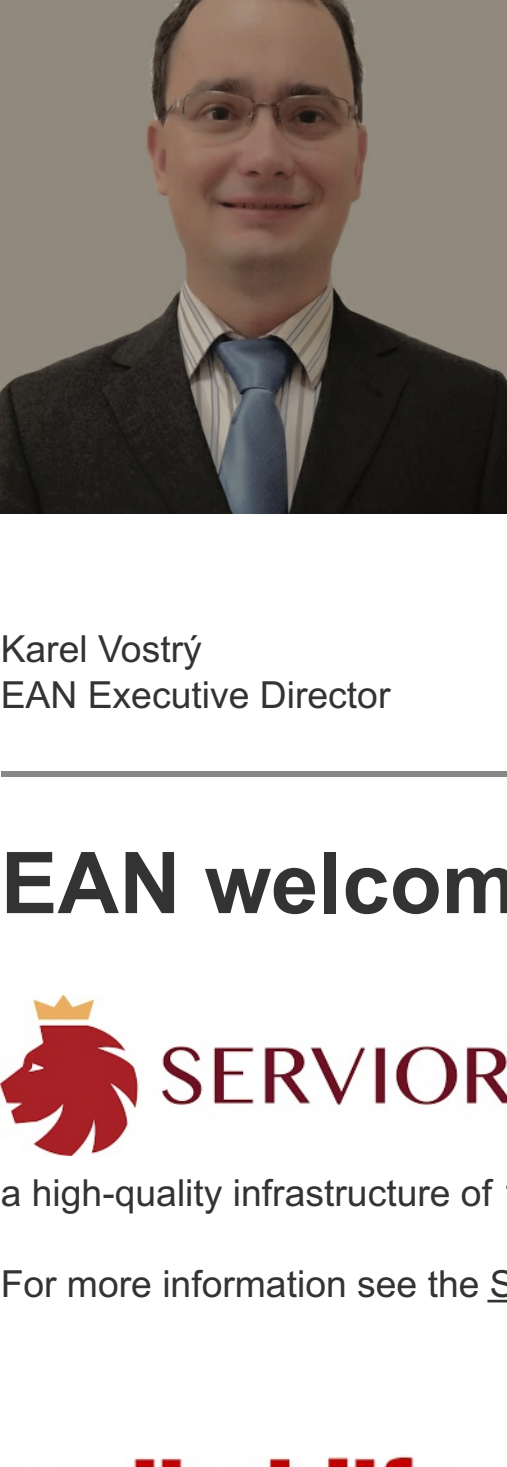




# Newsletter Winter 2024



My dear colleagues and friends,

allow me to thank you at the end of this year for our co-operation, mutual meetings and also for your contribution to our growth.

