

EAN Newsletter Autumn 2025



Dear EAN members, partners, and friends,

The holidays will be over for almost everyone by the time this newsletter appears on your screen. I hope you are all well rested and ready to tackle the challenges facing care with renewed vigor and enthusiasm. Because those challenges are plentiful, both in number and scope. Labor market shortages, new technology that is becoming increasingly available but also demands acceptance from clients and employees, tighter financial budgets, and an increasingly critical view of the performance of care organizations by (social) media, politicians, and society, to name but a few.

Elections are taking place in various countries, and you notice that care is quite an important topic. I can only applaud that, because it gives us the opportunity to present our ideas and proposals. Fortunately, we have already discussed these challenges very regularly within the EAN. By joining forces and exchanging experiences, we can also bring our input to the attention of politicians and voters in our own countries with even better arguments.

On October 6 and 7, we will also have the opportunity to meet again during our members' meeting in Lisbon. There, too, digitization and funding will be on the agenda. I hope to see as many members and partners as possible there so that we can continue to work on our message to society.

Warm regards,

Aad Koster

Vice-president EAN

Invitation to the EAN General Assembly in Lisbon



The European Ageing Network warmly invites all members and partners to the upcoming **General Assembly**, which will take place in **Lisbon, Portugal, on 6–7 October 2025**. To open the event, we will arrange a visit to a local social care facility, giving participants the opportunity to gain insights into the Portuguese care system and exchange experiences with colleagues. The day will conclude with a joint dinner, offering a valuable space for networking and professional dialogue.

The main Assembly will be hosted at the **Hotel Ramada Lisbon**, where members will gather to discuss key topics such as digitalisation, funding in social services, European projects, and the future of EAN's activities. A special highlight will be the final session with **presentations on funding in social services and the role of public and private providers, illustrated through the situation in nine EU countries**. We warmly encourage all members to join us in shaping the future of ageing services in Europe.

More information and registration [HERE](#)

EAN family – still growing



We are pleased to announce that the EAN family continues to grow. Over the past months, we have welcomed new members who share our mission of improving the quality of care, support, and services across Europe.

You can find the contact details of all new and existing members on the interactive map on the EAN **website**, where members are listed by country.

If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact us at **info@ean.care**.

Our new members include:

- SeniorGarden – Czech Republic
 - Maria Mannerholm – Sweden
 - IRIS Institute – Hungary
 - MNC SRL - Italy
 - SAMSIC UK - United Kingdom
 - inTouch – Czech Republic
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Ireland Calls for National Policy on Nursing Home Care: New Insights from NHI



Nursing Homes Ireland (NHI) has published a landmark Insights Paper that calls for the introduction of a dedicated national policy on nursing home care, described as one of the most serious and persistent gaps in Ireland's health and social care system.

Titled **Supporting Ageing in Place: Policy, Integration, and Nursing Home Care**, the paper is grounded in the outcomes of a high-level roundtable convened in February 2025, which brought together stakeholders from across care provision, regulation, academia, and advocacy. Participants identified ten core themes, including access and equity, safeguarding, workforce development, quality of life, and the role of nursing home care within a more integrated, rights-based continuum of supports.

The paper argues that for older people with complex needs, nursing home care is not a stepdown service, but a continuation of ageing in place, delivered with dignity, autonomy, and connection to community. It calls for cross-sector collaboration to embed nursing home care into national planning frameworks, alongside home care, housing with support, and community health.

The publication forms part of NHI's broader **HOMES Strategy** (Highlighting, Organising, Motivating, Engaging, and Shaping) and sets out next steps including the development of policy actions, a national residents' forum, and a scorecard to monitor Government commitments to the sector.

The paper is available to download at: <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.16600595>

Project Highlights

WELL CARE project – Supporting resilience and mental wellbeing in care

The European Ageing Network is proud to be a partner in the WELL CARE project, a Horizon Europe research and innovation initiative (2024–2028). The project focuses on strengthening the resilience and mental wellbeing of long-term care workers and informal carers, addressing one of the most pressing challenges in our sector.

At EAN, we recognise how crucial this topic is for the future of care – both for professionals and for families providing support. By contributing to this project, we aim to exchange knowledge, highlight good practices and support innovative solutions that can improve the quality of life for carers and those they support.

Learn about the WELL CARE project here.



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Care4Skills Consortium Meeting in Athens: Advancing Skills for the Future of Long-Term Care



On 7 May 2025, the Care4Skills consortium met in Athens, hosted at the Building Complex for People with Disabilities. The meeting brought together partners from across Europe to discuss progress on the project and align on the next steps for strengthening skills development in the long-term care (LTC) sector.

