



**EUROPEAN
AGEING
NETWORK**
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Activity report 2020

From the President



Dear colleagues,

2020 was a disasterous year - both medically as well as socially. COVID-19 has absorbed all our attention and energy. And it still does.

We are facing another wave of outbreaks in most of the European countries. But now, we are more experienced, have more knowledge and information than in the springtime 2020 - yet we are missing the workforce and the numbers of COVID-19 positive people are rising. Some countries are facing, again, some kind of lockdown.

It's my hope that we will soon overcome this hard trial and that we will be able to meet in person soon, to strengthen each other and to share our experiences. And to recall all other activities and goals we achieved last year. This Activity report 2020 will give you an overview of the world of EAN in 2020.

Wishing you all the best,

Dr. Jiří Horecký, MBA
President of European Ageing Network

EAN-members meet to discuss COVID



In 2020, EAN has initiated periodical virtual member meetings to exchange on COVID and to share best-practices among its membership. The meeting cyclus started in March and has been continued - for as long as is needed.

During the virtual meetings, EAN-delegations report about the situation in their respective country and share experiences.

The virtual meetings laid the basis for the intensive co-operation with European social services representatives and for current structural meetings with the European institutions. EAN has drafted a comprehensive document of lessons learned, which was shared with the Commission representatives.

Both the lessons learned as well as the 12 key statements - Covid-19 reflections documents serve as a basis for the negotiations EAN and social service stakeholders are conducting to pilot a EU helpdesk for social service providers to access EU funds to overcome the extra costs of the current COVID crisis.

You can find the Lessons learned document and statements via the [EAN website](#).

What EAN has done to raise awareness...

COVID-19 came not only to the care sector like an avalanche. The speed and the impact were overwhelming yet the care sector passed the biggest "test" and secured care for the elderly across the globe trying to protect both seniors and all care staff and other employees working in the aged care sector.

Joint statements on "sore spots" in LTC

The COVID-crisis has shown the "sore spots" in long term care. EAN member CURAVIVA Switzerland launched an international discussion to identify the issues and to initiate a discussion promoting answers and solutions. This document and initiative were co-created together with European Ageing Network, Global Ageing Network, CommonAge and Leading Age as key international stakeholders in long term care for elderly.

Short overarching statements are provided which describe the biggest problems, weaknesses and threats that the recent Coronavirus crisis has opened, showed and/or accentuated. The goal of this document and action is to open public discussion. Discussion with central and regional governments, with regulators, with the donors and with other stakeholders. It's here for national umbrella associations, expert societies or for everyday care providers to use it.

EAN members were invited to translate, to add, modify or to choose just some of the statements. It supposed to support and encourage you for changing things and for opening taboos that have always been here in elderly care but have been highlighted over recent months during the global pandemic.

"We expect recognition, urgency and resilience."

EAN, together with social services partners urged the European institutions to maximise the potential of the Recovery Plan to strengthen resilience and recovery through guaranteed budget allocations to social service provision in existing proposals.

Social Services provide essential care and support to millions of people in Europe, helping older persons, persons with disabilities, children and young people at risk, people at risk of poverty, homeless persons, migrants, people suffering from domestic violence, and many others to live better, healthier, longer and more active lives. And they help people to enjoy their human rights.

Social Services provide essential help to family or other carers, contributing to their employment and work-life balance opportunities. And they are extremely important to tackling gender inequalities.

Social Services are also essential to Europe's social market economy. They help to create meaningful employment for 11 million workers, 5% of the total EU workforce, and with an increase of 24% in the last ten years. The contribution of millions of volunteers across Europe can also not be ignored, especially from the perspective of social cohesion.

Open letter to EC

In follow-up of the meetings with the Commissioners, EAN together with social services providers have sent an open letter to the Commissioners in May, requesting to take urgent steps to promote access to social services for the millions of people with support needs during the COVID-19 pandemic. Among several suggestions, the letter proposes the creation of an Emergency Fund for Social Services and that the European Recovery Plan is committed to supporting the most vulnerable in our societies.

Webinar 3 June 2020

In June, EAN and social services providers will participate in a EC-webinar for accessing European funding programs for social services. The virtual helpdesk will provide advice to social services to access the EU's Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative (CRII and CRII Plus), the EU's main funding instrument to help Member States respond to COVID-19.

In order to provide useful input, EAN has called its membership in a questionnaire for precise ideas and suggestions for EU-funded projects.