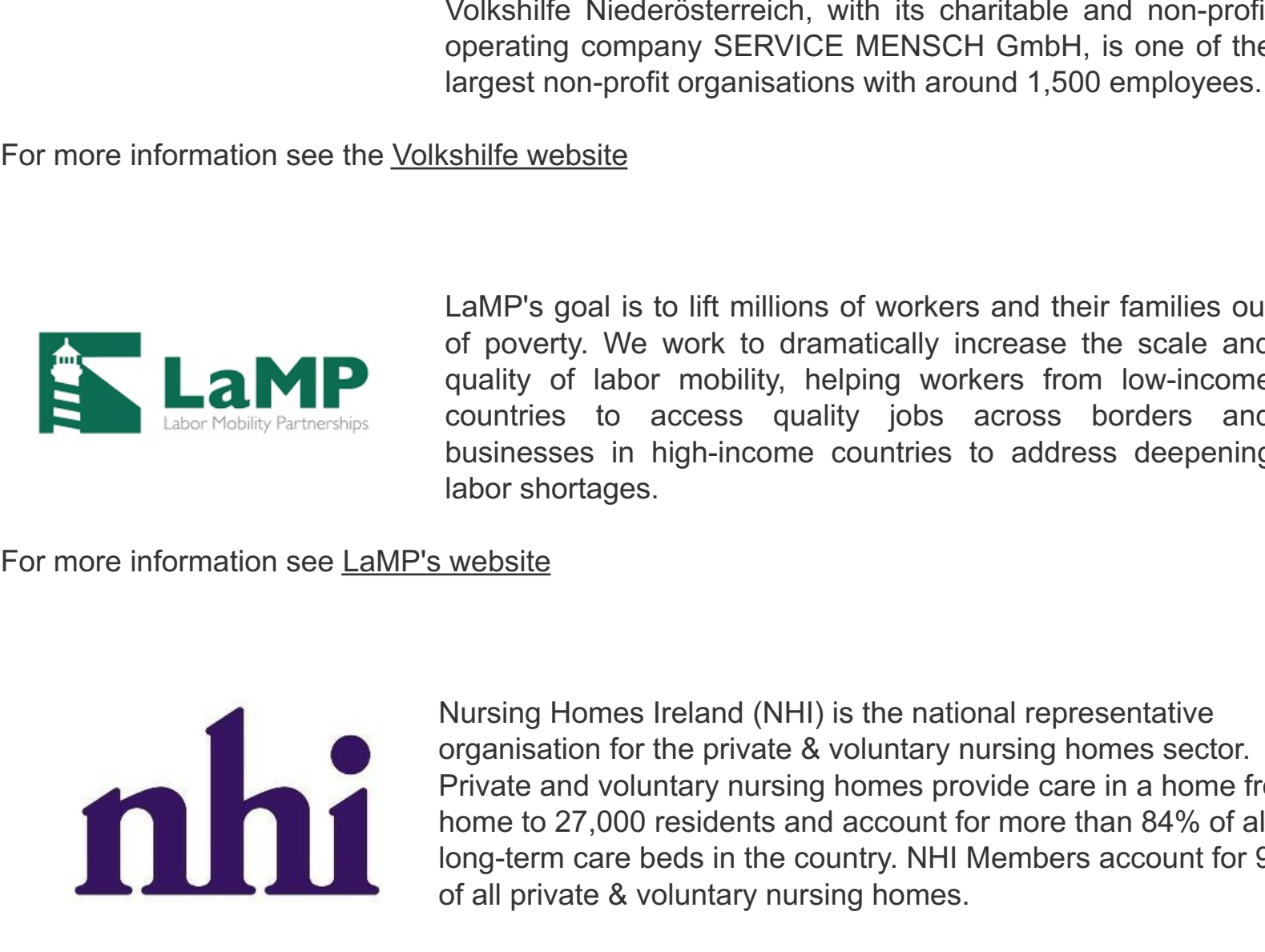
The year 2024 has been a remarkable year for the European Ageing Network. Through our collective efforts, we have strengthened EAN's voice at the European level, we gained new members, we had a successful European congress in Athens, we had two meetings of the General assembly, in Tallinn and Athens, we have introduced our latest report on Digitalisation of the long-term care sector, and much more. In 2025, we aim to deepen our engagement with the European institutions, build stronger alliances with like-minded organisations, and expand our knowledge-sharing platforms. Our upcoming General assemblies in Nantes and Lisbon will provide an excellent opportunity to discuss these goals and set a unified agenda for the future.

We are also planning a series of webinars and workshops to help members stay informed on emerging best-practices, regulatory updates, and technological advancements.

Together, we will continue to build a future where every elderly individual in Europe receives the care and dignity they deserve.

Wishing you and your loved ones a joyful holiday season and a prosperous New Year.

Jiří Horecký,  
EAN president



Dear colleagues and friends,

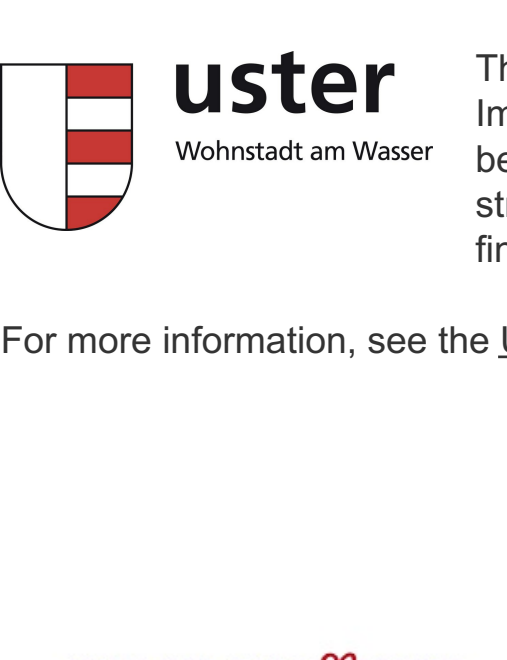
As we bid farewell to another challenging yet rewarding year, filled with insightful discoveries, delightful encounters, and new challenges, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each of you on behalf of the European Ageing Network (EAN) family. Your collaboration has been important, and I wish you abundant personal and professional success in the coming year.

