

# EAN Newsletter Spring 2025



## NEWSLETTER

We care... since 1989



Dear EAN members, partners, and friends,

as we welcome the late Spring 2025 edition of the EAN Newsletter, I am reminded of the essential role our community plays in shaping a Europe that respects and supports all generations. From the ambitious Horizon Europe funding programs to the urgent focus on cybersecurity in healthcare, it is clear that ageing populations must be at the heart of EU policy and innovation. We are encouraged to see quality jobs, affordable housing, and digital resilience gaining ground on the EU agenda—but we must continue to advocate strongly for long-term care as a cornerstone of social cohesion. The European Ageing Network is proud to represent this voice and calls on all institutions to recognise care not as a cost, but as a transformative investment in our shared future. Together, we can ensure that growing older in Europe means living with dignity, safety, and inclusion. Let us seize these policy windows to shape a Union that meets the needs of today—and those of tomorrow.

The good news is that the process at the United Nations (where we have our representative via the Global Ageing Network) with new Charter of rights for older persons has moved forward.

And – we are still growing practically every month we are welcoming some new members among them also some big, strong and important umbrella associations.

Warm regards

Dr. Jiri Horecky

president of the European Ageing Network

## The EAN Family is Growing



At the **General Assembly of the European Ageing Network (EAN)** held in **April 2025 in Nantes**, we were delighted to **welcome new members** into our growing community. It is encouraging to see that our work continues to **inspire organisations and individuals across Europe** who share our commitment to improving care, support, and services for those in need.

The EAN network brings together a wide range of stakeholders active in health and social care, and we are proud that our activities continue to attract new partners dedicated to quality, innovation, and collaboration.

You can find contact details of both new and existing members by visiting the **EAN website** and selecting the relevant country.

### Our new members include:

- Haus der Barmherzigkeit NÖ. Pflegeheime GmbH – Austria
- Österreichische Jungarbeiterbewegung – Austria
- Scottish Care – United Kingdom
- Elena Weber – Italy
- Monika Caracuda – Italy
- SFV – The Icelandic Federation of Companies in the Welfare Sector – Iceland
- SERVICE MENSCH GmbH – Austria
- NHI Ireland – Ireland
- Local Health Authority of Asti – Italy
- Stiftung Liebenau – Germany

We warmly welcome all new members and look forward to mutual learning, exchange, and cooperation as we continue to shape the future of care in Europe.

All related documents, including the Minutes of the GA in Nantes, are available at the following **link**.

Karel Vostrý – EAN Executive Director

## EAN calls for a focus on long-term care in new EU Multi-Annual Financial Framework



**The European Ageing Network, as other social services associations do, calls for a stronger focus on long-term care in the new European budget, or Multi-Annual Financial Framework (MFF). EAN emphasises that care is not a cost, but a key pillar of a resilient and inclusive Europe.**

In a statement EAN expresses its deep concern regarding the current orientations for the EU Multi-annual Financial Framework, which reflects a continued lack of prioritisation for social services, particularly those supporting older people. 'Investing in elderly care is not a cost to be managed, but a strategic investment in the European Union's shared future', says Jiri Horecky, EAN President. Elderly care services are at the forefront of promoting dignity, independence, and social inclusion for millions of older citizens. When properly funded, elderly care systems support employment, empower families, and strengthen local communities—particularly in rural and disadvantaged regions—while reducing pressure on healthcare and social services.

In its statement, EAN calls on European institutions and Member States to embed long-term care as a pillar of social cohesion within its financial planning, to recognise the social care sector as a critical pillar of the green and digital transitions, to engage social service providers in shaping and implementing recovery and structural reforms, to seize this opportunity to build a Europe where growing old is not a risk of exclusion but a guarantee of care, respect, and community, and to reframe elderly care not as a burden but as the backbone of a compassionate and inclusive Union.

The full EAN statement on a new EU Multi-Annual Financial Framework can be found [here](#).