Social services providers called for stronger EU commitment to ensure resilience of the sector

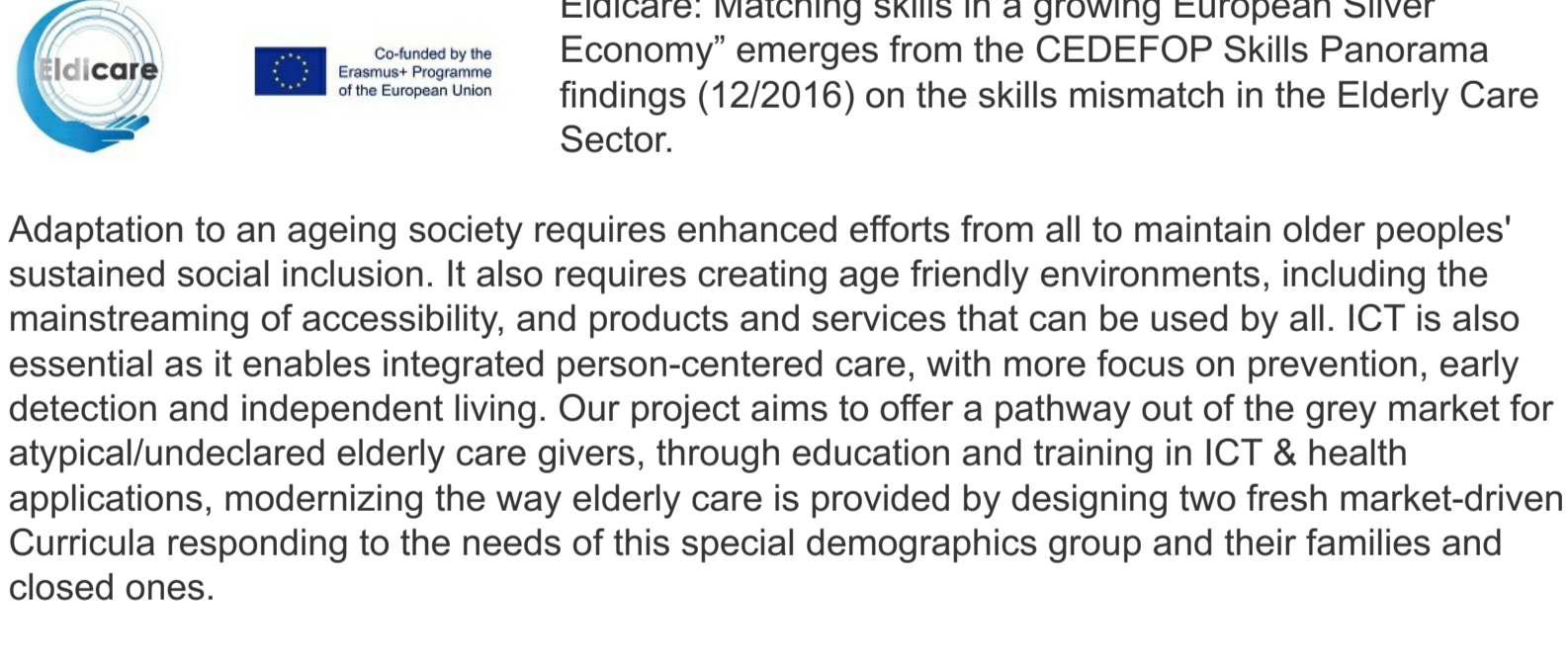
On 25 June 2020, EAN and the entire social services sector came together at European level to call the European Union to strengthen recognition, urgency and resilience in social services during the COVID-19 pandemic and the recovery. The Online Summit was also the opportunity for the sector to engage with high level European policy and thought leaders: the Vice President of the European Parliament Dimitrios Papadimoulis, the Vice President of the European Commission Dubravka Šuica, Member of European Parliament Dragos Pîslaru and University Professor Frank Vandenbroucke. The summit was supported by an ongoing social media campaign.

Twelve partners representing different dimensions to the social services sector at European level organised the online summit "Social Services & COVID19: what role for EU?," viewed by over 2,000 people across different platforms.

Social services is a sector employing over 11 million professionals, primarily in not-for-profit or public services, who provide care and support to millions of people with disabilities, older persons, children, people at risk of poverty and exclusion and many more.

The Vice-President of the European Commission, Dubravka Šuica, stated that "social services are under particular strain and the European Commission is committed to help"; listing their ongoing exchanges on how to best support the sector and the actions the European Union is taking in response to COVID19, including the Coronavirus Response Investment Initiative.

EAN, together with its social services sector partners started working on the establishment of a more permanent and structured way of meeting with EU officials, which is still continued.



EAN started two new working groups



In 2020, the European Ageing Network has launched two new working groups. One working group focuses on the nutritional aspects of elderly care. The other working group intends to tackle dogmas, prejudices and taboos that influence European and national policies.

