



May 2019



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News from the Field

Manifesto for the European Union May Elections



More than 190 million of the 500 million European Union citizens are over 50. Age Platform Europe is campaigning for seven major proposals including: enhancing rights by combating ageism, ensuring a life-course perspective on work, and ensuring universal access to goods and services in today's digitalized society. See the full Manifesto in [English](#) or in [French](#) and see how the relationship of the proposals to the Sustainable Development Goals is emphasized. Visit

our News Kiosk and see Age Platform's latest [newsletter](#).

Jan Hively is in the News



"The best years of my life were my 70s.

That's when I co-founded three grassroots networks of positive ageing advocates, including the Pass It On Network with its global outreach."

Read this frank [interview](#) with our co-founder and explore The Age Buster at the same time.

Awards for Two Pass It On Network Advisors



Betsy Werley, one of Coming of Age New York City's founding members, the former director of The Transition Network, and now Director of Network Expansion at Encore, received the first **Impact Award** for Leadership in Positive Aging which stems from the Presbyterian Senior Services' Coming of Age program, inspiring people 50 and older to live with passion and purpose.

*The Maine Senior Whisperer
Heard Around the World*

Elizabeth Isele, the author of this issue's Blog, is featured in the "Prime Mover" section of *Maine Seniors* for her award as the "Maine Senior Whisperer who is heard around the world."

Elizabeth launched CyberSeniors in 1998, Senior Entrepreneurship Words in 2012, and now is the founding CEO of the Global Institute for Experienced Entrepreneurship. As quoted in the detailed [article](#) describing her life course, Elizabeth says, "Seniors are not a pending Silver Tsunami, they are a Silver Lining that will yield golden dividends."

EURAG meets in Lithuania, next time in Moscow



EURAG's biannual council meeting took place in Vilnius, Lithuania, in May. The main topic concentrated on how to reduce social exclusion of older persons in today's society. There was also a lively debate on the road ahead for this, the oldest federation of senior associations in Europe (+150 associations in 32 countries). The next council meeting will be hosted by the Russian Pensioners' Union, a 1,750,000 member organization and it will take place September 18-22. The main theme will be lifelong learning.

Connectors

Ingrid Eyers, from Nurse to PhD Research Older Adult Care



Ingrid was born in England and spent part of her childhood in South Africa and her youth in Germany. Ingrid is a semi-retired gerontologist. She works as an independent expert in England and Germany, and travels widely. Initially qualified in nursing, she worked in intensive care before deciding to focus on the care of older people. As a mature student, Ingrid gained an MSc in Gerontology at the University of Surrey and went on to earn her PhD and to lecture on the Care of Older People at the same University. In 2010 she moved to Germany where she was Senior Research Fellow at the

Institute of Gerontology, University of Vechta, Germany. Today, Ingrid lives her expertise as the daughter and daughter-in-law of nonagenarians and participates in long-term care debates with the World Health Organization. [Read more.](#)

Magen Mhaka-Mutepfa, from Zimbabwe



Magen Mhaka-Mutepfa (PhD) is a Research Scholar from Zimbabwe and a Senior Lecturer at the University of Botswana. She is a recipient of the International Postgraduate Research Scholarship (IPRS) and Australia Postgraduate Award (APA). She has worked in Australia prior to working in Botswana and is a dedicated psychology and public health expert and educator. Magen earned her PhD on one of the most poignant issues in Africa – the resilience of grandparent carers fostering orphans in Zimbabwe. Her main research interest is on the health and wellbeing of older people. She is currently working on the social determinants of health that

influence the resilience, health, and wellbeing of older people in Botswana. The results will aid stakeholders in formulating viable policies and effective intervention to improve the welfare of older people. Magen is an avid reader and writer and has multiple chapters and journal articles to her name. She travels widely and presents on her speciality throughout the world. [Read more.](#)

Peg Koedel from Liberia



Peg Koedel is an educator and an activist who masters the digital world to create impact in both ways. She trained with a patent attorney and an information scientist and went on to earn a Masters in information science & digital archiving. She is currently working on her PhD on Implementing Open Educational Resources in African Countries while based in Monrovia, Liberia. Peg's work covers many aspects of media education. As a strict principle, she emphasizes interculturality, diversity and project-oriented learning in all her

projects. Not least because of that, she produced a film titled *Islam in Dresden*. In social affairs and media, she is a self-confessed coordinator by heart and soul. "My main focus," she says, "is on promoting participation and raising awareness about education for those in poverty. [Read more.](#)

Pass It On Blog

"Adding Life to Years" at last! A new way of measuring ageing...



