

Dear readers,

Here we are with the third and last issue (for this year!) of EuCaNews, the Newsletter of EUROCARERS (or EuCa), the European Association for Carers. In this issue you will find the periodical updates from the Executive Committee in form of summary of the main decisions taken during the last teleconferences through which this body works to carry on the work for our association. This step has been taken in order to improve the communication between Eurocarers members and their Executive Committee, in the hope of facilitating the dissemination of relevant information to all levels of our organisation. After the usual description of recent EU policy developments provided by Christine Marking, you will find also some interesting contributions from our members. These include an overview by Henk Bakkerode on the participation of EUROCARERS at different events at European level, and the presentation, by Licia Boccaletti, of WE DO, a new project funded by the European Union focused on the promotion of the wellbeing and dignity of older people.

As underlined in the past, **your feedback, comments and ideas for the Newsletter are important** to help us understand how it can be improved. We would be pleased to include any contributions relating to your own organisation, experiences or relevant events which you would like to disseminate to a larger audience interested in caregiving issues in Europe. So please do not hesitate to email them to us: we will use them in future editions of the Newsletter.

We would like to wish all of you a very merry Christmas and a successful 2012,

enjoy reading and take care,

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## News from the Executive Committee

Following the last issue of the EuCaNews Newsletter, the suggestion was made to include a section reporting the core issues discussed during the teleconferences that take place periodically between the members of the Eurocarers Executive Committee, who are the following: Robert Anderson (President), Hanneli Döhner (Treasurer), Frank Goodwin (Secretary), Giovanni Lamura (Vice President Research), Stanislav Trnovec (Vice President Carers Associations), Licia Boccaletti and Åke Fagerberg (the Executive is furthermore supported by two advisers, Christine Marking and Marja Pijl). This step was deemed to be important to improve the communication between all member organisations of Eurocarers and the Executive Committee. Following this suggestion, you find below a summary of the core issues discussed during the last two teleconferences, which took place on November 14<sup>th</sup> and December 5<sup>th</sup>. While the former was the last regularly scheduled teleconference of 2011, the latter was organised ad hoc in order to take an urgent decision concerning the participation of Eurocarers in a potentially interesting research project proposal.

### Teleconference on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2011

**Present Executive:** Robert Anderson, Frank Goodwin, Giovanni Lamura, Hanneli Doehner, Åke Fagerberg, Stanislav Trnovec, Licia Boccaletti; **Present Advisers:** Christine Marking and Marja Pijl.

The following items were discussed:

**Financial statement:** The present position is that we have €12,933.93 in our account. There is one payment due at the end of the year to our Adviser Christine. There are no other outstanding bills. The end of year statement will be a credit of €9,183.93 in our account. Fundraising should be discussed as an item on the next Agenda. Robert wrote to thank Liam O'Sullivan, former Treasurer, for his continued work on the accounts.

**Fundraising update:** The following sub-points were discussed:

1. Executive Members **need to clarify the projects we are involved in and those under consideration**. Due to the increasing volume of projects requiring the involvement of Eurocarers, we need to have priority criteria to help inform our decisions as to which projects to support. It was noted that we still need someone, inside or outside the Executive, to co-ordinate our work and a dedicated secretariat is becoming more urgent with the passage of time and accumulation of engagements and requests for collaborative working relationships.
2. Åke is working on the **agenda for the next AGM conference**. In addition, he is meeting with Nicole Huige (belonging to SCA, a Sweden-based company supporting Eurocarers) and other companies concerning funding for the AGM, and will inform the Executive of further details as soon as these matters are confirmed. Nicole wishes to encourage contact between Eurocarers members and the divisions of SCA within each respective country and this may, hopefully, have potential benefits for member organisations (Nicole will provide a list of representatives of SCA in each country). It was agreed that all communications with members should be through the Secretary in the first instance. Within this context, it was agreed that Frank will immediately notify members of the dates of the AGM and conference to give maximum notification for diaries and planning. Åke is also in consultations with

representatives from the Swedish Government, who are involved in activities for 2012, and within this context Åke is proposing the possibility of a joint project.

