

# EURAG INFORMATION



European Federation of Older Persons  
Fédération Européenne des Personnes Agées  
Bund der älteren Generation Europas  
Federazione Europea delle Persone Anziane

Nr. 4/ 2006

## Budapest: Secretary of State and Minister at International EURAG Conference “Active Aging”

**Budapest, 30 March 2006:** This international conference was organised by Hungarian EURAG member organisation **Nyugdíjasklubok és Idősek „Életet az Éveknek“**, the national Association of Pensioners’ Clubs and of Older People.

About 70 participants, among them EURAG General Council members from 11 different countries, had gathered on 30 March in Budapest, in the Hall of Mirrors of the Hungarian Social Ministry in order to get to know the broad range of activities organised by the local clubs of „Életet az Éveknek“ and to exchange experiences in the field of holiday activities for older persons as well as European social policies.

The Conference was opened by **Dr. Hegyesiné Éva Orsós**, President of „Életet az Éveknek“.



Dr. Eva Orsos und Dr. Lajos Korózs

**Dr. Lajos Korózs**, the Hungarian Secretary of State in the Ministry for Family, Youth and Equal Opportunities, underlined the important role that EURAG had played in the field of social policies and senior policies in the recent years. Thanks to its European network, EURAG is a very precious partner for many NGOs in Hungary and in the other new Member States. Moreover, EURAG facilitates the exchange of experience and the transfer of best practice models in the new Member States. As a concrete example of the various activities of the local clubs, the women’s choir of Hévízgyörök was also part of the conference programme.

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## Imprint

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**Dr. Eveline Hönigsperger**, President of EURAG, talked about EURAG's work and structure.

**Dr. Hegyesiné Éva Orsós** presented a contribution on holiday facilities for older persons. She pointed out that older persons in Hungary often went on holidays – contrary to the common opinion. In tourism, seniors are even one of the most important target groups, but the tourist industry still has to improve their choice of products in order to better meet older persons' needs.

**György Jankovics** and **Sándor Czingler** underlined the importance of sports and physical exercise in the life of older persons. Sports is not only useful for maintaining the physical fitness, but also for social contacts and the emotional well-being of older persons.

Mrs **Barabás Tiborné's** topic was the cheap provision of services for older persons who otherwise couldn't afford such services due to their low income. It works like a kind of exchange system where experts offer their services and their know-how (for example repair work).

As a concluding contribution to the conference, **Krizsán Sándorné** presented an overview over the cultural activities organised by the clubs –

these cover a wide range from literature, choirs and theatre groups.

Thanks to the interesting contributions of the chairpersons of „Eletet az Eveknek”, the international participants of the conference could gain a profound insight into the different activities and offers of the association.

As special guest at the EURAG General Council meeting held on 31 March we had the honour to welcome the Hungarian Minister for culture, **Dr. András Bozoki**. He underlined the good cooperation between the government and the association „Eletet az Eveknek” in the cultural sector. The activities promoted by the association were a concrete step to implement social integration and to realise the concept of lifelong learning in every day life.

At this point we want to thank Mr **Kalman Bogdan** and all his highly committed colleagues for the excellent organisation of the conference and the framework programme as well as for the cordial welcome in Budapest.

### „Eletet az Eveknek” – Background Information

*The Hungarian Association of Pensioners' Clubs and of Older „Eletet az Eveknek” („Fill Years with Life”) was founded in 1989 with the participation of 139 clubs. The number of members has steadily increased: almost 1.200 clubs with over 120.000 members have joined the Association from the 19 counties and from Budapest.*

*According to the Statutes, the objective of the Association is to engage in the following activities:*

- *Social activities including family support and care for older persons*
- *Cultural activities*
- *Protection of human rights and the rights of the citizens*
- *Advocacy and representation of older persons*
- *Health promotion and recreation for older persons*

*The basic units and pillars of the Association are the societies, associations and clubs for older persons. One of the goals of the association is to endeavour to shape and strengthen the cooperation between pensioners' clubs and associations. For further information, please contact:*

*Eletet az Eveknek“,  
1126 Budapest, Böszörményi út 20-22,  
Tel.: +36 1 3555-990,  
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E-mail: [nyugszov@hu.inter.net](mailto:nyugszov@hu.inter.net)*