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### Project Highlights

#### **EAN in WELL CARE Project: Giving Voice to Policy Makers in the EU Care Ecosystem**

As part of the WELL CARE project's mission to strengthen the mental wellbeing of informal carers and long-term care (LTC) workers, the European Ageing Network (EAN) is actively contributing a series of key informant interviews with EU-level policy makers.

Interviews conducted so far include conversations with Philippe Seidel (AGE Platform Europe) and Jiří Svojše (European Commission). Both experts emphasised the urgent need for systemic support. Mr. Seidel advocated for a new directive to secure rights for informal carers—such as respite services, emotional support, and training—building on the Work-Life Balance Directive. Mr. Svojše noted that although the EU has limited competence in long-term care, soft tools like the European Semester and Council recommendations offer leverage for encouraging reforms, especially in monitoring and funding mechanisms. Next in the interview series is going to be Mrs. Zoe Tzotze-Lanara, a member of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC).

These interviews are just one part of WELL CARE's broader efforts. The project is also advancing other deliverables, including national case studies, mapping of promising practices, and the establishment of Blended Learning Networks.

**Learn about the project here.**

Vojtech Mericka, project researcher



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## Join the Future of Long-Term Care: Large Scale Skills Partnership

The Large-Scale Skills Partnership (LSP) for Long-Term Care (LTC), part of the EU's Pact for Skills, invites professionals and organizations to shape the future of care. Through Care4Skills, 27 partners collaborate to equip the LTC workforce with vital digital and soft skills, foster innovation, and enhance person-centred care. Members gain access to exclusive resources, networking events, and policy influence opportunities. Whether you're a care provider, researcher, or tech expert, your voice matters. Join us in driving excellence in European long-term care. **Learn more**



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## Key Updates from the European Commission



## European Commission presents new funding programs under Horizon Europe

The Horizon Europe strategic plan 2025–2027 steers research and innovation funding for 2025–2027, addressing the key global challenges such as climate change, loss of biodiversity, the digital transition and an ageing population. The indicative funding amount for Horizon Europe for the period 2021–2027 is €93.5 bln.

Horizon Europe is the European Union's flagship programme for Research and Innovation, running for seven years from 2021 to 2027, intending to deliver scientific, technological, economic and societal impact to strengthen scientific and technological bases, and to foster competitiveness.

Horizon Europe will be implemented through Work Programmes. These documents will set out the strategic aims, call details and expected impact within the specific sections they relate to. Any type of organisation can apply for Horizon Europe funding as long as they have the operational and financial capacity to carry out the tasks they propose. For EAN members the **Health** and **Digital** work programmes will be most relevant.

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## European Commission opens consultations on Cybersecurity Act and cybersecurity in healthcare

In an effort to strengthen the EU's resilience against rising cyber threats, the Commission seeks input to evaluate and revise the 2019 Cybersecurity Act.

The European Commission and the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy presented a new **EU Cybersecurity Strategy** at the end of 2020.

The Strategy covers the security of essential services such as hospitals, energy grids and railways. It also covers the security of the ever-increasing number of connected objects in homes, offices and factories.

The Strategy focuses on building collective capabilities to respond to major cyberattacks and working with partners around the world to ensure international security and stability in cyberspace. The consultation can be found [here](#).

### Cybersecurity of hospitals and healthcare providers

On 15 January 2025, the Commission presented a **European action plan on the cybersecurity of hospitals and healthcare providers**, as one of the priority initiatives set out in the Political Guidelines for the 2024/29 Commission. The action plan proposes, among others, for ENISA, the EU agency for cybersecurity, to establish a pan-European Cybersecurity Support Centre for hospitals and healthcare providers, providing them with tailored guidance, tools, services, and training. The initiative builds on the broader EU framework to strengthen cybersecurity across critical infrastructure.

In April, the Commission launched a **targeted consultation** on the Action Plan for the cybersecurity of hospitals and healthcare providers, inviting stakeholders to **share their views**. The results of the consultation will be taken into account for further recommendations that the Commission intends to put forward by the end of the year.