The consortium addressed barriers around MOOC engagement, shared good practices, and agreed on ways to enhance communication, personalisation, and platform usability. Partners also shared updates on research, scenario development, and the skills strategy – all with a future-oriented approach to long-term care in mind.

Another important milestone at the meeting was the **presentation of the first draft of the Sectoral Skills Strategy Roadmap**. EAN introduced the draft developed in close cooperation with Social Services Europe (SSE). The Strategy will serve as a cornerstone for shaping upskilling and reskilling initiatives across Europe, aligning with EU policy priorities and ensuring that LTC workers are equipped to meet both current and future challenges.

The Athens meeting highlighted the strength of collaboration across partners. By combining evidence, best practices, and strategic foresight, Care4Skills is steadily moving towards its ambition: to foster digital and person-centred care transformation and make the LTC sector more resilient, attractive, and sustainable.

The consortium will reconvene later this year in Sofia to continue advancing this shared vision. Learn about the **Care4Skills** project [here](#).



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DigiCare4CE: Supporting Digital Transformation in Long-Term Care

DigiCare4CE brings together ten partners from seven countries to support the digital transformation of long-term care (LTC).

Over the past 2,5 years, the consortium has developed key building blocks: the DigiCare4CE Model and Implementation Plan, eight pilot actions testing digital tools in real care settings, a Monitoring & Evaluation Report, Transnational Practitioners' Guides, and eight regional Innovation Plans.

One key output is the **DigiCare4CE Online Check**. This user-friendly tool helps LTC managers assess digitalisation, identify initial steps, and benchmark progress across Europe to set goals and build investment cases.



Ready to digitalize your care facility?

Enhance care and streamline operations with digital tools.

[Find out more](#)

👉 **Try the Online Check** and take the first step toward a smarter, more connected care facility! Your feedback is highly valuable and can be sent directly to Sonja Weigerstorfer (sonja.weigerstorfer@th-deg.de).

To complement this, the **Transnational Practitioners' Guides** provide practical recommendations for each stage of the journey – from preparation to sustainability – covering communication, staff training, peer mentoring, and everyday digital solutions.

👉 **Explore Practitioner Guide 1 and Practitioner Guide 2 for hands-on support in your digital journey.**

digital journey.

After almost three years of collaboration, DigiCare4CE will conclude with a **Policy Conference on 19 November 2025 in St. Pölten, Austria**, presenting results, tested innovations, and future perspectives on care digitalisation.

👉 **Join us – register via office@healthacross.at**

Discover more about DigiCare4CE, on the project **website**. In the Media section, you'll find all project-related documents and resources. Stay connected and follow DigiCare4CE on **LinkedIn**.



News from European Institutions



Upcoming European Affordable Housing Plan Offers Opportunities for Elderly Care

The European Affordable Housing Plan is a developing EU strategy to address the housing crisis by supporting Member States in expanding the supply of affordable and sustainable housing through financing, investment, and improved access. It will assist EU countries, regions and cities in tackling structural challenges, unlocking public and private investment, and ensuring better access to housing for people in need.

For elderly care providers, this plan is highly relevant as it emphasizes improving access to housing for vulnerable groups, including older people, supporting the creation of age-friendly environments through innovative renovation methods, and advocating for age-specific housing solutions that allow for ageing in place and improve quality of life.

The consultation is open until 17 October 2025. More information can be found [here](#).

Commission Seeks Views on New European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan

The European Commission has launched a public consultation and a call for evidence on the new Action Plan to implement the European Pillar of Social Rights.

The European Pillar of Social Rights sets out 20 key principles which guide the EU towards a strong social Europe that is fair, inclusive and full of opportunity in the 21st century. The Action Plan intends to help implement the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights across the Union. It respects each country's social model and enhances Europe's way of life, which depends on the protections and opportunities of our social market economy. President von der Leyen announced the Action Plan in her Political Guidelines.

The Commission is asking for views on the impact of the 2021 Action Plan, the lessons learnt and potential areas for improvement where further progress might be needed. The Commission also seeks input for a new Action Plan that will be launched in the coming months.

EAN is working on this consultation in co-operation with its partners in Social Services Europe (SSE). The European association of social service providers will respond collectively.

More information about the public consultation and a call for evidence on the new Action Plan to implement the European Pillar of Social Rights can be found [here](#).

General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER) Consultation Launched

Until 6 October 2025, the European Commission will collect information and stakeholder views on the application and interpretation of the General Block Exemption Regulation.

