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EUROPEAN
AGEING
NETWORK

Newsletter Winter 2021



Dear colleagues and friends, dear EAN family members,

We would like to thank you for your cooperation in the almost past year 2021 and at the same time we wish you good luck, health, personal and professional well-being in the following year. In 2022, we will certainly have a lot of new challenges and working tasks.

Next year we are planning several important meetings. We are looking forward to seeing you all at the EAN General Assembly meeting, where we will meet new EAN members, introduce new projects, discuss EU agenda and exchange experience from European countries. Our meeting will be followed by a EAN Workforce Summit where good practises examples from staff recruitment and retention will be presented and shared.

Please save the date - April 4-5 / 2022. Our meeting will take place in ARJO headquarters in Malmö (Sweden). There are good transport connections by plane to Copenhagen (Denmark) and then by train to Malmö (18 minutes). In the coming weeks, you will receive more details about hotels, etc. from the EAN office.

Another important event next year will be the Lebensweltheim and EAN Congress in September 2022 (28-30 / 9/2022) in Vienna (Austria). Also the EAN General Assembly will take place during this congress.

Dear colleagues, we look forward to collaborate with you next year and wish you a beautiful Christmas and a good start to 2022.

Best regards from Prague,
Jiří Horecký & Karel Vostrý

Global Ageing Network elects EAN's Jiří Horecký as its new President

The Global Ageing Network has elected Jiří Horecký as its new President. He will start his new responsibilities as from January 2022.

Jiří is President of the European Ageing Network since its creation in 2015. He will serve in EAN's Board together with Femada Shamam (Vice President), Rosy Pereyra (Secretary) and Stephen Cornelissen (Treasurer, proposed).

It is Jiří's ambition to bring new members and partners to the Global Ageing Network, to create a digital platform for the exchange of information and best practices and to discuss the ethics around robotics. Other focal points include the future of long-term care and the integration as part of a continuum of care and workforce issues.

You can find more information about the Global Ageing Network [here](#).

The State of Health in the EU and effect of COVID-19

The European Commission has published the 2021 'State of Health in the EU' analysis, consisting of 29 Country Health Profiles and a Companion report.

The report focuses on the resilience of European health systems considering the COVID-19 pandemic. It outlines the impacts of COVID-19, the scale of digital innovations used and the health workforce.

Experts from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies (Observatory) prepared a set of 29 Country Health Profiles, covering all EU Member States, as well as Iceland and Norway. The State of Health in the EU's Country Health Profiles are designed to be a one-stop-shop for knowledge and information on a country's health system, put into the perspective of a cross-EU comparison. They are a comprehensive resource that covers the latest health policy challenges and developments in each country.

The Country Health Profiles 2021 reflect the specific health system challenges in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. They provide an analytical account of the national health systems' response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Country Health Profiles can be found [here](#).

Commission launches new EU High-Level Group on the future of social protection and welfare states

The newly launched High-Level Group on the future of social protection and of the welfare state in the EU met today for the first time. The Group will present recommendations on how to make social protection and welfare systems fit for the future.

As announced in the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan, the European Commission launched a High-Level Group to study the future of the welfare state, its financing and interconnections with the changing world of work, in light of mega trends such as:

- demographic changes resulting in a shrinking workforce and an ageing population
- transformations on the labour market accompanying the digital and green transitions, including the increase in non-standard forms of work
- globalisation and the emergence of new risks

In its work, the High-Level Group will build on the lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic and consider the interaction between social protection systems and other welfare policies, such as education, social inclusion, disability, healthcare and long-term care.

By the end of 2022, the group will present a vision on how to reinforce European social protection and welfare systems in light of ongoing and upcoming challenges.

You can follow the work of the new expert group via [this link](#).

2021 Report of the Social Protection Committee

The annual report by the Social Protection Committee (SPC) provides an overview of the impact of the decisive action taken by Member States to protect employment, income and access to services in response to COVID-19.

The report finds that the widespread positive developments in the social situation up until early 2020 were unfortunately interrupted and even reversed by the pandemic as containment measures were implemented to fight the spread of COVID-19 and protect the lives and livelihoods of citizens. Nevertheless, the social impact of the crisis was mitigated by the range of measures adopted by Member States to protect employment and support household incomes.

Key messages:

- Social protection systems were the main stabilisation factor in supporting household incomes.
- Social benefits, including short time working schemes, played a major role in mitigating the overall drop in household incomes in 2020.
- Access to social protection systems was often temporarily eased in order to increase the effectiveness of the systems in protecting those who lost their job or income.

Although the overall situation has been improving over 2021 as the EU recovers from the crisis, there remains a need to address the longer-term socio-economic impacts of the pandemic. Social protection systems are expected to remain under pressure in the short and medium term.

To rebuild from the crisis and prepare better for future emergencies, Member States should continue to prioritise measures to combat poverty and social exclusion, to address rising income inequalities, as well as to enhance the resilience of social protection systems.

National responses should continue to focus on the situation of the vulnerable and include mechanisms to support them. The European Pillar of Social Rights should continue to guide Member States' reform efforts and its principles should continue to be systematically implemented.

More information about the Social Protection Committee and the report can be found [here](#).

European Commission presents Social economy action plan

On 9 December 2021, the European Commission adopted a new action plan on the social economy. With the action plan, the Commission put forward concrete measures to help mobilise the full potential of the social economy, building on the results of the 2011 Social Business Initiative and the 2016 Start-up and Scale-up Initiative.

Social economy organisations are entities which put social and environmental purposes first, reinvesting most of their profit back into the organisation. There are 2.8 million social economy entities in Europe that employ 13.6 million people and which offer solutions to key challenges in our societies. They span a diverse range of sectors and forms, from care services to recycling; from cooperatives to social enterprises. Enhanced support to the social economy not only creates jobs, but also allows organisations to increase their social impact across the EU.

Despite the progress made under the previous initiatives, needs persist in several areas. Improving the right framework conditions for the social economy across Europe, including improved visibility and recognition and access to finance and markets are key aspects of the action plan.

The Covid-19 pandemic made the case for a switch to a fair, sustainable and resilient economic model even stronger than before. The aim of the action plan is to enhance social investment, support social economy actors and social enterprises to start-up, scale-up, innovate and create jobs.

More information about the Social economy action plan can be found [here](#).

Upcoming conferences and meetings

February 2022

- **17-18 Feb**
EAN Board meetings (Athens, GR)

March 2022

- **1-2 Mar**
[AgeingFit](#) (Lille, FR)

April 2022

- **4-5 Apr**
EAN General Assembly (4-4) and Workforce summit (5-4) (Malmö, SE)

- **11-13 Apr**
XVI Lares-EAN International conference - Workforce in long-term care in Europe (Alicante, ES)

September 2022

- **28-30 Sept**
Care 4.0 - Change in competence, organised by EAN's Austrian member Lebenswelt Heim (Vienna, AT)

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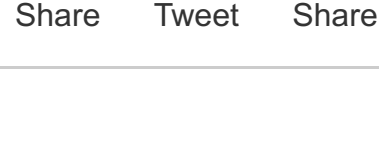
**Going further
for health**

European Ageing Network (EAN)

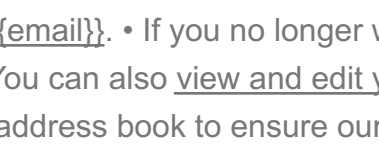
The European Ageing Network (EAN) is the new association of the European Association of Homes and Services for the Ageing (EAHSA) and the international umbrella organisation representing national associations for directors and providers of long-term care services in Europe. The European Ageing Network 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.

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