

EAN Newsletter Spring 2026



EUROPEAN
AGEING
NETWORK

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NEWSLETTER

We care... since 1989



Dear EAN Members,

First of all, allow me to thank our President Jiri Horecky for giving me the floor for the first EAN newsletter of 2026. I would also like to thank all our executive board members for the great (and volunteer) work they are doing to make EAN a growing and inspiring network, with the great support of our Director, Karel Vostry. You can be sure of their involvement towards your organizations and our shared main goal: **the improvement of the quality of life of millions of older persons in Europe**. That's probably why the EAN family is still growing every year, and more and more long-term care organizations are joining us from all European countries.

Exceptionally, we won't have a European Conference in 2026. This is because, after the success of **Athens 2024**, we decided to organize a joint Congress with the **Global Ageing Network in 2027 in Prague**. More than our biennial Conference, this will be **the European and worldwide meeting of LTC stakeholders**.

But we won't wait until 2027 to meet you all again. As usual, we will meet twice in 2026 during our **two General Assemblies**:

- in **Naples, Italy** (5–6 May – registration is required)
- and in **Warsaw, Poland** (second half of October – dates will be confirmed soon)

2026 is also the starting year of our new EAN working group, which I'm honored to chair, on **"Living Environments in LTC."** I kindly thank all the members of this working group, who have already started working hard on what will be the next EAN report, following our two recent ones:

- **Towards a Framework for Sustainable, Equitable and Responsible Funding of Elderly Care in the European Union**
- **Digitalization in the Long-Term Care Sector**

We will be able to tell you more about this challenging work in **Warsaw**.

As you can see, 2026 will be another **exciting and inspiring year** for our European Ageing Network. On behalf of the entire EAN team, I am very much looking forward to **meeting you all in Naples on 5–6 May**.

Didier Sapy

EAN Vice-President



Invitation

EAN GENERAL ASSEMBLY
MEETING

NAPLES / IT



5 – 6 MAY 2026



Naples • Campania

**Join us in Naples for the EAN General Assembly –
a dynamic two-day event combining expert
discussions, networking and unique experiences**

What's included:

- Visit to a social services provider (RSA GIANA)
- Guided walking tour of Naples

- Joint dinner with EAN members and partners
- Full-day General Assembly with a rich **agenda** covering:
 - EU policy updates & long-term care reforms
 - Sustainable funding of elderly care
 - Workforce challenges & recruitment
 - Digitalisation, AI and cybersecurity
 - Key EAN projects and activities
 - Interactive workshop on AI & crisis preparedness

Expect high-level content, practical insights and great networking opportunities. We look forward to seeing you in Naples!

✦ **Registration is mandatory – all details and registration are available on our website.**

Karel Vostrý
EAN Director

EAN family – New Member



We are pleased to announce that the EAN family continues to grow. In the first quarter of 2026, we welcomed a new member who shares 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 member (approved in the first quarter of 2026):

- COPAS – Luxembourg

EAN publishes new report on Funding long-term care for older persons



EAN has released its new report **“Towards a Framework for Sustainable, Equitable and Responsible Funding of Long-Term Care for Older Persons in the European Union.”**

The publication is the result of more than a year and a half of work by the EAN Funding Working Group and addresses one of the key challenges facing Europe today – how to ensure sustainable and adequate funding for long-term care for older persons in the context of an ageing population.

The report explores different funding models, including combinations of public and private resources, and presents practical examples from across European countries. It also outlines key principles to support future policy development and decision-making.

The report serves as a valuable resource for EAN members and contributes to ongoing discussions with national and European stakeholders on the future of long-term care funding.

[Read the full report here.](#)

Aad Koster

EAN Vice-President

Project Highlights

WELL CARE report highlights 40 good practices across Europe

The WELL CARE project has published a new report identifying **40 good practices** aimed at improving the mental health and resilience of long-term care workers and informal carers.

The report is based on a systematic review of **170 practices from across Europe**, combining research evidence, expert insights and practical experience. It highlights innovative approaches such as training programmes, digital tools, group interventions and integrated care models.

A key finding is the importance of **strong partnerships between formal and informal carers**, which play a crucial role in improving wellbeing, reducing care burden and enhancing the quality of care.

The report also underlines that sustainable and scalable solutions require not only funding, but also **political support, workforce capacity and effective coordination**.

The identified practices will now support the development of tailored solutions to be tested and implemented across different European contexts.