EURAG General Council decided in Budapest upon the following work programme:

On 31 March 2006, the EURAG General Council held its spring meeting in the Hungarian Social Ministry and fixed – among others – the following EURAG events:

**a) VILNIUS/LITHUANIA: 6 -7 October 2006:  
EURAG Conference and General Council Meeting**

**b) MADRID/SPAIN: XIX International EURAG Congress** - more information will follow in the next edition of EURAG INFORMATION

## EUROPEAN UNION

### **Spring Summit Conclusions: Now that social cohesion is back on the agenda, time has come to deliver!**

The Social Platform welcomed the recognition by EU leaders of the central role for social cohesion in the EU's objectives, but questioned whether the EU is really prepared to confront its social and economic problems.

'Social NGOs have fought for the last year to save social Europe – so we are relieved to see that the fight against poverty and social exclusion is back on the agenda as a core part of the Lisbon Strategy', commented Social Platform President Anne-Sophie Parent.

But the Platform urged EU leaders to show greater leadership to deliver re-

sults. 'The outcome of the Summit looks promising on paper – but it is at national level that the commitments will be tested, and governments will need to move up a gear in delivering social progress to regain citizens' confidence'.

EU leaders have congratulated themselves on how they have involved all parts of society in writing their action plans – but our experience is that a lot more needs to be done to ensure citizens' involvement in the Lisbon process.

The Social Platform welcomed the Spring Summit's commitment to link

action on social inclusion and social protection with the reforms on jobs and growth and to introduce annual reporting on social protection and social inclusion. Social NGOs were very pleased that the Council reaffirmed the objective of the Partnership for growth and jobs that steps have to be taken to make a decisive impact on the reduction of poverty and social exclusion by 2010. Social NGOs also appreciated the focus on youth unemployment, and

the adoption of the Gender Pact, but called for more to be done to ensure that reforms to the labour market do not result in a widening divide in society between the 'haves' and 'have-nots'.

[http://ue.eu.int/ueDocs/cms\\_Data/docs/pressData/en/ec/89013.pdf](http://ue.eu.int/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/ec/89013.pdf)

*Quelle: Social Platform, Press Release from 24 March 2006*

## ACTIVITIES FROM EURAG MEMBERS

### **NETHERLANDS: Model programme "Longa Vita" places older job seekers to employers in the social field**

Like in many other European countries, also in the Netherlands older workers over 50 have hardly any chance to find paid jobs. On the other hand, many associations seek voluntary workers to assume newly developing tasks in the social field. Examples for such activities are the integration of new and old immigrants who are marginalized in society, youth welfare, strengthening participation in cultural activities and maintaining cultural heritage through the commitment of seniors.

The Programme "Longa Vita" is supposed to bring together in the Netherlands the central stakeholders on the labour market with older interested people for new social tasks.

**The idea behind is to place people with such a great potential of experience and competences to this kind of programmes and, thus, to contribute to the solution of topical social questions.**

The participants' access will be the „Longa Vita Course“ that – after kick-off meetings at five different venues – will be developed according to a graduated scheme and organised in collaboration with the various project partners at national and local level.

Due to their experience and competence, older people can convey valuable impetus to the younger generation and contribute to reduce tension between the generations. "Long Vita" will start at this point and improve older people's chances in the Netherlands for good training facilities, participation in new social networks and self-fulfilment in concrete and suitable voluntary work.

Further information:

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*(Source: BAGSO Newsletter, Nr. 1/2006)*

## COUNTRY REPORTS

### France announces measures to improve the employment of seniors

France is currently engaged in a fight against unemployment for youth and older people. The employment rate of seniors in France is one of the lowest in Europe with only 37.3% of people aged over 50 working.

One of the last proposals made by the French government is to create a specific employment contract for people over 57. This contract will be in effect for a period of 18 months, renewable once. According to the government this contract will encourage companies to engage and retain older workers more easily. In addition, the government and the social partners are currently discussing an Action Plan for seniors.

This plan, which will run from 2006 to 2013, will also include measures to fight discrimination at work on grounds of age, mechanisms to allow older people to remain at work longer whilst at the same time improving their pension rights, limit the pre-retirement schemes, as well as an awareness raising campaign.

