

EAN Newsletter Winter 2025



NEWSLETTER

We care... since 1989



Dear EAN members,

You are reading the last newsletter of 2025. Allow me not only to sum up the year, but also to thank you for our fruitful cooperation. For the European Ageing Network, it has been a successful year. We have welcomed **22 new members from 12 countries**.

We have worked hard on two comprehensive reports: *Towards a Framework for Sustainable, Equitable and Responsible Funding of Elderly Care in the European Union* and a follow-up report on *Digitalisation in the Long-Term Care Sector*, which will be introduced at the beginning of 2026.

We have also established a European working group on the living conditions and environment of older persons.

In 2026, we are planning two member meetings in **Naples (May)** and **Warsaw (autumn)**, as well as several webinars for our members. We are also preparing for a meeting in 2026 with Commissioner **Roxana Mînzatu**. In addition, we will participate in the next **Global Ageing Network Congress in 2027**, which will take place in Europe, in **Prague**.

There have been many more activities throughout 2025. We will present all of them in the **2025 Annual Report**, which you will receive from us soon.

On behalf of the entire EAN team, we wish you a joyful holiday season and look forward to continuing our cooperation in the coming year.

Jiri Horecky

EAN president and CEO



EAN family – new members



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 (approved as of 1 January 2026):

- Anume – Czech Republic
- Cyprus Third Age Observatory – Cyprus
- Workforce Edge Consulting Inc. – Belgium
- Senior Care Service Kft. – Hungary
- Clementas – Czech Republic
- Dementalent – The Netherlands

Looking back at the Global Ageing Congress on Long-Term Care in Boston



As President of the European Ageing Network, I had the honour of joining leaders in ageing services from more than **20 countries** at the 2025 Global Ageing Congress on Long-term Care in Boston. This exceptional gathering—held in conjunction with the Global Ageing Network Biennial Conference and the LeadingAge Annual Meeting—once again proved that when the global community comes together, the impact resonates far beyond the conference halls.

As the joint conference opened on 2 November, Global Ageing Network Board Chair **Vic Rayner** and LeadingAge President and CEO **Katie Smith Sloan** welcomed the international community with a message I deeply share: our challenges may differ in form, but not in essence. Ageing is universal; our work must be equally united. Their words captured exactly what we, in Europe, have long believed: progress in ageing care must be global, interconnected, and continuous.

Throughout the week, International Perspectives sessions connected experiences from Australia, China, India, Kenya, Belgium, and many more. We discussed age-friendly cities, workforce pathways, AI ethics, data collaboration, and community-based care. Each topic reflected the same truth: diversity strengthens innovation.

As I left Boston, I felt renewed energy and conviction. The conference theme, **“Ripples of Impact”** is more than a slogan—it is an accurate reflection of what global cooperation can achieve. Every shared idea, every connection, every innovation sends ripples that strengthen the lives of older adults across the world.

And now, with great enthusiasm, I extend a warm invitation to all colleagues, partners, and friends:

Join Us for the Next World Congress on Ageing and Long-Term Care, 7–9 September 2027, Prague (Czech Republic)

Hosted jointly by the Global Ageing Network, the European Ageing Network and the Czech Association of social services providers. Let us continue the dialogue, deepen our collaborations, and shape the future of ageing—together.

Jiri Horecky

EAN president and CEO

**Final EAN report on Funding to be published
in January 2026**

More than a year and a half ago, the **Funding Working Group** began exploring options for maintaining **adequate funding for elderly care in the future**. Due to the ageing population, demand for care, support and suitable housing for the elderly is increasing. At the same time, the **limits of public funding** are becoming apparent.

The working group has examined the possibilities of combining **private funding with public funding**. What preconditions and principles are important in this regard? And what forms of private funding exist in European countries? The working group has organised several meetings to further elaborate on this. The experiences of members with various forms of funding have also been discussed at various EAN member meetings. After the report is published next month, it will also be presented to **various stakeholders** in the European Union. The report also supports EAN members in discussing this topic with their stakeholders in their own countries.

Aad Koster

EAN Vice-President

Project Highlights

WELL CARE General Assembly Meeting in Copenhagen



The third General Assembly meeting of the WELL CARE project took place **on 2–3 December 2025 in Copenhagen**, hosted at Hotel Ottilia. Project partners from across Europe came together to review progress, reflect on feedback from the European Commission, and define priorities for the third year of implementation.

The first day focused on project progress and decision-making within key work packages, including WP2, WP3, and WP4. Discussions addressed completed tasks, upcoming deliverables, and strategic alignment across the consortium. Participants also reviewed outcomes from the Technical Review and discussed recommendations for the next phase of the project.

On the second day, attention shifted to project management, national BLN activities, dissemination, sustainability, and scientific communication. **The European Ageing Network (EAN) was represented by Karel Vostrý, Director of EAN and Project Manager, and Vojtěch Mericka, Researcher.** The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to strengthening collaboration and maximising the project's impact on long-term care systems across Europe.

Karel Vostrý

EAN Director

Learn about the WELL CARE project here.



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Building Competency and Recruitment Pathways for Long-Term Care in Europe (B-Care)



LaMP
Labor Mobility Partnerships

Europe's rapidly ageing population is creating unprecedented demand for long-term care services, yet the sector faces critical workforce shortages. By 2040, an additional 13.5 million care workers will be needed to maintain current care ratios. **LaMP** (member of EAN) is implementing the B-Care project with the aim of laying the technical and institutional foundations for future cooperation on long-term care labour mobility.

