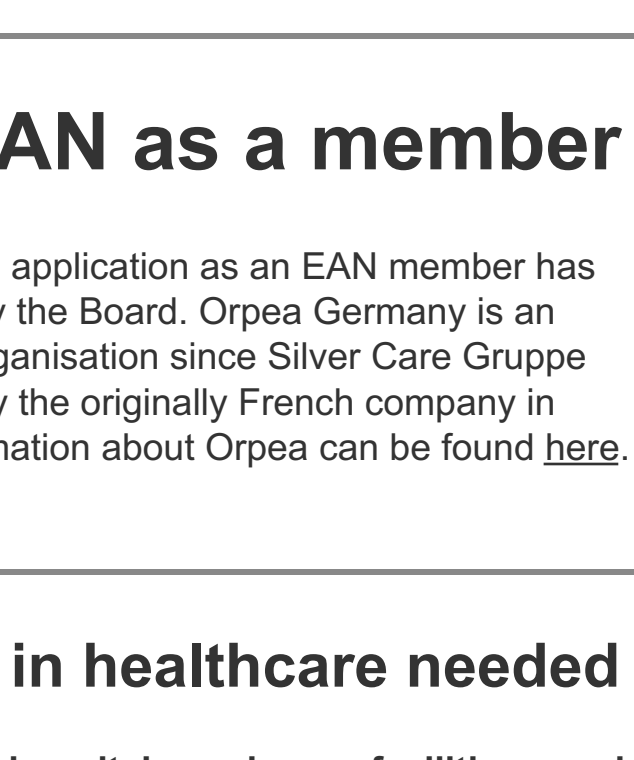




## Newsletter June 2019

### EAN to start three new working groups

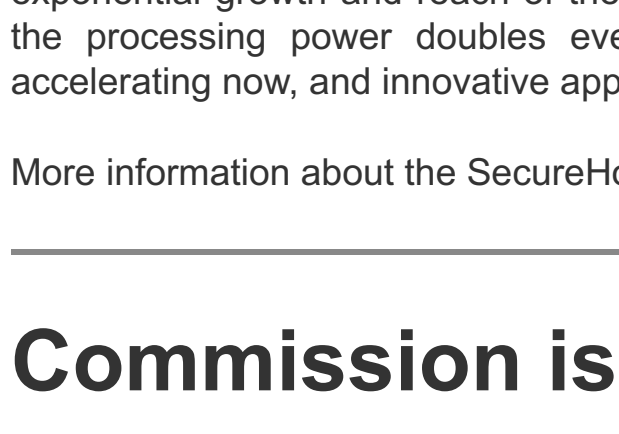
At its last meeting, the EAN Board has initiated three new working groups to develop a vision and statements on elderly care issues. The new working groups will focus on Alzheimer disease, (mal)nutrition in elderly care settings and on taboos and dogmas in elderly care policies.



The method of dedicated working groups has been successfully tested with the elaboration of the EAN 2030 Vision on long-term care. The pilot consisted of a series of working group sessions and resulted in a by the EAN membership endorsed report, which will officially be published in November 2019 at the EAN conference in Brussels.

The working groups will have a multi-stakeholder character to ensure the inclusion of expert opinions. EAN members are invited to participate and to assure practical translations of visions and statements. Further proceedings of the working groups will be discussed at the next EAN Board and General members meeting on 22 and 23 October in Matera (IT).

