

## Some inspiring echoes from our member organisations of the past year

On 3 July, we held a meeting with our ESU Executive Committee. Annually at the Summer Academy there is an opportunity for our member organisations to present their '*Country Reports*' in which they give some insight in the proceedings of their organisation during the past year and/or about 'good practices' they experienced as well as good initiatives that have noticed in regard to the senior generation. We experience this happening as a unique occasion to learn from each other. In order to give some direction to the proceedings of reviewing the reports, our secretariat prepared two questions for our Executive Committee members:

- *Do you have experience with certain initiatives taken during the pandemic in view of promoting the well-being of older persons, which you want to communicate with colleagues in Europe as a good practice?*
- *Europe puts its future policy in a 'greener, more digital and more resilient perspective'. What accents can we, as seniors, highlight in that perspective?*

Throughout the submitted documents we repeatedly saw the following recurring 'issues' and we share the opinion that these are certainly to be followed up:

- The role of the government as guardian of qualitative 'long term care';
- Prevention of social isolation and loneliness;
- Access to and ability to communicate via the internet (digital literacy);
- Solidarity between generations.

We received eight responses of which five were answers to the questions, which we have summarised in the attached report. Not every organisation answered the questions, sometimes a separate report was given, which can be found at the bottom of the document. Otherwise, you can find the answers per question in the document.

## Answers to the questions

1. Do you have experience with certain initiatives taken during the pandemic in view of promoting the well-being of older persons, which you want to communicate with colleagues in Europe as a good practice?

### A. Ann Räämet - IRL Seenoride Kogu - Estonia

We have not been in contact with our European colleagues during the pandemic. At the same time, we note that web conferences organized by ESU have been useful and interesting. So we think we could and should communicate more with our European colleagues.

### B. Gabriele Peus- Bispinck - Senioren-Union der CDU Deutschlands - Germany

Junge Menschen aus der Jungen Union und vielen gesellschaftlichen und kirchlichen, sowie Nachbarschaftsgruppen haben für die älteren Menschen eingekauft, damit die Älteren ihre Häuser nicht verlassen mussten.

Bläsergruppen haben vor allen Altenheimen und Senioreneinrichtungen sowie auf vielen Plätzen und Strassen der Städte regelmäßig Musik gemacht, um die Älteren zu erfreuen und ihnen Hoffnung zu geben.

### C. Markus Keschmann - Österreichischer Seniorenbund (ÖSB) - Austria

Die Pandemie hat vor allem das Thema Alterseinsamkeit in den Fokus gerückt; und hier wiederum jene Menschen, die wir über klassische Kommunikationswege unserer Organisationen nicht erreichen können.

In Wien (und vermutlich auch in anderen urbanen Räumen) sind mittlerweile über 50% der Haushalte über 60 Jahre Single-Haushalte – manchmal durchaus freiwillig, aber hier entsteht ein großes gesellschaftliches Problem!

In der Pandemie haben dem entsprechend vor allem Telefonaktionen, Besorgungsservice und Nachbarschaftshilfen besonders gut funktioniert.

### D. Lidmila Nemcová - Sdružení křesťanských seniorů (SKS) - Czech Republic

The pandemic affected very drastically all countries all over the world, namely the health of the population as well as economic, social and political life not speaking about various events in the Nature. We had to deal with it. Fortunately, just one day before the announcement of the pandemic measures in March 2020 in the Czech Republic the meeting of the Presidency and EXCO ESU ended in Prague; it was very successful the last one with personal participation, very positively appreciated.

Some facts

- SKS, like other organizations, had limited opportunities to organize activities, all events had to be cancelled and postponed including our regular international activities with Slovakia.

#### Online activities

In this situation, we have been organizing meetings of the SKS presidency, in special cases with representatives of the SKS Clubs online, later in a hybrid form. The members learned to use this digital form and we invited several political leaders to discuss as M. Jurečka, President of the Christian - Democratic Party, representatives of the Churches, the president of the Slovak senior association, experts, exchanging the examples of good practice among us. We commented on behalf of the SKS for political and social organization some decisions as how to the use or not in our conditions the vaccination, the financial support for seniors to buy the masks etc.

- I consider our SKS website to be a regularly actualized important source of communication, covering ESU conferences with important topics, the Declaration on Digitization and the ESU Newsletter as well.