For more information:

[www.cohesionsociale.gouv.fr](http://www.cohesionsociale.gouv.fr)

(Source: *Newsletter Health and the Future*, January 2006)

## PUBLICATIONS

### ***The EU We Want - Views from those fighting poverty and social exclusion on the future development of the EU (EAPN)***

This book based on the experience of those fighting poverty and social exclusion is a unique contribution to the current debate about the future of the European Union. It sets out to describe the present reality of the fight against poverty and social exclusion in the EU while at the same time illustrating, through personal stories, part of the experience which lies behind the shocking reality that at least 72 million people face poverty in the EU Member States, according to Eurostat figures.

There are two parts to this publication - printed in English and French: Part one seeks to give a broad overview of the development of EU anti poverty and

social inclusion policies and to present statistics that help to give a view on the extent of the problem of poverty. Part two includes a series of essays which provide evidence that there is a dramatic political failure to efficiently fight and prevent poverty and social exclusion both within and outside of the EU, and a series of portraits of people experiencing poverty and social exclusion.

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Website: [www.eapn.org](http://www.eapn.org)

The book can also be downloaded:

[http://eapn.horus.be/code/en/publ\\_detail.asp?pk\\_id\\_content=1822](http://eapn.horus.be/code/en/publ_detail.asp?pk_id_content=1822)

## CONGRESSES – CONFERENCES

**30 May – 2. June 2006, Copenhagen, Denmark:**

**International Federation on Ageing (IFA) – Global Ageing: the North-South Challenge**

Conference Sekretariat: ICS A/S Kopenhagen, PO Box 41, Strandvejen 169-171 DK-2900 Hellerup, Copenhagen, Denmark  
Tel: +45 70 23 50 56,  
Fax: +45 70 23 50 57  
Email: [ifa2006@ics.dk](mailto:ifa2006@ics.dk)  
<http://www.global-aging.dk>

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**September 4-5th 2006 at the Coeur Defense Conference Center in Paris, France:**

***Symposium on Aging Research in Immunology: the Impact of Genomics (ARIG)***

Student Grants are available. Please visit [www.arig.ac.at](http://www.arig.ac.at) for more information.

ARIG 2006 Organizing Committee  
Institute for Biomedical Aging Research  
of the Austrian Academy of Sciences  
Rennweg 10 – A-6020 Innsbruck  
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[www.arig.ac.at](http://www.arig.ac.at)

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### EURAG MEMORY TRAINING CENTRE, PRAGUE:

**23 – 30 September 2006, Prague, Czech Republic:**

***“Empowering seniors for independent living”***

This course has two parts: two half-day workshops with a professional Life Coach and four mornings of intensive memory training given by an experienced memory trainer.

Helen Notzl: Live Every Day

Dana Steinova: Intensive Memory Training Class

PRICE: £ 200 (£ 100 deposit payable in sterling by cheque to Ms D. Steinova) on arrival, minimum 4.500CZK.)

Send your applications with your deposit cheque to:

Ms Dana Steinova  
Leckova 1520, CZ-Prague 4, 149 00,  
Tel. +420 272 931 973 zw. 7.00 und 8.00  
Fax +420 272 931 248  
E-mail: [dana\\_stein@volny.cz](mailto:dana_stein@volny.cz)  
Website: [www.memorytraining.info](http://www.memorytraining.info)  
Deadline für Anmeldungen: 30. Juni 2006

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**27 November – 2 December 2006, Prague, Czech Republic:**

***“Effective tools for increasing the Self-sufficiency and prolonged Independence of an Ageing population”***

Organisation: EURAG Memory Training Center in Prague  
Czech Society for Memory Training and Brain Jogging  
Cultural House Vltavska, Bubenska 1, Prague 7

Working languages: English and Czech

Information and application:

Dana Steinova, Leckova 1520, CZ-149 00 Prague 4, [dana\\_stein@volny.cz](mailto:dana_stein@volny.cz)

**28-29 November 2006, Kerkrade, Netherlands**

**2nd European Silver Economy Conference**

SEN@ER Secretariat  
C/o empirica, Oxfordstraße 2  
53111 Bonn, Germany  
Tel.: +49 228 985300  
Fax: 49 228 9853012

Information and Conference Programme:

<http://www.silvereconomy-europe.org/events/2006>