### Orpea Germany to join EAN as a member

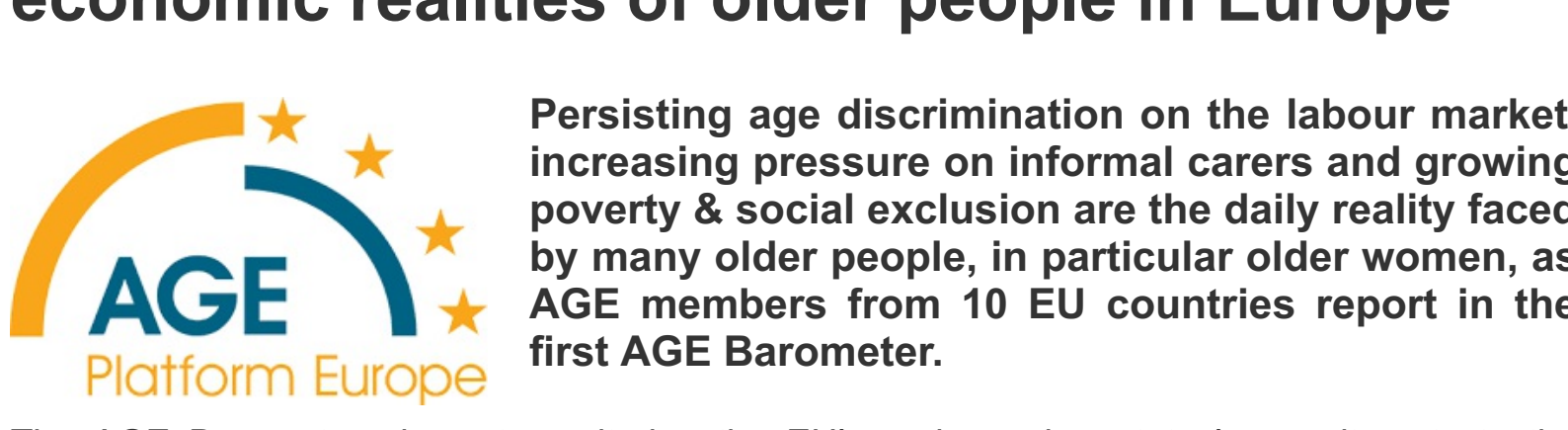


Orpea Germany's application as an EAN member has been approved by the Board. Orpea Germany is an Orpea Groupe organisation since Silver Care Gruppe was taken over by the originally French company in 2016. More information about Orpea can be found [here](#).

### More attention for cybersecurity in healthcare needed

Cybersecurity in healthcare organisations such as hospitals and care facilities needs continuous attention and while the cybersecurity is a concern, it needs relevant deeper understanding and an increased budget. These conclusions are found in a workpackage delivered by EAN in the SecureHospitals-project.

The SecureHospitals.eu project seeks to raise awareness on cybersecurity risks and protection opportunities for healthcare organisations and professionals. Through the creation of tailor-made training packages, application of different training approaches and creation of an online community of practice, the project will boost the level of training in cybersecurity for healthcare professionals in Europe. Thus, contribute to decreased human errors and more solid strategies against external attacks.



Cybersecurity needs to become an integral part of the organisation's strategic and policy documents, not as a formality but as good practice. The surveyed sample shows that hospitals might be a small step ahead of the social care organisations in understanding the potential impacts.

Cybersecurity is an ongoing and fluid effort, as new risks and threats emerge relative to the exponential growth and reach of the technology, processing power. Moore's laws suggest that the processing power doubles every 18 months, however the cycle is much faster and accelerating now, and innovative approaches, such as artificial intelligence.

More information about the SecureHospitals-project can be found [here](#).

### Commission issues recommendations European semester for Member States

The European Commission has presented the 2019 country-specific recommendations (CSRs), giving economic policy guidance to all EU Member States for the next 12 to 18 months. These recommendations also affect the way Member States structure and finance their long-term care policies.

Marianne Thyssen, Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility, said at the presentation of the recommendations: "This Commission has worked hard to build a fairer Europe, a sustainable and inclusive Europe, a Europe that leaves no one behind. The European Pillar of Social Rights establishes principles and rights for all EU citizens. This has to be implemented at national level. With the world of work changing fast, it is essential that Member States follow up with reforms in initial education and lifelong learning, labour markets and social protection."

The slowdown in global growth reinforces the need to pursue structural reforms, prioritising those aimed at sustainable and inclusive growth. Member States should advance social convergence in line with the European Pillar of Social Rights. In line with the euro area recommendation, Member States should also proceed towards a more symmetric rebalancing across the euro area and continue their efforts to strengthen the Single Market and deepen Europe's Economic and Monetary Union. The Commission calls on the Council to endorse these country-specific recommendations and on Member States to implement them fully and in a timely manner. The Commission will continue to engage with stakeholders to ensure broad ownership and effective follow-up and implementation.

