour. And we have to realize and understand that we are living now in one world of human catastrophes, wars and famine, not happening somewhere far away. In spite of being geographically distant, they can fatally knock on our door. Older people and children are victims of these tragedies, too. We are living in one world and all these tragedies turned out to bear responsibilities for us, too.

VLOGA EVROPSKE FEDERACIJE STAREJŠIH V EVROPSKIH POLITIKAH STARANJA

DIRK JARRÉ
predsednik EURAG

Od ustanovitve leta 1962 se je Evropska federacija starejših, EURAG, trudila oblikovati in podpirati smernice staranja v Evropi – ne le v interesu njenih lastnih članov in starejših na splošno, temveč tudi v dobro celotne družbe. V preteklosti se je EURAG trudila politikom in drugim odločevalcem postavljati vprašanja in zahteve preko predlogov in prispevkov na pomembnih konferencah, kot je First World Assembly on Ageing na Dunaju leta 1982 in Second World Assembly on Ageing dvajset let kasneje, aprila 2002, v Madridu.

Čeprav je EURAG igrala ključno vlogo pri usklajevanju prispevkov civilne družbe do sprejetja dokumenta Madridski mednarodni akcijski načrt o staranju Združenih narodov – in bi bila lahko precej zadovoljna z njegovo vsebino – je postalo kmalu jasno, da je ključni problem v povezavi s tako dobronamernim in obetavnim planom prav v težkih mehanizmih konkretnega in trajnostnega procesa implementiranja in nadzora takšnega načrta.

Delo EURAG in njenih zaveznikov civilne družbe je bilo tako cenjeno s strani 56 držav članic UNECE, da so jim dali priložnost zaključiti berlinsko konferenco s formalno izjavo, v kateri so predstavili javnosti najbolj bistvene in prepričljive argumente za nadaljevanje dela evropskih vlad, da bi njihove zaveze postale resnične za ljudi. Za prepoznanje vključenosti in zaslug federacije EURAG je bil njen današnji predsednik Dirk Jarré imenovan v podpredsednika novoustanovljene delovne skupine “Monitoring the Regional Implementation Strategy on Ageing” pod Gospodarsko komisijo Združenih narodov za Evropo. Nekaj let po nastanku je ta delovna skupina postala vladna “Working Group on Ageing” pri UNECE, Dirk Jarré pa je bil imenovan za uradnega predstavnika civilne družbe v tej delovni skupini. Poleg tega je postal še član njenega predsedstva, kar je za sistem ZN nenavadno.

Na tem položaju, ki ga zaseda od leta 2008, je močno vpleten v vse pomembne razprave in procese odločanja med predstavniki Focal Points on Ageing iz 56 držav članic UNECE. Tako si je povečal možnosti za pomoč pri oblikovanju evropskih ministrskih konferenc o staranju, ki potekajo vsakih 5 let, da bi spremljali ustvarjeni napredek v smernicah staranja. Prav tako lahko prispeva k vsebini ministrskih konferenc, ki jo oznanjajo na teh konferencah visokega nivoja, s katerimi se vlade zavežejo k izvedbi prihodnjih dejanj kot dela procesa izvajanja Madridskega mednarodnega akcijskega načrta o staranju v okviru ZN. Poleg tega mu je bila zaupana priprava koncepta uradno zastopanih forumov civilne družbe, ki so del teh ministrskih konferenc in ki ustvarjajo vedno cenjene politične deklaracije nevladnih organizacij o evropskih smernicah staranja.

Za ustrezno opredelitev in oblikovanje skrbi in zahtev civilne družbe intenzivno komunicira z ostalimi pomembnimi evropskimi socialnimi omrežji preko socialnih platform v Bruslju (v katerem je bil več let podpredsednik) in s članstvom

dunajskega nevladnega komiteja o staranju pod ZN, v katerem je sopredsednik. Poleg tega uporablja razmišljanja in ugotovitve velikega raziskovalnega projekta Evropske unije o “Social Innovation for Active and Healthy Ageing” (ali SiforAGE), v katerem je EURAG ena izmed 18 partnerjev konzorcija in ima pomembno premostitveno vlogo. Šele pred kratkim je “NGO Committee on Ageing” skupaj s “SiforAGE” projektom objavila izjemno zbirko 31 komentarjev in priporočil v zvezi s smernicami staranja, združenih v sedem ločenih poglavij glede na različne teme pod naslovom “Priporočila za odločevalce za spodbujanje aktivnega staranja v družbi za vse starosti”. Ta publikacija je bila razdeljena med predstavnike evropskih vlad, uprave in organizacije civilne družbe in je naletela na veliko zanimanja. Že zdaj lahko vidimo, kako naši predlogi in formulacije najdejo svojo pot v druge dokumente, deklaracije in postopke odločanja. Nedvomno se bo o nekaterih delih te publikacije razglabljalo na naslednji UNECE ministrski konferenci o staranju v letu 2017, zlasti pa v ministrski deklaraciji o dodatnih obveznostih in prihodnjih ukrepih držav članic UNECE.

Ta kratka zgodba o dejavnem udejstvovanju naše organizacije, Evropske federacije starejših, dokazuje, kako pomembno je ne le prispevanje k lepim načrtom politike in deklaracijam mednarodnih organizacij, temveč tudi to, da postanemo del nepogrešljivega procesa izvajanja – z njegovim konceptualnim delom na konkretnih izbranih strategijah ter na realnih programih in ukrepih – procesa spremljanja in ocenjevanja, ki lahko privede do potrebnih prilagoditev ali celo novih usmeritev.



THE ROLE OF THE EUROPEAN FEDERATION OF OLDER PERSONS IN EUROPEAN AGEING POLICIES

DIRK JARRÉ
President of EURAG

Since its foundation in 1962, the European Federation of Older Persons, EURAG, has always endeavoured to help to shape and support sound ageing policies in Europe - not only in the interests of its own members and older persons in general but also for the benefit of society at large. In earlier times EURAG has mainly concentrated its efforts on putting forward demands and recommendations to politicians and other decision makers through position papers and contributions at important conferences like the First World Assembly on Ageing in Vienna in 1982 and the Second World Assembly on Ageing twenty years later in Madrid in April 2002.

But even though EURAG had played a key role in coordinating the civil society contributions to the “Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing” of the United Nations – and could be rather satisfied with its content - it soon became evident that the crucial issue connected to such a well-intended and promising plan will always reside in the difficult mechanisms of a concrete and sustainable implementation process and its monitoring. Thus right after the Madrid World Assembly, EURAG decided to get heavily involved in the Ministerial Conference of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, UNECE, held in Berlin some months later, in October 2001, in order to negotiate and proclaim a “Regional Implementation Strategy” for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing.

The work of EURAG and its civil society allies had been so appreciated by the 56 member states of the UNECE that they were given the opportunity to make a formal common statement at the end of the Berlin Conference in which they presented publicly most substantial and convincing arguments necessary for further action of European governments to make their commitments a reality for people. In recognition of EURAG’s input and merits, its current president Dirk Jarré was appointed vice-chairman of the newly created Task Force “Monitoring the Regional Implementation Strategy on Ageing” of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe. And when, some years later, this Task Force became the governmental “Working Group on Ageing” of the UNECE, he was nominated the official representative of civil society in this Working Group, and even became a member of its Bureau – a very unusual arrangement in the UN system indeed.

In this position, which he has held since 2008, he has been strongly involved in all the relevant discussions and decision-making processes between the representatives of the Focal Points on Ageing of the 56 UNECE member states. Thus he has extended possibilities in helping to shape the European Ministerial Conferences on Ageing that take place every 5 years in order to monitor progress made in ageing policies. He can also contribute to the substance of the Ministerial Declarations proclaimed at these high-level conferences by which governments commit themselves to realise further action as part of the implementation process of the “Madrid

International Plan of Action on Ageing” of the UN. In addition, he has been entrusted with the conceptual preparation of the officially sponsored “Civil Society Fora”, which are a part of these Ministerial Conferences and produce each time highly appreciated “Political Declarations of the NGOs” on European ageing policies and action.

To adequately identify and formulate civil society concerns and demands he communicates intensely with other relevant European social networks through the “Social Platform” in Brussels (in which he has been vice-president for many years) and with the membership of the UN “NGO Committee on Ageing Vienna” in which he serves as co-chairman. Furthermore, he uses the reflections and findings of a large research project of the European Union on “Social Innovation for Active and Healthy Ageing”, SiforAGE, in which EURAG is one of the 18 consortium partners and holds an important bridging position. Only recently the “NGO Committee on Ageing”, together with the “SiforAGE Project”, has published a remarkable compendium of 31 concrete ageing policy related comments and recommendations, grouped in seven distinct sections of particular concern, under the title “Recommendations for Decision Makers to Promote Active Ageing in a Society for All Ages“. This publication has been widely distributed to representatives of European governments, administrations and civil society organisations and has drawn a lot of interest. We can already see how our proposals and language find their way into other documents, declarations and decision-making processes. Parts of it will undoubtedly be reflected in the next UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing in 2017 and, in particular, in the Ministerial Declaration on further commitments and future action of the UNECE member states.

This brief story about the proactive engagement of our organisation, the European Federation of Older Persons, proves how important it is not only to contribute to nice policy plans and declarations of international organisations and governments, but also to make sure that one becomes a part of the indispensable implementation process – with its conceptual work on concrete targeted policies, on sound strategies, as well as on real programmes and action – and finally on monitoring and assessment that may lead to necessary adjustments or even new orientations.

Družbeni razvoj Slovenije je tako kot drugod soočen z dvema velikima izzivoma: z (i) obvladovanjem demografskega prehoda in z (ii) globalizacijo. To opredeljujemo z avtomatizacijo in industrializacijo vsega, z razvojem novih močnih svetovnih nosilcev razvoja in trgov, s klimatskimi spremembami in popolnim prehodom na e-poslovanje.

Ukvarjamo se predvsem s prvim izzivom, ne zanemarjamo pa drugega in njegovih sestavin. V svoji 70-letni zgodovini se je ZDUS opolnomočil tudi za sovplivanje na tiste politike, ki zadevajo položaj in tudi prihodnost upokojencev. Slovenija je že krepko med »starejšimi« družbami in državami. Veliko potreb take države se prenaša v javni dolg in deficit¹.

Razna – tudi »evropska leta«, kot je bilo leto boja proti revščini pa medgeneracijska solidarnost, aktivno državljanstvo in podobno so končana. Sodelovali smo, pomagalo ni kaj dosti. Sedaj velja Agenda 2020, napovedane so nove strategije in strukturne reforme. Prijatelji iz Evrope, OECD-ja in IMF-a nam svetujejo novo, takojšnjo pokojninsko reformo. Del političnih strank in stroke je za to, drugi del pa misli, da bo vse v redu do leta 2020. Podobno je z drugimi analizami in nasveti (zdravje, oskrba, stanovanje). Manjka nam enotno in razumljivo izhodišče.

V letu 2007 smo v tedanjem Svetu za medgeneracijsko sožitje predlagali, da se izdela celovita in povezana strategija upravljanja dolgožive družbe in z njo tudi utemelji koncept delovanja socialne države v prihodnosti. Ta naj zadeva vse generacije in vse oblike dela, uredi razumevanje funkcij socialne države in utrdi neko skupno vizijo. Predlog tedaj ni bil sprejet, se je pa nekaj spremenilo!

Vlada RS je 19. 1. 2016 sklenila:

Citat: *Ministrstvo za delo, družino, socialne zadeve in enake možnosti in Urad Republike Slovenije za makroekonomske analize in razvoj izvedeta aktivnosti, povezane z odzivom na izzive demografskih sprememb, v skladu s časovnico iz informacije iz prejšnje točke.*

Vlada Republike Slovenije zato predvideva aktivnosti, ki bodo predstavljale celovit odziv na izzive demografskih sprememb, in sicer tako, da se proces začne s pripravo analitskega poročila o aktualnem demografskem stanju in prihodnjih gibanjih na tem področju, na podlagi poročila pa se pripravi več strateških dokumentov, in sicer:

¹ Statistični urad RS 29.marec 2016. Primanjkljaj sektorja države je bil v četrtem četrtletju 2015 ocenjen na 169 milijonov EUR ali 1,7 % BDP, skupaj v celem letu pa na 836 milijonov EUR ali 2,2 % BDP. Konsolidiran bruto dolg države je ob koncu četrtega četrtletja znašal 31.999 milijonov EUR ali 83,0 % BDP. Povezava do celotne vsebine novice: <http://www.stat.si/StatWeb/prikazi-novico?id=5862>

- *Strategija dolgožive družbe,*
- *Resolucija o družinski politiki,*
- *Strategija migracij v povezavi z razvojem trga dela.*

Izhodišča in pričakovanja

Gradivo za vlado pripravijo ministrstva. Zanimiva so tudi za upokojene seniorje in za njihovo sovplivanje na socialno politiko, če ne drugače, vsaj takrat, ko gre za delitev ali prerazdelitev javnih sredstev. In tu ima Slovenija težavo – proračunska neskladja so znana in stalni predmet političnih obravnav. Bojazen, da bi z napačnimi razvojnimi koraki danes ogrozili prihodnost naših otrok, je sicer splošno prisotna, a se posamezne interesne skupine, med njimi tudi upokojenci, ne strinjajo z varčevanjem na »svojem dvorišču«. To je sicer znan paradoks razumevanja ciljev in funkcij socialne države tudi v EU. Nekaj težav navajamo:

- Razumljivost pojmov in dialog. Veljajo definicije iz primerljivih metod in klasifikacij, ki jih uporabljata svet in EU (Agenda 2020) in se urejajo v statističnem sistemu. Vsi se ne ravna po teh načelih in ZDUS pogosto opozarja na taka neskladja in napačna razumevanja. Posebno pismo v zvezi s tem smo poslali MDDSZEM in drugim ministrstvom.

- Druga pomembna težava: bilančni vidiki so slabo določeni, pogosto se menjajo in tako je materialni ali bilančni vidik kakšnega ukrepa ali strategije slabo pripravljen, primer so javna sredstva za vodenje socialne politike.

- Tretja težava je pomanjkanje razumevanja javnega in finančnega dogajanja ali preprosto: kaj so storitve, plačane iz javnih sredstev, in kako ter kdo jih izvaja, institucionalno javno ali zasebno.

- Interes ZDUS-a. Najbolj nas zanimajo pokojnine in zavarovanja za njih pa zavarovanja za zdravje in dolgotrajno oskrbo ter bivanje, Zato smo veseli, da je vlada v tem letu začela pripravljati analitične osnove za upravljanja dolgožive družbe StUDŽD.

Koordinirano ravnanje in obvladovanje demografskega prehoda poleg splošnih razvojnih pobud in raziskav pojava dolgožive družbe zadeva koordinacijo dela v najmanj štirih osnovnih sestavinah ali področjih:

D1 Socialna varnost, seveda so tu tudi zakonsko obvezne in druge pokojnine

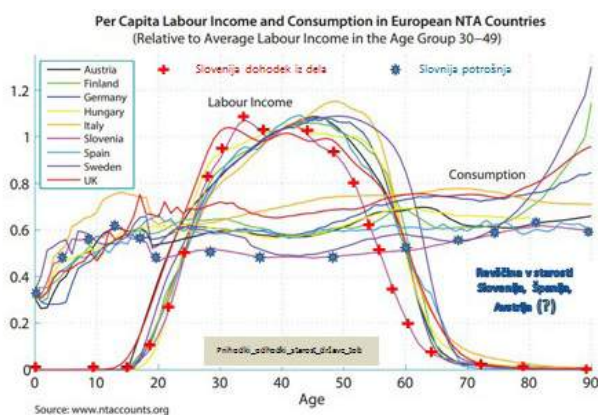
D2 Zavarovanja za zdravje in zdravo življenje

D3 Kombinacija obeh – zavarovanja za dolgotrajno oskrbo

D4 Urejanje bivalnih pogojev in fizičnega ter s tem povezanega okolja

Življenje ljudi in z njimi tudi upokojencev ni podprto samo iz javnih sredstev. Imajo še lastne dohodke, denarna in drugačna premoženja, nepremičnine in včasih, če ne praviloma, tudi močno družinsko socialno mrežo. Mislimo, da je treba v

snovanju za prihodnost in analizirati **cel sektor gospodinjstvo** in izdelati poseben analitsko in statistično podprt podatkovni model za dovolj podrobno strukturirano populacijo 50+ in posebej za upokoјence. To smo predlagali večkrat. Skoraj nujno je treba za stare države drugače opredeliti prag staranja (65+) in definicije delovno aktivnega prebivalstva.



Vsaj za D1, D2, D3, D4 potrebujemo enotno in mednarodno urejene definicije, materialne in denarne bilance in skupne napovedi, močno analitsko skupino ter ustrezne analitske podlage za danes in jutri, za leto 2020 in do 2030. V pogojih veljavnosti trdega fiskalnega pravila in sedanjega relativnega ter tudi absolutnega zmanjševanja javnih sredstev in glede na nove »demografske« dogodke, kot je letni odhod okrog 5.000 naših dobro izobraženih mlajših državljanov v tujino in prihod podobnega števila drugih ljudi, po novem verjetno tudi beguncev in ekonomskih migrantov ter podobno, pa je treba vedno misliti dinamično in urediti strokovno analitsko delo tako, da bo sproti odgovarjalo novim zahtevam in menjavi najvažnejših parametrov, tudi tekoče in vsako leto, tudi za uporabnike v civilni družbi in za njihovo soodločanje.

Torej take osnove ne potrebujemo samo za pripravo vedno novih strategij, marveč za tekoče delo v pristojnih resorjih in njihovih področjih. Predloge o taki analitski skupini in njenem financiranju smo že poslali, tudi MOP in MDDSZ.

Osrednje vprašanje tudi za ZDUS je dialog o stanju, razumevanje dejstev in upravljanja staranja, vse oprto na dejstva. Verjamemo, da bomo tu delali bolje že zaradi tega, ker bo država uredila svoje in naše zadeve v skupnih analitičnih osnovah.

Kakšna je slika stanja Slovenije v primerjavi z drugimi državami, je razvidno iz grafa; pozno se zaposlujemo, premalo časa smo v formalnem delu in prehitro gremo v pokoj. In verjamemo, da bo za leto 2020 in 2030 Slovenija vsaj nekje v sredini prikazanih držav.

Social development in Slovenia, as well as in other countries, is faced with two major challenges: (i) managing the demographic transition and (ii) globalization. These two processes are defined by automatization and industrialization of everything, emergence of new leaders of global markets and development, climate changes, and a full transition to e-commerce.