## Commissioner Mînzatu kicks off exchanges with social partners on the Quality Jobs Roadmap

The Quality Jobs Roadmap is a flagship initiative of the Commission that aims to promote quality jobs in the EU, as a key factor that enables and supports competitiveness, fosters social fairness and contributes to just transitions.

The initiative was announced by President von der Leyen in her Political Guidelines for the 2024–2029 mandate and is expected to be presented by end of 2025. The Roadmap will support fair wages, good working conditions, training and fair job transitions for workers and self-employed people, notably by increasing collective bargaining coverage. Social partners will play a central role in its development to ensure that it benefits European businesses and workers across the EU.

What's next?

The Commission will be engaging with social partners on the Quality Jobs Roadmap. On 5 May the Commission held a dedicated social partner hearing and social partners were invited to discuss the planned Roadmap in the regular meetings of the EU social dialogue committees at cross-industry and sectoral levels. The Commission will also organise discussions with national social partners in the Member States.

[Learn more](#)

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## European Commission opens call for evidence for its Affordable Housing Plan

The Affordable Housing Plan is a forthcoming initiative of the European Commission to find solutions to the current housing crisis. The overall aim of the initiative is to deliver EU solutions to help all actors in the housing sector to provide more affordable and sustainable housing, thus ensuring social fairness and inclusion as well as competitiveness. More specifically, the objectives will be to: mobilise investment in housing supply at national, regional and municipal levels; make it easier for the people most in need, as well as families and young people, to access affordable, decent and sustainable housing; and remove other obstacles to housing supply and ensure a better match between supply and demand.

The Commission uses Call for evidence to define the scope of:

- a politically sensitive and/or important new law or policy
- an evaluation of an existing law or policy
- a fitness check of a bundle of related existing laws and/or policies

A Call for evidence describes the problem to be tackled and objectives to be met, explains why EU action is needed, outlines policy options and describes the main features of the consultation strategy, including whether a public consultation with a questionnaire is needed.

The call for evidence for the Affordable housing plan can be found [here](#).

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**Global News**

## UN Starts Work on Convention for the Rights of Older Persons



On 3 April 2025, the UN Human Rights Council adopted a resolution to begin drafting a UN Convention on the Rights of Older Persons. This marks a major step toward creating a legally binding international instrument to protect the dignity, rights, and inclusion of older people worldwide.

The Global Ageing Network, a long-time advocate for this convention, actively participated in the process, alongside civil society and member states.

**Read more**



19 September 2025 – EAN Executive Board online meeting

**6–7 October 2025 – EAN General Assembly meeting – Lisbon /Portugal/**

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## Commercial Article

**Save Energy and Water: Switch to Cold Wash with Ariel Professional!**

With rising energy costs squeezing budgets, care homes are increasingly seeking optimization solutions. One powerful strategy is switching to cold wash for laundry needs. This simple change can significantly impact both your operational costs and the environment:

- **Reduce Electricity Consumption:** cold wash can lead to substantial savings on energy bills, allowing care homes to allocate more resources to resident care.
- **Decrease Water Usage:** by using less water with each wash cycle, care homes can contribute to sustainability efforts while managing costs effectively.
- **Cut Washing Cycles Times:** enjoy faster laundry turnaround, ensuring that residents always have access to clean and fresh linens and garments.

The Ariel Professional Laundry system is specifically designed for cold wash and optimized for care homes, delivering outstanding results. With Ariel Professional you can maintain high hygiene standards without compromising on quality even in a cold wash.



Concentrated liquid detergent with deep cleaning technology for outstanding stain removal

Concentrated Fabric enhancer formula providing extra softness

Removes tough stains with hygienic deep clean as of 20°C, while preserving colours & whites

**Ready to make a switch? Contact us today to learn how Ariel Professional can transform your laundry operations and support your commitment to excellence in resident care: [suto.d.1@pg.com](mailto:suto.d.1@pg.com)**

## 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](http://www.ean.care)



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## EAN Partners



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