The country-specific recommendations can be found [here](#).

### AGE Barometer reveals the complexity of socio-economic realities of older people in Europe



Persisting age discrimination on the labour market, increasing pressure on informal carers and growing poverty & social exclusion are the daily reality faced by many older people, in particular older women, as AGE members from 10 EU countries report in the first AGE Barometer.

The AGE Barometer aims at monitoring the EU's and member states' commitments to the European Pillar of Social Rights, the United Nations Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It focusses this year on six key domains related to employment and income of the 50+: gender equality, support to find employment, age-friendly workplaces, work-life balance, fight against poverty, social exclusion and loneliness and adequate pensions.

AGE Barometer draws on a wealth of reliable statistical data and the qualitative assessment by AGE members from a group of countries representative of the diversity among EU member states: Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, France, Germany, Italy, Malta, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom. AGE Barometer will be published every year with rotating thematic focus areas. Next year's edition will look at health, long-term care, independence and autonomy.

The AGE Barometer can be found [here](#).

### Homes4Life to develop new European 'ageing in place' certification scheme

Homes4Life organised its 1st Stakeholder Workshop in Brussels on June 11th 2019. Homes4Life contributes to the development of a new European certification scheme. The scheme will be based on an inspirational and realistic long-term vision of people's needs and requirements in a holistic life-course approach and help develop better living environments integrating construction and digital solutions where this is beneficial.



The different socio-economic conditions (housing ownership, family structure, health system, etc.) and building typologies across the European Union will be analyzed to provide the required flexibility to address the specificities of each country in a user-centric approach. The Homes4Life certification scheme will apply to both new and existing buildings.

A huge share of the building stock is not adapted to permit to older persons to age in place. Even today's new constructions are often not prepared to support health and wellbeing over the life course. As a matter of fact, one in eight of Europeans over 65 declare that their house is not comfortably warm during winter. Demand for age-friendly homes exceeds supply by far: a European study estimates to 10 million the demand for age-friendly homes in the upcoming years across the continent.

More information about Homes4Life and the new certification scheme can be found [here](#).

### Dutch care home to serve only 'finger food'



The Dutch care organisation De DrieGasthuizenGroep will start a pilot to serving only finger food to its residents in order to stimulate appetite and to tackle undernutrition.

All residents of the 22 living groups of De DrieGasthuizenGroep will eat traditional dishes in finger-food form. Earlier experiments have shown that older people will eat more and better when portions are smaller and served several times per day. With 3D-printed food, it also turned out that medication was easier for people suffering of dementia. Some residents of De DrieGasthuizenGroep already were served finger food. This will become a standard for all residents by the end of 2019.

### 'UK running out of care home places'

The UK is running out of care home places and soon there will not be enough to look after the growing number of vulnerable older people needing specialist care, the president of the British Geriatrics Society, Tahir Masud, has warned. He fears that because so many care homes have collapsed in the past few years that the quality of those left will also decline as a result.

More than 100 care home operators collapsed in 2018, taking the total over five years to more than 400 and sparking warnings that patients in homes that close down could be left with nowhere to go but hospitals.

The number of people in the UK aged 85 or over is expected to more than double in the next 25 years. By 2040, nearly one in seven Britons will be over 75. But the cost of care is rising far more quickly than the amount of money that local authorities pay for it, which in some cases is being cut and in many others not rising at all. Research from the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services has shown that councils had £700m of social care cuts planned in 2018-19, despite growing demand.

Already facing crippling debts from before the financial crisis, UK care home firms are collapsing under the pressures. Major operators to suffer financial difficulty include Four Seasons Health Care, which has been put up for sale after rescue talks failed, seven years on from the high-profile collapse of Southern Cross.

Martin Green, the chief executive of the social care trade body Care England, has called for the government to put more money into social care to avoid a shortage of beds in a sector that provides care and accommodation for more than 410,000 residents.