The General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER) is an EU regulation that allows Member States to grant public aid to businesses and projects for a wide range of activities without prior approval from the European Commission, provided they meet specific conditions. GBER enables quick and efficient delivery of public support for areas like regional development, research and innovation, and the green and digital transitions, while ensuring State aid remains compatible with the internal market and does not distort competition. Feedback will help the Commission explore the scope for reducing the administrative burden for businesses and Member States, as well as for harmonising State aid rules and speeding up the assessment of aid measures.

The Commission is assessing the potential for reducing red tape and facilitating necessary support for industry, while protecting the level playing field within the EU. The Commission will consult stakeholders on the draft GBER before finalising the review process. Read more information on the review.

EAN is working on this consultation in co-operation with its partners in Social Services Europe (SSE). The European association of social service providers will respond collectively. More information about the consultation can be found [here](#).

Protecting Europe's Ageing Population: EHMA Calls for 75% Pneumococcal Vaccination Target



European Health Management Association

In a strategic effort to strengthen disease prevention and support resilient health systems

In a strategic effort to strengthen disease prevention and support resilient health systems, the European Health Management Association (EHMA) has launched a Call to Action urging European policymakers, including the European Commission, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), and the WHO Regional Office for Europe, to establish a 75% pneumococcal vaccination target for adults aged 60 and over. Developed with input from public health experts and key stakeholders, this initiative aims to promote healthy ageing and reduce the burden of preventable diseases across Europe.

Pneumococcal disease continues to pose a serious health risk, particularly among older adults. Despite the availability of safe and effective vaccines, adult vaccination rates remain low across most EU Member States. With Europe's population ageing rapidly, the need for decisive and coordinated action is more urgent than ever. EHMA's Call to Action encourages stronger collaboration between policymakers, healthcare providers, and public health institutions to improve coverage and protect vulnerable populations.

The Call to Action outlines several key recommendations, including:

- Strengthened public awareness and trust in adult immunisation;
- Improved data collection and surveillance systems;
- Clear national targets aligned with the proposed EU benchmark;
- Integration of pneumococcal vaccination into broader healthy ageing and prevention agendas.

EHMA invites stakeholders from across Europe to support this initiative and contribute to advancing meaningful progress in adult immunisation.

You can access the full Call to Action here: **[EHMA-Call-to-Action-Setting-a-European-Pneumococcal-Vaccination-Target-.pdf](#)**

To endorse the Call to Action, please use the following link: **[EHMA Call to Action – Establishing a European Pneumococcal Vaccination Coverage Target](#)**

Join international colleagues at the Global Ageing Network conference in November!



In uncertain times, unity creates momentum. This fall, join global aging leaders at the **2025 Global Ageing Network Biennial Conference and LeadingAge Annual Meeting**—a one-of-a-kind international gathering where your ideas can help shape the future of ageing services.

You'll experience:

- **A vision for healthy longevity in Asia** with keynote perspectives from Joe Coughlin (MIT, US), Janice Chia (Ageing Asia), and Dr. Emi Kiyota (National University of Singapore).
- **Expert panels on technology, advocacy, and more**, featuring international voices from Canada, the Czech Republic, Ireland, Australia, and beyond.
- **Immersive experiences**, including a global bike ride and an inspiring film screening.
- **Research flash panels** as part of the E2 Expo, spotlighting cutting-edge innovation.
- Opportunities to **spread ripples of kindness** across our sector and beyond.

If you're traveling from outside the U.S., arrive early for **pre-conference site visits** on Friday,

31 October, to explore pioneering ageing services providers.

Don't miss this opportunity to connect, learn, and lead globally—**register today**.

Reclaiming Nursing Capacity Through Modern Staff Scheduling Service Design



Optimizing nursing capacity is closely tied to the effectiveness of staff scheduling. Thoughtful design and strategic implementation of modern scheduling services are essential to ensure that resources are allocated efficiently and that nurses are empowered to deliver the best possible care instead of spending too much time with staff scheduling.

A well-designed staff scheduling service includes non-nursing clerks that specialize in schedule design, workforce analytics, creative staffing and have a keen focus on serving clinical leadership to ensure staffing remains stable. By working more in advance, and more strategically, you can see outcomes such as reduced nurse burnout and increases job satisfaction. Good scheduling service design helps you keep staffing from remaining chaotic. It is about doing more with less by optimizing the resources you have.

Measurable Outcomes of Strategic Staff Scheduling

By enabling more effective utilization of nursing resources and enhancing workforce scheduling and deployment, organizations can achieve notable financial and operational improvements. These include substantial savings to budget and Full-Time Equivalent (FTE) counts, the closure of apparent vacancies through optimized staffing, and reductions in overall headcount by streamlining schedules.