We're dealing mostly with the first challenge, but we aren't neglecting the second one either. The Slovene Federation of Pensioners' Associations has been active for seventy years, and during this time we reached a position that allows us to influence the politics that affect the situation and the future of pensioners. Slovenia is firmly placed among the "older" societies and countries. Many of the requirements of such a country are transferred to public debt and deficit¹.

Various projects, such as the European year for combating poverty, intergenerational solidarity, active citizenship etc., have been completed. Although we took part in these undertakings, the results are quite poor. Agenda 2020 is currently being carried out and new strategies and structural reforms have been announced. Friends from Europe, OECD, and IMF advise us to immediately adopt a new pension reform. Part of the political parties and the experts in this field agree, while others think that everything will be fine until 2020. Other analyses and suggestions (health, care, housing) are met with similar responses. We lack a unified and clear base.

In 2007, the Council for intergenerational harmony proposed that a comprehensive and inter-connected strategy for the management of a long-lived society should be developed, which would also serve as a future foundation for a social state. The plan was to include all generations and work forms, re-define the perception of the functions of a social state, and consolidate a joint vision. The proposal wasn't accepted, but something did change.

2. The government of the Republic of Slovenia has taken the following decision:

Quote: *"The Ministry of labour, family, social affairs and equal opportunities and the Institute of Macroeconomic Analysis and Development will prepare activities in response to the challenges of demographic changes, in accordance with the timeline from the previous item.*

¹ Statistical Office of the Republic of Slovenia, 29th March 2016. Government deficit in the last three months of 2015 was estimated at EUR 169 million (1.7 % GDP), while the deficit in the whole of 2015 was estimated at EUR 836 million (2.2 % GDP). At the end of 2015, government consolidated gross debt amounted to EUR 31,999 million (83.0 % GDP). Link to the news in Slovenian language: <http://www.stat.si/StatWeb/prikazi-novico?id=5862>

The government of the Republic of Slovenia is therefore planning activities that will form a comprehensive response to the challenges of demographic changes. The process will start with a compilation of an analytical report regarding the current demographic situation and future trends in this field, which will serve as the basis for several strategic documents:

- *Strategy for a long-lived society;*
- *Resolution on the family policy;*
- *Migration strategy to address the developments of the labour market."*

3. Background and expectations

The materials for the government are prepared by the relevant ministries. They are also interesting to pensioners and their ability to influence the social policy, at least when it comes to allocations and re-allocations of public funds. It is in this field that Slovenia has a problem – budget discrepancies are a well known issue, always at the centre of political discussions. Although the fear of threatening our children's future by taking the wrong decisions is omnipresent, some groups (including pensioners) still disagree with savings measures taking place "in their backyard". It's a well-known paradox of understanding the goals and functions of the social state that the whole EU is experiencing.

Here are some of the problems:

- The clarity of notions and dialogue. Definitions from similar methods and classifications used by the council, the EU (Agenda 2020) and the statistical system are employed here as well. Not everyone acts in accordance with these principles and the Slovene Federation of Pensioners' Associations often warns about such discrepancies and misunderstandings. A special letter regarding this issue has been sent to the minister of labour, family, social affairs and equal opportunities, as well as to other ministers.
- The other important issue is that financial aspects are poorly defined and often modified, which is the reason why the material and financial aspects of measures and strategies are often poorly prepared (public funds for the management of the social policy, for example).
- The third problem is the lack of understanding regarding the public and financial situation (which services are financed from the public funds, who is implementing them and in what manner, are they a part of the public or private sphere etc.).

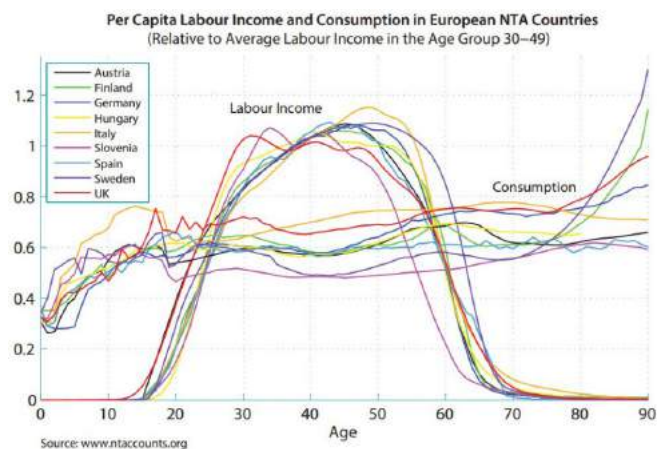
4. The Position of Slovene Federation of Pensioners' Associations

We're mainly interested in pensions and their insurances, health, long-term care and housing. That's why we're glad that this year the government has started to prepare an analytical basis for the management of a long-lived society.

Coordinated actions and management of demographic transition require not only general development incentives and research of a long-lived society, but also coordinated work of at least four basic ingredients or areas:

1. Social security with statutory and other pensions;
2. Health insurances;
3. Combination of both of the above-mentioned fields – insurances for long-term care;
4. Organization of housing and the environment.

Slovenians, including pensioners, don't live simply off public funds. They have their own incomes, savings, and real-estate, along with family social networks which are often very strong. We think that any plans for the future must include an analysis of the whole household sector, along with a special analytical and statistically supported data model for the population of people over fifty and especially pensioners, which must have a sufficiently detailed structure. We've already suggested this on several occasions. It's almost mandatory that old countries differently define the ageing threshold (65+) and change the definitions of active working population.



The above-mentioned issues require joint and internationally coordinated definitions, material and financial balances, joint predictions, a strong analytical group and an appropriate analytical basis for today and tomorrow, for the years between 2020 and 2030.

Today, when a rigid fiscal rule is being implemented, the current relative (and absolute as well) reductions of public funds are being carried out, and new “demographic” events are taking place (5.000 highly educated young people leave Slovenia each year, while the same number of people from abroad are coming to our country, now also including refugees and economical migrants), we are forced to think dynamically and organize our expert analytical work in a manner that will enable us to respond to new demands and annually change the crucial parameters, which must also apply to users in the civil sphere and their ability to influence the relevant policies.

Such an arrangement is required not only when preparing new strategies, but also when carrying out the tasks of on-going work of relevant ministries. We've already sent proposals regarding such an analytical group and its financing to the Ministry of the environment and spatial planning and the Ministry of labour, family, social affairs and equal opportunities, among other recipients.

In our opinion, the most important aspects are a dialogue regarding the situation, understanding the facts, and the management of ageing based on facts. We believe that our work will be better simply because the state will organize their and our issues on a joint analytical basis.

The situation in Slovenia compared with other countries can be seen in the chart below; we are late to find employment, we spend too little time in formal employment relationships, and we retire too soon. We believe that Slovenia will be placed somewhere in the middle of the included countries for the period 2020-2030.

DANET ali socialni kapital, ki vzdolž Donave spreminja družbeno zavzetost, delovanje in integriranost starejših

Dr. DUŠANA FINDEISEN

Slovenska univerza za tretje življenjsko obdobje,
združenje za izobraževanje in družbeno vključenost

Zakaj so organizacije starejših, za starejše in mešane organizacije potrebne? Ali lahko sprožijo družbene spremembe?

Lahko se močno poveča družbena nepravilnost. To tveganje je treba zmanjšati.

Mreža DANET v obdonavskih državah spreminja družbeno zavzetost, delovanje in integriranost starejših.

Zaključek št. 1: Številne družbene spremembe odločno preoblikujejo družbo in položaj vseh generacij in družbenih skupin. Te si morajo znova poiskati svoje mesto v družbi, a to se ne zgodi z delovanjem posameznikov. Potrebujemo organizacije in njihov družbeni kapital (ljudi, znanje, vrednote, zaupanje, delovanje). Toda, ali organizacije lahko sprožajo globoke družbene spremembe?

Zaključek št. 2: Naše organizacije ne morejo imeti globokega vpliva na družbo, imajo pa moč, da spreminjajo mentaliteto, ki vlada v različnih kulturah. Morajo imeti tudi politično moč, da lahko zahtevajo in sooblikujejo politike, pravične do starejših.

Zaključek št. 3: Ni družbenega in ni gospodarskega razvoja brez med seboj povezanih ljudi in organizacij. Obdonavske države poleg tega naravno povezuje Donava. Države imajo vrsto podobnih odprtih vprašanj, ki lahko delujejo kot spodbuda za boljše medsebojno sodelovanje.

Danube networkers (DANET) as social capital - changing older people's social engagement and integration along the Danube

Dr. DUŠANA FINDEISEN
Slovenian Third Age University,
National Association for Education and Social Inclusion

Why are organisations of older people, for older people or mixed organisations needed? Do they produce social changes?

The risk of deepening the lack of social fairness is great, it has to be alleviated.

DANET networkers for Europe in a nutshell and its impact on older people along the Danube.

Conclusion No 1: Numerous social changes radically transform the society and the position of all generations and all social groups that need to reposition themselves. This repositioning, however, cannot be done individually. Social structures and organisations are needed. Social capital is needed. But I doubt our organisations can trigger profound social changes.

Conclusion No 2: Our organizations cannot impact the societies, but they do have the power to transform the mindset in different cultures. They should have political power too as to demand and co-shape policies that will be fairer to older people.

Conclusion No3: No social or economic development is possible without people and organisations being interconnected and the Danube countries are naturally connected by the Danube. They share a number of issues which can act as stimuli towards better co-operation.

Od leta 2006 je Zveza društev upokojencev Slovenije vključena v različne evropske projekte. Kot organizacija za uporabnike, ki temelji na dobro organizirani mreži, ki pokriva celotno Slovenijo, je ZDUS-ova glavna vloga v teh projektih zagotoviti strokovno znanje in know-how za oceno potreb starejših, implementacijo raziskav in fokusnih skupin, pilotno testiranje različnih metodologij, programov, diseminacijo in izvajanje aktivnosti.

Eden izmed takšnih projektov je iCarer, ki ga financira program AAL – Active Assisted Living.

Cilj projekta iCarer je razviti novo platformo, ki bi zagotovila pomoč in oporo neformalnim oskrbovalcem¹, ki skrbijo za starejše ali ranljive posameznike, ki živijo doma in potrebujejo nego zaradi blažjih ali težjih kognitivnih okvar. Platforma je oblikovana tako, da lahko nudi oporo primarnim neformalnim oskrbovalcem, ki živijo s starejšo osebo s kognitivno okvaro v katerikoli fazi (od blažje do hujše), in oskrbovalcem, ki so dislocirani, vendar periodično nudijo oskrbo in potrebujejo pomoč.

Projekt sestavlja konzorcij partnerjev: Tunstall UK, Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, S3 Group Ireland, Nottingham Trent University, Pyxima Belgium, Spanish National Institute of Health, Nottingham City Council in ZDUS.

Pričakovani učinki iCarer platforme:

- znižana raven stresa za neformalne oskrbovalce,
- zvišana kvaliteta ponujene neformalne oskrbe,
- zvišana kvaliteta življenja neformalnih oskrbovalcev.

Delež neformalne oskrbe se hitro večja. Pričakujemo, da se bo rast nadaljevala tudi v prihodnosti, razlogi pa so naslednji:

- Demografske spremembe se bodo nadaljevale, delež starejšega prebivalstva se večja, življenjska doba se daljša in s tem potreba po dolgotrajni oskrbi.
- Spreminjajo se družbeni modeli; manjše družine, večja vpetost žensk na trgu dela. To pomeni pomanjkanje neformalnih oskrbovalcev, kar bo zvišalo potrebo po plačani oskrbi.
- Povečano bogastvo družbe stimulira pričakovanja državljanov po višji kakovosti, boljši odzivnosti in bolj uporabniško orientiranem socialno-varstvenem sistemu.
- Nove tehnologije omogočajo nudenje velikega dela dolgotrajne oskrbe doma, kar posledično pomeni reorganizacijo oskrbe.

Pozornost, posvečena neformalni negi, se je povečala tudi s posvojitvijo modelov skupnostne oskrbe, ki večino bremena oskrbe deli med družino, sorodnike in bližnje prijatelje, največkrat ženske.

Platforma iCarer nudi oporo neformalnim oskrbovalcem skozi izkušnjo virtualnega oskrbovalca, ki nadzoruje vsakdanje aktivnosti ter ponuja pomoč in usmeritev pri izboljšanju ponujene nege. Portal nudi aplikacijo za e-učenje, vsebina je urejena inteligentno, tako da neformalnemu oskrbovalcu omogoča dostop do vsebine glede na njegove preference in potrebe. Možen je tudi dostop do brskanja po knjižnici vseh vsebin.

Z uporabo najnovejše tehnologije platforma nudi prilagojene storitve, nasvete in priložnosti za učenje za neformalne oskrbovalce:

- spremljanje starejše osebe, ocena in oskrba,
- načrtovanje nege, koordinacija in beleženje,
- obvladovanje stresa in spanja,
- učenje novih spretnosti ter informacije o zdravju in zdravstvenih težavah,
- komunikacija in sodelovanje z drugimi neformalnimi oskrbovalci.

Platforma iCarer je osnovana tako, da nudi podporo individualnemu oskrbovalcu ali skupini oskrbovalcev, največkrat družinskim članom, ki skrbijo za starejšo osebo, ki živi sama.

Aktivnosti projekta so se začele že leta 2013, zaključek pa se predvideva za september 2016. Skupaj z mestnim svetom Nottinghama (Nottingham City Council) ZDUS predstavlja končne uporabnike.

Trenutno so projektne aktivnosti v fazi testiranja v praksi in validacije. Poskusne aktivnosti so razdeljene v dve fazi: pilotno testiranje in testiranje v praksi. Prvi pilotni instalaciji sta sedaj v teku, ena v Nottinghamu in druga v Ljubljani na ZDUS-u.

Priložnost za implementacijo platforme v Sloveniji gre z roko v roki s kampanjo redefiniranja dolgotrajne oskrbe kot nove celostne kategorije socialnih storitev za ovirane posameznike.

¹

OECD definicija neformalne oskrbe: nega za odvisne posameznike, kot so na primer bolni in starejši, in ni organizirana, plačana, profesionalna. Neformalna oskrba je lahko del dolgotrajne oskrbe. Dolgotrajna oskrba je kategorija storitev za osebe z zmanjšano stopnjo funkcionalnosti (fizične ali kognitivne), ki so dolgoročno odvisne od asistence pri opravljanju vsakdanjih nalog.

Since 2006 the Slovene Federation of Pensioners' Associations (ZDUS) has been taking an active part in various EU funded projects. As an end user organization, based on a well-developed network spread all over Slovenia, its main role in these projects is to provide expertise and know-how in the assessment of needs of older people, the implementation of surveys and focus groups, pilot testing of methodologies, software and other tools, dissemination and exploitation activities etc.

One of these projects is iCarer, funded by AAL – Active Assisted Living program.

The aim of the project iCarer is to develop a new integrated platform to help support informal carers¹ who look after older or vulnerable people still living at home and need care due to mild or severe cognitive impairments. The platform iCarer is designed to support primarily informal carers living with an older adult with cognitive impairment at any stage (from mild to severe) and carers who live remotely but provide care periodically and require support to improve the quality of the care they provide.

The project is performed by the consortium of partners consisting of the following participant organizations: Tunstall UK, Universidad Politécnica de Madrid, S3 Group Ireland, Nottingham Trent University, Pyxima Belgium, Spanish National Institute of Health, Nottingham City Council and ZDUS – Slovene Federation of Pensioners' Associations.

The main benefits expected from the iCarer platform are:

- Reduced level of stress of informal carers,
- Improved quality of care they provide and
- Enhanced quality of their life.

Informal care is growing rapidly. It is expected that this growth will continue also in the future for following reasons:

- Demographic changes are expected to continue; the share of older people will grow, the life expectancy will increase and with this the need for long-term care.
- Changes of social models, e.g. smaller families, increased involvement of women in the labour market. This leads to the shortage of informal carers, which in turn will raise the demand for paid care services.
- The increased wealth of society stimulates citizens' expectations for higher quality, better responsiveness and more user-oriented social and health care systems.
- New technology solutions are opening the possibility to provide a large part of long-term care at home, which in turn requires an appropriate reorganization of care.

Attention to informal care has increased also with the adoption of community care policies which place increasing reliance on care provided by family, relatives, and friends, often women.

The iCarer platform supports informal carers by means of virtual carer which monitors activities of daily care and by providing support and guidance to help them improve the care provided. The Portal offers an e-Learning application with intelligent management of content, allowing informal caregivers to access this content depending on their preferences and needs. Free browsing through the library of available contents is also possible.

Using the state-of-the-art technology, the platform will deliver the following tailored services, advice and learning opportunities to informal carers:

- Older Adult monitoring, assessment & follow-up
- Care planning, coordination and logging
- Sleep and stress management
- Learning new skills and information about health & care problems
- Communication and collaborating between ICs

The iCarer Platform is designed to support either an individual or a team of carers, often family members, supporting an older adult living on his/her own.

The activities started in 2013 and the plan is to accomplish the project in September 2016. In this partnership ZDUS, together with Nottingham City Council, represents end users - final beneficiaries.

Currently the project activities have reached the phase of field trials and validation. The trial activities will be performed in two steps: the pilot trial and field trial. The first two pilot installations are now being in progress, one in Nottingham with NCC and another in Ljubljana with ZDUS.

The opportunity for the implementation of the platform in Slovenia goes hand in hand with the ongoing campaign to redefine the long term care as a new comprehensive category of social service dedicated to the disabled.

¹

OECD definition of the informal care: the care given to dependent persons, such as the sick and elderly, outside the framework of organized, paid, professional work. Informal care can be considered as a subset of long-term care. Long-term care is defined as a full range of services needed by people with reduced level of functional ability (physical or cognitive) and are therefore long-term dependent on the assistance in implementing daily tasks.

Sloveniji je demokratizacija prinesla neusmiljeno privatizacijo skupne lastnine z množično brezposelnostjo, ki so ji sledili val predčasnega upokojevanja, zmanjševanje pokojninskega prispevka delodajalcev na enega najnižjih v EU, odprava davčne kontrole zasebnih družb in zmanjševanje pokojnin. Razmerje med povprečno plačo in povprečno pokojnino se je zmanjšalo z 78,4 v letu 1992 na 61,0 v letu 2014. Novi zakon o socialnih bonitetah je dvignil kriterije za socialne prejemke. Državna pokojnina, ki so jo prejeli tisti, ki niso bili nikoli zaposleni (večinoma ženske), so pa dosegli starost 65 let, je bila odpravljena, število prejemnikov socialnih prejemkov za tiste z nizkimi pokojninami med starejšimi se je zmanjšalo za 68 %.

