

Who we are

AGE brings together senior and other civil society organisations working with and for older or retired people, to give a strong and credible voice to their views, interests and needs.

AGE believes that older or retired people should be able to speak out on their own behalf. To this end, AGE places great importance on their leadership and active involvement in all of its' activities.

Background

AGE was set up in January 2001 following a process of discussion on how to improve and strengthen co-operation between older people's organisations at EU level. Membership of AGE is open to European, national and regional organisations, and to both organisations of older people and organisations for older people.

Organisations of older people have the majority of votes in AGE's decision-making bodies. Membership is open only to non-profit-making organisations. AGE is co-financed by its members and by the European Commission.

AGE thus works at European level to raise awareness of the opportunities and challenges that arise from the ageing of our society, to shape appropriate policy responses and to promote the interests and involvement of the older citizens of Europe

What is our mission?

AGE aims to voice and defend the interests of older and retired people in the European Union and to raise awareness of the issues that truly concern them. AGE is involved in a range of policy and information activities to put older people's issues on the EU agenda and to support networking among older people's groups.

One of AGE's main activities is influencing and developing policy, so that EU policies and programmes can adequately reflect the interests of all older people. To this effect, AGE formulates position papers on relevant EU initiatives, outlining specific policy views and recommendations, which are developed and endorsed by its' members. AGE's role is to monitor EU policy-making processes closely and to facilitate the networking of older and retired people's organisations at national level.

AGE believes that there needs to be a greater recognition and understanding at the European level of the impact of European policies on older or retired people, and that these groups of citizens must have greater opportunities to promote and defend their rights and interests. AGE works for a more effective civil dialogue at European level and seeks to ensure that this dialogue recognises and takes account of older and retired people.

Among our guiding principles is the conviction that a change of attitudes is needed to achieve a society for all ages and that solidarity between generations should be sought in a way that recognises older people's contributions to society. AGE is committed to combating all forms of age discrimination in all areas of life - including employment - and seeks to influence the implementation of the various EU initiatives in this area.

And our vision?

AGE's vision is of a society for people of all ages where individuals enjoy equal rights in terms of their living conditions, their economic situation, their participation as citizens and their access to goods and services. We believe that the achievement of age equality will not only benefit older individuals as citizens and give the proper value to their wisdom, experience and personal characteristics; it is also in the interest of society in general. However at present, older people are disadvantaged and face discrimination in many contexts. It is vital to address ageist prejudices and outlaw age discrimination.

AGE's aim above all is to achieve an inclusive and age friendly society where the needs of the fastest growing group of citizens - the older citizen - are taken on board.

Policy work

AGE's policy work focus on issues of social protection and pensions, social inclusion, employment of older workers and anti-discrimination across a broad range of fields. Age discrimination and equality law to combat such discrimination is an area of particular concern to us, not least in the field of employment.