Elizabeth Isele, founder and CEO of the [Global Institute for Experienced Entrepreneurship](#), and advisor to the Pass It On Network since its inception, shares the new concept of ageing potential she brought back from a world conference in Bangkok, Thailand on the topic of, "Measuring Population Ageing: Bridging Research and Policy." See what this means and how that promises to add life to years. [Read here.](#)

Resources

Ageing

"Ageism: A Pervasive and Insidious Health Threat"

The World Health Organization (WHO) is sponsoring four research teams around the world to study the causes and health consequences of ageism, how to combat it, and how best to measure it. Their work will appear in a United Nations report to be published within a year. A preliminary report published in the NY Times, April 26, 2019 by Paula Span entitled "[Ageism: A Pervasive and Insidious Health Threat](#)" shows that intergenerational education programs can shift attitudes and reduce ageism.

The Universal Right to Health must include Older People!



It's been 70 years since the Universal Declaration of Human Rights established the right to health of all people everywhere and the World Health Organization was founded. Global Age Watch keeps track of shifts in the four components of the right to health: availability, accessibility, acceptability, and quality. This [summary of insights](#) shows the barriers that often exclude older people from health systems and services, and the failure of health systems to keep pace with two global transitions: rapid ageing and expansion of non-communicable diseases affecting older

adults particularly. Fortunately, more attention to the full life course is encouraged by the Sustainable Development Goals in the UN's 2030 plan. The report offers specific guidance for changes needed to realize older people's right to health.

Impact of Climate Change on Older People



Older people with decreased mobility are among those who are most vulnerable and challenged by climate change. Now, we need strategies at every level to educate older people about the risks and strategies like home modification or relocation that mitigate risks. A [succinct report](#) from the American Society on Aging that was first published in 2010 provides an overview of climate change and examples of specific health impacts of heat waves, hurricanes, and air pollution.

Adult Immunization



Data, bots and drones: Can technology help increase adult immunization?

This is the title of a follow-up report by ILC-UK to its April 2018 paper on "The Future of Adult Immunisation", a think-piece exploring the potential of technology to influence the delivery and uptake of vaccination. While anti-vaccination sentiments have been reducing immunisation

uptake across the globe, a "fightback" has begun, according to ILC-UK's David Sinclair, with pro-science doctors and healthcare organizations developing a more savvy online presence and better content to respond to the anti-vaccination movement. The report, sponsored by a charitable donation from Sanofi, can be accessed [here](#).

The findings were presented at a webinar hosted by the International Federation on Ageing. A recording is available at <https://ilcuk.org.uk/videos/>.



Toolkit for Human Rights Advocacy

Take a look at HelpAge International's new ["FAIR" guidelines](#) aimed at effective advocacy for a UN convention on the rights of older people. You can download the guidelines in English, Arabic, Spanish and Russian.

Community Support **Help others to help yourself...**



Dexter Tai, who is combatting loneliness in Singapore through his novel concept of Relationship Banking, says...

*"Money without service is work with no soul;
Relationships without work is life with no goal."*

Find out more about his inspiring concept of multi-generational [Relationship Banking](#). He'd be delighted to share his experience with you dextertai07@gmail.com.

Listening to Loneliness in Ireland - A sympathetic ear is just a call away



Loneliness is a modern epidemic. It contributes to morbidity and can be as dangerous as smoking 20 cigarettes a day, contributing to poor health physically, mentally and emotionally. SeniorLine, Ireland's national confidential listening service for older people (and one of the few worldwide) combats loneliness by being available every day of the year. SeniorLine received over 10,000 calls in 2018, and is recognized by the Irish Department of Health as a primary health care service contributing to older people living independent lives at home.

Read [Anne Dempsey's description](#) of how it started 21 years ago and what has made it a success.

Filling the same deep need in Chilliwack, Canada, through face to face peer counselling



The Chilliwack Senior Peer Counsellors, launched in 2000, is one of 33 peer support groups in British Columbia, according to Pass It On's liaison, Aggie Mikkelsen. Senior Peer Counsellors offer face to face counselling after completing a very informative 12-session training course that covers 50 subjects including guidelines for protecting yourself, listening skills, understanding grief, and ways of handling scams. Find out more [here](#).