Večina starejših ljudi v Sloveniji ni srečnih. Najbolj prepričljiv dokaz mentalnega stanja starejše populacije v Sloveniji so samomori starejših moških. Od leta 2000 je stopnja samomorilnosti padla v vseh starostnih skupinah in obeh spolih, razen pri moških, starejših od 69 let. V skupini 70 do 79 let je stopnja samomorov ostajala med 5 in 6 na 1.000 moških iste starostne skupine, pri tistih 80+ se je v obdobju 2000–2014 dvignila od 6 do 10 na 1.000 oseb.

Novi politiki v Sloveniji ne prepoznajo preteklih dosežkov starejših ljudi, ki so uspeli zgraditi visoko učinkovito socialno državo po vojni, ne prepoznajo naše sedanje pomoči svojim potomcem, naše udeležbe v nacionalni ekonomiji, naše udeležbe v lokalnih skupnostih in našega prostovoljnega dela ne vrednotijo ustrezno. 50 % starejših žensk je ogroženih zaradi revščine. Mnogo otrok staršev z nizkimi pokojninami je nezaposlenih in starši jim ne morejo pomagati. Nasprotno, vedno več starejših ljudi z nizkimi pokojninami je odvisnih od milosti svojih potomcev. V revnih družinah je tako v porastu tveganje za nasilje nad starejšimi. Možnosti za zaposlitev upokojencev so majhne, zato si svojih dohodkov ne morejo izboljšati. Nova neoliberalna elita ne potrebuje starejših strokovnjakov, zato se ti počutijo odrinjene, neposlušane in izobčene iz družbe.

Zveza društev upokojencev Slovenije (ZDUS) je že 70 let nevladna organizacija, ustanovljena in vodena s strani upokojencev. 50 % vseh upokojencev in 80 % starejših od 70 let je članov ZDUS. Pokriva celoten teritorij Slovenije, združuje 500 lokalnih društev in 13 regionalnih zvez. Medtem ko lokalna društva izvajajo predvsem programe aktivnega in zdravega staranja in so bolj ali manj vključena v lokalne skupnosti, se od vodstva ZDUS pričakuje, da se bori za boljše pokojnine, dostopnost do zdravstvene oskrbe, boljše socialno pokrivanje revnih družin, lobiranje za boljši odnos politikov do starejših oseb in za boljšo resocializacijo starejših.

V zadnjih osmih letih je vodstvo ZDUS spoznalo, da obiskovanje političnih strank, celo stranke »upokojencev«, parlamentarnih skupin, ministrov, celo predsednika vlade in predsednika države s strani vodilnega tima ZDUS, ni imelo

veliko učinka. So prijazni, razumevajoči, obljublajo marsikaj, rezultatov pa je zelo malo. Člani parlamenta so po izvolitvi izgubili kontakt s svojimi volivci in hitro postali žrtve ekonomsko politične elite. Volivci niso zadovoljni. Več kot 50 % parlamentarcev je v parlamentu samo en mandat, ker ljudje z njimi niso zadovoljni. Kakorkoli, politiki so sprejeli Zakon o volitvah v parlament na tak način, da bodo lahko obdržali v parlamentu tiste, ki so ubogljivi in ne delajo problemov, ko glasujejo pod pritiskom svojih vodij. Ugotavljamo, da poslanci potrebujejo več podpore volivcev, da bi bili bolj neodvisni in bi se zanašali nase.

Zaradi vsega tega smo v ZDUS napravili načrt rednih obiskov poslanskih skupin v njihovih terenskih pisarnah, da bi jim redno prinašali predloge, potrebe in zahteve starejših ljudi. Projekt je tekel eno leto, financiral ga je evropski socialni sklad za razvoj NVO (130.000 eur).

Aktivnosti je koordiniralo 1,5 zaposlenega tehničnega osebja, vse ostalo so opravili prostovoljci.

Za začetek smo ugotovili, da 15 od 90-ih poslancev nima svoje pisarne na terenu. Večina tistih, ki jo ima, je ne obiskuje redno. Nekateri so hoteli, da jih obiščemo v parlamentu, ne v njihovih pisarnah na terenu. Imeli smo tudi smolo. V sredini projekta je parlament zaključil delo in tako štiri mesece nismo mogli imeti kontakta s poslanci.

Motivacija upokojencev za aktivno državljanstvo

Pripravljenih je bilo 17 okroglih miz za vodje lokalnih društev upokojencev, da bi jih zainteresirali za ustanovitev skupine za obisk poslancev.

Obiskali smo 102 lokalna dogodka s približno 40.000 udeleženci in jih motivirali za vzpostavitev stikov z lokalnimi poslanci.

Rezultati

- V regionalnih zvezah je bilo ustanovljenih 17 regionalnih skupin strokovnjakov za pomoč obiskovalcem s temami, zahtevami in nasveti.
- Upokojeni strokovnjaki so pripravili pripombe na 34 zakonov in strategij, ki so bile v parlamentarni proceduri v letih 2011 in 2012. Ves ta material je bil objavljen v našem mesečnem biltenu, na naši spletni strani, distribuiran je bil tudi lokalnim društvom, odgovornim za obiske poslancev.
- Ob koncu projekta so imeli vsi poslanci svoje pisarne na terenu odprte.
- Naši prostovoljci so v devetih mesecih opravili 178 obiskov poslancev. 23 od 90-ih jih ni bilo obiskanih, deloma zato, ker niso imeli časa, deloma pa zato, ker mi nismo našli obiskovalcev.
- Velika večina poslancev je bila prijazna, sprejeli so naše sugestije in zahteve, a mnogi so komentirali: „Razumem vas in vas podpiram, toda v moji parlamentarni skupini

- moram glasovati v skladu z odločitvijo, sprejeto v skupini.“
- Vsak mesec so bili rezultati projekta objavljeni v našem biltenu in na naši spletni strani, poslani so bili tudi Slovenski tiskovni agenciji.

Projekt se je ustavil po 12 mesecih, saj nadaljnjega financiranja nismo dobili. Obiski pa so se končali nekaj mesecev pozneje. Filozofija rednega obiskovanja poslancev ni bila sprejeta pri večini naših članov.

Kaj je šlo narobe?

Slovenija je majhna, toda v stanju organizirati 520 lokalnih društev za delovanje v eno smer. Potrebna bi bila zaposlitev mladih profesionalcev v 13 pokrajinskih zvezah, da bi spremljali izvajanje ter vzdrževali kontakte s skupinami strokovnjakov in z mediji. Za to ni bilo denarja.

Redno izobraževanje in motiviranje vodij lokalnih društev in koordinatorjev programa o potrebah aktivnega državljanstva ni bilo mogoče zaradi pomanjkanja finančnih sredstev.

Skupine prostovoljcev, ki naj bi obiskovale poslance, niso bile oblikovane. Obiske so opravili aktivisti - vodje društev.

Projekt ni pritegnil medijske pozornosti. Nismo imeli dovolj virov, da bi najeli profesionalno podporo za kontakt z mediji.

Obiskovalci so bili razočarani nad odzivom poslancev, dobili so občutek, da se ne more nič narediti, niso razumeli, da je to dolgoročen proces.

Tudi če so poslanci njihovi sosedje, ljudje spremenijo odnos do njih, ko stopijo v parlament, imajo distanco do razgovora z njimi.

Za vse te aktivnosti bi potrebovali veliko več denarja. A kako dobiti več denarja od tistih, katerih delo poskušas spremeniti?

In za konec glavno vprašanje, ki še ni bilo razrešeno: Kako motivirati jedro starejše populacije, da bi se borili za svoje pravice?

THE ATTEMPT FOR MOBILIZATION OF OLDER PERSONS IN SLOVENIA FOR ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

Dr. MATEJA KOŽUH NOVAK in ANJA ŠONC
Slovenian Federation of Pensioners' Associations

In Slovenia, democratic change has brought ruthless privatization of common property with massive unemployment, followed by a wave of premature retirement, cutting pension's tax of employers to one of the lowest in the EU, the abolition of fiscal control of private companies, and the downsizing of pensions. The ratio between the average salary and the average pension fell down from 78,4 in 1992 to 61,0 in 2014. New law on social benefits has raised the criteria for social allowances. State pension, received by those at the age of 65 who had never been employed (mostly women), was abolished, social allowance for those with small pensions diminished the number of recipients among older people (mostly women) for 68 %.

The majority of older people in Slovenia is not happy. The most convincing evidence on the mental status of older population in Slovenia are suicides among older men. Since 2000, suicide rate has dropped in all age groups and both sexes except for the group of men, older than 69. In the group 70 to 79, the suicide rate remains between 5 and 6 per 1,000 men of the same age group, whereas in group 80+ it increased from 6 to 10 per 1,000 in the period from 2000 to 2014.

New politicians in Slovenia do not recognize the past achievements of older people who managed to build a highly effective social state after the war. They do not recognize our current assistance to our offspring, our participation to the national economy, our participation in local communities and do not appreciate enough our voluntary work. 50% of older women are endangered by poverty. Many children of parents with low pensions are unemployed and the parents cannot help them. On the contrary, when sick and disabled, more and more older people with low pensions depend on the mercy of their offspring. In poor families, thus, the risk of violence against older people has been increasing. Pensioners have very few possibilities for paid work, which is why they are unable to improve their incomes. The new neoliberal elite does not need older experts, who consequently feel relegated, not listened to, excluded from the society.

Slovene Federation of Pensioners' Associations (ZDUS) is a 70-year old NGO, established and run by retired people. 50% of pensioners and 80% of older than 70 are members of ZDUS. It covers the whole territory of Slovenia, joining 520 local units and 13 regional federations. While local associations run mainly programs of active and healthy ageing and are more or less involved in local community, it is expected from the leadership of ZDUS to fight for better pensions, access to health care, better social coverage of poor families, lobbying for better attitude of politicians toward older people and for (re)socialisation of older people.

In the past 8 years, the leadership of ZDUS has recognized that visiting the political parties by ZDUS' representatives, such as the Party of Pensioners, parliamentarian groups, ministries

as well as the prime minister and the president, does not have much effect. They are always nice, understanding, willing to make promises but with very few results. Once elected, MPs lose contacts with their voters, becoming the victims of political/economic elite. The voters are not satisfied. More than 50% of MPs stay in the Parliament only for one mandate, as people are disappointed with them. However, top politicians have adopted Parliamentary Elections Law in order to be able to keep those in the Parliament who are obedient, not making problems when voting under the pressure of their leaders. We have recognized that MPs need more support of voters to be more independent and self-reliant.

Therefore, ZDUS had made a plan to organize regular visits of groups of pensioners to the field offices of MP's, regularly bringing them suggestions, expressing the needs and requests of older people. The project was running for one year and was financially supported by the EU (EU social fund for the development of NGOs, 130.000 €). The activities were coordinated by 1.5 employed administrative staff; all others were working voluntarily.

At the beginning, we found out that 15 out of 92 MPs did not have a field office. The majority of those who had it, did not visit it regularly. Some wanted to be visited in the Parliament, not in the field office. We also had some bad luck. In the middle of the project, the Parliament was dissolved, therefore, we were not able to contact MPs for four months.

Achievements:

- The motivation of pensioners for active citizenship
- 17 round tables were prepared for the leaders of local associations of pensioners, motivating them to establish the groups of visitors of MPs,
- 102 local events were visited with approximately 40.000 participants, motivating them to make contacts with local MPs.

Results:

- In the Regional federation of pensioners 17 regional expert groups were established, offering help to visitors with various topics, requests and advice;
- Retired experts prepared comments on 34 laws and strategies, which were being discussed in the Parliament in 2011 and 2012. All this material was published in our monthly bulletin and on our web page; it was also distributed to the local associations, responsible for the visits of MP's.
- By the end of the project all MPs opened their field offices.
- In 9 months our volunteers made 178 visits to MPs. 23 out of 92 MPs were not visited at all, partly because they did not have time and partly because we could not find any members to visit MPs.

- The great majority of MPs were nice, willing to accept our suggestions and requests, but many gave comments such as: “I understand and I support you, but in my parliamentary group I have to vote according to the decision made in my group”.
- The results of the project were published in our bulletin and on the web page every month and were also sent to Slovene Press Agency.

The project stopped after 12 months as we did not receive further financing. Visits to MPs finished some months later. At the end we had to realize that the philosophy of regular visits of MPs was not accepted by the majority of our members.

What went wrong?

- Slovenia is small but still able to organize all 520 local associations in the same direction. In order to achieve that, young professionals should be employed in all 13 regions to monitor the progress and to keep contacts with expert groups and media. There was not enough money available;
- Regular education and motivation of leaders of local associations and of local coordinators of program on the need for active citizenship was not possible due to financial scarcity;
- The groups of volunteers, which should regularly visit MPs, were never established. Visits were done by activists and leaders of local associations.
- The project did not attract any media attention. We did not have enough resources to hire professional PR experts.
- Visitors were disappointed by the attitude of MPs, they got the feeling that nothing could be done; they did not understand that this was a long-term project.
- Even if MPs were their neighbours, people changed the attitude toward them as they entered the Parliament. They became reserved and reluctant to talk to them;
- For all these activities much more money was needed; how to get the money from those whose work you are trying to improve?

The main question which was not yet resolved is how to motivate the core of older population to fight for their rights.

STAREJŠI POTREBUJEJO NOVO ZNANJE – IZOBRAŽEVANJE STAREJŠIH JE DEL VSEŽIVLJENJSKEGA IZOBRAŽEVANJA IN DELOVANJA

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zdrženje za izobraževanje in družbeno vključenost



Študijski krožek Človek in njegove pisave

Foto: arhiv UTŽO Ljubljana



Fotografski študijski krožek

Foto: Iva Gasar

Starejši in družba

Dolgoživa družba je prednost in dosežek razvoja. Tretje življenjsko obdobje traja 30 do 40 let. Zaradi velikih sprememb je izobraževanje starejših nujni del vseživljenjskega izobraževanja. Vseživljenjsko učenje in vseživljenjsko delo sta dva vzporedna, tesno povezana procesa sodobne informacijske družbe, ki omogočata dejavno starost in medgeneracijsko sodelovanje. V primerjavi s preteklostjo se današnja podoba starosti bistveno spreminja. Dejavna starost je pogoj za družbeno vključenost. Stari način gledanja na starost (družbeni stereotip) ne ustreza več današnji stvarnosti. Vključujoča družba v dopolnjujočem (so)delovanju zajame vse generacije. Ko razpravljamo o eni generaciji, moramo o vseh treh hkrati.

Značilnosti tretjega življenjskega obdobja

V tretjem življenjskem obdobju se ljudem zmanjšajo zunanji družbeni pritiski (služba, družina, javne funkcije), poveča se

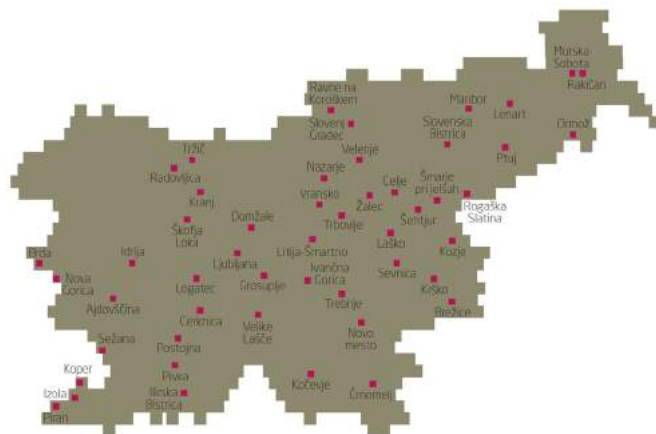
osebna svoboda in možnost za osebno samouresničevanje. Obdobje po upokojitvi je čas, ki ga lahko končno namenimo sebi, svojim interesom, željam in potrebam. Ljudje si takrat zaželijo, da bi počeli, česar prej niso mogli, a čutijo svoje neuporabljene sposobnosti. Za to, da bi počeli nove stvari, pa se morajo še česa naučiti. Vračajo se k svojim neuresničnim željam.

Človek potrebuje strukturiran čas. Z upokojitvijo izgubi svojo strukturo časa, cilje, socialno pripadnost in številne medosebne odnose. Prirojene čustvene potrebe ostanejo nezadovoljene, če ne vzpostavi nove strukture časa, če si ne poišče novih ciljev. Izpraznjeno družinsko gnezdo odpira pri starejših veliko potrebo po novih medsebojnih odnosih. Utrjena socialna struktura, ki deluje v okolju, kot je denimo mreža Slovenske univerze za tretje življenjsko obdobje, daje objektivne možnosti za ponovno socialno vraščanje starejših. Ljudje se povezujejo ob neki dejavnosti, pri nas se to dogaja pri izobraževanju. Z upokojitvijo izgubljen socialni status si ponovno oblikujemo na nov način.

Slovenska univerza za tretje življenjsko obdobje

Za seboj ima že 32-letno tradicijo in razvoj. Vključuje 51 UTŽO v 50 krajih Slovenije s približno 21.000 starejšimi študenti (od 55 do 95 let starosti). Je nevladna organizacija v javnem interesu. Odziva se na osebne in družbene potrebe po izobraževanju starejših.

Po podatkih EUROSTAT-a je to najbolj razvit sistem izobraževanja starejših v Evropi. Izhaja iz ljudi in je namenjen za ljudi. Študij poteka vse študijsko leto. Študijski krožki (12–15 oseb) so osnovna enota delovanja vsake UTŽO. Vodi ga profesionalni mentor in animator (eden od študentov). Poleg učnih uspehov zaznamo, da se v študijskih krožkih odvija pomemben del psihosocialnega življenja starejših študentov.



Mreža Slovenske univerze za tretje življenjsko obdobje

Cilji izobraževanja starejših – novo znanje in delovanje

Samo želeli in vedeti ni dovolj. Tudi ni dovolj, da ima nekdo bogate izkušnje. Šele takrat, ko človek z znanjem in izkušnjami lahko nekaj počne, se znanje družbeno uveljavi. Zato imajo študijski programi dvojni cilj: novo znanje in delovanje (razvijanje osebne dejavne starosti). Starejši imajo močno primarno motivacijo, osebno vedoželjnost. Uresničujejo svoje sanje, da z novim znanjem nekaj počnejo, srečajo nove ljudi. Medgeneracijsko povezovanje nastaja ob nekaterih dejavnostih.