Looking ahead to 2025, we have a lot of activities planned, and we will keep you updated on their development.

As we approach the festive season, I want to wish each of you a joyous holiday celebration. I am eagerly anticipating our continued collaboration in the upcoming year.

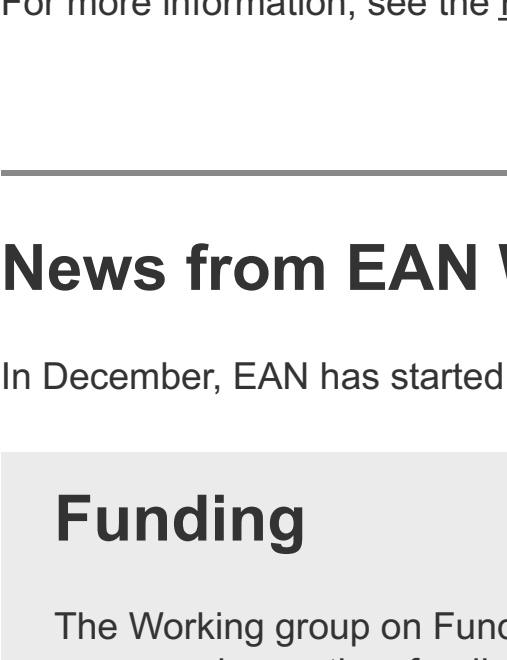
Karel Vostrý  
EAN Executive Director

## EAN welcomes seven new members



With its status as a public institution, SERVIROR has a responsibility both to its residents and to society. For SERVIROR, excellence is both a calling and a commitment. SERVIROR counts on over 2,400 employees and a high-quality infrastructure of 15 residences.

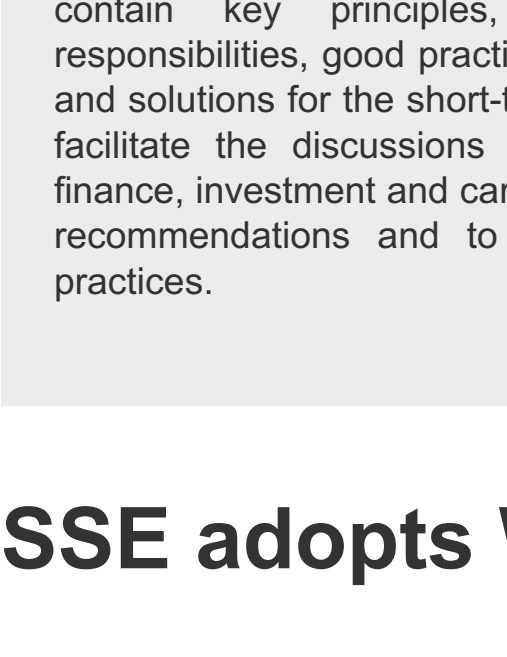
For more information see the [SERVIROR website](#)



Since its founding in 1947, Volkshilfe Niederösterreich has set itself the goal of helping, supporting and accompanying people in a contemporary way in order to improve, preserve and support people's living situations. We want to offer people opportunities to participate in social life and to be an integrated part of our society.

Volkshilfe Niederösterreich, with its charitable and non-profit operating company SERVICE MENSCH GmbH, is one of the largest non-profit organisations with around 1,500 employees.

For more information see the [Volkshilfe website](#)



LaMP's goal is to lift millions of workers and their families out of poverty. We work to dramatically increase the scale and quality of labor mobility, helping workers from low-income countries to access quality jobs across borders and businesses in high-income countries to address deepening labor shortages.

For more information see [LaMP's website](#)



Nursing Homes Ireland (NHI) is the national representative organisation for the private & voluntary nursing homes sector. Private and voluntary nursing homes provide care in a home from home to 27,000 residents and account for more than 84% of all long-term care beds in the country. NHI Members account for 90% of all private & voluntary nursing homes.