3. **Other funding opportunities:** Åke has not had time to follow-up the contact with Poland to look for funding opportunities in this country, due to being unwell at this time. Giovanni has contacts here and it was agreed that Giovanni will pursue these possibilities directly, whilst including Åke in all communication. Christine will have a meeting with a Scandinavian company called Lundbeck. They take a special interest in mental health matters and are also interested in carers. Christine will explore the opportunities for collaboration at the meeting and report back to the Executive.

**EU matters:** The following sub-points were discussed:

1. **EU institutions and Progress:** We are looking at two Progress Projects at present:
  - a. **AIDA:** This project (whose full name is: Advancing Integration for a Dignified Ageing. Fostering the integration of social and health services in LTC) is the one in which Licia Boccaletti and her organisation are involved as partners. Licia is representing Eurocarers and her organisation; the contracts are signed and submitted, and awaiting a decision (update: in the meantime, we have received the good news that this project has been accepted, and you will receive more information about it in the next issue of the Newsletter);
  - b. The second one (**the “Luden” project**), is the one Stanislav drew to our attention on Social Experimentation. We are at the stage of clarifying the role, if any, of both (A) Eurocarers and (B) member organisations. Frank is to speak with Stan and obtain further details and email the Executive before any further action is taken. It should be noted that a decision is needed shortly due to the deadline (update: in the meanwhile it has been clarified that Eurocarers will participate only as consulting member).
2. Christine found information on the previous Progress submission made in 2007 and emailed copies to the Executive three weeks ago. This is not the full submission but will be very helpful when we are engaged in preparing future ones (Frank now has this in our database under Progress).
3. Parliament Interest Group on Carers: Robert met with Marian Harkin (the MEP who is coordinating the Interest Group), and she was pleased with the last meeting. Christine compiled the report of the meeting and it is now on our website. Christine noted that there will probably be no other meeting this year and therefore there is likely to be a meeting scheduled for early in 2012. Christine will seek clarification on this when she meets with Marian.
4. Christine circulated the Executive members with a first draft of an EuCa response to the Strategic Implementation Plan of the Active and Healthy Innovation Partnership and asked for the views of Executive members.
5. Christine suggested that Euca prepare positions on the new Health for Growth programme and the Social Innovation programme; she can start working on these two shortly.

**Research:** The following sub-points were discussed:

1. Giovanni noted that there was a call from DG SANCO; Alan Walker (University of Sheffield) is leading this and the deadline is 8<sup>th</sup> February 2012. It is under the Social Sciences and Humanities call and a sub-section call may be of interest to Eurocarers. Giovanni will brief the Executive members as this matter evolves. It is at an early stage right now.

2. In addition EuCa has been invited to take part to a project under the guidance of the King Baudouin Foundation on Mobilisation and Mutual Learning Action Plan on Healthy and Active Ageing. Following discussion on this project, it was agreed that Marja would try to arrange a meeting with the representative, as no one from the Executive could attend the scheduled meeting (see also the report on the next teleconference below).
3. Finally, the project on ICT-based solutions for carers, led by Giovanni and funded by the IPTS, is looking for someone who will find additional case studies. Robert had recent contact with James Stewart (IPTS) about this, and will clarify Eurocarers involvement in this shortly.
4. SCA and further work on the incontinence research: Giovanni has no further update at this time but may have some news in early January.
5. Licia's initiative to follow up the proposal for Grundtvig on Young Carers is supported by the group of the first proposal that was not successful. Deadline: February 2012.

