

European Ageing Network

Activity Summary

Report 2025



Introduction

The year 2025 confirmed the European Ageing Network (EAN) as a stable, growing and policy-relevant European platform in the field of long-term care (LTC).

Throughout the year, EAN strengthened its strategic positioning in EU policy discussions, finalised key outputs of its Working Groups on Funding and Digitalisation, launched a new Working Group on Living Environment, expanded its membership base, and increased its visibility through conferences, expert meetings, webinars and publications. EAN continued to act as a bridge between providers, policymakers, European institutions and international partners, ensuring that the voice of long-term care remains visible in major European debates on funding, workforce sustainability, digital transformation and social cohesion.

We are bringing you a Management Summary Report highlighting the key activities and outputs of EAN in 2025, presented primarily in bullet points.

Key Areas of Engagement

Policy and Advocacy

In 2025, EAN actively contributed to shape European discussions on long-term care through:

- Engagement in debates on the EU Multi-Annual Financial Framework (MFF), advocating for stronger prioritisation of long-term care
- Contributions to discussions linked to the European Pillar of Social Rights and workforce sustainability
- Participation in Social Services Europe (SSE), FESE and Global Ageing Network (GAN) platforms
- Monitoring and engagement in discussions on the Quality Jobs Roadmap and social economy policies

- Involvement in European-level dialogue on vaccination strategies and public health resilience
- Representation at expert meetings and policy workshops in Brussels and other EU forums

EAN ensured that the perspective of care providers remained present in European social and economic policy debates.

Executive Board and General Assembly Meetings in 2025

In 2025, several key governance meetings were held to guide the Network's strategic direction:

- Executive Board – March 14, 2025, Dublin
- Executive Board – April 24, 2025, Cesson-Sévigné
- General Assembly – April 25, 2025, Nantes
- Executive Board – September 19, 2025, Online
- Executive Board – October 6, 2025, Lisbon
- General Assembly – October 7, 2025, Lisbon
- Executive Board – December 9, 2025, Prague

Key decisions included:

- Approval of the final Funding Working Group Report
- Publication of the EAN Policy Paper on AI and Digitalisation
- Establishment of the new Working Group on Living Environment of Older Persons
- Approval of new members and strengthening of governance structures
- Strategic preparation for future European and international activities

Executive Board-led Activities and Representation

In 2025, the Executive Board played an active role in governance as well as in shaping thematic priorities and external positioning of the Network.

- Strategic steering of Working Groups (Funding; Digitalisation 2.0; Living Environment)
- Participation in Social Services Europe (SSE), Federation of European Social Employers (FESE), Global Ageing Network (GAN) and AGE Platform Europe platforms
- Contribution to expert panels, conferences and high-level meetings
- Support to membership development and partner relations
- Preparation of thematic webinars and dissemination of key policy messages

Through these activities, EAN strengthened its role as a credible European stakeholder in long-term care.

Working Groups

Funding Working Group

- Finalisation and approval of a comprehensive report on sustainable and balanced funding models in elderly care
- Comparative perspective on financing systems across European countries
- Focus on long-term sustainability, transparency and public-private balance
- Preparation of dissemination strategy and communication to members

Digitalisation 2.0 Working Group

- Publication of the EAN Policy Paper on AI and digital transition in elderly care
- Organisation of a dedicated webinar on AI in long-term care
- Continued work on Digitalisation Report 2.0
- Focus on ethical use of AI, data governance and cybersecurity relevance for social services

Living Environment Working Group (new in 2025)

- Establishment of a new Working Group addressing housing and living conditions of older persons
- First in-person meeting held in Prague
- Definition of thematic priorities for 2026–2027

European Project Partnerships

EAN remained an active partner in EU-funded initiatives supporting innovation, resilience and workforce development in LTC:

- Well Care – strengthening mental wellbeing and resilience of LTC workers
- Care4Skills – skills development and digital transition of the LTC workforce
- EldiCare 2.0 – European training for care professionals
- Care4Elders – dementia care education
- Vaccination-related cooperation projects supporting public health awareness (MSD)

Through these projects, EAN contributed to education, digitalisation, quality improvement and professionalisation in long-term care across Europe.

Education, Quality and Professional Standards

Education and quality development remain key pillars of EAN's long-term strategy. In 2025, EAN continued its activities in two complementary areas:

EAN Certificate (2021+) – European training framework for managers in long-term care

- Three levels: Basic, Advanced and Professional
- Delivered by accredited European training providers under a 13-module curriculum
- EAN acting as facilitator, accreditor and guarantor of European training standards

E-Qalin® – European quality management system

- Co-owned and strategically supported by EAN
- Applied in residential care, disability services and mobile social services
- Based on continuous improvement (Plan-Do-Check-Act-Involve), combining self-assessment and external certification

Through education and structured quality systems, EAN supports professionalisation, sustainability and continuous improvement in long-term care across Europe.

International Conferences and Representation

Throughout 2025, EAN representatives participated in numerous international activities:

- Global Ageing Network Congress, Boston
- SilverEco Festival, Cannes
- Finance4EPSR and other Brussels-based policy workshops
- Senior Housing and Healthcare Association conference, Brussels
- National conferences and expert events across Member States
- Preparatory activities for the GAN World Congress 2027 in Prague

EAN maintained active cooperation with the Global Ageing Network (GAN), the Federation of European Social Employers (FESE), Social Services Europe (SSE), AGE Platform Europe, and the European Housing Forum (EHF).

Membership Growth and Network Development

2025 was marked by continued growth and consolidation of the EAN community.

- 22 new members from 12 countries joined EAN in 2025
- Strengthened cooperation with umbrella organisations and partners
- Active communication and support to members
- Three editions of the EAN Newsletter (Spring, Autumn, Winter 2025)
- Organisation of thematic webinars and dissemination of policy documents

EAN continued to connect providers, experts, policymakers and partners across Europe.

Acknowledgement to Partners

We would like to express our sincere thanks to our partners (Paul Hartmann, Arjo, Samsic, P&G and others) for their continued cooperation and engagement throughout 2025. Through joint activities, knowledge exchange and strategic dialogue, we strengthened the connection between professional expertise and responsible industry cooperation in long-term care.

Conclusion

EAN's activities in 2025 demonstrate the stability and maturity of a European network combining policy engagement, professional expertise and practical cooperation.

Through its work in funding reform, digital transformation, workforce sustainability, education and quality development, and international representation, EAN continued to strengthen the long-term care sector across Europe.

In 2026, EAN will continue its work through General Assemblies, Working Groups, webinars and preparations for the Global Ageing Network Congress 2027 in Prague.

EAN remains committed to connecting professionals, influencing policy and supporting sustainable, high-quality and human-centred long-term care across Europe.