The B-Care initiative, running for 10 months until May 2026, targets four EU Member States (France, Greece, Ireland, and Malta) and four partner countries (Morocco, Egypt, Bangladesh, and Pakistan). The project addresses a fundamental challenge: while Health Care Assistants (HCAs) form the backbone of aged care delivery, the profession has limited recruitment pathways and lacks a standardized reference framework.

The project pursues two key objectives:

- First, developing a common competency framework for HCAs, to establish shared standards for training and skills assessment between selected EU and partner countries. This framework will approximate training expectations and create transparent recruitment criteria for employers.
- Second, building on this, outlining the design of a mobility scheme for potential future implementation that promotes fair and sustainable care worker migration.

B-Care will create a practical blueprint for structured labour mobility. The initiative brings together public and private stakeholders to develop solutions that benefit workers seeking employment opportunities, employers struggling to fill vacancies, and societies requiring sustainable care systems.

In the context of the project, LaMP seeks your support in contributing to this short **SURVEY** (10-15 min long). Should you have any questions, please address them to **Salvatore Petronella** at spetronella@lampforum.org.

Salvatore Petronella

Knowledge and Influence Lead – LaMP

EAN General Assembly Meeting in Lisbon
Thank You for Joining Us



The **EAN General Assembly Meeting**, held in **Lisbon in October 2025**, brought together EAN members and partners for two intensive and inspiring days of discussions, collaboration, and exchange.

We would like to **thank all participants** for their active involvement in both the General Assembly meeting and the accompanying programme, including the facility visit, working group sessions, and the joint dinner. Your engagement and contributions once again demonstrated the strength of the EAN community and our shared commitment to advancing social and long-term care across Europe.

All **presentations, meeting minutes, and related documents** from the Lisbon meeting are now available **online for download**, including the official General Assembly **Minutes** and supporting materials.

We are already looking ahead to our **next EAN General Assembly Meeting**, which will take place on **5–6 March 2026 in Naples, Italy**. Preparations are underway in close cooperation with our Italian members, and we will keep you informed as the programme develops.

We look forward to meeting you again soon.

Karel Vostrý
EAN Director

Global Ageing Network published its 2025 Annual Report



The **Global Ageing Network** (GAN) has published its 2025 Annual Report, highlighting key achievements from the past year, including global advocacy efforts, workforce and technology initiatives, and the successful joint conference in Boston bringing together ageing services professionals from more than 20 countries.

As a member of the Global Ageing Network, the European Ageing Network (EAN) values this continued international cooperation and shared commitment to improving the quality of life for older people worldwide.

The full Annual Report is available online and provides an overview of GAN's activities, partnerships, and priorities for the coming year.

Read the GAN Annual Report [here](#).

Karel Vostrý
EAN Director

**LTCF Het Heiveld awarded at the European Parliament
for Green Elderly Care**



LTCF Het Heiveld (public service **City of Ghent**, an EAN member, Belgium) was honoured with a prestigious award and prize in the European Parliament in Brussels for its efforts in enhancing the quality of life of its residents. The New European Bauhaus Prizes 2025 were awarded on September 30th.

Het Heiveld was runner-up in the category “reconnecting with nature” and selected out of hundreds of projects all over Europe. **Green Elderly Care** is a project to enhance the quality of life for long-term care residents by creating a green, biodiverse environment that fosters social interaction, participation, and belonging. **Scientific research confirms** that meaningful nature-based activities, biodiversity, and strong community ties all contribute to well-being.

The project is **inclusive and participatory**, ensuring all residents – regardless of physical, psychological, or social needs – can benefit. **Active involvement** of residents, families, and staff strengthens autonomy and decision-making.

Follow LTCF Het Heiveld on **Facebook** and visit their **website** for more information.

Geert Roggeman

LTCF Het Heiveld - Director

Bridging Health, Care, and Technology in Europe's Longevity Transition

Age-It scholars Marco Albertini, Filippo Cavallo and Antonio Cherubini have published a new article highlighting the urgent need to better connect **health care, social care, and technological innovation** in response to Europe's ageing societies.

Drawing on recent research and expert dialogue, the authors argue that fragmented systems and isolated interventions are no longer sufficient. Instead, they call for **person-centred, integrated approaches** that support older people, recognise and empower informal carers, and ensure that technology serves people rather than replacing them.

The article also emphasises the importance of prevention across the life course, reducing territorial inequalities in care, and closing the gap between research evidence and policy implementation.

[Read the full article here.](#)

Karel Vostrý
EAN Director



Cyprus Third Age Observatory receives Human Rights Award 2025



We are pleased to share that the **Cyprus Third Age Observatory (CTAO)**, which will become a member of the European Ageing Network as of **1 January 2026**, has been awarded the **“Stella Souliotis” Human Rights Award for 2025** by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cyprus.

The award recognises CTAO’s **long-term commitment to safeguarding the rights, dignity, and equality of older persons**, as well as its advocacy against age discrimination, neglect, abuse, and social exclusion. The award ceremony took place on **17 December 2025** at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Cyprus.

[Read the full article here.](#)



5–6 May 2026 – EAN General Assembly meeting – Naples /Italy/

16 March 2026 at 1–2 pm – EAN Webinar: NIS2 and Cybersecurity in Social Services

EAN Newsletters in Multiple Languages

EAN newsletters are now **machine-translated** and available in English, French, Spanish, German, Polish, and Czech.

Please **share the newsletters** with your members to help them gain a better understanding of EAN's activities.

All editions are always accessible here.

About EAN



The European Ageing Network brings together over 13,000 care providers across 30 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 labour market, and more.

www.ean.care



EAN thanks its partners for their support in 2025



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