- Our members were taking part in many online meetings, national and international conferences. L. Němcová spoke at three international online conferences on the issue of seniors in the pandemic and in the post-pandemic period, at the national conference on Violence against the Elderly.

- Christian TV NOE and public TV play a major role. Even during the pandemic, a new TV channel for seniors has been created and is still operating. The top management of the Czech seniors organization together with L. Němcová recently met with the Director of the Czech Public Television to discuss the quality of programs for seniors.

- Even during the pandemic, there were online debates about the future of the Czech Republic in the EU. Lidmila Němcová (in the steering group and in the social group) and Nina Nováková (in the field of education) participated in the debate circles as representatives of the SKS. LN processed the conclusions of the social group concerning the seniors.

- During the previous time SKS communicated with other NGOs and with the Czech Christian democratic political Party KDU/ČSL. In the Czech Republic the recent period is politically focussed on preparing in October 2021 parliamentary elections. Mrs Nina Nováková, a member of the SKS, is running for the election as a candidate for the Czech Parliament in the Central Bohemian District. Many of our members work in local councils.

- The pandemic showed the power of solidarity and the importance of a strong family, inter-generation solidarity and local community, any senior citizen should have strong ties with them, belonging somewhere.

- Value orientation and international cooperation are also important.

We are preparing mutual concrete cooperation with the Slovak partner ZKS for the second half of 2021 (pilgrimage, cross-border cooperation, meetings, invitation for the senate conference of St. Ludmila in Prague etc.).

- A one month ago L. Němcová was elected as one of the vice-president of the Concil of Seniors ( Rada seniorů České republiky) in the Czech Republic ( 200 000 - 300 000 members), five SKS

members are engaged in the regional Councils. We consider it as a success because we will be able to influence the activities of the Czech senior movement vis-a-vis the government as to the pensions, housing, social and health care on the base of our Christian approaches.

- This year 2021 is a symbolic year of Saint Ludmila. 1100 years have passed since her death. St. Ludmila should be a symbol of the inter- generational cooperation. SKS will take part in many events in the country.

#### Conclusion

According to the last survey 6/2021 the Czechs look the future with relative optimism however fears for freedom and democracy are growing.

#### **E. Carmen Quintanilla - *Comision Nacional del Mayor del Partido Popular - Spain***

Dès l'Association des familles et des Femmes Rurales (AFAMMER), une organisation non gouvernementale des familles et des Femmes des zones rurales au niveau national, nous avons pris conscience pendant le confinement des inégalités existantes entre les zones rurales et urbaines, ou il y a encore des ménages ruraux qui n'ont pas d'ordinateur ou d'accès à Internet.

Pour cette raison, après le confinement, AFAMMER a signé un accord avec ENDESA, une entreprise leader du secteur électrique espagnol et le deuxième opérateur sur le marché électrique portugais. Grâce à cet accord, nous promovions le projet Digital Lighting dans les zones rurales ; un programme gratuit d'alphabétisation numérique destiné à plus de 4000 petites et moyennes entreprises et personnes en milieu rural. Parmi ceux qui profitent un nombre très important de personnes âgées.

L'objectif de ce programme, est de rompre avec l'insécurité juridique et l'isolement géographique des personnes âgées qui vivent en milieu rural et qui ne savent pas manier les outils numériques comme la signature numérique, aujourd'hui plus que jamais indispensable lors de l'exécution de toute procédure de gestion ou d'administration. En outre, ils apprennent également à acheter des produits et services via Internet

2. *Europe puts its future policy in a 'greener, more digital and more resilient perspective'. What accents can we, as seniors, highlight in that perspective?*

#### **A. Ann Räämet - *IRL Seenioride Kogu -Estonia***

We consider that seniors should consider two aspects to be important for both digital development and sustainability:

→ Continued social interaction and social communication with different age groups in society - despite possible restrictions in the future.

To do this, it is important to:

- Extensive and permanent in-service training / longlife learning for adults to stay in the labour market longer. It also makes it possible to support the growth of GDP and the sustainability of the country as a whole,
- Increased use of various health monitoring tools at home to detect potential diseases on time, and

- Existence of IT literacy - improving not only the ability to exchange e-mails but also the ability to use different web video solutions.

→ We should probably look more closely at the design of health systems and their willingness to respond to demographic change in society. Perhaps we should explore opportunities for senior members of society to integrate more closely social and health services based on modern IT opportunities. And especially at the community level. This will probably also require the development of new funding systems for the provision of new types of services.