#### **Representation of Eurocarers in coming events:**

- **EULAR conference June 2012:** There is a conference on the 8<sup>th</sup> June in Berlin, with an offer of a representative from Eurocarers participating within a workshop. Christine noted that they are highly regarded and they have an Interest Group in Parliament. Following discussion, it was agreed that Hanneli would attend and represent Eurocarers.
- **WeDo project:** Meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> November in Brussels. Licia is already involved but cannot commit to attending due to health reasons. A colleague of Licia will represent their agency at this meeting. Giovanni noted that he also got an invitation and it was agreed that Licia and Giovanni will coordinate a response in relation to this meeting.
- **Ethel:** Eurocarers has been invited to a meeting in Brussels on Health Technology, on the 30<sup>th</sup> November. Henk will represent Eurocarers.
- **Conference in Copenhagen by the European Social Network:** Robert is involved in this network. The Foundation may be able to assist with costs to have a representative present. Under these circumstances Hanneli will check whether she will be able to represent Eurocarers.
- **Social Platform:** The Social Platform Annual Conference on Care is on 9<sup>th</sup> December in Brussels. Robert is speaking in the final session on the 9<sup>th</sup> December but cannot attend the full meeting. Christine is hoping to attend at least some of the meeting, too.
- **WHO:** Robert is completing questionnaire and flagging carers as a disadvantaged group.

**New e-mail address for Eurocarers:** Frank noted that Eurocarers now has an email address [eurocarers@gmail.com](mailto:eurocarers@gmail.com) and all e-mails to Eurocarers are now routed to this address. This will also facilitate the hand-over between secretaries in due course.

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#### **Teleconference on 5<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2011**

**Present: Executive Members:** Robert, Giovanni, Hanneli and Frank; **Adviser:** Marja

**Purpose:** To discuss and make decisions on Eurocarers involvement in a project coordinated by the King Baudouin Foundation (KBF).

**Object:** There is an interest in having engagement with Eurocarers in two ways, directly with Eurocarers and also with our members, especially those in the Eastern European area.

**Decision:** To commit to engagement with this project at Eurocarers level and to indicate the possible engagement by member associations. Frank to be the lead contact (Marja, Hanneli and Giovanni will assist Frank as need arises).

**Actions:**

- 1 Marja will reply to the KBF with this information and copy in Frank with contact persons' details;
- 2 Robert will complete the initial paper work which he now has and send it to the KBF and copy it to Frank;
- 3 Frank will write to the KBF and attach a copy of our submission to the Commission on Active and Healthy Ageing (Comments on the Strategic and Operational Plan), and express our interest to view the Work Packages and propose inclusion of carers' interests into these (one example being the area of dementia and carers involvement).

**Additional remarks:** On the background of the information gathered by Marja on the project, also through her meeting with the contact person in the KBF, a wide reaching discussion between the present members of the executive took place, coming to the conclusion of that Eurocarers will engage in this project.

The Work-Packages Leaders are already contacting participants to work on the details. We agreed that we have a particular interest in WPs 3 and 4, and also an interest in others focused on mapping, research, finance etc. It was felt that we need to express our interest to have an input into all WPs with varying levels of engagement. In particular, the value to Eurocarers of this engagement is focused especially on:

1. Good contacts;
2. Getting carers on the political agenda;
3. Some finance towards our work (yet to be defined);

We can contribute by:

1. Our experience of practice and policy and research;
2. Our contacts to members;
3. Input to documents, comments, evidence re carers issues etc.;
4. Circulations for wider (member) input;
5. Good practice contacts.

**The next Teleconference will be on 11<sup>th</sup> January 2012.**

# Policy developments at EU-level

by Christine Marking

In this section, Christine illustrates recent developments at the European policy level (updated until mid November, distinguishing according to the institution from which they originate):

- **European Commission:**
  - The new EU Programme for Social Change and Innovation;
  - Active and Healthy Ageing Partnership comes forward with Strategic Plan;
- **Council of Ministers:**
  - October Social Affairs Council;
  - *Managing demographic challenges through better reconciliation of work and family life;*
- **European Parliament:**
  - Resolution on older women approaching retirement age;
  - Resolution on the active involvement of disabled people.