Dvojni cilj – da bi to znal (znala) in da bi s tem kaj počel (počela), je v študijskih krožkih prisoten od samih začetkov in se vsi vpleteni zavestno trudijo, da študentje pridejo do novih znanj in jih tudi uporabljajo (druga kariera, umetniško ustvarjanje, novinarstvo, prostovoljstvo, vrtnarjenje, hortikultura, sodelovanje v družinskih podjetjih in podpora za doseganje kvalitete izdelkov, računalništvo, avtorsko delo). Velika ovira pri razvijanju dejavne starosti je nasprotujoča zakonodaja, ki starejšim odvzema ustavno pravico do dela, čeprav človek ostaja do smrti tudi »homo economicus«. Pri nas, žal, z odvzetimi javnimi možnostmi, kar je velika ovira za nastajanje sodobne podobe (dejavne) starosti.

Za radovedneže ni nikoli dovolj znanja

Značilnosti izobraževanja starejših kažejo drugačno podobo izobraževanja, kot jo vidimo pri mlajših generacijah. Starejši študentje ostajajo v študijskih krožkih tudi 22 let in več. Vedoželjnim ni nikoli dovolj znanja. Učenje je življenjski proces. Še vedno se lahko naučimo kaj novega. In ravno po tem principu delujejo naše UTŽO.

Pri izobraževanju imajo ljudje možnost, da zadovoljijo tudi svoje prirojene psihosocialne potrebe. Te možnosti starejši drugje običajno nimajo. Človek se razvija in ohranja svoje sposobnosti, ohranja vitalnost ob ljudeh in z ljudmi, nikoli pa v osamljenosti. Drugi ljudje postavljajo človeku meje in ob njih se razvija (pomisli še na nove stvari, dobiva širino za odločanje in delovanje, čuti oporo drugih, narašča in upada osebna samozavest in kompetentnost, socialna pripadnost itd.). Študijski krožek deluje kot primarna socialna skupina (družina). Tega »socialnega gnezdeca« človek noče zapustiti, ker v družbi razen društev upokojencev še ni drugih socialnih struktur, kjer bi starejši zase našel, kar potrebuje – drugo »socialno gnezdece«.

OLDER PEOPLE NEED NEW KNOWLEDGE – EDUCATION OF OLDER PEOPLE IS A CONSTITUENT PART OF LIFELONG EDUCATION AND ACTIVE AGEING

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Study circle "Men and their handwriting"

Photo: archive UTŽO Ljubljana



Ljubljana U3A's photo study circle

Photo: Iva Gasar

Older people and society

The third age lasts up to the age of thirty to forty. Ageing society should be considered as an advantage and, without a doubt, a civilisation achievement. Due to major social changes within information society, the education of older people has become a constituent part of lifelong education. Lifelong education and learning and lifelong working are parallel, closely interconnected processes, enabling older people to age actively and co-operate with younger generations. In comparison to the past image of old age, today's image is considerably different, which is unavoidable, since the middle generations had to have some of their heavy burden taken off. Thus ageing actively makes it possible for the individuals to remain or to become included in a society. The out-dated ways of looking upon old age (social stereotypes) do not correspond to the today's reality and inclusive society should cover all generations. By all means, older people cannot be left behind. This leads us to conclusion that when discussing one generation, one has to discuss other generations as well.

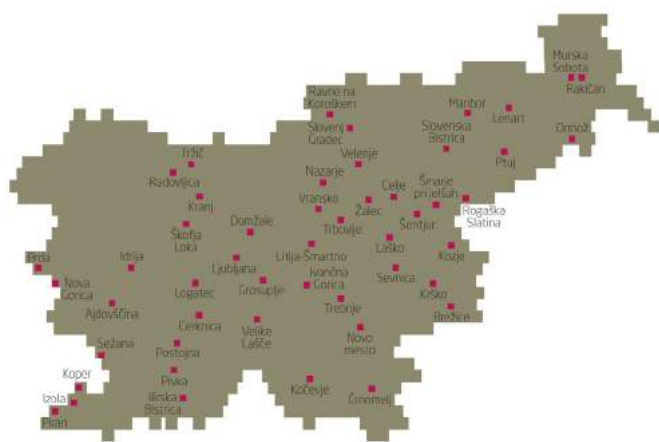
Characteristics of the third age

In the third age, social pressure put on generations in the middle (job, family, public functions) is decreasing; the individual freedom is greater, possibilities for self-actualisation more numerous. Following the retirement, one disposes freely of one's time. One can employ it as one pleases, in compliance with one's own interests, wishes and needs. After being retired, older people crave for activities to which they did not have access before. They keep returning to their unfulfilled wishes and plans, feeling they have dormant abilities. In order to take on new activities, learning is indispensable. One of the many basic needs one has is structuring one's own time. Upon retirement, the time structure cease to be imposed, one has to create one's own structure. Upon retirement, one's aims, social relationships from job and social belonging become lost. One's inborn emotional needs are not met if one's time is not structured and if new aims are not set. Empty family nest impacts one's need to meet new people and create new relationships. A well organised social structure, like Slovenian Third Age University, offers older people possibilities to remain included and to eventually become re-included in the society. Meaningful activities, like education, act as social glue. Social status lost upon retirement is now getting shaped in a different way.

Slovenian Third Age University

Founded back in 1984, Slovenian Third Age University has a long tradition and has experienced an intensive development. Currently it is a network of 51 universities in 47 localities spread all over the country with approximately 21.000 students from the age of 55 to 95. Slovenian Third Age University is a nongovernmental organisation with a clearly defined public mission. It is supposed to meet individual and social needs concerning older people's education.

According to EUROSTAT data, participation in older adult education in Slovenia is high, ranking second among the 18 studied countries. Older adult education at Slovenian Third Age University is a response to the needs and wishes of older students and society. One might say that it comes from older people and is meant for them. Studies last the entire year of study. Study circles (12 – 15 members) are a basic format and unit in each U3A. They are monitored by professionals, mentors, but also by students called animators. In addition to study attainments, there are also important psycho-social processes going on in these study circles. Slovenian Third Age University is considered to be an important social innovation enabling about two thousand professionals of all ages to pass their knowledge to older people and to construct new knowledge with them through reciprocal and mutual learning in study circles. It helps young professionals to profit from the knowledge of their older, more experienced colleagues and students, experiential or professional knowledge. At Slovenian U3A knowledge is a kind of "circulating capital".



Slovenian Third Age University Network

elsewhere in other settings. Older people keep experiencing personal growth, maintain their abilities and vitality when they are surrounded by other people and act together with them. Solitude is not an advantage in this respect. Other people set limits, thus helping the person develop (to think about new things or to think differently about old things). Being supported by the others, older men and women improve their ability to make decisions and act. Their self-confidence and competencies and their sense of social belonging regularly increase or decrease. Study circles function as a primary social group (family), a safe “social nest” which older students are not ready to leave - since in the society, except for associations of pensioners, there are few social structures where older people can find what they need - »a new social nest«.

Aims of older adult education – gaining new knowledge and active ageing

Wishing to have new knowledge is not enough, nor is it enough to have rich experience. Knowledge and experience get socially recognised only if they can be utilized. Therefore, study programmes pursue a double aim: gaining new knowledge and being active (development of individual active ageing). Older people display high primary motivation and eagerness to learn. Their wish is to utilize their knowledge and to meet new people. Intergenerational co-operation is possible only when based on common gaining of the constructing knowledge.

The multifold aim: to know, to know how to do it and to be able to apply knowledge has always been present in study circles. Therefore, all those who are involved in older adult education try to make older students’ knowledge applicable (second career, creative arts, journalism, gardening, horticulture, participation in family companies, working on help lines, support for obtaining quality products in family companies, ICT, author work). The development of active ageing is considerably hindered by out-dated and colliding laws, limiting older people’s constitutional right to work, notwithstanding the fact that one remains »homo economicus« until their death. With older people’s possibility to work being limited, there are huge obstacles for shaping a new old active ageing image.

For curious minds, there is never enough knowledge

Characteristics of older adult education differ much from those of younger generations’ education. Older students may remain in study circles up to twenty-two years and more. Those who have a curious mind, never quench their thirst for knowledge. Since learning is a life-long process, one can learn new things any time. U3As functions on this presumption.

Being involved in education, older people can meet their inborn psycho-social needs, the type of needs that cannot be met

Analiza različnih projektov samopomoči med starejšimi razkriva, da starejši radi sodelujejo v različnih prostovoljnih aktivnostih za medsebojno pomoč starejših.

Vključenih je bilo 3.419 upokojenih prostovoljcev, ki so opravili 642.959 zabeleženih ur prostovoljnega dela.

Cilj projekta je izvajanje vzajemne pomoči med starejšimi v vseh lokalnih skupnostih v Sloveniji. Pomoč nudijo prostovoljci lokalnih društev upokojencev, ki so nevladne organizacije. Pri tem na različne načine sodelujejo z javnimi službami s skupnim namenom: podpora in pomoč starejšim doma. Na ta način se zagotavlja celosten pristop k reševanju mnogih težav, ki zadevajo starejše.

Cilji projekta so:

- uporaba znanja, izkušenj in energije starejših v organizaciji medsebojne pomoči,
- izboljšanje prenosa informacij med vladnim in nevladnim sektorjem glede potrebne pomoči,
- nevladni sektor na ta način postane partner javnim ustanovam pri njihovi skrbi za kakovost življenja starejših doma,
- izboljšanje sodelovanja med nevladnimi organizacijami in lokalno skupnostjo,
- izboljšanje sodelovanja med javnimi službami in NVO,
- pregled nad porabo javnih sredstev, namenjenih za starejše,
- povečanje vpliva civilne družbe pri sprejemanju odločitev o zadevah, ki se tičejo starejših.

Vsebina in aktivnosti programa:

- prostovoljci – člani društev upokojencev obiskujejo vse starejše od 69 let, ki živijo v njihovem okolju,
- s pomočjo vprašalnika ugotovijo, kakšne so potrebe obiskane osebe in če že prejema druge oblike pomoči,
- zbrane podatke (po potrebi) posredujejo različnim javnim ustanovam – lokalni skupnosti, centru za socialno delo, zavodom za oskrbo na domu in drugim izvajalcem pomoči na domu, tako zasebnim kot nevladnim organizacijam,
- organizacija pomoči med člani društev upokojencev – družabna srečanja, svetovanje, različne vrste laične pomoči, opravki in manjše domače pomoči itd.,
- društva organizirajo različne aktivnosti v dnevni centrih, pogosto z roko v roki z lokalnimi skupnostmi,
- prostovoljci redno obiskujejo starejše, ki to želijo, in tudi tiste, ki jim pomagajo drugi, tako preverjajo zadovoljstvo in ustreznost prejete pomoči,
- zbrani podatki so pomembni tudi za lokalno skupnost, saj jih lahko koristno uporabijo za ukrepe, ki zadevajo starejše.

Od leta 2004 do 2014 se je v projekt vključilo preko 300 lokalnih društev upokojencev, prostovoljci so obiskali preko 698.298 starejših, ki živijo doma, organizirali so 206.390 različnih pomoči za starejše.

The analyses of various projects of mutual help among older people reveals that older people enjoy getting involved into different volunteer activities to help other older people. One of such projects is called »Elderly for a Better Quality of Life at Home«, carried out by Federation of Pensioner Associations of Slovenia.

The aim of the project is to implement mutual help of the elderly in every single local community in Slovenia; The help is offered by the NGOs' volunteers – Associations of pensioners in local communities. NGOs collaborate with public services to support and help the elderly in various ways. This way the holistic approach to solving many issues concerning old people is ensured.

The objectives of the project are:

- To use the knowledge, experiences and energy of old people by organising mutual help;
- To improve the flow of information between the governmental and non-governmental sectors concerning the help needed;
- The non-governmental sector becomes a partner of public institutions in its concern for quality of helping at home;
- To improve cooperation among NGOs in the local community;
- To improve the cooperation between public services and NGOs;
- To introduce the monitoring of the civil society over help offered to the elderly at their homes;
- To carry out the control over the use of public funds intended for the elderly;
- To increase the impact of the civil society on the decision-making process when topics concerning the elderly are debated.

The content of the project is:

- Pensioners associations members – volunteers – visit all citizens above 69 years of age in their environment;
- With the use of questionnaire volunteers find out the needs of a person and if the person is already being helped in any way;
- The collected data is communicated to various public institutions, such as local community, the centre for social work, the institute for help at home, home care services, private organizations and NGOs;
- The organisation of help among members of the same pensioner association: socialising, counselling, various types of help for which expert knowledge is not needed, minor chores, intergenerational activities, and much more;
- Associations organise different activities in daily centres together with the local community;
- Volunteers regularly visit old people who wish to be helped and those who are helped in any other way to

check if the user is satisfied with the help offered;

- The collected data plays an important role in the local community's policy regarding the issues of the elderly.

From 2004 to 2014, 300 local associations pensioners were involved in the project and the volunteers visited over 698,298 old people at their homes. The volunteers organized 206,390 different kinds of help for the elderly. There were 3,419 pensioners – volunteers. In all this time the volunteers did 6,742.959 hours of volunteer work.

S POMOČJO INTERNETA JE MREŽA “DAJ NAPREJ” KOT TRIDIMENZIONALNI TISKALNIK

MOIRA ALLAN
Globalni program izmenjav za pozitivno staranje

Moira Allan je skupaj z dr. Jan Hively soustanoviteljica in mednarodna koordinatorica mreže “Daj naprej”, članica sveta EURAG, mednarodnega centra za dolgoživo družbo v Franciji, v Parizu pa je ustanovila “krožek aktivnih seniorjev” in potem tudi mednarodno mrežo te iniciative.

“Daj naprej” je mreža, ki usposablja in povezuje zagovornike ter vse ostale, ki spodbujajo in podpirajo pozitivno staranje po vsem svetu.

Ozadje:

Leta 2007 sta se gospa Allan in dr. Hively srečali na prvi konferenci pozitivnega staranja, kjer je bilo z veliko pozitivne energije predstavljenih veliko idej, modelov in dobrih praks pozitivnega staranja. Leta 2009 sta skupaj zastavili načrt mreže starejših za borbo proti starostni diskriminaciji s sloganom: ”Mi smo tisti, na katere čakamo.”

Leta 2012 sta bili v okviru evropskega leta staranja in medgeneracijske solidarnosti pobudnici in izvajalki projekta “Evropski glasovi za aktivno in pozitivno staranje”. Interaktivne delavnice z aktivno udeležbo starejših so potekale v šestih evropskih državah.

Leta 2013 sta v Parizu lansirali spletno platformo “Daj naprej” (www.passitonnetwork.org), ki je brezplačno dostopna prav vsem.

Ideja:

Z energijo in prepričanjem ustanoviteljic v kombinaciji s potencialom interneta lahko povežemo zagovornike pozitivnega staranja po vsem svetu. Na ta način se prenašajo ideje in dobre prakse, kreirajo se inovativni programi, ki se jih da prenesti in izvesti tudi v drugih okoljih. Nekaj primerov, uresničenih na globalnem nivoju:

- TV oddaja: “Zrenje modrosti” – iz Bashkortastana v Rusiji v Chilliwack v Kanadi
- Podporne skupine za tranzicijo – “projekt prenovitev”, izvorno iz Los Angelesa (ZDA), ponovljen je bil v Parizu (Francija) in Reykjaviku (Islandija)
- Vseživljenjsko učenje: dobre prakse Tretje univerze v Reykjaviku (Islandija) so ponovili v Kijevu (Ukrajina) in na otoku Mauritius v južnem Pacifiku
- Delo po upokojitvi: pobuda “Encore City Networks” iz Bostona (ZDA) je bila prenešana v Johannesburg (Južna Afrika) in v Honolulu (Havaji, ZDA)

Ugotovitve:

- Zagovorniki pozitivnega staranja z veseljem in navdušenjem izmenjujejo ideje in dobre prakse z enako mislečimi v drugih državah.

- Najpogosteje obravnavana področja so:
 - a) Staromrzništvo: boriti se moramo proti negativnemu staromrzništvu in poudarjati potencial pozitivnega staranja.
 - b) Ekonomska varnost: veliko upokojencev želi tudi po upokojitvi plačano delo, tako zaradi ekonomske nuje kot zaradi drugih razlogov.
 - c) Vzajemna podpora: organizirati moramo medsebojno pomoč, da bomo lahko čim dlje živeli na svojih domovih.
 - d) Moderna tehnologija: s pomočjo interneta lahko pomagamo sebi in drugim, a najprej se moramo naučiti IKT čim bolj obvladati.

WITH THE INTERNET THE “PASS IT ON” NETWORK IS LIKE A 3D PRINTER

MOIRA ALLAN
A Global Program Exchange for Positive Aging

Moira ALLAN, Co-Founder and International Coordinator of the Pass It On Network, www.passitonnetwork.org Council Member: EURAG (European Federation of Senior Associations), International Longevity Centre-France, and International Liaison for Old-Up. Moira Allan founded and manages Le Cercle des Seniors Actifs, based in Paris, and its European network.

Jan HIVELY, PhD, Co-Founder and U.S. Liaison for the Pass It On Network (earned doctorate in 2001 at the age of 69 with a dissertation on “Productive Aging in Rural Communities”). An Encore Entrepreneur, Dr. Hively previously co-founded: the Vital Aging Network, www.vital-aging-network.org, and the SHIFT transition network, www.shiftonline.org.

Pass It On is a grassroots network that cultivates and connects advocacy leaders who encourage and support positive ageing worldwide.

Background:

2007. Ms. Allan and Dr. Hively met at the First Positive Aging Conference which generated tremendous energy to share, spread and model a positive ageing practice.

2009. Allan and Hively sketched out a plan for a grassroots network of older adults who would stand up to combat ageism and assert their leadership: “We are the ones we have been waiting for.”

2012. For EU’s “Year of Positive Aging and Intergenerational Solidarity” Allan and Hively co-created the European Voices for Active, Positive Aging project with World Café Europe -- convening older adults in six large World Cafés across Europe.

2013 Allan and Hively launched the Pass It On Network’s free Internet platform, www.passitonnetwork.org in Paris.

Rationale: With energy, determination and outreach through the Internet, we can link positive ageing advocates across the globe who can share their ideas and create innovative, replicable programs. A few examples from around the globe:

- TV Production: “Wisdom Ripening” from Bashkortastan in Russia to Chilliwack in Canada
- Transition Support Groups: “Project Renewment” from Los Angeles in California to Paris in France and Reykjavik in Iceland
- Lifelong Learning: 3rd Age University co-programming from Reykjavik in Iceland to Kiev in the Ukraine and the island of Mauritius in the South Pacific
- Work in retirement: Encore City Networks from Boston in the U.S. to Johannesburg in South Africa to Honolulu in Hawaii

Findings:

- In every country positive ageing advocates are eager and excited to talk with people who share their concerns/interests in other countries.
- The interests/concerns most frequently mentioned are:
 - a) Ageism: “We have to combat negative ageism and uncover the potential of positive ageing”;
 - b) Economic Security: “Many pensioners want paid work, both to support basic needs and to provide greater meaning in life”;
 - c) Mutual Support: “We need to organize and help each other so we can remain in our homes until the end of life”;
 - d) Technology: “We can help each other and ourselves through the Internet, but first, we need help with using the Internet.”