#### **B. Gabriele Peus- Bispinck - *Senioren-Union der CDU Deutschlands - Germany***

Als ESU können wir - durch die EVP- auf die führenden Politiker und Entscheidungsträger einwirken , damit sie die Klimaziele der EU erreichen , den Digital Act beherzigen und . durch einen wirksamen Schutz der Aussengrenzen und eine gemeinsame Aussen-und Verteidigungspolitik Europa resilienter machen

Als einzelne Senioren können wir in ganz kleinem Rahmen zur Klimaneutralität beitragen indem wie z. B. Strom und Wasser sparen , weniger heizen, mehr den öffentlichen Personennahverkehr oder - bei entsprechender Fitness- das Fahrrad nutzen uns event an Baumpflanzaktionen beteidigen oder für Bäume spenden bei kurzen Strecken möglichst kein Flugzeug benutzen als Verbraucher viel regional einkaufen und darauf achten ,wie das Produkt hergestellt wurde .

Wir können auch dazu beitragen dass Senioren digitaler werden indem wir Kollegen auf die vielen Schulungsmöglichkeiten aufmerksam machen und event . Freunden auch selber Unterricht erteilen

#### **C. Markus Keschmann - *Österreichischer Seniorenbund (ÖSB) - Austria***

Wir Senioren sind nicht die Umweltverschmutzer, wir sind Umweltbewahrer: mit all unserem historischen Wissen und unserem nachhaltigen Lebensstil!

Aus Erfahrung wissen wir: eine reine Verbotspolitik führt nicht zum Ziel!

Es geht um Eigenverantwortung, massive Anstrengungen in Forschung & Entwicklung und mehr Transparenz, welche Aktivität welche Umweltbelastung verursacht.

#### **D. Lidmila Nemcová -*Sdružení křesťanských seniorů (SKS) - Czech Republic***

- The pandemic highlighted the importance of digital communication and seniors were involved. This trend will continue in the future. These are not only about online meetings, seminars, but also other examples: a change of the form of shopping - physical purchase in stores is replaced by on line shopping, communication with the state authorities in digital form, health sector... It will certainly affect the way of life of seniors.

- The importance of Smart Phones for the daily life of the seniors

- We should combine the digital technology with the social life of seniors. Technology should help to the seniors in all the spheres and not to replace the physical contacts among the people.
- We should do our best to convince seniors of the importance of learning about digital technologies. These should be available both locally and on the price level. We should promote long life learning in this respect.
- The digital technology should improve the quality of life of seniors and not to be the tool of discrimination. The inter-generation solidarity is important.
- The big role of educating seniors what the green economy means and what about the strategy of the green economy.
- The seniors should be present in the state, regional and local councils, commissions etc. dealing with IT technology.

The following texts were sent to us as a report/ information

**A. Antonis Demetriades - *Senior Citizens Organisation of Cyprus (OSCC) - Cyprus***

**1st doc: ESU COVID-19 doc.**

At the beginning of the pandemic our Society made every effort to ensure that the elderly and vulnerable were protected.

The elderly were isolated mostly in their homes and tried not to come in physical contact with other people and or their families.

The old people's homes were a very crucial focus. The Society tried to isolate these homes from outside visitors, relatives, children and grandchildren.

This isolation although it was a very effective measure created so many other problems for the elderly. The residents were obviously disappointed and upset with the fact that they could not see their family but it was noticeable that their mental wellbeing was impacted too. Old people were very unhappy and depressed and this affected the rest of their lives.

Old people died in hospitals and other institutions in isolation without their family members been able to be with them and say their last 'goodbyes', or simply to hold their hand.

Vaccinating all the elderly people became the priority in order to provide them with protection against the Covid 19 virus.

The latest problem we are now facing is the new challenges to contain other variants and especially the India variant which is producing a huge covid surge. Due to this we now have the possibility of additional hundreds of thousand cases bringing yet again pain, fear, agony, deaths. We are in contact with the Authorities and the Ministry of Health in order to find ways to approach this new problem and avoid more lockdowns and contain the spread.

In association with Ministry of Health we jointly prepared a program of physical activities and exercises that the elderly that can do at home. The Ministry of Health sponsored the programme and further supported by producing and distributing Cyprus wide leaflets detailing the campaign.