## European Commission

### New EU Programme for Social Change and Innovation

The Commission has come forward with a new EU Programme for Social Change and Innovation (PSCI), in support of employment and social policies across the EU. It is part of the Commission's proposal for the [EU's regional, employment and social policy for 2014-2020](#). The new programme brings together and extends three existing programmes: [PROGRESS](#) (Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity), [EURES](#) (European Employment Services) and the [European Progress Microfinance Facility](#). It will support policy coordination, sharing of good practice, capacity-building and testing of innovative policies, with the aim that the most successful measures be up-scaled with support from the [European Social Fund](#).

- *PROGRESS*: For the period 2014-2020, Progress will continue its current activities (analysis, mutual learning and grants) and will have a specific budget for social innovation and experimentation, i.e. testing of innovative policies on a small scale, with the aim that the most successful ones can be up-scaled. Out of the EUR 574 million proposed for PROGRESS in the 2014-2020 period, EUR 97 million will be allocated to experimental projects.
- *EURES network*: With the new proposal, the overall EURES system will be strengthened beyond 2013. EURES activities at national and cross-border level will be financed under the European Social Fund, supporting workers' mobility and helping companies recruit abroad.
- *Microfinance facility and Social Entrepreneurship*: the new programme will extend the support given to microcredit providers under the current European Progress

Microfinance Facility, provide funding for capacity-building of microfinance institutions and include investments for developing and expanding social enterprises.

The Commission proposes to conduct a mid-term review in 2017 to measure the programme's progress. With the European Social Fund and the European Globalisation Fund, this programme will form the third pillar of the EU initiative for employment and social inclusion 2014-2020.

Eurocarers will continue to campaign to ensure that PROGRESS will explicitly address issues in relation to carers. A response to the Plan is being prepared.

*For more information:*

<http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=MEMO/11/735>.

### **Active and Healthy Ageing Partnership agrees Strategic Implementation Plan (SIP)**

Less than a year since its launch, the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing has come forward with a Strategic Implementation Plan. This is the result of some 6 months of intensive activity and cooperation between a wide variety of stakeholders following last year's consultation on the content of the Partnership.

A Steering Group was formed in the first half of 2011, consisting of some 30 high level representatives of industry, patients, older people, health professionals, and academics. Meetings of the Steering Group and its 'Sherpas' and various workshops in which a wider community of stakeholders participated have resulted in a comprehensive Partnership framework, consisting of three main pillars: Prevention, screening and early diagnosis; Care and cure; Independent living. For each of these, three key priorities have been agreed, to which practical actions are being linked.

Under the first pillar, the key priorities are:

- Health literacy, patient empowerment, ethics and adherence;
- Personal health management;
- Prevention, early diagnosis and functional decline.

Under the second pillar, these are:

- Guidelines for care, workforce issues, multimorbidity, polypharmacy, frailty, collaborative care;
- Multimorbidity and RD;
- Capacity building and replicating successful integrated care systems.

Under the third pillar, the following will be addressed:

- Supporting people with cognitive impairments;
- Enhancing deployment and take up of interoperable independent living solutions;
- Supporting social inclusion of older people.

*Next steps*

It is relatively unclear what the next steps in progressing the Partnership will be as the Steering Group will be dissolved, while for four of the nine key priorities identified no actions have been agreed yet. As a next step, the Commission has proposed setting up Action Groups to be closely involved with the implementation and monitoring of the Partnership; the Steering Group will be dissolved. Council and Parliament will both respond to the Plan. Carers remain part of the overall focus of the Partnership, and Eurocarers is in the process of preparing a response to the SIP.

For more information: [http://ec.europa.eu/research/innovation-union/index\\_en.cfm?section=active-healthy-ageing&pg=implementation-plan](http://ec.europa.eu/research/innovation-union/index_en.cfm?section=active-healthy-ageing&pg=implementation-plan)

### **Commission proposes new Health Programme**

On 9 November, the European Commission adopted a proposal for a new EU health programme, entitled Health for Growth. The programme aims to 'foster a Europe of healthy, active, informed and empowered citizens, who can contribute to economic growth'. The new programme will run from 2014-2020 with a budget of €446 million and will focus on concrete actions that offer clear EU added-value. The Programme has the following four objectives:

- Developing innovative and sustainable health systems;
- Increasing access to better and safer healthcare for citizens;
- Promoting health and preventing disease;
- Protecting citizens from cross-border health threats.