**Brexit**  
Masud said that decisions made over employment in a post-Brexit Britain were key to whether the care home system survived. Pointing out that few, if any, care home workers earned above the necessary £30,000 immigrant salary threshold, he said: "If care homes can't afford to bring in good people from outside the UK prepared to work for lower wages and as few people inside the UK want to take the jobs instead, as is the case now, then care homes will be forced to employ people they might have concerns about. The risk then is of abuse and very low quality of care." (Source: *The Guardian*)

### Ageing Southeast Asians need homes

Some of the most rapidly ageing countries can be found in Southeast Asia. The population of Singapore over the age of 65 is expected to reach 26.6 percent in 2035, whereas the ageing population in Thailand is expected to reach 22.8 percent. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) forecasts Thailand's old-age dependency ratio to rise to more than 50 percent by 2050.

In Vietnam, the latest government statistics shows the Communist state has 11.3 million old people, with 1.8 million over the age of 80. According to the same study, that proportion will rise to about 20 percent by 2038.

An ageing population shifts the narrative of ASEAN's growth prospects because it means the decline in working-age populations. Countries affected by a growing population are building policies to address both, the growth of their economies and the rights of the elderly. Living arrangements and family support for older persons have become increasingly important.

**Family is critical**  
In almost all Southeast Asian nations, a majority of the elderly live with their children ranging from 60 to 80 percent of older adults. Family is a critical social institution in providing support to its members, and children are expected to provide support to ageing parents. The number of intergenerational families – where two or more generations live under the same roof – is rising globally amid ageing demographics that call for more caring relationships.

Nursing homes are not enough to meet the ever-growing number of aged people. The services provided at these homes are also inadequate, affecting the quality of life and creating isolation among residents. Property developers are also taking into account the issue of an ageing society when creating housing for urban dwellers.

A survey found that 70.8 percent of Thais want to live in intergeneration households. The survey, conducted in 2019 polled people aged from 15 to 65 years, and revealed that 80.7 percent of Thais over the age of 40 prefer intergeneration family living. 92 percent of respondents strongly favour a 4-generation family living arrangement. It is normal to have 3-generations living in a single Asian household, because the culture is grounded in a structure that supports familial development and well-being. (Source: *The Asean Post*)

### ANSDIPP announces Matera conference



EAN member ANSDIPP, the Italian association of managers in the social and health care sector, has announced the Matera conference, themed "Evolution of personal care models and health and social care integration in the third millennium: scenarios, prospects, sustainability and uncertainties". The conference will be organised 23-25 October in Matera, Italy.

With high level speakers from all over the world, the three-day conference will provide expert insights in the developments and best-practices in modern elderly care. More information about the Matera conference can be found [here](#). The conference leaflet can be downloaded [here](#).

### Join us at the 2019 Global Ageing Network Conference!

Are you interested in joining other professionals and consumers of long-term care and aging services from all around the world to learn about emerging research and innovation in a unique forum dedicated to shared knowledge and professional networking?



Come join us at the 2019 Global Ageing Network/OLTCA conference in Toronto, Canada from September 17-20. Discounted registration ends on 31 May 2019.



### Upcoming conferences and meetings

#### September 2019

- Sep 11-19 [ECREAS Study tour to Canada](#) (including 2019 Global Ageing Conference)
- Sep 17 [2019 Global Ageing Conference](#) (Toronto, CAN)

#### October 2019

- 23 Oct EAN General Meeting and Board (Matera, IT)
- 23-24-25 Oct Matera Conference (Matera, IT)
- 23-25 Oct [29th Alzheimer Europe Conference](#) Making valuable connections (The Hague, NL)

#### November 2019

- 14-15 Nov [ECREAS Training "Living environments"](#) (The Hague, NL)
- 21-22 Nov EAN Board and Conference (Brussels, BE)

### Sponsors of the European Ageing Network



with people in mind



## Going further for health

### European Ageing Network (EAN)

The European Ageing Network (EAN) is the new association of the European Association of Homes and Services for the Ageing (EAHSA) and the international umbrella organisation representing national associations for directors and providers of long-term care services in Europe. The European Ageing Network groups more than 10,000 care providers, is present in 28 European countries, and is servicing millions of older people in Europe.

EAN is registered in Luxembourg, has its Secretariat in Prague and a branch office in Brussels. For more information, or for a membership application, contact [info@ean.care](mailto:info@ean.care).

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