For more information, see [NHI's website](#)



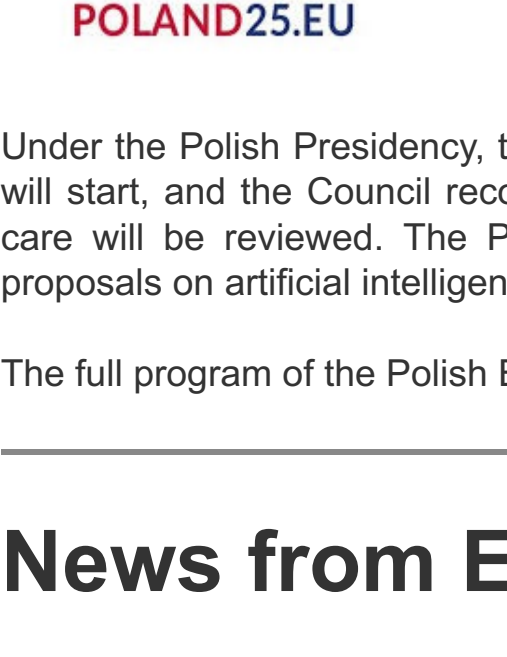
The ÖJAB – Austrian Young Workers Movement is a non-profit association that provides students and young people with a home at the place of training, offers inpatient and mobile care and is active in the areas of education, integration, refugee aid and development cooperation.

For more information, see the [ÖJAB website](#)



The Uster homes, with a total of five houses at the Dietenrain and Im Grund locations, are an institution of the city of Uster. They belong to the Health Department and are embedded in the city's structures. Uster Heime provides services in accordance with the findings and specifications of the city of Uster's ageing strategy.

For more information, see the [Uster Heime's website](#)



The non-profit Haus der Barmherzigkeit offers long-term care with quality of life to people in need of intensive care. Haus der Barmherzigkeit provides ongoing care for around 1,250 geriatric residents in seven nursing hospitals and homes in Vienna and Lower Austria. Haus der Barmherzigkeit also supports around 430 people with complex disabilities in our 17 residential facilities, five day centers and in mobile support.

For more information, see the [Haus der Barmherzigkeit's website](#)

## News from EAN Working groups

In December, EAN has started two new working groups.

Funding	Digitalisation
The Working group on Funding will reflect on new, innovative funding models for Long-term care and social services. Its project goal is to define principles and framework conditions for sustainable and equitable financing of elderly and social care services. The guidelines should contain key principles, roles and responsibilities, good practices examples and solutions for the short-term. EAN will facilitate the discussions of experts in finance, investment and care to formulate recommendations and to identify best practices.	In February 2024, the EAN WG Digitalisation delivered its report. The WG had as a main objective to support and to guide the EAN membership in dealing with digitalisation and ICT issues and to provide the association with input for issue dealing and positioning.
	As a follow-up, it is proposed to continue the WG and to focus on more detailed aspects of the digital transition of elderly care, i.e. Data and the European Health Data Space, Artificial intelligence and the setting-up of a Best-practices catalogue.

## SSE adopts Working program 2025

**At its General assembly of 16 December, Social Services Europe (SSE) has adopted its Working program for 2025.**

SSE, will focus its work for the coming year on several issues:

- Social services and social economy and Social Services, including taxation and the intergroup in the European Parliament;
- State Aid, with focus on preparing the revision of the General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER) and Influencing debates and decision on state aid rules to enable housing support measures;
- Public Procurement, with a focus on the revision of public procurement directive;
- Access to funding/financing;
- The New European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan (EPSR AP), New European Anti-Poverty Strategy (EAPS) and European Affordable Housing Plan (EAHP).

The work of Social Services Europe is directed by the Board and currently presided by EAN Vice-president Aad Koster, and prepared by the Working group, in which Marcel Smeets participates on behalf of EAN.

To follow the work of SSE, please visit the [website](#)

## European Parliament agrees on relevant Intergroups for EAN

**The European Parliament has adopted the proposals for 28 new Intergroups. Intergroups are unofficial groupings of MEPs who are interested in a particular topic that does not necessarily fall within the scope of the European Parliament's normal work but may be of interest to wider society. Intergroups hold informal discussions and promote exchanges between MEPs and civil society.**

For EAN relevant Intergroups are:

- Demography
- Disability
- Social economy and services of general interest
- Future of education and skills for a competitive Europe
- Mental health
- Resilience, Disaster management and civil protection

For more information about Intergroups, see the [website of the European Parliament](#)

## Polish EU president focuses on health security and EU pillar of social rights



**Poland will hold the EU Presidency from 1 January 2025 and will focus on strengthening European security, which also includes health security.**

It also aims to advance health promotion and disease prevention with actions at both the EU and national level. The Presidency will address the digital transformation, including regulations on cybersecurity in the healthcare sector.