It will build on the activities and achievements of the two previous Health Programmes and will be implemented on the basis of annual work programmes, which set the priorities for project funding. Calls for proposals will be issued every year, inviting stakeholders to come forward with their projects.

The proposed programme will now be discussed by the European Parliament and Council of Ministers, with a view to adoption by the end of 2013, to allow for the start of the new health and consumer programmes in 2014.

Eurocarers is in the process of developing a response to the Programme proposal.

For more information:

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/programme/docs/prop\\_prog2014\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/health/programme/docs/prop_prog2014_en.pdf)

### **Council of Ministers**

Ministers responsible for social affairs met on 3 October. One of the main items for discussion was *managing demographic challenges through better reconciliation of work and family life*. A set of conclusions was adopted on the management of demographic challenges by better combining family life and working life. Ministers feel that it is necessary to help people to manage their family life and their professional life in order to improve the possibility of staying active in the labour market, by improving the availability of affordable

care structures and by promoting a fair distribution of responsibilities between genders. Ministers call on EU member states to take demographic challenges into account in their national programmes, to promote options that help combine professional and family life with employers, and to support the improvement of institutional cooperation. They also encourage the Commission to draw up a report on results obtained by member states on care structures for children and to examine work environments to determine whether they are adapted to the needs of a family. Demographic challenges are the main social priority of the current trio of EU-Presidencies (Poland, Denmark and Cyprus).

*For the full conclusions:*

<http://register.consilium.europa.eu/pdf/en/11/st14/st14553.en11.pdf>

## **European Parliament**

### **Resolution on older women approaching retirement age**

A report adopted on 13 September underlines ending the practice of mandatory retirement, increasing care support and tackling age discrimination as measures that could significantly increase the active participation of older women in the labour market (Rapporteur: Edit Bauer, EPP- Slovakia). The report stresses that women approaching retirement age are more exposed to exclusion than their male counterparts. For instance, in 2008, the risk of poverty among older women stood at 22%, compared with 16% for older men. Similarly, the employment rate for women aged 55 to 64 was 37.8% in 2009, compared with 54.8% for men in the same age group.

MEPs therefore invite the member states and the European Commission to develop the conditions that will help make it possible for women to stay in and/or return to the labour market. They should also immediately take effective measures to implement the principle of equal pay for equal work (eg through a mandatory job evaluation scheme and equality action plan at the workplace).

The resolution also tackles the question of pensions, which are often lower for women due to their more fragmented careers and lower overall earnings. MEPs note that the barriers experienced by women on the labour market, particularly resulting from their family responsibilities, should not penalise them in their pension entitlement. Lastly, MEPs highlight the need to improve the quality, accessibility and affordability of care and note the crucial role of screening and preventive healthcare for older women. The resolution also encourages the member states to speed up advances on the coverage of the needs of families who care for dependent persons.

*For the Resolution:*

<http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?type=TA&language=EN&reference=P7-TA-2011-0360>

### **Resolution on the active involvement of disabled people**

A Resolution adopted on 25 October underlines that the objectives of the 'Europe 2020' strategy cannot be attained without the active involvement of disabled people - 16% of the

population (Rapporteur: Alamosa , EPP-Hungary),). According to the latest statistics, the drop-out rate in education and the unemployment rate of disabled persons are at least twice as high as the rate of non disabled persons; the poverty rate among disabled persons is 70% higher. Therefore, MEPs call on member states and the European Commission to take concrete measures in terms of mobility and social inclusion and to adopt legal and financial measures which truly encourage the employment of disabled persons.