Pred kratkim je Latvijski centralni statistični urad izdal najnovejše podatke raziskave o dohodkih in življenjskih razmerah, ki kažejo, da stopnja tveganja za revščino med latvijsko populacijo narašča. Niso pa vsi segmenti populacije enako ogroženi.

Kakšen je dohodkovni položaj starejših?

Po podatkih Latvijskega centralnega statističnega urada so v letu 2014 zaznali znatno povečanje prebivalstva 65+, ki živi na pragu revščine (s 27,6 % v letu 2013 na 34,6 % leta 2014). Še večje pa je tveganje za revščino pri osebah, ki so starejše od 65 let in živijo same – z 51,1 % v letu 2013 na 67,4 % v letu 2014.

Za primerjavo je stopnja tveganja revščine v starostni skupini 18–64 let skoraj polovico nižja, saj znaša 18,6 %.

Ob preučevanju tveganja za revščino med starejšimi (65+) v baltskih državah lahko opazimo, da so se trendi v zadnjih letih le malo spreminjali – pred ekonomsko krizo se je tveganje za revščino med starejšimi povečevalo, med krizo pa je upadlo. Danes, ko dohodek delovne populacije spet hitro raste, dohodek estonskih in latvijskih upokojencev znatno zaostaja za preostalo populacijo. Kaže se, da je le Litvi uspelo enako razdeliti socialno pomoč med različne generacije populacije.

Tveganje za revščino za osebe 65+ v baltskih državah

Znatna nihanja v stopnji tveganja revščine med različnimi leti lahko pojasnimo s tem, da je glavni prihodek starejših, torej pokojnine, zelo blizu pragu revščine – ali malo nad ali pa pod pragom. Ravno zaradi tega je tveganje revščine za starejše občutljivo že za najmanjše spremembe v dohodku in meji revščine.

Zanimivo je, da so imeli v času pred ekonomsko krizo latvijski seniorji najvišjo stopnjo tveganja za revščino med vsemi tremi baltskimi državami, v času krize pa se je tveganje za revščino povečalo v Estoniji in Litvi (bolj kot v Latviji).

Zaenkrat podatkov za leto 2015 še nimamo. Podatki za Litvo za leto 2014 kažejo, da je stopnja tveganja revščine za starejše že dosegla 36 % in da je to (kot tudi v prejšnjih letih) rahlo več kot v Latviji.

Podatki za starejše od 75 let kažejo, da so ti še bolj ogroženi. Stopnja revščine v tej skupini je dosegla že 40,6 %. To lahko delno razložimo s tem, da je skoraj edini glavni vir dohodkov v tej starostni skupini pokojnina, ki pa je nižja od pokojnine mlajših upokojencev. Poleg tega vedno starejši živijo v gospodinjstvih z vedno manj člani, pogosto celo sami.

Znatno višje tveganje za revščino med starejšimi od 65 let je zaznati med ženskami. Ti trendi veljajo tudi za celotno

Evropsko unijo. Tveganje za revščino za ženske, starejše od 65 let, je v Latviji 40,4 %, za moške pa 22,6 %. Delno lahko to razliko pojasnimo z razlikami v pokojninah. Po letu 2012 po podatkih EU-SILC razlike v pokojninah med spoloma v Latviji v starostni skupini 65+ dosegajo 16,2 %. Latvijske ženske živijo skoraj 10 let dlje od moških, zato je večja možnost, da bodo postale vdove in živele same.

Primerne socialne politike bi lahko znatno znižale delež upokojencev, ki jim grozi stopnja tveganja za revščino. To bi lahko storili z zvišanjem minimalne pokojnine – od leta 2006 je namreč ta ostala nespremenjena.

Minimalna pokojnina:

- za osebo z delovno dobo od 10 do 20 let: 70,43 eur
- za osebo z delovno dobo od 21 do 30 let: 83,24 eur
- za osebo z delovno dobo od 31 do 40 let: 96,05 eur
- za osebo z delovno dobo 41 let in več: 108,85 eur

Eden od načinov, kako lahko ocenimo minimalno vrednost pokojnine, da bi lahko starejše zaščitili pred tveganjem za revščino, je, če pogledamo, kakšna bi bila minimalna višina pokojnine v primerjavi s pragom revščine ali tveganjem za revščino. Čeprav v teoriji ni določenih kriterijev za to, kakšna naj bi bila minimalna pokojnina, ki bi starejše zaščitila pred revščino.

Latvijska minimalna pokojnina je precej nižje od praga revščine. Odvisna je od let delovne dobe in zavarovanja. Tudi tisti starejši, ki imajo več kot 40 let delovne dobe, ne dobivajo pokojnine, ki bi bila proporcionalna glede na prag revščine, kaj šele starejši z manj delovne dobe in zavarovanja.

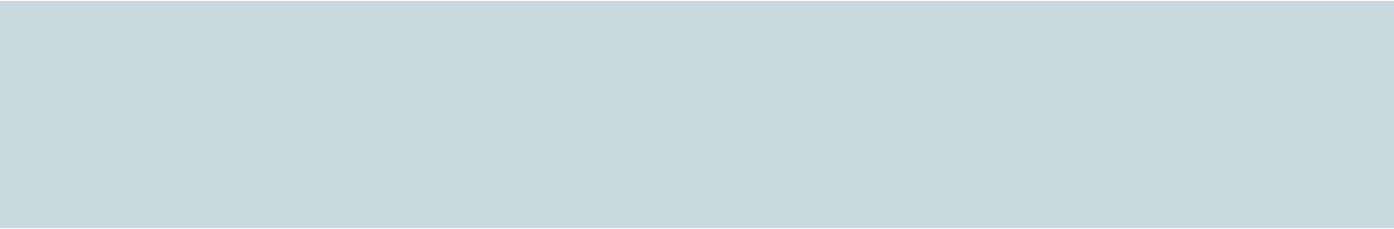
Kot so pokazali izračuni za leto 2007, se je minimalna pokojnina v zadnjih 8 letih spuščala vse nižje od praga revščine. To pa pomeni, da so starejši, ki so prejeli minimalno pokojnino, vse bolj revni.

Latvijski svet za starejše/zadeve starejših

Ministrstvo za socialo je ustanovilo svet za starejše/zadeve starejših.

Svet je posvetovalno telo, ki skupaj z ministrstvom preučuje težave starejših in ministrstvu predlaga možne rešitve. Svet ne išče le načinov, kako izboljšati finančno situacijo starejših, ukvarja se tudi s širšo problematiko starejših – zdravstvena oskrba, zaposlitev, vseživljenjsko učenje itd.

Svet sestavljajo predstavniki organizacij za starejše iz različnih regij (Latvijska zveza društev upokojencev, Latvijsko združenje za upokojence, Regionalna upokojenska društva, Združenje aktivnih seniorjev Riga itd.) ter predstavniki ministrstva za zdravje in državne agencije za socialno zavarovanje. Ko je



potrebno, se svet posvetuje tudi z drugimi ministrstvi pa tudi z ekonomisti in drugimi strokovnjaki.

Zadnjega srečanja so se udeležili tako uradni člani sveta kot predstavniki organizacij za starejše, kar omogoča večjo transparentnost in dostopnost dela sveta starejših. Predstavniki organizacij sicer nimajo pravice glasovanja v svetu, lahko pa sodelujejo v diskusiji in podajo svoje predloge.

Recently the Latvian Central Statistical Bureau has released the latest information on the incomes and living conditions survey results which show that the risk of poverty is growing. However, not all segments of the population were at poverty risk in the same way.

What happens to the income situation for seniors?

According to the data gathered by the Latvian Central Statistical Bureau in 2014, there was a significant increase in the population aged 65+ who were at the risk of poverty (from 27,6 % in 2013 to 34,6 % in 2014). If a person aged 65+ had lived alone, the poverty risk in this type of household would have increased even faster - from 51,1 % in 2013 to 67,4 % in 2014.

In comparison, the risk of poverty rate in the age group between 18 to 64 years of age is almost half as lower - 18,6 %.

In 2014, an increase in disposable income of the population increased the poverty threshold - 291 € (in 2013 - 260 million). Looking at the risk of poverty for seniors (65+) among the Baltic countries, one can notice that in the recent past these trends have differed relatively little - that is, before the economic crisis the poverty risk of pensioners had been growing, but in the years of the crisis it dropped. Now, when the income of the working population is growing rapidly, Estonian and Latvian pensioners' income significantly lags behind the rest of the population's income growth. It appears that Lithuania has been able to break this tradition and split the economic recovery benefits evenly among different generations of the population.

The risk of poverty for persons aged 65+ in the Baltic States

Relatively rapid fluctuations in the poverty risk level in different years in Latvia can be explained by the fact that the income of the elderly (mainly pension) is very close to the poverty threshold. It is either slightly above or slightly below the threshold. Therefore, the risk of poverty rate for seniors is sensitive to even minor changes in income and the poverty line level.

It is interesting to note that in the pre-crisis years, Latvian seniors had the highest poverty risk of all three Baltic States, but during crisis the risk of the poverty of Estonian and Lithuanian pensioners exceeded the risk of poverty level of Latvian pensioners.

Currently, no public data is available for the year 2015. The results of the survey carried out in Lithuania and Estonia in 2014 show that the risk of poverty for seniors already reached 36 %, and compared to the previous years it was slightly higher than in Latvia.

Looking at the separate data for those pensioners who reached the age of 75 or more, it can be seen that they are exposed to even greater risk of poverty. The poverty rate in this age group reached 40,6 %. Higher risk of poverty in this age group is partly due to the fact that almost the only source of income for the people in older age is the pension. The pension of older people, however, is on average lower compared to the newly allocated pensions. In addition, the higher the age, the more often seniors live in households with a smaller number of people. Often they also live alone.

If we look at the poverty level of risk, broken down by gender, the significantly higher risk of poverty in the age group 65+ are women. Words apply equally to both Latvia and our neighbouring countries and the European Union as a whole. In Latvia the poverty risk for women aged 65 and more is 40,4 %, whereas for men it is 22,6 %. Partly this can be explained by the difference in the amount of pensions granted. After 2012, EU-SILC data Latvian differences in pension income of the population in the age group 65+ was 16,2 %. In addition, Latvian women live almost 10 years longer than men, so they are more likely to live alone or in general remain widows.

The pensioners at risk of poverty could be significantly mitigated by the social policies on poverty reduction measures. This could be achieved with the increase of minimum pension. The minimum amount of the pension, set in 2006, has remained unchanged.

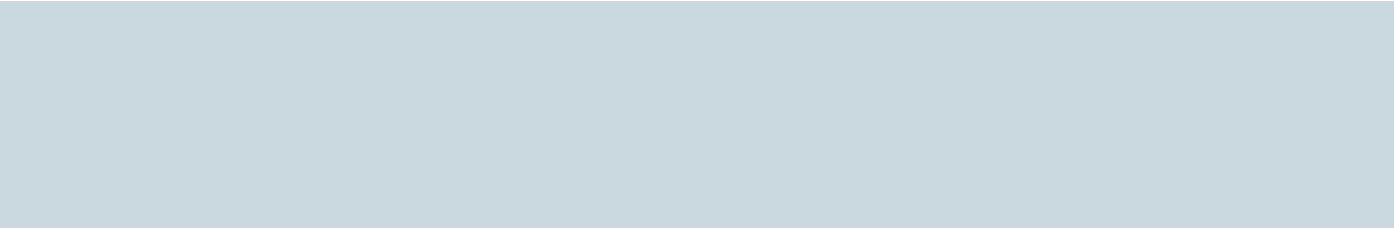
The minimum pension:

- a person with a length of service from 10 to 20 years - 70,3 €
- a person with seniority of 21 years to 30 years - 83,24 €
- a person with seniority of 31 years to 40 years - 96,05 €
- a person working 41 years and more - 108,85 €.

One of the ways to assess minimum pension value in order to protect the elderly from poverty is to compare the minimum amount of pension with the poverty line or the risk of poverty threshold.

Although there are no specific criteria dictating how high in theory the minimum pension should be in order to be able to protect the people from poverty, the unsatisfactory level of pension adequacy is considered if the minimum pension does not reach at least half of the poverty line values.

The minimum pension amount in Latvia is far below the poverty line. The minimum amount depends on both, the pensioner's accumulated work and insurance record. But even for those seniors who had more than 40 years of service it is not possible to receive a pension proportionate to the poverty threshold, not to mention the people with less years of service/ insurance period.



The minimum pension amount at its current level was established already in 2006. It can be compared with the current minimum amount of pension granted as an instrument of social policy helping seniors to stay out of poverty. As shown by calculations for the year 2007, the minimum monthly pension has gradually decreased below the poverty threshold in the past eight years. This means that the pensioners who have been receiving the minimum amount over the years are increasingly falling into deeper poverty.

The second measure is to promote poverty reduction risk in seniors with indexation of pensions, which reflects not only the ongoing changes in the consumer price level but also the changes in the income or wage index of the working population. As it is clear from the new Latvian Welfare Minister statements, the changes in the pension indexation is planned.

Latvian Senior's Affairs Advisory Council

The Ministry of Welfare has established Seniors Affairs Advisory Council.

Seniors' Affairs Advisory Council was set up as a consultative body to jointly assess the current problems of pensioners and to provide proposals for their solution to the Welfare Minister. The Council is not only to look for ways to improve the financial position of pensioners, but also discuss the broader range of issues in seniors - health care, employment, lifelong learning, etc.

The Council consists of representatives from seniors' organizations, taking into account regional coverage (Latvian Pensioners' Federation, Latvian Seniors alliance, Regional pensioners' associations, Riga Active Seniors Alliance) as well as from the Ministry of Health and the State Social Insurance Agency. When it comes to specific matters, such as inclusion, employment, pension policy and demographic issues also other ministries, public administration staff as well as economic experts are consulted. The last Council meetings were attended not only by the officially delegated members, but also by other seniors' organizations, thus making its work more transparent and accessible to a wider population of seniors. These representatives have no voting rights, but can participate in discussions and proposals.

Thank you for your attention!

Organizacije

Na Nizozemskem imamo poleg organizacij za oskrbo še druge organizacije za starejše. Imamo več kot 3 milijone upokoencev nad 65 let (v primerjavi s 17 milijoni prebivalcev države). Okoli 750.000 upokoencev je članov vsaj ene izmed organizacij za starejše.

Protestantske, katoliške in osnovne organizacije starejših in organizacije za starejše migrante imajo skupaj 550.000 članov. Dve krovni organizaciji upokoencev imata skupaj 200.000 članov. Značilnosti organizacij: organizacije za starejše so organizirane okoli posameznih verskih prepričanj in imajo skupaj 2000 sekcij po celotni državi. Člani teh organizacij so ljudje z osnovno (državno) pokojnino ali osnovno (državno) pokojnino z dodatnimi lastnimi pokojninskimi prihranki.

Na Nizozemskem imamo osnovno (državno) pokojnino za vse prebivalce, ki zaslužijo minimalno plačo. V zadnjem desetletju je veliko zaposlenih obvezno varčevalo za dodatek k pokojnini z namenom, da bi dosegli skupno pokojnino v višini 70 % svoje plače. Za ta namen imamo okoli 350 pokojninskih skladov. To so skladi podjetij, gospodarskih panog in različnih področij državne uprave. Upokoenci, ki so vključeni v sklade, imajo tudi svojo organizacijo, ki brani interese uprave sklada. Za ubranitev interesov imamo nacionalno in evropsko krovno organizacijo, ki sta tesno povezani.

Jaz sem prostovoljni predsednik ene izmed teh dveh krovnih organizacij in neformalni koordinator vseh naštetih organizacij za upokoence s skupnim ciljem sodelovanja z nacionalno vlado, političnimi strankami, krovnimi organizacijami upokoencev in drugih akterjev s področja kupne moči, zdravstva itd.

Organizacije starejših in za starejše imajo plačane uslužbence (profesionalce), ki podpirajo ogromno število prostovoljcev. Organizacije upokoencev pa imajo le prostovoljce. Vse organizacije se financirajo le iz članarin. Do leta 2011 so bile subvencionirane s strani lokalne in nacionalne vlade, a je zdaj to le še zgodovina.

Aktivnosti

Pri svojem delu zagovorništva starejših se poslužujemo različnih metod in načinov dela:

- sestanki,
- pisma, e-pošta, telefonski klici,
- osebni stiki in mreženje,
- medijski pritisk,
- zbiranje podpisov, tudi po e-pošti in preko spletnih strani,
- povezovanje z drugimi akterji s področja dela s starejšimi,
- povezovanje z univerzami in podobno,

- pred volilnimi kampanjami vplivanje na programe političnih strank in predstavitev rezultatov našega dela posameznim strankam,
- drugi pritiski oziroma lobiranje.

Pomembno:

- mreženje,
- povezave z mediji, deležniki in drugimi relevantnimi posamezniki,
- da veš, o čem govoriš, kaj to pomeni
- da veš, kaj se dogaja v družbi,
- da veš, kaj se dogaja na različnih področjih družbe (pokojnine, davki, zdravstvo, bivanje ipd.),
- da imaš znanje in izkušnje strokovnjakov z različnih področij,
- da imaš energijo in motivacijo za delo kot na primer član uprave, različnih svetov itd.,
- da imaš močno organizacijo z dobro interno komunikacijo (s članstvom),
- da imaš čas in si potrpežljiv,
- da znaš sprejeti razočaranja in poraze.