[Read the full report here.](#)

Karel Vostrý

EAN Director



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Care4Skills contributing to the discussion on future skills needs

Care4Skills was pleased to contribute to the European discussion on the future of skills in long-term care. The Horizon Europe project LAUREL – Actionable policies for adopting high-quality integrated long-term care – will host a webinar on “New competencies and skills for healthcare professionals in integrated long-term care.”

As Europe’s population ages, health and social care systems are moving towards more integrated, community-based and digitally enabled long-term care models. This transition is reshaping professional roles in the sector. Nurses, therapists, social workers and care workers are increasingly expected to work in interdisciplinary teams, use digital tools with confidence, and deliver person-centred, culturally sensitive support across health and social care settings.

Find more information here.

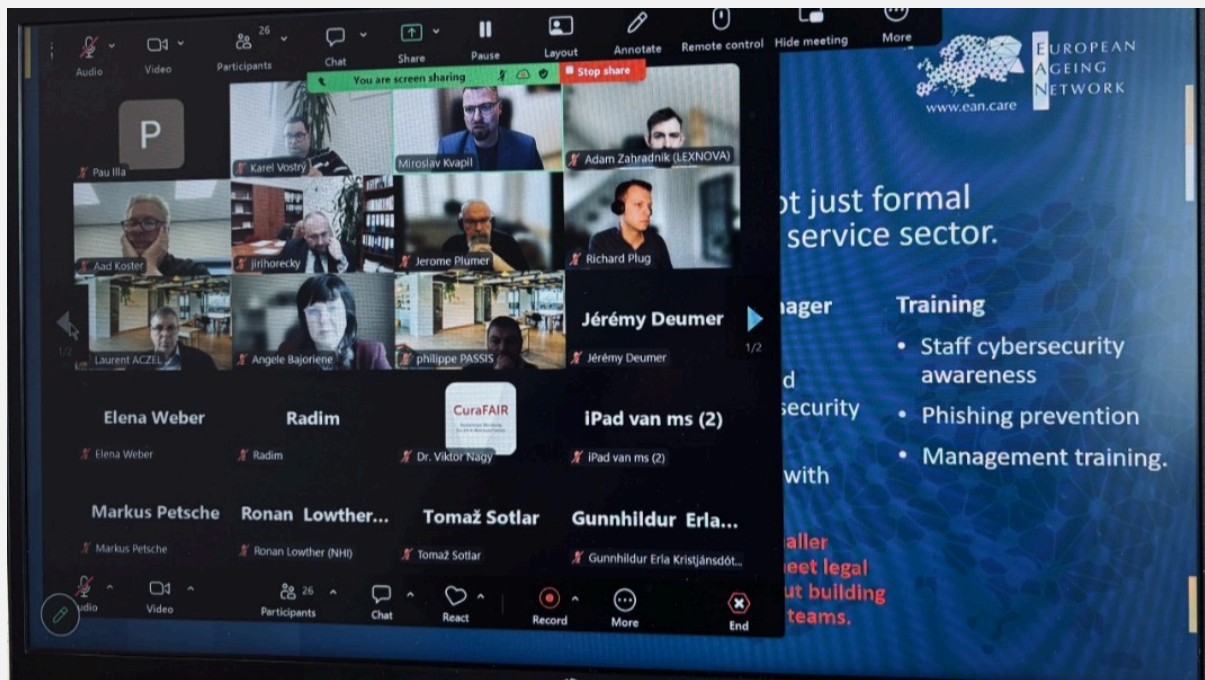
Vít Jásek

Project manager



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

NIS2 and Social Services – Experiences from EAN Member States



On 16 March 2026, EAN hosted a webinar focused on the impact of the **EU NIS2 Directive on health and social services**. The session brought together experts and practitioners from across Europe to share practical experiences and national perspectives.

Participants gained insights from several countries. Richard Plug (Z-CERT, **Netherlands**) presented the Dutch approach to cybersecurity in healthcare, including the role of specialised CSIRTs. Miroslav Kvapil (Lexnova, **Czech Republic**) highlighted the implementation of NIS2 in Czech social services and the increasing responsibility of management in cybersecurity governance.

Further contributions from **France** – Philippe Passis & Thomas Aczel (Ressourcial) – and **Austria** showcased different national approaches and the key challenges providers face in strengthening their digital resilience.

A key message from the webinar was clear: **cybersecurity is not just a technical issue, but a core part of organisational governance and risk management**, especially for services supporting vulnerable populations.

Download the presentations (PDF) here.

Karel Vostrý
EAN Director



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

SDCC Meeting Highlights: Advancing Quality Jobs and Social Dialogue in Social Services

The meeting of the **Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee (SDCC) for Social Services**, held on 18 March 2026, brought together European social partners to discuss key developments in employment and working conditions, with a strong focus on quality jobs, digitalisation, and social dialogue.