For the Resolution: <http://www.europarl.europa.eu/sides/getDoc.do?pubRef=-//EP//TEXT+TA+P7-TA-2011-0453+0+DOC+XML+V0//EN&language=EN>

## Contributions from our members

### Eurocarers' participation in different EU-relevant events

*by Henk Bakkerode & Hanneli Döhner*

In recent weeks, Eurocarers was represented at different occasions, most of them taking place in Brussels (and one in Eindhoven, NL). In the following, you find a summary of the main contents of these events, as reported from Henk Bakkerode (our former member of the Executive and tireless volunteer) and Hanneli Döhner (current member of the Executive), who attended them on behalf of Eurocarers.

### Age Platform Europe's Coalition Manifesto and Road Map to an Age Friendly Europe 2020

Age Platform Europe, with some 50 European Coalition Partners, is preparing documents for the European Year 2012 for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations (abbreviated to EY2012). Eurocarers is one of these Coalition members. Three different meetings of the Coalition were organized:

- the first meeting (September 14<sup>th</sup>) aimed to formulate the so called Manifesto (a declaration by the Coalition partners) regarding an Age Friendly Europe 2020 and how it should look like.
- The Launch itself of this Manifesto in Brussels by the Coalition Partners, was November 7<sup>th</sup>, with 170 participants. On behalf of Eurocarers, the President Rob Anderson spoke at this occasion, with Koos Richelle, director-general of DG Employment and Social Affairs, on behalf of the Commission). Some 25 other speakers followed Rob and Koos. Several participants gave us very positive feedback on Rob's speech.
- The last meeting (December 5<sup>th</sup>) aimed to prepare a so called Road Map: A document about the way society should come to this Age Friendly character for Europe, should create new networks and partnerships, and what the Coalition partners will do from their perspective and responsibility to realize such a society. Eurocarers is keen to propose amendments to the text, to advocate informal and family carers' interests.

The final text of this Road Map will be launched on January 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> 2012 in

Copenhagen, when the EY2012 will be opened by the Danish EU-Presidency and Mr. Barroso (Commission). Some 20 Coalition Partners, with 230 other participants, will be present at this launch.

For more information: [www.age-platform.eu](http://www.age-platform.eu).

### **Preparing the European Year 2012**

This second meeting (December 5<sup>th</sup>) was also used by Age Platform Europe to inform its Coalition members about other ongoing activities regarding the EY2012 by the Commission and by the Communication Agency, which is responsible and has contacts with the national coordinators. Domains which are most important for actions are the following: the labour market, community life, autonomous life and health, intergenerational solidarity, and civic dialogue. The bureau and national coordinators hope to launch in every member state in the first quarter of the year debates on participation by the elderly, to deliver showcases of emblematic initiatives and to present visible and symbolic intergenerational actions. Within a few weeks, the Communication Agency expects to open a website, with all activities on a national scale in each member country (a calendar of activities). The EU website will be linked to all national websites. Some of the successful slogans are: "Never too old to live life to the full". And: "Never too old to live independently" (maybe because the carer will be good enough to take up the burden?...).

For more information: [www.ec.europa.eu/social/ey2012.jsp](http://www.ec.europa.eu/social/ey2012.jsp).

### **EHTEL Symposium on integrated health services**

The European Health Telematics Association (Ehtel) organized a two day symposium on "Seamless integration for personal health services. Evidence and Sustainability" (Brussels, Nov. 30<sup>th</sup> and December 1<sup>st</sup>).

- The first day was the so-called Mid-term Workshop and Review of the Renewing Health Project, coordinated by Ehtel, and going on for some 45 months in nine European Regions, from Finland and Sweden, via Berlin, to Venice/Veneto (Italy) and Catalonia in Spain. Eurocarers is member of the User Advisory Board (UAB) of this project. During the Workshop, many speakers from the Pilots reported their experiences, adding the practical and scientific value of the results to date (see also point 4 below).
- The second day was the regular seminar of Ethel, on "Seamless and integrated Care by E-Health", with a lot of outstanding international speakers (among others from Kaiser Permanente, USA). Eurocarers (Henk Bakkerode) participated in the final plenary forum discussion.