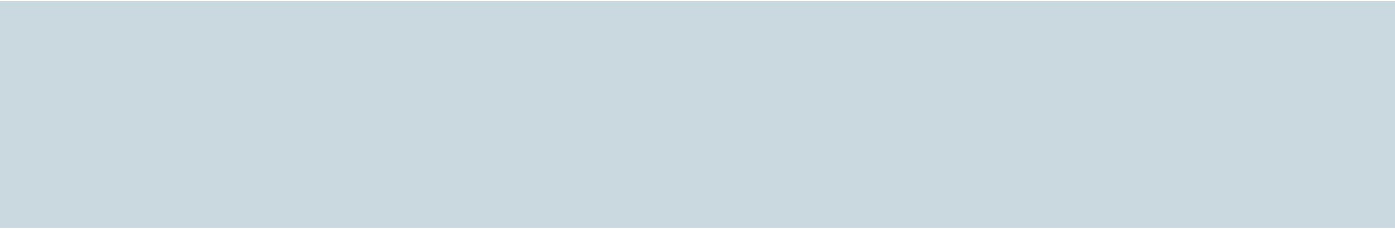
Ali smo dosegli rezultate?

Zelo smo odvisni od trenutnega parlamenta in vlade na vseh ravneh. Zadnja tri leta so bila za starejše zelo slaba. Veliko se je varčevalo na področju zdravstva, delno upravičeno, ker imamo enega izmed najdražjih zdravstvenih sistemov na svetu in v tej smeri ne moremo nadaljevati, delno pa neupravičeno, kar je posledica prevladujoče liberalne vlade, ki jo zanimajo le posel in delovno aktivno prebivalstvo.

Za starejše so slabe tudi nove določbe za pokojninske sklade, ki temeljijo na strahu pred ponovnimi finančnimi težavami, kot so se dogajale leta 2008. A pokojninski skladi (ki jih upravljajo sindikati zaposlovalcev ter zaposlenih in strokovnjakov) so skupaj privarčevali več kot 1300 milijard z namenom zagotoviti boljše pokojnine. Zaradi novih določb vlade pa skladi starejšim ne morejo izplačati višjih pokojnin.

V letu 2016 že lahko občutimo posledice novih davčnih uredb, ki delujejo v prid zaposlovalcem in zaposlenim, oškodujejo pa upokoence, osebe z omejitvami in brezposelne. Naše lobiranje v zadnjih 3 letih ni bilo najbolj uspešno.

A svet se spreminja. Vedno več je fleksibilnega dela (brez dolgoročnih pogodb), več samozaposlenih, več majhnih podjetij itd. Pravila oziroma uredbe naše vlade nas tako silijo k iskanju novega pokojninskega sistema, pri razvoju katerega imamo z drugimi akterji s tega področja veliko odločevalno moč.



Upamo, da bomo nov sistem uspeli razviti v naslednjih petih letih in da bomo imeli več uspeha pri lobiranju za pokojnine, ki bodo večje od minimalne.

Tudi na področju zdravstva, bivanja in blaginje smo doživeli veliko razočaranj. Dosegli smo nekaj malega napredka, a ne dovolj. Pozitivno je, da nas jemljejo kot resnega partnerja v dialogu in da imamo možnost sodelovati z drugimi akterji s področja zdravstva v prihodnosti. Delo je težko, je pa vredno truda.

SENIOR ORGANIZATIONS, THEIR ACTIVITIES AND IMPACT IN THE NETHERLANDS

JAAP VAN DER SPEK
President of the Dutch umbrella organization of
organizations of pensioned people NVOG

Organizations

In addition to organizations for care and cure there are also other different organizations of and for older persons in the Netherlands. We have more than 3 million pensioned people above the age of 65 (17 million inhabitants). By 2021 the age of the elderly will rise to 67. Around 750.000 persons are members of at least one of the organizations for older persons.

The protestant, catholic and general organizations of older persons and the organization of older migrants have altogether about 550.000 members. The two umbrella organizations of pensioned people have about 200.000 members. The difference between the types of organizations is as follows: The organizations of older persons are organised by their religious belief and have altogether 2000 (local) sections in the country. Members are people with only a basic (state) pension or a basic (state) pension with additional retirement savings (the second pillar).

In the Netherlands we have a basic (state) pension for all inhabitants who earn a minimum salary. In the last decennia a lot of employees had to (mandatory) save a part of their salary for a supplement pension with the aim to reach 70% of the salary. To organize that we have around 350 pension funds, including the company funds, the funds for industry branches and the funds for the branches of government administrations. The retired people, investing money in different funds, have their own organization for defending the interests of the board of their fund. There are two umbrella organizations working close together, defending their interests on national and European level.

Being a voluntary president of one of these umbrella organizations and an informal co-ordinator of all the organizations for pensioners and older persons, our goal is to work together with the national government, political parties, umbrella organizations of pension funds and other actors dealing with pensions, purchasing power, care and cure.

The organizations of and for older persons have paid employees (professionals) to support a big number of volunteers. The organizations of pensioned people have only volunteers. All the organizations are only paid from membership fees. Until 2011 they also received government subsidies (local and national), but that's history.

Activities

We use different means and possibilities for defending our interests:

- Meetings
- Letters/e-mails/telephone calls
- Personal contacts and relations/networks

- Publicity pressure
- Collecting signatures also by e-mail/websites
- Working together with other players in the field
- Working together with universities and so on
- Before the election campaigns: influencing the programs of political parties and to show what they did for the elderly in the last period
- Other pressure/lobby means

Important

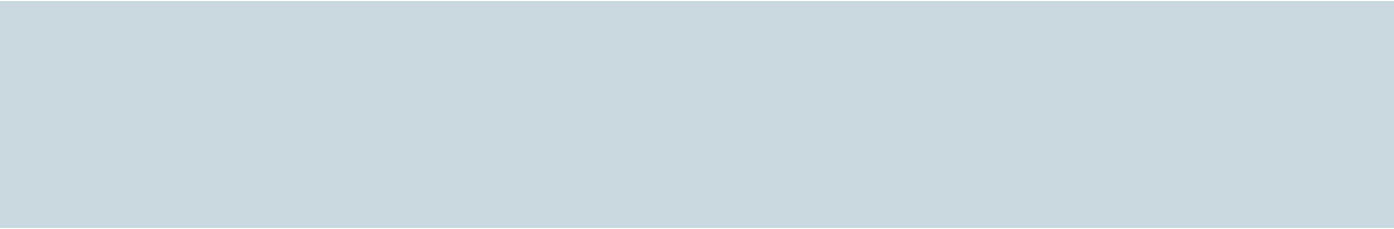
- Networks
- Active relations with the media, stakeholders and other relevant persons
- To know what you are talking about, that means:
- To know what's happening in the society
- To know what's happening in the different fields (pensions, taxes, care, cure, housing etc.)
- Knowledge and experience (experts in the different fields)
- Energy and the willing to spend time (board members, members of commissions, experts et cetera)
- Strong organizations with a good (internal) member communication
- Time and patience
- To accept disappointments

Do we have results?

We are very dependent on the current parliament and governments on all levels. The last 3 years have been very bad for the elderly. There were a lot of saving activities in the field of care and cure, which were partly necessary because we have the most expensive care and cure system in the world and we cannot go on this way. However, they were also partly unnecessary, as a result of having a government dominated by liberal politicians whose only attention is focused on business circles and working people.

The new rules for pension funds (2014) are also bad for the elderly, based on fear for further financial problems (as in 2008). But the pension funds, governed by unions of employers and unions of employees together with experts, have saved more than 1.300 billion EUR, in order to ensure good pensions. But they cannot give the pensioners higher pensions (pension including a correction for inflation) due to the new rules of the government.

In 2016 we experienced the consequences of the new tax rule, which was passed to the advantage of employers and employees and to the disadvantage of pensioned people, people with disabilities/limitations and people without paid work. Our lobby activities have had very little success the last three years.



But the world is changing - more and more flexible work (without long-term contacts), the increasing need for one's own choices, more and more small traders and so on. Also the rules of our government make it necessary to look for a new system for pensions. In the development of a new system we have a big vote, together with other players in the field. We hope to have a new system in the next 5 years. In this case we will be able to lobby for higher pensions, higher than our basic (state) pension.

In the field of care and cure, housing and welfare we have experienced a lot of disappointments as well. Through our activities there have been some positive developments, but not enough. A positive thing is that we are accepted as a serious partner in discussions and that we have the possibility to talk with other players in the field about the care and cure in the future. It's hard, but worth the trouble.

(Ne prenehaš se smejati, ko ostariš, temveč ostariš takrat, ko se nehaš smejati.

- irski dramatik George Bernard Shaw)

Svetovna populacija se hitro stara. Starejši od 60 let predstavljajo 11 % svetovne populacije, samo v Evropi pa se bo starostna skupina nad 65 let v naslednjih 50 letih kar podvojila. Prav zdaj živimo v časih velikih demografskih sprememb. Varstvo človekovih pravic starejših postaja prioriteta držav in vlad.

Še nedolgo nazaj ni nihče pričakoval, da bodo ljudje – ne samo izjeme – živeli preko 90 let. Dogajajo se bistvene spremembe po celem svetu in zavedati se moramo, da se struktura starajočih spreminja. Vzporedno s spremembami je treba prilagajati tudi status starejših. Tu ne gre le za nekaj let. Celotna družba se mora pripraviti na povečanje števila starejših in radikalno spremeniti dojemanje staranja, prilagoditi strategije, gospodarstvo in vse, kar se nanaša na vsakodnevno življenje slehernika.

Tukaj prisotni gostje konference smo večinoma predstavniki „srebrne“ družbe, predstavniki seniorskih organizacij, ki so ali naj bi bile baza prizadevanj za prepoznavanje neodtujljivih pravic starejših. Še več, smo člani in delegati najstarejšega evropskega združenja starejših, katerega osnovno poslanstvo je krepitev pravic starejših. Zato smo do določene mere soodgovorni za razvoj in učinkovito izvajanje našega osnovnega poslanstva na področju starejših. Večina tukaj prisotnih nas pozna pravila človekovih pravic in tudi pravila iz dokumentov Združenih narodov. Vendar se vprašajmo: ali te pravice poznajo oz. se jih zavedajo tudi naše vlade? Ali se držijo obljub in si zares prizadevajo za izboljšanje življenjskih pogojev starejših?

Odgovore moramo iskati sami. Nekatere najdemo, ko pobliže pogledamo naše aktivnosti. Kako družba in vodstvo sprejemata problem starejših? Z drugimi besedami: to je odvisno tudi od naše intenzivnosti in prodornosti. Tema te konference so seniorske organizacije ter njihova učinkovitost in vpliv v družbi. Imamo enkratno priložnost, da o tem spregovorimo in si odpremo vrata. Prepričan sem, da smo brez izmenjave izkušenj, primerov in mnenj precej omejeni v naših prizadevanjih. Zato vam želim predstaviti nekaj primerov čeških organizacij, ki so bile v svojih prizadevanjih uspešne.

Da ne ostanemo le pri besedah, smo že dolgo nazaj ustanovili svete in skupine starejših, ki se pogajajo z relevantnimi sogovorniki v vladi in drugimi predstavniki javnih služb.

Dosegli smo, da so naši predstavniki v svetu češke nacionalne televizije in radija in na ta način vplivamo, da so na programu tudi oddaje za starejše. Naš predsednik je član vladne skupine za pokojninski sistem. Imamo redna srečanja z ministrstvi in predstavniki lokalnih oblasti. Izdajamo mesečnik „Čas

starejših“, kjer predstavimo vroče teme in zgodbe iz življenja starejših. Z vsemi temi aktivnostmi smo dosegli precejšen uspeh, a še vedno nas čaka precej dela. Npr. prav zdaj se pogajamo za „zakon o starejših“, ki bi olajšal financiranje seniorskih organizacij, jim zagotovil poseben status ter omogočil olajšave in ugodnosti za starejše v naši družbi.

Bili smo aktivni pri sprejetju zakona o uskladitvi pokojnin, pri ukinitvi nekaterih absurdnih in naravnost smešnih davkov. Predlagali smo znižanje davka na dodano vrednost za nekatere izdelke in storitve.

V Češki republici je 2,5 miliona upokojencev, kar predstavlja velikansko moč, saj gre za kar petino celotne populacije. Lahko smo ponosni na naše dosežke in uspehe, ki so priznanja za naša prizadevanja.

Kot lahko vidite, imajo naše upokojenske in seniorske organizacije močan vpliv na družbo, tako svet starejših kot združenje upokojencev. Zato težko ignorirajo tako velik del populacije, ki lahko bistveno vpliva na rezultate volitev. Naša vlada se mora dobro zavedati pomembne vloge starejših in z nami dobro sodelovati tudi v bodoče.

Kljub delnim dosežkom pa še nismo popolnoma zadovoljni. Medgeneracijsko in socialno področje bi morali biti prioriteten področji v strategijah vsake države in vlade. V mnogih državah starejše še vedno obravnavajo kot prebivalce, ki so svoje odslužili, njihovo življenje se izteka in so družbi le v breme, s tem pa zavirajo razvoj države.

Prizadevati si moramo za javni dialog z mlajšimi generacijami v vseh družbah in prepričati naše naslednike k primernemu odnosu do starejših kjerkoli. Izkoristiti moramo vse dane možnosti za obrambo pravic starejših.

Morda se sliši kot obrabljena fraza, a je zares predvsem od nas odvisno, kako bomo predstavili nujnost sprememb v razumevanju demografskih sprememb in staranja prebivalstva. Zavedati se moramo, da se borimo ne samo v dobro sedanje generacije, temveč tudi bodočih generacij. In to je naš glavni cilj.

SENIOR ORGANIZATIONS AND THEIR EFFECTIVENESS AND IMPACT IN SOCIETY

MILOSLAV VAJS
Union of Pensioners of the Czech Republic

(You don't stop laughing when you grow old, you grow old when you stop laughing.

- George Bernard Shaw, Irish playwright)

The population of the world is ageing rapidly. People aged 60 and more make up over 11% of the global population. In Europe alone, the population aged 65+ will more than double over the next 50 years. We can see that we are living in a time of significant increase of the number of seniors. The obligation of the states/governments to protect the human rights of older persons seems to be a priority.

Years ago none of us calculated that people will commonly reach the age of 90 and more. It is time of substantial changes across the world and we must know that the structure of population related to the age is going to change. Hand in hand with the changes, the importance and the status of elderly people have to be adjusted. However, it is not the question of only a few years. The society must be ready to perceive more and more seniors and must radically change the view of them, change the strategy and modulate the economy and all attributes of everyone's daily life.

We, the guests of this meeting are mostly the representatives of the „silver“ society, the representatives of the seniors' organizations, which are (or ought to be) the base of the effort for the recognition of the undeniable rights of the seniors. Furthermore, we are members or delegates of the eldest European association of older persons, whose principle objective is the strengthening of the rights of seniors. Thus, we are partially responsible for the developments and fruitfulness of our mission in the field of seniors' movement. We all know the rules of „human rights“, and those of the „charter“ declared by the U.N., but my question is: Are all of our governments aware of it? Do they keep their promises and do they want to really improve the living conditions of seniors?

We have to start finding the response by ourselves. Closer look at our activities gives us the answer - how do the society and its management perceive the problems of seniors? In other words, how intensively and loudly we speak about the problems defines how adequate the response might be. The theme of our conference is the effectiveness of seniors' organizations and their impact on society. We have a unique opportunity to speak about it and open the door now. I am sure that without exchange of our experience, without giving the examples and opinions, we are limited in our efforts. That's why I now want to give you some examples of the results of the Czech organizations, which have succeeded in some of their activities:

As I said, the effectiveness is directly proportional to our effort in case we don't limit our activity to the words only. That's why a long time ago we have founded the councils and groups of seniors in order to negotiate with the relevant

persons and groups of our government and personalities of the public sector. We have, for example, enforced the participation of our members in the council of the Czech television and radio in drawing up the TV programs related to the seniors. Our chairman is a member of the council of government for the pension system and we have regular sessions with the relevant ministers and county representatives. We publish a monthly magazine „time of seniors“, where we introduce the hot themes of seniors lives. Through these activities we had reached some substantial, but still partial successes, e.g.: We are in the negotiation of passing the „law on seniors“ which would provide us more freedom in the question of funding of our activities, the status of protected person, and offer more priorities and benefits to seniors in our society.

We helped to push through the law on the adjustment of the pensions, we took part in the cancellation of some laughable and odd taxes. We also gave the propositions on the reduction of V.A.T. for some products and services. There are 2,5 million pensioners in the C.R. It is a tremendous power, 1/5 of the population and we can be proud that our efforts have spoken to them. That seems to be the most significant moment of our efforts. Our organisations of pensioners and seniors thus have a strong impact on the society, which perceives us, the council of seniors and the union of pensioners, as the speakers of the elder population. And it would not be easy to ignore such large masses of the population which can influence on the elections etc. I want to be sure that our government is aware of the importance of the position of seniors and will also cooperate with us in the future.

However, despite the partial achievements we are quite far towards full satisfaction. There is one significant moment – the intergenerational and social relationship which should be the priorities of the strategy of any country and government. In many countries the popularly held belief survives - the seniors are considered as a group of citizens who passed their prime of life and are a burden and an obstacle for the society and for further development of the country. We must support and call out the public dialog with younger generations across the societies and convince our successors of the fair approach to seniors everywhere. We should use all possible opportunities that have been given us for the protection of rights of seniors. It may sound as a hackneyed phrase, but it really fully depends on us how strongly we demonstrate the necessity for the modification of the view on the societies changing structure with regard to the rising number of seniors. We must be aware that we are now fighting not only in favour of the current generation, but also for the next ones. And that's our main goal.

Dragi prijatelji, imam dve novice: ena je dobra, druga pa je slaba.

Začel bom z dobro. Živimo dlje, v zadnjih 30–40 letih se je starost žensk povzpela z 80 na 86 let in moških z 79 na 84 let. Slaba pa je, da bo vse več starih ljudi živelo v revščini. Trenutne številke kažejo, da je v Izraelu blizu 200.000 starejših ljudi revnih, kar predstavlja okoli 20 % starejšega prebivalstva. Zato je naš glavni cilj v prihodnjih letih vojna proti revščini. Obstaja veliko razlogov za revščino in vsak primer mora biti obravnavan drugače, k vsakemu je treba pristopiti drugače, ubrati drugačno taktiko.

A: Sodišče

Primer Univerza Bar Ilan: Leta 2003 je akademsko osebje razglasilo stavko zaradi problema pokojnin upokojencev akademskega osebja. Vodstvo univerze te stavke ni priznalo in se je obrnilo na regionalno delovno sodišče. Sodišču smo predložili zelo podroben dokument v podporo stavki. Zmagali smo, a vodstvo univerze se je pritožilo na vrhovno sodišče. Primer se je zavlekel in šele leta 2011 je vseh pet sodnikov vrhovnega sodišča sprejelo enako razsodbo kot delovno sodišče. To je bila prava revolucija v konceptu vzajemne odgovornosti.