Both working groups are composed of EAN members, representatives of professionals' interest groups and experts in the respective fields. The Nutrition and the Dogmas & Taboos working groups plan to meet four to five times in 2020 and to deliver their results by the end of the year. EAN will publish the results and communicate to the membership and to European and national policy and decision makers.

More information about the working groups and the outcomes can be obtained via the Secretariat.

Optimal nutritional care for older persons

The project goal is to create guidelines about nutritional care in social services facilities for older persons. The guidelines should provide for key principles, procedures and processes, good practices and solutions. The guidelines should be disseminated to social services providers in Europe.

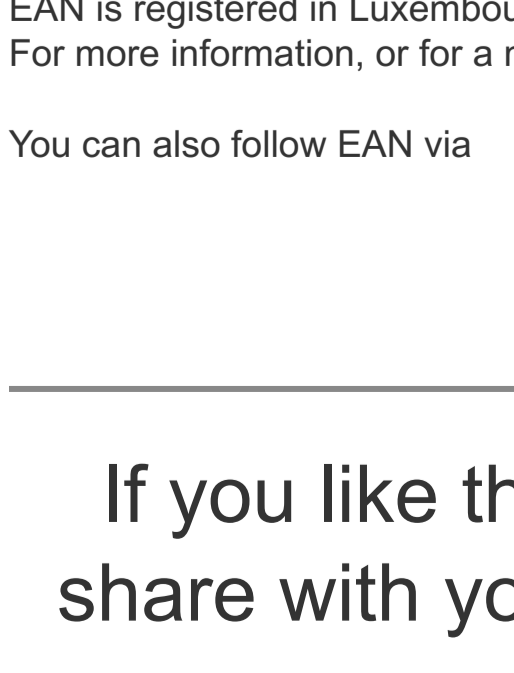
This exercise resulted in practical guidelines for elderly care providers and a report/ position paper to hand over to relevant policy and decision makers at a national and EU level.

Dogmas and taboos in elderly care

The working group Dogmas and taboos of the European Ageing Network (EAN) was created to address a need of the members what dogmas, prejudices and taboos are present in ageing practice and how to deal with these.

The objectives of the working group report are to describe dogma's in society about older people and elder care and prejudices among staff in elderly care in order to facilitate research to confirm or beat dogmas and prejudices and to draft an action plan for EAN, EAN members, and policymakers.

EAN joins FESE as an observer member



In 2020, the European Ageing Network (EAN) has joined the Federation of European Social Employers (FESE) as an observer member. FESE represents the voice of employers in the field of social services at European level and is based in Brussels. EAN will represent the employers in elderly care.

The European treaties give a special status to recognised social partners (employers and employee representatives) and allow them to contribute to the governance of the European Union and the definition of European social standards; through both cross-sectoral and sectoral social dialogue.

Recognised social partners at EU level are entitled "to exclusive consultations on policy initiatives in the area of employment and social affairs. This status also gives them the opportunity to co-legislate EU law, if they wish to.

EAN's participation in EU-funded projects



SecureHospitals seeks to aggregate knowledge on existing cybersecurity practices across healthcare organisations, analyse, elaborate and disseminate the information as a means of achieving common understanding among practitioners on best practices and strategies.

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.

The UNIC project aims to develop, test and validate a set of innovative tools to help key stakeholders to implement Personal Budgets funding model.

Firstly, the UNIC project will develop and test innovative approaches to LTC provision; with few policy reforms as transformative (for all stakeholders and in all areas of Long-Term Care provision) than the use of Personal Budgets. Secondly, UNIC aims to develop sustainable multi-level partnership models, with significant effort placed on building such partnerships across Europe between persons with support needs, service providers and public authorities.

Finally, UNIC's aim is to use social innovation in LTC policy planning and monitoring, through a project which will support the development of Personal Budgets for the first time at European level. These tools, together with a set of policy recommendations & capacity building activities, will result in a comprehensive preparatory reform mechanism to support public authorities in the deployment of a user-centred funding model – based on the concept of personal budgets – for Long Term Care.

Eldicare: Matching skills in a growing European Silver Economy" emerges from the CEDEFOP Skills Panorama findings (12/2016) on the skills mismatch in the Elderly Care Sector.

Adaptation to an ageing society requires enhanced efforts from all to maintain older peoples' sustained social inclusion. It also requires creating age friendly environments, including the mainstreaming of accessibility, and products and services that can be used by all. ICT is also essential as it enables integrated person-centered care, with more focus on prevention, early detection and independent living. Our project aims to offer a pathway out of the grey market for atypical/undeclared elderly care givers, through education and training in ICT & health applications, modernizing the way elderly care is provided by designing two fresh market-driven Curricula responding to the needs of this special demographics group and their families and closed ones.

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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 25 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.eu.

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