Under the Polish Presidency, the evaluation of the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan will start, and the Council recommendation on access to affordable and high-quality long-term care will be reviewed. The Presidency will promote gender equality and discuss legislative proposals on artificial intelligence in the workplace and the right to disconnect.

The full program of the Polish EU Presidency and a calendar of activities can be found [here](#).

## News from EAN-projects



The European Ageing Network (EAN) is a proud partner of the WELL CARE project, which aims to strengthen support for long-term care (LTC) workers and informal carers to enhance their resilience and mental wellbeing. The project focuses on identifying and implementing innovative solutions to prevent both occupational and non-occupational risks affecting carers' mental health.

On December 4–5, 2024, the second General Assembly meeting took place at Hotel Ottilia in Copenhagen. Partners reviewed the progress made so far and planned the next steps for successful implementation across five European countries. The European Ageing Network was represented by Karel Vostrý, Executive Director.

We thank all partners for their collaboration and look forward to continuing this important work in 2025.

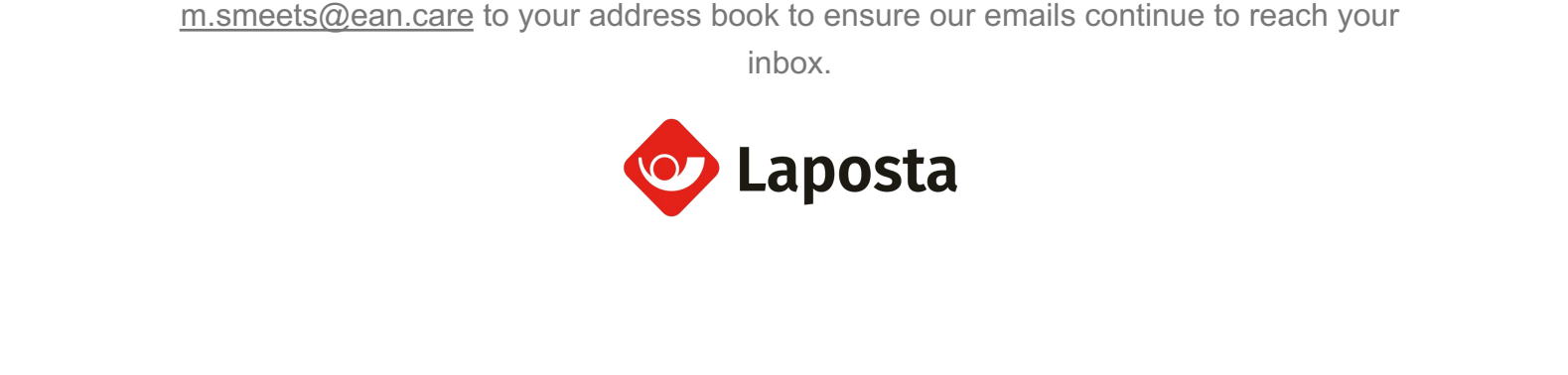
### Objectives

The WELL CARE project's specific objectives are:

- to identify at least 40 good practices in the European Union (EU) and beyond, able to prevent or reduce both occupational and non-occupational risks for LTC workers' and informal carers' resilience and mental wellbeing
- to develop, test and verify the outcomes of 5-8 innovative solutions (prototypes) in five countries (Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Slovenia, Sweden), together with local ecosystems (supportive environments) of stakeholders
- to analyse related EU and national policies and formulate action-oriented recommendations for policymakers and stakeholders
- to develop, implement and sustain a process of research, co-design, and sharing and using the findings with all groups involved and stakeholders at national and European levels.

The WELL CARE project will systematically involve LTC workers, informal carers, care recipients and stakeholders in local communities of practice (Blended Learning Networks). The project will consistently consider gender, inclusion, and intersectionality perspectives to understand possible inequalities and necessary changes for more fair and inclusive policy and practice.

For more information, see the [Well Care website](#)



## Upcoming conferences and meetings

### January 2025

- **30 Jan 2025**  
EAN Working group Digital transition of elderly care (Digital)

### February 2025

- **11 Feb 2025**  
EAN Working group Funding (Digital)

### April 2025

- **25 Apr 2025**  
EAN General assembly (FR - Nantes)

## Partners of the European Ageing Network



This year we have chosen to make a donation to:

The International Council of Nurses



Helps. Cares. Protects.



## 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 27 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](mailto:info@ean.care).

You can also follow EAN via



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