B: Lokalna skupnost

Ko se staramo, smo vedno bolj odvisni od okolja, v katerem živimo – naše okolje postaja naš mikrokozmos. Uporabili smo dve taktiki: prva je bila, da na občinskih volitvah upokojenci kandidiramo z lastno stranko, druga pa je vsebovala zahtevo, da vsaka stranka na listo kot kandidata vključi tudi upokojenca. Tako imamo v treh občinah v mestnem svetu predstavnike, ki si prizadevajo za več ugodnosti za starejše: popusti pri mestnih taksah in komunalnih dajatvah (npr. voda), brezplačno parkiranje, popusti za obisk kulturnih dogodkov, več dnevnega varstva v domovih za starejše in tako naprej. Trajalo bo še dolgo, smo pa na pravi poti.

C: Parlament

Sistemske težave, ki vplivajo na zdravje in oskrbo starejših, izvirajo iz dveh zakonov.

Prvi je Zakon o nacionalnem zdravju iz leta 1995, drugi pa Zakon o dolgotrajni oskrbi iz 1968. leta.

Zakonodaja o nacionalnem zdravju, 1995

Nameni so bili dobri, a kot pri vsakem novem zakonu so bile tudi pri tem svetle in temne plati, negativni učinki zakona pa odločilni. Zakon ne zajema vseh zdravil, ne vseh načinov zdravljenja, niti vseh potrebnih testov in prispevkov, ki jih je treba plačati za obisk zdravnika ali specialista. Zneski prispevkov se stalno višajo, čakalne vrste pa se daljšajo.

Glavni razlog za takšno stanje je nenehno zmanjševanje deleža za zdravstvo iz državnega proračuna. Vakuuum, ki ga je ustvarila vlada, so zapolnile zasebne zavarovalnice, ki pa zaračunavajo zelo visoka vplačila, česar si večina starejših ne more privoščiti. Naslonili smo se na naš lobi v parlamentu, v katerem so zastopane vse stranke; vsi so podprli reformo in Odboru za zdravje in blaginjo predlagali izhodišča za nadaljnjo razpravo. Ponudili so rešitve, ki pa ni sprejemljiva niti za nas niti za del strank.

D: Zavarovanje za dolgotrajno oskrbo, 1968

Izraelski zavod za socialno varstvo je odgovoren za dolgotrajno oskrbo, blaginjo in nego. Hitra rast pričakovane življenjske dobe v Izraelu je povzročila zmanjšanje kritja stroškov s strani zavoda za socialno varstvo. Zavarovalnice so dobile dovoljenje za izdajo zavarovalnih polic za kritje potreb starejšega prebivalstva. Pred tremi leti pa je komisar za zavarovanje nenadoma preklical vse police in 1,2 milijona ljudi je ostalo brez zavarovanja. Ves denar, ki so ga plačali, je šel neposredno v velike žepe zavarovalnic. V zadnjih treh letih se borimo za ponovno vzpostavitev prvotnega stanja, a saj poznate to situacijo: če en neumnež vrže kamen v vodnjak, ga tudi 40 modrih fantov ne more potegniti navzgor. In točno tako je bilo s komisarjem – ki mimogrede sploh ni neumen, še danes je direktor zavarovalnice. Demonstrirali smo pred zgradbo ministra za finance, šli smo na srečanje lobija v parlamentu, sestali smo se s predsednikom odbora za blaginjo (socialo) in z novim komisarjem za zavarovanje. Celotno predsednik delavske zveze je opomnil ministra, da bo napovedal splošno stavko, če ne bo rešitve. To je bilo prvič v zgodovini Izraela, da je delavska zveza organizirala stavko zaradi težav, povezanih z upokojenci. Proti zavarovalnicam so sprožili pet vrst ukrepov. Prišli smo do začasne rešitve, da bo zavarovanje v veljavi do decembra 2016, do takrat pa morajo vse vpletene strani predlagati sprejemljive rešitve.

My dear friends, I have two news; the first one is a good, the second is a bad one.

I will start with the good one. We live longer, in the last 30-40 years the age of women has climbed up from 80 to 86 and man from 79 to 84. The bad one is that more and more old people will enter the poverty circle. The current figures show that close to 200.000 elderly people are poor, which means around 20% of the old population.

Our main target in the coming years is a war against poverty.

There are many reasons to poverty and each and every one needs to be dealt with using a different approach and tactic.

Here are four examples:

A: The Court - Bar Ilan University case:

Back in 2003 the academic staff declared a strike over the issue of pension of the retired academic staff. The management of the University did not recognize this strike and turned to the regional labour court. We have submitted to the court a very detailed paper in which we supported the strike.

We won! But the university went to the supreme court of justice. The case went on and on and it was not before 2011 when the court with all the five judges accepted the same verdict of the labour court. It was a true revolution in the concept of a mutual responsibility.

B: The Municipality

As we are getting older, our dependency on the town and location we live becomes more and more significant, our micro cosmos. We used two tactics: the first is to organize a retired people's party that will run in the municipal elections, the other is to demand each party to include a pensioner in the list as a candidate. In three municipalities we have a party in the city council, assisting to get more discount in city tax, a free parking, discount in water payments, cultural events, more day care homes for old people and so forth; the road is still long but we are on the right way.

C: The Parliament.

The root of all evil lies in two acts.

The first one is The National Health Law from 1995. The second one is the Nursing Law from 1968. Let us start with the health law. Well the intentions were good but like each new act there are lights and shadows and the negative effects of the law were decisive. The law is not covering all the medicines, not all the treatments, not all the needed tests and the fees one has to pay for visiting a professional physician are getting higher all the time. The waiting list is getting longer.

The main reason for this situation is a constant reduction of governmental budget. The vacuum created by the government was captured by private insurance companies. They charge very high payments, and most of the elderly cannot afford to pay. We have turned to our lobby in the Parliament in which all the parties are represented. They all supported a reform and they turned to the health and welfare committee for further discussion. They offered a solution, but it is not acceptable by us and some of the parties.

D: The long term care insurance 1968

The Israeli Social Security Institute is responsible for the long term welfare care and nursing. The rapid growth of life expectancy in Israel brought a situation in which the cover given by the ISSN has diminished. Insurance companies got a permission to issue policies which will cover the needs of the elderly population. One day the insurance commissioner cancelled all the policies. It was three years ago and 1.2 m people were left with no insurance. All the money they have paid went directly to the big pockets of the insurance companies. For the last three years we have been fighting to restore the situation as it was before but you all know that if one stupid person throws a stone to a well, 40 wise guys can not pull it up, the same goes with the commissioner (he is not stupid at all, today he is a director of an insurance company). We have demonstrated in front of the finance minister's house, we have had meetings with the lobby in the parliament, we have met with the chairman of the welfare committee and the new insurance commissioner. Even the chairman of the Federation of Labour told the minister that unless the solution is found, a general strike will be declared. It was for the first time in the history of Israel that the federation of labour was going to strike due to the issue related to retirees. Five class actions were served against the insurance companies.

The interim solution is that the insurance will be in effect until December 2016 and all the parties have to bring an acceptable solution.

Ekscelence, dragi kolegi in prijatelji!

Na koncu te izjemne konference bi rad delil z vami nekaj osebnih premislekov.

Najprej še enkrat iz srca »vse najboljše za rojstni dan in še mnogokrat srečno« slovenski Zvezi društev upokojencev. Sedemdeset let predanega in uspešnega dela za starejše osebe je občudovanja vreden dosežek. Srečni in ponosni smo, da vas imamo v članstvu »Evropske zveze starejših oseb«.

Tako številna udeležba na tem dogodku je name naredila močan vtis kot tudi izjemni prispevki, ki so jih predstavili minister za zunanje zadeve, predstavnica ministrstva za delo, družino in socialne zadeve, namestnik varuhinje človekovih pravic in župan tega lepega mesta Ljubljana. Vsi so pokazali, da se slovenski voditelji zelo dobro zavedajo vprašanj, povezanih s staranjem družbe, in da so jih odločeni ustrezno reševati.

Navdušen sem bil tudi nad zanimivimi prispevki drugih govorcev, tako iz Slovenije kot iz drugih zastopanih držav. Vse to je omogočilo širok pogled na veliko raznolikost realnosti staranja in s tem povezanih težav, ne samo za starejše osebe same, temveč tudi za družbo na splošno. Na drugi strani pa so nam poročila in predstavljeni primeri omogočili razumeti, da imamo toliko skupnega in da se bomo lahko (in zagotovo se je treba) učili iz medsebojnih izkušenj in iz rešitev, ki smo jih razvili. Starajoča se družba in spremembe, ki jih sproža, zagotovo zahtevajo smele nove koncepte, politike in strategije, ki vključujejo vse družbene komponente.

Evropska federacija starejših je bila kar tri leta in pol s precej osrednjo vlogo vpletena v velik raziskovalni projekt Evropske unije, imenovan "Socialne inovacije za dejavno in zdravo staranje". Projekt se letos bliža koncu, glavne ugotovitve in sklepi pa bodo predstavljeni na mednarodni konferenci v Barceloni oktobra 2016 z obetavnim naslovom "Predvidevanje novega sveta".

Vendar ni dovolj le posredovanje strokovnih znanstvenih rezultatov, resolucij in konferenc na visoki ravni, zapletenih političnih in ideoloških deklaracij in prefinjenih strateških dokumentov. Imamo Politično deklaracijo in Mednarodni načrt aktivnosti z Madridske svetovne skupščine o staranju iz leta 2002, imamo bolj ali manj napredno nacionalno zakonodajo o zaščiti starejših oseb in načrte za njihovo uveljavljanje, udeležbo in vključevanje v družbo. Tisto, kar močno šepa, pa je učinkovito izvajanje vseh dobrih in obetajočih namer in izjav.

Odločno moramo odpraviti to vrzel na bolj praktičen način in posebej v obliki in jeziku, ki ga lahko vsak razume in uporabi za vse razmisleke in razprave vnaprej. Odbor NVO o staranju v okviru OZN na Dunaju je pred kratkim izdal brošuro, ki je nastala v tesnem sodelovanju z Evropsko zvezo

starejših na podlagi rezultatov projekta "Socialne inovacije za dejavno in zdravo staranje" in ponuja skupaj 31 "Priporočil za odločevalce za spodbujanje aktivnega staranja«, razporejenih v sedem glavnih področij. Ta priporočila izhajajo iz opisa težav, s katerimi se soočajo starejše osebe, in prinašajo ideje o zelo konkretnih in praktičnih rešitvah. Obravnavane so s celovitim pristopom, ne le za politike, ampak za široko paleto odločevalcev na različnih področjih in na vseh ravneh.

Nova besedna oznaka tistih, ki se politično ukvarjajo z vprašanji staranja, je, kot vemo, »Družba za vse starosti«. Odkrito rečeno pa se jaz res ne morem strinjati s takšnim konceptom, ker vsiljuje pristop, po katerem je družba razrezana po starostnih skupinah ter tako lahko in mnogokrat tudi že dela preveliko razliko med generacijami ali jih celo nepravilno konfrontira na podlagi starosti (mladi, srednjih let, po upokojitvi, zelo stari), s čimer povečuje napetosti znotraj družbe, namesto da bi jih pomagal premagovati.

Povsem jasno dajem prednost »pristopu življenjskega teka«, ki izhaja z vidika razmer "ko se staramo", torej to, skozi kar gremo vsi čisto naravno, odkar se rodimo.

Večjo pozornost moramo posvečati temu, da tudi v procesu staranja največ težav neposredno ali posredno povzročajo diskriminatorne socialno-ekonomske razmere, v katerih posamezniki ali skupine prebivalstva morajo živeti in se starati.

Dovolite mi še tri pomembne razmisleke.

Prvo, na kar želim opozoriti, je, da je družba, kar smo v resnici mi vsi, potrebna ponovne preučitve, kaj je prava vrednota, pravi "zaklad" starejših oseb. Ne samo, da je družba investirala vanje, v njihovo izobraževanje itd., pomembnejše je to, da so te osebe kot posamezniki in kot skupina skozi vse svoje življenje razvile in oblikovale svet, v katerem živimo danes. Niso samo naše matere in očetje, babice in dedki v biološkem smislu, temveč so soustvarjalci kakovosti naše družbe. Brez njih bi živeli v povsem različnih situacijah.

Treba jih je spoštovati zaradi teh dosežkov in v celoti prepoznati njihove uspehe. Zagotovo si to zaslužijo, saj so del identitete in kakovosti družbe.

Na drugi strani pa starejši ne smejo podležki skušnjavi, da bi predvsem svoje potrebe, žalosti, želje in strahove postavljali v ospredje svojih razprav ter se pogosto pritoževali nad današnjimi pogoji in stališči mladih. Starejši bi se morali zelo skrbno spomniti svoje mladosti in odraščanja – z vsemi težavami in ovirami, s katerimi se mora soočiti vsak, ki je mlad in še neizkušen. Morali bi razviti globoko razumevanje za tiste, ki prihajajo za njimi, ceniti njihov novi način življenja, ki ponuja nove možnosti za vse, morali bi znati pohvaliti dinamičnost in inovativni pogon mladih ter se spomniti, kako so nekoč sami gledali na svet in na družbo.

Končno je za naše skupno življenje in za uspešno oblikovanje prihodnosti naše družbe bistvenega pomena, da lahko samo z močno voljo, vzpodbujanjem dialoga, razumevanjem in medsebojnim priznavanjem razvijemo potrebno zaupanje in solidarnost, saj vse našeto ustvarja in vzdržuje socialno povezanost. V celoti moramo spoznati, da moramo vsi skupaj, brez razlikovanja posameznih starostnih skupin, živeti z veliko odgovornostjo za zagotavljanje in zaščito ne le človekovega dostojanstva v celotnem življenjskem obdobju, ampak tudi vzdrževati in stalno živeti solidarno in v socialni koheziji v čisto praktičnem smislu dan za dnem. Brez tega je oziroma bi bila naša družba nezmožna zasnovati in zgraditi smiselno prihodnost za vse nas in predvsem za vse generacije, ki še pridejo za nami.

Za konec naj povem, da smo vsi iz Evropske zveze starejših oseb zelo hvaležni, da ste nas z velikodušno gostoljubnostjo povabili v prekrasno Ljubljano, v čudovito Slovenijo, da proslavimo ta dan in ponovno potrdimo naše tesno sodelovanje v luči “družbe za vse“.



Dirk Jarre, Jaap van der Spek in Dušana Findeisen, trenutek sprostitve na poti na kosilo.

Dirk Jarre, Jaap van der Spek and Dušana Findeisen, relaxing moment on their way to lunch.

Excellences,
Dear Colleagues and friends,

At the end of this remarkable conference I would like to share with you all some personal reflections.

First of all, and once again, a cordial “Happy birthday – and many happy returns!” to the Slovenian Federation of Pensioners’ Associations. Seventy years of committed and successful work for older persons is quite an admirable performance. We are happy and proud to have you as a member of the “European Federation of Older Persons”!

I was very impressed indeed by the high-level attendance of this event and by the remarkable contributions made, in particular, by the Slovenian Minister for Foreign Affairs, by the representative of the Ministry for Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equality, by the Ombudsman for Human Rights and by the Mayor of this beautiful City of Ljubljana. These contributions have shown that the leaders of the Republic of Slovenia are very much aware of the issues connected with its ageing society and how much they are determined to address them adequately.

I was equally most interested in and impressed by all the contributions of the other speakers – from Slovenia as well as from the other countries represented – that provided a broad view of the great diversity of the realities of ageing and the problems associated, not only for the older persons themselves but also for society at large. On the other hand, the reports and cases presented made us understand that we have so much in common and that we can – and certainly should – learn from each other’s experiences and from the solutions we have developed.

An ageing society and the transformation that it triggers off definitely requires courageous new concepts, policies and strategies that involve all components of society. For three and a half years the European Federation of Older Persons has been involved (having a rather central role) in a big research project of the European Union named “Social Innovation for Active and Healthy Ageing”. The project is drawing to its end this year and will present its main findings and conclusions at an international conference in Barcelona in October 2016 with the promising title “Envisioning a New World”.

But it is not enough to simply communicate convolute scientific results, resolutions of high-level conferences, complex political and ideological declarations and sophisticated strategic papers. We have the Political Declaration and the International Plan of Action of the Madrid World Assembly on Ageing in 2002, we have more or less advanced national legislations on the protection of older persons and plans for the promotion of their participation and integration into society. What still lags tremendously behind is the concrete

and effective implementation of all the good and promising intentions and statements.


We definitely need to address this gap in a more practical manner and, in particular, in a form and language that everybody can understand and use for further reflection and discussion. The NGO Committee on Ageing at the United Nations in Vienna has recently published a brochure – with the close cooperation of the European Federation of Older Persons and based on results of the project “Social Innovation for Active and Healthy Ageing” – that offers a total of 31 “Recommendations for Decision Makers to Promote Active Ageing” regrouped in seven areas of major concerns. These recommendations flow from the description of particular problems that older persons are facing and provide ideas on very concrete and practical solutions. They are addressed in a comprehensive approach not only to politicians, but to a broad range of decision makers in various sectors and at all levels.

The new buzzword of those dealing politically with ageing issues is, as we know, “A Society for All Ages”. But, frankly, I cannot really agree with this concept because it suggests an approach by which society is sliced into age brackets and thus may, and often does distinguish too much between generations or even unfairly opposes them to each other on grounds of age – like young, middle-aged, after retirement, the very old, etc. – and favours tensions inside society rather than overcoming them. I clearly prefer and suggest a “life-course approach” that is based on the connotation and the view of situations “as we age” – what we all very naturally do ever since we are born. We should keep in mind and pay better attention to the fact that the greatest problems – also in the ageing process – are directly or indirectly caused by the discriminating socio-economic conditions in which individuals or groups of the population have to live and age.

Allow me to introduce three further important reflections.

The first point that I would like to make is that society – and in fact we all – need to reconsider what is the value and the “treasure” that resides in older persons. Not only that society has invested in them, in their education, etc. but, more importantly, that these persons as individuals and as a group have developed and shaped over all their lifetime the world that we are living in today. They are not just our mothers and fathers, grandmothers and grandfathers in the biological sense but the co-creators of the quality of our society. Without them we would live in totally different situations. Let them be honoured for this achievement and let’s fully recognise their successes. They definitely merit this as they are part of the society’s identity and quality.

On the other side older persons should not succumb to the temptation to predominantly put their needs, their sorrows, their wishes, and their fears into the forefront of the discussion,



and to complain so often about today's conditions and the attitudes of the young. Older persons should remember very carefully their own youth and adolescence – with all the difficulties and the barriers one has to face when young and inexperienced. They should develop a deep understanding for those who come after them, they should appreciate their new lifestyle that offers new opportunities for all, they should praise the dynamism and the innovative drive of the young – and remember how they themselves have once looked at the world and at society.