Our scientific colleagues of the National Gerontological Centre prepared an academic study a paper analysing the pandemic and its effects.

Another project which is being developed and will shortly come online is the 'red button' (emergency help button for elderly) who may need help at home or have an emergency. Utilising the red button can contact and have direct access to the emergency services who in turn will address the call accordingly.

## **2nd doc: Senior Citizens of Cyprus (OPREPO) - Digitalisation**

We are closely cooperating with the Deputy Minister of Research, Innovation and Digital Policies for developing a program of digitalisation literacy for the elderly people. The Deputy Minister is preparing a new comprehensive program teaching and training elderly old people in utilizing the digital systems which will be rolled out and implemented.

This program was previously in development but was suspended due to the pandemic and therefore it was postponed. However, the program is now reactivated and will be rolled out.

We discussed many ways to also help elderly people who live outside of the main cities (in villages) and the ministry is organizing mobile units which are offering computers and tablets free and assigning Government employees to be available and assist elderly people in preparing their e-documents.

We strongly believe that with the Government's help we can assist the elderly people in familiarizing themselves and get used to the many online systems which will be available thus enabling them to communicate with their friends, family, learn new things and also share knowledge.

Next week we have a meeting with Deputy Minister as well as with the Minister of Labour updating on the progress.

## **B. Peter Mach - Zdruzenie kresťanských seniorov Slovenska (ZKSS KDH)- Slovakia**

### **Slovakia at a time of pandemic and prospects for recovery**

Dear friends, first of all about the context of the pandemic. A little over a year ago, at the end of May 2020, we sent a contribution to the ESU Newsletter about the situation in Slovakia. Our country, which has a population of 5.5 million, had only 1,500 infected and 28 dead at the time, and the number of new infections on each day was always less than 10, on some days even zero. We were pleased that we were the champions of Europe ... Since then, the situation has deteriorated sharply and negatively - 13,000 dead in relation to the number of inhabitants ranks Slovakia among the worse countries.

Unfortunately, one of the reasons why the positive results from the first wave were not maintained is the mistakes in the functioning of the government. In the spring of 2020 - just after the start of the pandemic - the center-right coalition took office after the elections, which, after 12 years of left-wing populism and corruption, was a great hope. Unfortunately, this coalition is manifested in the field of combating a pandemic rather by non-systemic and often chaotic decisions, and we are already lagging behind in vaccination.

Last autumn, nationwide antigen testing was carried out, which caused controversy and would not have taken place without the enormous efforts of local governments and health professionals. Unfortunately, there is no consensus among experts on its contribution. Similarly, the original vaccination strategy at the

beginning of the year placed seniors in the fourth category in time, and only after a wave of criticism from experts and the public, including the ZKS and our activists, did this change fundamentally. However, implementation is still insufficient, with regional disparities being a major problem. While the capital Bratislava already has more than 50% of the vaccinated population and 70% have been vaccinated among seniors, other larger cities and the west of the country are doing relatively well, in the north and east the situation is very bad, some districts are only at level 15. - 20%, which represents a serious risk.

One of the problems has been the lack of cooperation between central authorities and senior organizations and communities since the beginning, which continues. On the contrary, the activities of regional and local authorities and civil society organizations for the benefit of the elderly should be highlighted, whether at a time when they are being isolated by various forms of assistance or now in an effort to achieve a higher level of vaccination. Here we could give a number of specific examples, e.g. handing out respirators to seniors, organized by the KDH political party through its mayors, or organizing mobile vaccination teams at the level of self-governing regions. Unfortunately, Slovakia's negative lesson is that without a systematic, transparent and participatory approach by central authorities, these local and regional initiatives cannot reverse the overall unsatisfactory development.

As for European policies and perspectives with an emphasis on benefits for the elderly, we will take a more comprehensive introduction here as well. Active membership in the ESU is extremely important for the ZKS. The approach of our friends from Western and Northern Europe is very inspiring. We see them in full compliance with EPP policies as a flexible and balanced combination of promoting proven common values and at the same time dynamic reforms and changes for the benefit of a united Europe. However, we consider it important to recall a number of objective reasons why some of our priorities and accents are different - not at all in terms of values, ideological issues, but in the case of quite practical problems of the older generation.