A central topic was the European Commission's **Quality Jobs Roadmap**, which aims to ensure fair, safe, and inclusive working conditions across Europe. The initiative links job quality with competitiveness and is expected to lead to a **Quality Jobs Act by the end of 2026**. Key challenges discussed included labour shortages, digital transformation, and demographic change.

The new project "**Quality Jobs 4 Care**" was also introduced, focusing on strengthening social dialogue, improving knowledge of EU labour law, and supporting countries with weaker dialogue structures.

Discussions on **technological social dialogue** highlighted the need to better involve social partners in decisions on digitalisation and AI. Despite existing EU frameworks, implementation remains limited.

Eurofound insights confirmed that **collective bargaining remains essential for improving job quality**, covering areas such as working conditions, training, and work-life balance, although new challenges like digitalisation and psychosocial risks require more attention.

The meeting also addressed workforce challenges under the **European Care Strategy**, including staff shortages, low wages, and difficult working conditions in long-term care. Strengthening training, safety, and collective bargaining was identified as key.

Finally, the upcoming **European VET strategy** was discussed as a tool to address skills shortages.

Overall, the meeting highlighted the crucial role of social dialogue in ensuring quality jobs and sustainable care systems.

Jiří Horecký
EAN President

Tackling care workforce shortages: New EU Human Capital Recommendation

On 12 March 2026, the Council of the European Union adopted a Recommendation on a European Framework for Human Capital, marking a new step in addressing labour and skills shortages across Europe, including in health and social care. The initiative

skills shortages across Europe, including in health and social care. The initiative recognises workforce gaps as a structural challenge affecting essential services and the sustainability of care systems in ageing societies.

For long-term care providers, the Recommendation highlights the need for strategic workforce planning, investment in skills, and improved labour mobility. It encourages Member States to strengthen training pathways, support upskilling and reskilling, and improve recognition of qualifications, while also promoting cooperation between employers, education providers and public authorities.

This is one of the clearest EU-level signals linking care workforce shortages to the sustainability of long-term care systems. It also supports more structured approaches to recruitment, retention and career development in the sector.

Although non-binding, the Recommendation is likely to influence national reforms and funding priorities. As demand for long-term care continues to grow, it reinforces the importance of coordinated action to build a resilient and skilled care workforce across Europe.

More information can be found here.

Marcel Smeets

EAN EU Executive Consultant

Global Ageing Network calls for stronger protection of older persons' rights



THE GLOBAL
AGEING
NETWORK®

The **Global Ageing Network** (GAN) has submitted a statement to the United Nations Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons, highlighting key challenges faced by older people in today's society.

The statement addresses issues such as **age-based discrimination, limited access to care and services, and barriers in housing and employment**. It also emphasises the growing importance of **digital inclusion**, as many older persons face difficulties accessing services due to limited digital literacy or products not designed with their needs in mind.

The Global Ageing Network calls for **universal design, rights-based business practices, and stronger investment in the workforce**, including fair wages, training and data protection.

As populations continue to age, the role of businesses and service providers in ensuring the rights and dignity of older persons becomes increasingly important.

[Read the full statement here.](#)

Karel Vostrý
EAN Director

The Future of Ageing Will Be Shaped in Cannes



The SilverEco & Ageing Well International Festival will take place on **14–15 September 2026 in Cannes**, bringing together global stakeholders, innovators, and professionals focused on healthy ageing and longevity. As the largest international B2B event dedicated to the Silver Economy, it serves as a key meeting point for the sector.

The 2026 edition will feature **six thematic international summits**, covering areas such as nursing homes, home care, support for caregivers, ageism, AgeTech and AI, and healthy ageing in line with the WHO Decade for Healthy Ageing.

Participants will have the opportunity to **gain international visibility**, showcase their solutions, and connect with key stakeholders from across Europe and beyond.

EAN members benefit from preferential conditions, including reduced rates for speaking opportunities and exhibition spaces, as well as free access passes.

A highlight of the event is the exclusive **Study Tour on 16 September**, offering visits to innovative senior living environments in the South of France, combined with networking opportunities (limited capacity).

- 👉 **Book your free B2B pass**
 - 👉 **Apply for the awards**
 - 👉 **Learn more about the study tour**
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5-6 May 2026 – EAN General Assembly meeting – Naples
14-15 Sept 2026 – SilverEco International Awards – Cannes
27 – 29 Oct 2026 – 36th Alzheimer Europe conference – Dublin

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.

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