Finally, it is of paramount importance for our living together and for shaping successfully the future of our society that only with a strong willingness to promote dialogue, understanding and mutual recognition, the necessary trust and solidarity can be developed that create and maintain societal cohesion. We need to fully recognise that we all together, without the distinction of particular age groups, have to live up to the great responsibility to ensure and protect not only human dignity throughout the life course but also to maintain and constantly live in solidarity and social cohesion in a very practical sense – day after day. Without this our society is, or would be, unable to conceive and build a meaningful future for us all and, in particular, for all those still to come after us – the generations not yet born.

To end with, I would just like to say that we, from the European Federation of Older Persons, are so grateful that you have invited us to the beautiful city of Ljubljana in this beautiful Slovenia with all its generous hospitality to celebrate this day and to reaffirm our strong cooperation in view of “A Society for All”.

Spoštovani,

današnja konferenca lahko potrdi ugotovitev naše podpredsednice, da smo na dobri poti. Izzivi staranja niso več samo tematika, s katero se ukvarjamo starejši, je tematika, ki počasi a uspešno prodira med družbeno pomembne teme, tako v Sloveniji kot EU in širše.

Ustvarjamo in širimo spekter pristopov za uvajanje potrebnih družbenih sprememb in nalog za ukrepanje. Organizirano delovanje nas dela uspešnejše in bolj učinkovite, s tem pa tudi vključene v vsa družbena vprašanja in strukture. Smo še daleč od stanja, ki bi nas navdajalo s polnim zadovoljstvom. Sedem desetletij delovanja slovenske federacije dokazuje, da smo vse močnejši, ne samo zato, ker nas je iz leta v leto več v družbi, tudi zato, ker smo predani in sodelujemo drug z drugim ter s seniorji v EU in širše.

Dame in gospodje, minister, državna sekretarka, namestnik varuhinje človekovih pravic, dragi prijatelji iz EURAG-a, spoštovani udeleženci, zahvaljujem se za čas, ki ste ga odtegnili aktualnim dnevnim obremenitvam in nas pozdravili ter spremljali naše delo.

Vsem kolegom in nastopajočim se najlepše zahvaljujem za prispevke in vzpodbudo, ki jo bomo črpali iz njihove vsebine.

Kot smo se zavezali, bomo pripravili publikacijo našega dela in tako razširili krog možnih zainteresiranih uporabnikov.

Posebej toplo se zahvaljujem Mestni občini Ljubljana, županu Zoranu Jankoviču, podžupanu Čerinu in njegovi ekipi za toplo gostoljubje v teh prostorih in sponzorstvo dogodka.

Sama delujem v obeh organizacijah, ZDUS in EURAG, šele nekaj let, zato bi se rada zahvalila Ireni Levičnik, moji predhodnici v EURAG-u, za nasvete in prenos izkušenj ter pisnih gradiv, prav tako pa tudi bivši predsednici ZDUS Mateji Kožuh Novak za vztrajno pozornost in podporo pri tovrstnih aktivnostih.

Moja zahvala je namenjena tudi sodelavki Alenki Ogrin za izdatno pomoč, brez katere priprava konference ne bi uspela. Zahvala gre tudi njenim sodelavkam in sodelavcem, kolegom v Strokovnem svetu ter vodstvu ZDUS za razumevanje in podporo.

Dear friends, ladies and gentlemen,

Today's conference can confirm the findings of our Vice-president that we are on the right track. The challenges of ageing are no longer only a topic related only to older persons, but slowly and successfully make the socially relevant themes in Slovenia, the EU and beyond.

We create and promote the diapason of approaches for introducing the necessary changes in the society and the tasks for action. Organized operation makes us more efficient and more effectively included in all social issues and structures. We are still far from being fully satisfied with the situation.

Having been operating for seven decades, the Slovenian Federation demonstrates that we are stronger, not only because we have more senior persons in the society every year but also because we are committed and cooperative with each other and with seniors in the EU and our neighbourhood.

Ladies and gentlemen, thank you for the time you took it from the current daily stress and welcomed us and witness our work. Thanks to all colleagues for the contributions and the encouragement that we will benefit from their content.

As we have agreed, we will prepare the publication of this work and thus expand the circle of potential interested users.

Warmly thanks to the Municipality of Ljubljana, Mayor Zoran Jankovič, Vice-mayor Aleš Čerin and his team for the warm hospitality in this remarkable hall and for the sponsorship of the event.

I have been active within ZDUS as well as EURAG for only a few years, therefore I would like to thank Irena Levičnik, my predecessor for advice and transfer of experience and written materials, as well as the former president, Mateja Kožuh Novak, for sustained attention and support in such activities.

My special thanks goes to Alenka Ogrin for her kind assistance, without which the preparation of the conference would not have been successful. I would also like to thank her colleagues, the colleagues in the Council of experts and the leadership of ZDUS for understanding and support.

Thank you for your attention!

LJUBLJANA - Zelena prestolnica Evrope 2016

Prva in edina Zelena prestolnica Evrope v srednji in jugovzhodni Evropi

KRISTINA INA NOVAK
Ekipa Ljubljana – Zelena prestolnica Evrope 2016

Ljubljana je mesto, ki vas bo presenetilo in preseglo vaša pričakovanja. Je edinstvena – majhna po površini, a velika po svoji gostoljubnosti in kakovosti življenja. Na 275 km² boste našli vse značilnosti velikih metropol, hkrati pa vas bo očarala kot zeleno, čisto, varno in prijazno mesto z 287.000 prebivalci. V zadnjem desetletju je naše mesto doživelo številne trajnostne spremembe, kar je eden od razlogov, zakaj je Evropska komisija podelila Ljubljani naziv Zelena prestolnica Evrope 2016. Po mnenju strokovne komisije smo naredili največ sprememb na področju trajnostnega razvoja v najkrajšem času.



Foto: N. Rovan, vir: MOL

Od leta 2007 z Vizijo Ljubljana 2025 stopamo po poti, na kateri se zavzemamo, da bo Ljubljana leta 2025 trajnostno in idealno mesto. V Viziji sta trajnostni razvoj in urbano načrtovanje tesno prepletene. Tako smo v skladu z vizijo v devetih letih uspešno izvedli več kot 1.700 projektov.



Foto: T. Jeseničnik, vir: Turizem Ljubljana

Predstavniki različnih mest s celega sveta, s katerimi se srečujemo, prepoznavajo Ljubljano kot primer dobre prakse. Ob tem radi izpostavljajo našo odločnost in pogum, ki sta potrebna za izvedbo trajnostnih projektov. Odločnost in pogum smo pokazali pri uvajanju trajnostnih projektov – na primer, ko smo z zaprtjem centra mesta za motorni promet vzpostavili ekološko cono, namenjeno pešcem in kolesarjem.



Foto: M. Fras, D. Wedam, vir: MOL, Turizem Ljubljana

Popolnoma smo preoblikovali tudi Slovensko cesto – glavno ulico v centru mesta, kjer smo spremenili prometni režim in vzpostavili skupni prostor, namenjen izključno pešcem, kolesarjem in javnemu prevozu. Danes na glavni ulici ne najdete zasebnih motornih vozil, prenovljene pločnike pa krasijo mlada medovita drevesa, ki privabljajo metulje in čebele.



Foto: M. Fras, N. Rovan, vir: MOL

Center mesta je prežet z novo energijo; to ni le ekološka cona, ki danes obsega več kot 100.000 m², ampak velika dnevna soba za raznolike družbene, kulturne, športne in druge prireditve, kjer se ljudje srečujejo in uživajo.



Foto: B. Jakše Jeršič, V. Kontić, vir: MOL

Eden od glavnih izzivov na poti do trajnostne prihodnosti, ki omogoča visoko kakovost življenja, je spreminjanje ustaljenih navad prebivalcev in njihove miselnosti. Zaradi

tega sodelujemo in komuniciramo s številnimi deležniki, zlasti s tistimi, na katere spremembe najbolj vplivajo. Zato trajnostne strategije skrbno oblikujemo in projekte premišljeno izvajamo v sodelovanju s številnimi lokalnimi, regionalnimi in nacionalnimi deležniki. Ne sodelujemo le s strokovnjaki ali določenimi interesnimi skupinami, temveč z vsemi, ki želijo biti aktivni pri ustvarjanju trajnostne prihodnosti Ljubljane.

Po mnenju strokovne komisije v Ljubljani uspešno združujemo dvoje: varujemo in ohranjamo zeleno identiteto, ob tem pa aktivno spreminjamo področja, ki še dolgo nazaj niso bila trajnostna.

Imamo velik delež zelenih površin. Skoraj 3/4 vseh površin mesta je zelenih. Imamo štiri krajinske parke. Med njimi je Krajinski park Ljubljansko barje - območje Nature 2000, ki predstavlja več kot 16 % površine mesta. Park je tudi na Unescovem seznamu svetovne dediščine.



Foto: B. Čeak, vir: MOL

Avtohtoni gozdovi pokrivajo 46 % celotnega območja Ljubljane in segajo prav v središče mesta, zavarovanih zelenih površin pa je več kot 20 %. Uredili smo veliko število degradiranih območij in ustvarili 80 hektarjev novih parkov.

Poleg tega prebivalcem in obiskovalcem Ljubljane še naprej ponujamo različne možnosti za trajnostno mobilnost, kot so širjenje sistema »Parkiraj in se pelji«, redno ozelenjevanje voznega parka LPP, optimizacija in podaljševanje linij v sosednje občine, širjenje mreže priljubljene samopostrežnega sistema za izposajo koles Bikelj in izvajanje različnih ukrepov za spodbujanje električne mobilnosti.



Foto: V. Hoffmann, vir: Civitas Elan, MOL

Ljubljana je prestolnica, ki je že za 10 % preseгла cilje recikliranja EU za leto 2020. Smo mesto z največjim deležem ločeno zbranih odpadkov v Evropi in smo prva evropska prestolnica v mreži Zero Waste Europe. Naš Regijski center za ravnanje z odpadki ima najmodernejšo in trajnostno tehnologijo za obdelavo mešanih in bioloških odpadkov v Evropi. Z njim bomo poskrbeli za odpadke ene tretjine prebivalcev v Sloveniji in hkrati ustvarili nova zelena delovna mesta.



Foto: JP Snaga

Glavni vir vode za Ljubljano in okolico je podzemna voda iz dveh različnih ekosistemov: Ljubljanskega barja in Ljubljanskega polja. Ljubljana je ena redkih evropskih prestolnic, ki se lahko pohvali s pitno vodo iz pipe, neobdelano s tehnološkimi postopki. To dokazuje, da je bil razvoj v mestu in je še vedno tesno povezan s trajnostnimi ukrepi za zaščito vodnih virov.

Izvajamo vrsto ukrepov, akcij in dogodkov, s katerimi spodbujamo prebivalce k bolj zelenemu življenjskemu slogu. Vsako leto izvajamo že tradicionalno enomesečno spomladansko čistilno akcijo Za lepšo Ljubljano kot tudi teden trajnostne energije in Evropski teden mobilnosti. Odločili smo se, da vsak član naše tako imenovane "velike mestne družine", ki obsega več kot 12.000 sodelavcev v mestni upravi, javnih podjetjih in zavodih, posadi svoje drevo. Kampanja sajenja dreves se je začela lansko leto in bo letos končana.



Foto: N. Rovar, vir: MOL

S prevzemom nagrade in pripravo številnih z njo povezanih dejavnosti izpostavljamo tudi potrebo po solidarnosti, predvsem do prihodnjih generacij, da bodo dobile naravo enako lepo ohranjeno, kot jo imamo v Ljubljani danes mi.

Čeprav nismo le dosegli, ampak celo preseгли nekatere pomembne cilje, lahko vedno najdemo prostor za izboljšave in nadaljnji razvoj. Trenutno izvajamo več kot 90 projektov in vsak od njih je "zelen". Še naprej bomo obnavljali degradirana območja in ohranjali že vzpostavljene zelene površine. V boju proti podnebnim spremembam bomo z različnimi ukrepi do leta 2020 zmanjšali emisije CO₂ za 30 %; uravnotežili bomo mobilnost, tako da bo do leta 2020 1/3 vseh potovanj opravljenih z javnimi prevoznimi sredstvi, 1/3 peš in s kolesom, samo 1/3 pa z avtomobili.

Zelo smo ponosni in počaščeni, da smo sedmo evropsko mesto, ki je osvojilo prestižni naziv Zelena prestolnica Evrope. Letos se v Ljubljani odvija raznovrsten celoletni program, ki vključuje širok spekter sodelujočih – od predstavnikov četrtnih skupnosti do okoljskih, kulturnih in izobraževalnih institucij ter številnih nevladnih organizacij. Skoraj vsak dan v informacijski točki Zelene prestolnice Evrope 2016, »Točki. Zate.«, ki stoji pred Mestno hišo, poteka zanimiv tematski program – delavnice, predstavitve, druženja in še marsikaj zanimivega ter poučnega. Na ta način nagovarjamo vse prebivalce in obiskovalce našega mesta, da tudi sami prispevajo k še bolj zeleni, čisti, gostoljubni in prijazni Ljubljani.



Foto: N. Rovar, vir: MOL

Ljubljana is a city that will surprise you and exceed your expectations. It is unique – small by surface area, but huge in its hospitality and the quality of life. On 275 km² you will find all the characteristics of big metropolises and at the same time you will be fascinated by its greenery, cleanness, safety, and friendliness of its 287,000 residents. In the last decade, numerous sustainable changes have happened and this is one of the reasons Ljubljana was awarded the title of European Green Capital 2016 by the European Commission. According to the jury, Ljubljana is the city that has made the biggest change in the field of sustainability in the shortest period of time.

Since 2007, when we have introduced the Vision Ljubljana 2025, we have set out to ensure that our city will become a sustainable and ideal city by the year 2025. In the Vision, the concept of sustainable development and urban planning are closely intertwined. In only nine years we have successfully implemented more than 1,700 projects that are in line with the Vision.

The representatives of various world cities that we meet often see Ljubljana as an example of good practice, pointing out its determination and courage to implement, for example, sustainable mobility projects in the city centre, where we have established ecological zone by closing it to motorized vehicles and opening it to pedestrians and cyclists. The main artery was completely transformed in the centre by altering the traffic regime and creating a shared space dedicated only to pedestrians, bicycle and public transport. On the main artery there are no private motorized vehicles, and the refurbished city walkway is lined with young ash trees attracting butterflies and bees.

The city has become revitalised with new energy; it has become not only an ecological zone today covering more than 100,000 m², but it is also a big living room for diverse social, cultural, sporting and other events where people meet and enjoy.

However, one of the major challenges was changing the established habits of the residents, making a shift in their mindset in order to allow a better quality of life and the sustainable future. For this reason, we cooperate and communicate with numerous stakeholders, especially with those that are most affected by the change. Sustainable strategies are carefully formulated, and projects are thoughtfully carried out in cooperation with numerous local, regional and national stakeholders. Participation in the process is not limited only to experts or certain stakeholder groups, it is wide and open to all.

According to the jury, Ljubljana successfully combines two things: we are protecting and preserving the recognizable green identity of the city and actively transforming areas that, not too long ago, were not green or environmentally sustainable.

We have a large share of green surfaces. Almost 3/4 of the city's surface is covered with green areas. There are four nature parks in Ljubljana. Among them the Ljubljana Marsh Nature Park - Natura 2000 areas represent more than 16% of the city's surface. The park is also listed in the Unesco World Heritage List. Forests cover 46% of the entire area of Ljubljana and reach right into the city centre. 20% of Ljubljana's area has a nature protection status. We have also revitalised a large number of degraded areas and brownfields and have created 80 acres of new parks.

Furthermore, we are continuing to offer sustainable mobility options to our residents and visitors, such as building »park and ride« parking facilities, greening our public transport bus fleet and prolonging the travel routes into neighbouring municipalities, expanding the network of the bike-sharing system BicikeLJ and encouraging electrical mobility.

Ljubljana is the capital that has already exceeded the EU's recycling targets for 2020 by 10%. We rank first in separately collected waste in Europe and we are also the first European capital to be part of the Zero Waste Europe network. Our regional centre for waste management has the most advanced system of processing mixed and organic waste in Europe. It will manage waste for one-third of the country while creating new green jobs.

The main water source for Ljubljana and its outskirts is groundwater from two different ecosystems: Ljubljana Marsh and Ljubljana Field. Ljubljana is one of very few European capitals boasting potable tap water that is not treated with technological processes. This proves that the city's development has been closely tied up to sustainable measures for the protection of water sources.

The city has been carrying out a number of actions, campaigns and events to encourage its residents towards greener lifestyles. It has become a yearly tradition to conduct a month-long spring cleaning campaign For More Beautiful Ljubljana as well as the Sustainable Energy Week and European Mobility Week. We decided that every member of our so-called 'large city family', comprising more than 12,000 colleagues in the city administration along with public companies and institutions, should plant their own tree. Tree planting campaign was launched last year and it will be completed this year.

Even though we have not only met, but even exceeded some important goals, one can always find room for improvement and further development. At the moment, we are implementing over 90 projects and each one of them is "green". We will continue to restore degraded areas and nurture the established green ones. To fight climate change, we will, by the year 2020, take up various measures to reduce CO₂ emissions by 30%; balance the distribution of mobility, so that 1/3 of all travels will be made by public transport by, 1/3 by foot and bicycle



and only 1/3 by car by 2020.

We are very proud and honoured to be the seventh European city winning the prestigious title of European Green Capital. This year, Ljubljana has a diverse programme with a broad spectrum of participants – from the representatives of district communities to environmental, cultural and educational institutions and numerous non-governmental organisations. Practically every day the information office of the European Green Capital 2016 »Point.For you.«, located in front of the City Hall, organises interesting thematic programmes, workshops, presentations, social events, and other engaging and educational activities. In this way we address and encourage residents and visitors to make Ljubljana even greener, cleaner and more hospitable and friendly.

By accepting the award and preparing numerous activities within its scope we are underscoring the need for solidarity, especially towards future generations, so they will inherit well-preserved nature that we have in Ljubljana.



Zaključni dogodek - koncert kvarteta klarinetov veteranske godbe Ljubljana, Mestni muzej Ljubljana, 7 May 2016.

The final event - Concert of the Clarinet Quartet of the Ljubljana Veterans Band in the City Museum of Ljubljana, 7 May 2016.