These are, in particular, the pension system, social services and health care, which continue to be considered the most serious problems on the basis of our experience and surveys by seniors, including members of the ZKS. The roots are in almost half a century of totalitarianism, but also in a very inconsistent development more than 30 years after the return of democracy. The rotation of very diverse coalitions, from the populist left to neoliberal reforms to center-right groupings, almost always focused on short-term electoral success goals, has not yet enabled long-term sustainable pension, social security and health care systems. Older people are therefore focusing again and again on these areas, which are deeply underfunded compared to developed Europe. For the past 12 years, left-wing populist governments have sought to obtain the older generation through short-term, seemingly prosocial measures, but which have had a strategic negative effect. As an example, let us mention the decision of the left-populist government to abandon the rational social consensus of setting the retirement age in accordance with the average life expectancy and replace it by capping the retirement age at 64. This is in a situation where Slovakia, with a real average retirement age of 60 years, lags significantly behind the European average (63 years) and capping the retirement age is not only a threat to the pension system, but also at odds with the motivation for active aging and participation in society.

In this situation, the ZKS sees its role both in critically pointing out the unresolved problems of the past and also in supporting the necessary reforms and dynamic steps in the spirit of the European Union's strategies. We do not neglect the 'green' issues and the need to combat climate change. Let us mention that the members of ZKS participated in several well-known Friday meetings of students and youth in



Bratislava in support of the struggle to save the planet. Among the specific problems of Slovakia, the decision to stop the relatively large-scale mining of brown coal by 2023 should be mentioned. This will be a major change for the whole region, and older mining workers in particular will need to receive comprehensive assistance to adapt to the new conditions.

A certain hope is the recently adopted Recovery Plan, from which Slovakia will receive more than EUR 6 billion for dozens of reforms. It is important to say that digitization and healthcare have a very important place in it. For healthcare, this is a key injection in a literally emergency situation, which puts senior citizens at risk in the forefront. It will be important how efficiently the roughly EUR 1 billion earmarked for health is used. In the field of digitization, we very much welcomed the ESU declaration and, in connection with it, we reminded that Slovakia is in real danger of a digital divide, separating some seniors from the digitized majority of society. This affects more than half a million of our oldest seniors and people at risk of poverty, and they cannot be allowed to become second-class citizens in a digital society. So far, we have not found steps in the Recovery Plan, the section on digitization, that would actively prevent this, and we consider it our duty to highlight these issues strongly and also to be actively involved in redress efforts.

We could write even more extensively on a number of topics, and we realize that, in addition to defending and promoting the legitimate interests of older people, the dimension of intergenerational solidarity and cooperation is also essential. We would like to come up with perhaps not a new but important idea. A Conference on the Future of Europe is under way. The ESA, with the significant participation of all member organizations, should submit its discussed contributions to it as a whole and separately for each of its 10 thematic areas. The voice of more than a million seniors, represented by the ESU, will certainly have its weight ...

### **C. Ernest Margon - *Zveza seniorjev Nova Slovenija (N.Si)*- Slovenia**

## **SLOVENIA - EXPERIENCES WITH CERTAIN INITIATIVES TAKEN DURING THE PANDEMIC FOR THE WELL-BEING OF OLDER PERSONS**

### **KEY GOALS of the Ministry of Labor, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities**

The key activities of the Ministry of Labor, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities are still related to active monitoring and actions regarding the situation in homes for the elderly:

- Visits are possible regarding all preventive measures.
- New admissions are also possible.
- The protection of the elderly is a key topic of our ministry's work and it will be even after the end of the pandemic.
- Our goal this year (2021) is to initiate procedures to provide additional places in homes for the elderly as soon as possible, which should be ensured by awarding concessions and intensive drawing of European funds.
- There are **projects related** to the provision of additional capacities for **day care** and deinstitutionalisation, which would consequently free up places in homes and at the same time provide additional jobs.
- **Maintaining or improving the socio-economic situation of the elderly** also remains a key concern.

## **SENIORS AND COVID 19**

In Slovenia we have 102 homes for the elderly, in all homes there are about 18,800 users. There were no infections in almost 90% of homes, which means that measures to prevent and control the spread of COVID-19 infections in old people's homes have been successful. With the outbreak of the epidemic, full of unknown, we in Slovenia worked to the best of our ability and, according to estimates, we were also quite successful. Coping with Covid-19 would be much easier if you could have previous experience. That is why the acquired knowledge and good practices are invaluable in preparing for a possible next wave of infections.