Work & Economic Security

Take a bow, ladies, and hide your “I told you so” look on your smiling faces...

“One of the greatest under-appreciated sources of innovation and new business may in fact be women over 50 with new ideas, lots of life ahead of them and the verve to get it done. They are becoming engines of innovation.” This is the quote from Joseph T. Coughlin of MIT that Victoria Sarne shares in her Thrive Global blog entitled, [We will Rock You](#). She goes on to say, “Instead of apologising for not living up to some imaginary superficial standard for female-hood, we should promote the real value we have to offer with our resilience, energy and creativity. We are credible – let’s put that experience on the table and accelerate the momentum. Let’s communicate, collaborate and get it together. An orchestra resonates louder than a lone trumpet.”

Lifelong Learning

Video conferencing has many advantages



Frank Nicholson, a leader of the U3A in Canada, is an enthusiastic and convinced user of video conferencing, so much so that he produced an easy-to-follow presentation at the recent TAN symposium in Canada to help others get started. Find it [here](#) and try it out!

Rural School in South Korea Enrolls Illiterate Grandmothers



What happens when schools run out of children to teach? This [New York Times article](#) explains how this situation created a windfall for grannies to go to school.

Events

Annual Meeting and Conference in Brussels June 12-14



“Equality and participation in older age: What role for social protection and education?” Age Platform Europe is devoting a full day to this vital theme after its annual meeting in Brussels in June. The final day is dedicated to capacity-building on how to address ageism and non-discrimination effectively. Pass It On’s co-founder and international coordinator, Moira Allan, will be reporting for our network and our French partner Old’Up. An additional event of major importance

will take place in the Renewable Energy House in Brussels on 11 June. It is a workshop on "Homes4Life: a concept vision for age-friendly housing by 2040" that will underpin a new European certification scheme.

The International Awards ceremony Tokyo June 13



There is still time to join the Ageing Well Tour of Japan that includes the award celebration ceremony. An exciting line-up awaits participants including visits to the Robo Care Center Shonan, the AEON Ageing Well Supermarket, Wonder Life 2020, the National Museum of Emerging Science and Innovation Miraikan, pitch sessions and B2B meetings.

- [Download](#) the Ageing-Well Tour overview and program
 - [Download](#) the registration form in English (also available in [French](#))
-

Sustainable Development Goals: "Glocalisers" Webinar Series



You are invited to sign up for a FREE webinar series to meet some of the [Gaia Education Certified Trainers](#), otherwise known as Glocalisers. **Join the FREE webinars and let yourself be inspired by the stories of Gaia Education's Glocalisers...** Watch the latest [webinar here](#).

IFA'S 12 Webinars for 2019

The IFA (International Federation on Ageing) free webinars, divided into four learning program categories that represent each of the IFA 2018/2020 Conference themes, are a big success. Subscribe [here](#) for dates, details and recordings.

- April – June 2019: Toward Healthy Ageing
 - July – September 2019: Age-Friendly Environments
 - October – December 2019: Addressing Inequalities
-

The Silver Economy Forum Helsinki July 9 – 10



HIGH-LEVEL FORUM ON THE SILVER ECONOMY

Defining the Decade of Healthy Aging

The Finnish Government and the Global Coalition on Aging will convene the first-ever [High-Level Forum on the Silver Economy](#) on July 9-10, 2019 in Helsinki, Finland. Government leaders, CEOs from Fortune 100 companies,

and leading thinkers from global institutions, academia and NGOs on the forefront of the aging megatrend will meet to discuss the challenges, innovations and future policy and business directions needed to harness the power of the Silver Economy. The Forum is part of the official program of Finland's Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Moira Allan, Pass It On Network's co-founder and international coordinator will be attending.

#futureofageing: First 10 Speakers to be announced on December 5, 2019



ILC-UK has an excellent line up of speakers, including Ashton Applewhite, for the 2019 edition of their #futureofageing conference on 5 December 2019 at the Wellcome Center in London. The conference is a continuation of the ILC's dedicated drive to reshape the debate on how business, the voluntary sector and Government can work together to maximise the economic opportunities of longevity. Full details [here](#).

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