For more information: [www.ehtel.org](http://www.ehtel.org) and / or [www.ehtel.eu/symposium2011](http://www.ehtel.eu/symposium2011).

### **User Advisory Board meeting of the Renewing Health Project**

The fifth regular meeting of the User Advisory Board of the Renewing Health Project was held on December 6<sup>th</sup>. This project will last one more year (until September 2013 now, due to the difficulties with the recruitment of patients and to get them on board, and discussions with ethical commissions). It will also enable the UAB to go to pilot sites, to get a better understanding of the effects of Renewing Health interventions, and to validate user requirements through feedback / experience collected from the users involved. The first

site visit will be to Treviso (Veneto region) somewhere in week 6 (2012). Giovanni Lamura represents Eurocarers in this UAB (although so far Henk Bakkerode has kindly substituted for him at all the meetings).

For more information: [www.renewinghealth.eu](http://www.renewinghealth.eu)

### **European Conference “Beyond Silos”**

During the European Conference "Beyond silos: the why and how of ICT in integrated Care service provision" (Eindhoven NL, November 23<sup>rd</sup>), the outcomes of two European funded projects were presented:

- *CommonWell*, a project on “Support independent living, Improve quality of life for older people, integrate health and social care”. *CommonWell* aims to overcome the multiple communication gap that separates health and social care service provision in many EU member states. There are four sites in Europe: Andalusia (SP), Bielefeld (DE), Veldhoven (NL) and Milton Keynes (UK). For more information: [www.commonwell.eu](http://www.commonwell.eu);
- *Independent*, a project on “Coordinated E-Care”. *Independent* develops and pilots an integrated set of ICT-enabled services dealing with a range of threats to independent living common to older people, in six sites across Europe. Through innovative usage of ICT, current "silos" in service delivery are broken up to allow for cooperation across relevant care sectors and participation of family members, like carers. The six sites are: Dublin (IE), Geldrop (NL), Hull (UK), Trikala (EL), Malaga (ES) and Milton Keynes (UK). For more information: [www.independent-project.eu](http://www.independent-project.eu).

Further general Conference topics included:

- ICT in integrated care, from concept to practice;
- Service models for integrated E-Care;
- Governance and financing models for integrated E-Care;
- Impact assessment.

For general information on the Conference topics: [www.beyond-silos.eu](http://www.beyond-silos.eu)

### **International Conference: "Eldercare Services in Europe - Home Care, Family Support and Domestic Services for Older People"**

Hanneli Döhner, member of our Executive Committee, was invited to participate on behalf of EUROCARERS in the concluding discussion of this conference, which took place in Berlin on 15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> September 2011. She had the opportunity to present the goals and work of "EUROCARERS" as well as of the German carers association: "wir pflegen". She underlined the necessity for more and better tailored support for caregivers in different life situations and the importance of a partnership approach between informal and formal carers.

For more information on the conference: <http://www.sociopolitical-observatory.eu/en/konferenz-eldercare-services-in-europa.html>. Since additional documentation will be made available about the contents of the conference in the future, we will provide the link to this publication in the next newsletter.

## WeDO – A European Project for the Wellbeing and Dignity of Older People

*by Licia Boccaletti, Anziani e Non Solo, Carpi, Italy*

The WeDO project is a European project co-financed by DG Employment and Social Affairs of the European Commission under the call for proposals for a pilot project on Preventing Elder abuse. It is the continuation of the EUSTACEA project which developed a European Charter of the rights and responsibilities of older people in need of long-term care and assistance and its accompanying guide. It is coordinated by AGE Platform Europe and gathers 18 partners coming from 12 different member states and other European Stakeholder, including EUROCARERS.