The willingness of hospitals to accept the first infected residents to withdraw them from the home and prevent the home from becoming a hotspot has proven to be an effective practice.

### **PLANNED MEASURES OF THE HOMES FOR ELDERLY - COVID19 AFTER COVID19**

Experience and good practice should be taken into account when preparing for a possible next wave of COVID-19 infections; A working group (led by the Ministry) has been appointed, which, in cooperation with representatives of the Ministry of Health, providers in the field of social protection and the profession (National Institute for Health and others), is preparing a Covid-19 Management Plan.

Based on previous experience, **Covid hospitals / hotels** would be the most suitable for patients in social care institutions (from the point of view of controlling the infection as soon as possible).

It will be necessary to reduce the number of infections with employees. This can be done with a sufficient amount of personal protective equipment and knowledge of how it is used.

Compulsory training for all employees. Establishment of a mobile team (medical staff) to help and advise contractors.

### **CARING FOR THE ELDERLY AND LONG-TERM CARE IN THE FUTURE**

Situation in homes for the elderly: - There are currently 13,466 places in public homes for the elderly, 5,320 places in private homes for the elderly with a concession and 2,253 places in special institutions for adults. - There are a total of 21,039 places in the field of institutional care, of which 18,786 are for the elderly. - 12,300 current applications.

The goals in the field of the elderly are: -

- increase the accessibility and accessibility of services and programs for the elderly, -
- expansion of community services.

There is a shortage of 1,000 to 2,000 places at the moment.

#### **Short-term solutions**

In the years 2020 and 2021, on the basis of the previous public tender, an estimated 600 new places have been granted. We will expand the public network of institutional care for the elderly by an additional 1,100 places, which have already been approved by the Ministry of Health.

There will be Investments in infrastructure in support of deinstitutionalisation. They plan to be able to use EU funds to support the provision of additional capacity for day care, deinstitutionalisation and care of the elderly and other vulnerable groups in the new financial perspective 2021-2027.

## Long-term solution

The adoption of the law on long-term care is urgently needed. The existing system of care for the elderly in Slovenia is good, but it is no longer sufficient, so they think we need to upgrade it.

the Long-Term Care Act is expected to provide:

- unification of long-term care rights,
- a uniform assessment of eligibility, -
- an integrated network of providers and the coordinated provision of all long-term care services,
- faster development of community services,
- accessibility of social protection services and programs,
- quality assurance of services,
- providing user a choice and influence,
- maintain dignity and prevent discrimination against the elderly,
- emphasis on education and awareness.
- the service must be focused on the user and his needs, bearing in mind that it is also necessary to ensure a sufficient range of social services that need to be provided in the integrated service.

The involvement of both departments the Health and Social department is necessary, as the homes also have a social and health part of the care they provide to the residents of the homes. However, the needs of the elderly have changed greatly over the last decade. Health care for the elderly predominates and currently 80 percent of the home's population is immobile.

The epidemic further drew attention to a systemic problem, namely staff malnutrition at home. At the same time, we also know the space and other hardships of home, which is all a consequence of (non) action in the past. We will solve this problem within the framework of comprehensive solutions for both the labor market and the care of the elderly.

## ELDERLY AND DIGITALIZATION

New technologies will be brought closer to older people and they will be educated how to use digital devices through intergenerational cooperation of younger generations, solidarity and the promotion of lifelong learning.

Slovenia has a relatively well-developed informational infrastructure, but nevertheless only a little more than half of the population of Slovenia aged 16 to 74 have at least basic digital skills and knowledge. This and the use of Internet services in Slovenia in general are below the European average, and negative trends, such as early departure from the labor market, unemployment, disability and social assistance as a way to early retirement, intensified during the epidemic.

**Better digital literacy of older people will increase their social inclusion and active participation in society,** but at the same time young people will cooperate and they will spread the knowledge of digital skills among older people.

Enhanced **digital skills will enable older jobseekers and the retired to have longer or better employability, social reactivation or entry into the world of start-ups.**

The Minister of Labor, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities Janez Cigler Kralj (Nsi – Nova Slovenija) speaks about the growing importance of intergenerational solidarity and assistance and cooperation between different generations: "All this contributes to understanding the needs of different generations. This strengthens co-existence between them. It enables intergenerational learning and the transfer of knowledge and experience. "