Furthermore, such approaches often deliver radical decreases in total labor spend—potentially amounting to 1.5 times the entire labour budget. Notably, social care systems may see up to 60% reductions in overtime usage, reflecting both heightened efficiency and enhanced staff well-being.

If you would like more information, please visit us at : **www.workforce-edge.com**

Grains of Sand: an intimate reflection on friendship and creativity in aging



Grains of Sand is a personal and poetic documentary about two women artists growing into their ninth decade. Both of them are still active in their work in stone, painting and collage. Filmed over eight years, *Grains of Sand* uses conversation, memories and artwork to create a different kind of coming-of-age story.

Margot and Barbara are filmmaker Sarah Gross's mother and mother-in-law, respectively. Margot, a native of England who now lives in San Francisco, CA, and Barbara, who lives in Hamburg, Germany, meet yearly at a beautiful stone farmhouse in the German countryside. The retreat becomes a ritual where the women meet to share their art, reflect on their lives, and enjoy their friendship.

The women's conversations and memories are accompanied by voice-overs from Gross that develop an intergenerational dialogue about creativity and aging – what it means to grow old and still be fully alive.

Screenings of **Grains of Sand** are followed whenever possible by a filmmaker Q&A and audience discussion. The screenings are also enhanced by special accompanying writing and art workshops – designed for aging communities and their caregivers as well as for multigenerational audiences. These workshops further involve audiences and build upon the themes of the film: the richness of human memoir, the gift of community, the beauty of

multigenerational relationships, and how making art and telling our stories can enhance our lives all the way through.

If this type of event might be of interest to you and your community, please get in touch: contact@buglefilms.com. View the Grains of Sand [trailer](#), learn more at the film [website](#).

SilverEco & Ageing Well International Festival 2025: Shaping the Future of Ageing Together



The 17th edition of the SilverEco & Ageing Well International Festival will take place on **October 20–21, 2025, at the Palais des Festivals in Cannes, France**. This major event brings together public and private actors, innovators, researchers, institutions, and international networks working to build more inclusive, age-friendly societies.

In partnership with organizations across Europe and beyond, the Festival offers a unique platform for dialogue, networking, and visibility. Its program includes 6 thematic summits, panel discussions, networking sessions, the **SilverEco Awards Gala Ceremony**, and an **International Study Tour** supported by the South Region of France.

We warmly invite all EAN members and partners to get involved — **EAN members can benefit from a discount on registration!** Whether as awards participants, speakers, visitors or sponsors. Let's continue to strengthen international collaboration and ensure that longevity becomes an opportunity for all.

📄 For more information: [silvereco.org/festival](https://www.silvereco.org/festival)

📄 Contact the organizers: <https://www.silvereco.org/festival/en/contact-us/>

A Person-Centered Approach to Long-Term Care



Creating a truly supportive care environment begins with a simple but powerful principle: putting people first. At Arjo, we believe that residents, patients, and caregivers should be at the heart of every design decision in long-term care and healthcare facilities.

A person-centered approach means designing spaces that promote mobility, dignity, and safety. As residents age, their physical and cognitive needs evolve. Facilities must be adaptable – supporting independence where possible and providing assistance where needed. Encouraging daily movement, such as getting out of bed or participating in hygiene routines, has proven benefits for both physical and mental health. It can reduce the risk of complications like pressure injuries, depression, and muscle deterioration.

Equally important is the caregiver experience. When facilities are designed with adequate space and the right equipment, caregivers can support residents more effectively and safely. This not only improves care outcomes but also reduces the risk of strain and injury among staff.

Arjo's decades of collaboration with care providers have led to deep insights into what makes a care environment work. From early-stage planning to equipment integration, our tools and expertise help ensure that every aspect of the facility supports person-centered care.

Whether you're building a new facility or upgrading an existing one, Arjo can help you design with purpose – creating spaces that empower movement, enhance care, and uphold the dignity of every individual.

Discover how person-centered design can transform your care environment – visit [Arjo's portal for planning and designing care facilities](#)



19 September 2025 – EAN Executive Board online meeting
6–7 October 2025 – EAN General Assembly meeting – Lisbon /Portugal/
20 – 21 October 2025 – SilverEco & Ageing Well International, Cannes /FR/

About EAN



The European Ageing Network brings together over 13,000 care providers across 29 European countries, including for-profit, non-profit, and public organizations. Together, they work to improve the quality of life for older people through high-quality housing, services, and care. Their efforts respond to major demographic shifts driven by increasing life expectancy and low birth rates, which significantly impact the economy, social protection, healthcare systems, the labor market, and more.

www.ean.care



EAN Partners



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