The project's overall objective is to develop a lasting and growing European partnership of organizations committed to work together to promote the wellbeing and dignity of vulnerable and disabled older people and prevent elder abuse through the promotion of quality LTC. Specifically, the expectation is to help public authorities, long-term care service providers and funders respond adequately to the growing needs of our ageing population in today's context of economic crisis, budget consolidation and rapid societal change. Important reforms are under way in the long-term care field: there is an increasing outsourcing of services, greater cross-border mobility of care professionals and of service users, an increasing participation of end-users and their families in the financing of their LTC costs as well as greater public expectations that something needs to be done to protect the growing number of frail older people from the risk of elder abuse and to promote the quality of LTC services.

The outcomes foreseen in the project are the development of a **voluntary European Quality Framework for Long-Term Care** in institutional, community and home care settings. This framework will comprise a set of fundamental principles that all partners will develop together and will agree to adhere to, using the European Charter of Rights and Responsibilities of older people in need of long-term care and assistance developed by the EUSTACEA project as a basis. The Partnership will also develop a **European Partnership Guide** which will include recommendations for participatory quality development, control and labeling tools. These tools will be based on the European Quality Framework and will be adaptable to different national/regional contexts. They will seek to help Member States implement the European Quality Framework and European Charter by translating them into concrete achievements and better quality delivery for LTC service users.

The project partners will gather eight times during the whole course of the project in a Steering committee meeting. The Steering committee is responsible for the implementation of the project and for building on the feedback from the reflection exercise taking place within the national and European coalitions (to which Eurocarers participates) to develop the European Quality Framework for LTC and the Guide with recommendations for quality control and labeling tools that can be adapted by national stakeholders to their respective context. So far, three European Coalition meetings have taken place. Eurocarers attended all meetings and continued to raise awareness of the role of carers in the provision of Long Term Care services to elderly people and the support they need in order to be able to provide adequate care.

More information is available on the project website: <http://www.age-platform.eu/en/wellbeing>

## About EUROCARERS

*EUROCARERS was officially established in Luxembourg in December 2006. Its origin lies in two European networks: Carmen, a network on integrated care and Eurofamcare, a research network on carers of older persons. In the Carmen project researchers, practitioners and policy makers, among them representatives of the carers' movement, found each other and came to the conclusion that it was time for carers to be heard at European level. The Eurofamcare network - consisting of researchers who mapped the situation of carers of older persons and the policy measures developed for this category in the EU and who did quantitative research on the support of carers of older persons in six countries - also diagnosed a strong need for carers to make themselves heard in Europe.*

*Representatives of the two networks and other interested persons met in Maastricht in 2004 on the initiative of NIZW, the Dutch Institute of Care and Welfare (later reorganised into the two organisations Vilans and Movisie), to discuss the feasibility of establishing a European organisation and decided to go ahead with this task. Christine Marking had written a preparatory paper which helped those who met in Maastricht in formulating decisions about some crucial issues. An interim board was established consisting of: Brigid Barron, President; Patrick Michielsseune, Treasurer; Marja Pijl, Secretary; and the following other members: Judy Triantafillou, Isobel Anderson, Hanneli Döhner, Caroline Glendinning and Henk Nies. Several working groups were formed. Geraldine Visser and Nicoline Tamsma made a report of the meeting. Several meetings took place in the following months and some activities were already developed before EUROCARERS was formally registered in Luxembourg at the end of 2006.*

*Since then the association has increased remarkably, especially in the last year, and includes now over 60 organisations and several individual associates from all 27 European Member States. Members of the current (2011-13) Executive Committee are: Robert Anderson (President); Stanislav Trnovec (Vice-President - Carers organisations), Giovanni Lamura (Vice-President -Research); Frank Goodwin (Secretary); Hanneli Döhner; Licia Boccaletti; Åke Fagerberg. The association can also count on the support of two advisers: Christine Marking and Marja Pijl. For more information on the members of the Executive Committee: [http://www.eurocarers.org/about\\_executive.php](http://www.eurocarers.org/about_executive.php).*

*For more information on the aims and guiding principles of EUROCARERS please go to the link: <http://www.eurocarers.org/about.php>.*

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EUROCARERS is an NGO & non-profit organisation registered in Luxembourg in 2006 (registration no. F6854).

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