

Corona crisis



NEWSLETTER APRIL 2020

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

We hope this newsletter finds you well. In this letter we focus on the worldwide pandemic that concerns us all. We trust that in your country and in your associations you act in a responsible way and hope that you are all healthy and safe. We also hope you have reliable information to inform you about the pandemic. In this newsletter we like to concentrate on the challenges this brings to us, the older generation.

- *What are/were some of the main challenges during this crisis, especially for seniors?*
- *Are there positive solutions that have been put forward which should lead us also in the future?*
- *Are there particular stories you would like to highlight?*

We invite you to **share your response** to these challenges with us in reaction to this newsletter, what challenges do you face and how do you tackle them? We will share your reactions (problems, good practices, recommendations...) with our ESU-colleagues in one of the upcoming newsletters.

An Hermans
President ESU

A worldwide health crisis

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) declared that an outbreak of the viral disease COVID-19 had reached the level of a global pandemic. Citing concerns with "*the alarming levels of spread and severity*" the WHO called for governments to take urgent and aggressive action to stop the spread of the virus.

As the coronavirus COVID-19 was spreading across Europe and worldwide, national authorities and EU institutions did their utmost to address the pandemic. Their key objective was to ensure that across the European Union, hospitals & healthcare professionals could maintain their capacity to provide intensive care to all who needed urgent medical attention. Severe containment measures were taken to slow down the spread of the virus and prevent hospitals from being overwhelmed with too many very severe cases.

Faced with the health and economic crisis caused by the pandemic, the European Union is trying to deploy the various means at its disposal. The Union's capacity to act depends largely on the Member States and their willingness to act together.

This article provides you with an overview of all measures taken at national and European level:

<https://www.robert-schuman.eu/en/doc/actualites/covid19-26032020-en.pdf>

Read more:

<https://www.robert-schuman.eu/en/doc/actualites/covid19-26032020-en.pdf?fbclid=IwAR2TCAhnAHvGSXXUhZvvKd4aRLO17qu-46ML13PT88uEhMQSIxCpxJIVRa8>

https://www.jd-giuliani.eu/en/article/cat-2/672_The-7-Capital-Challenges.html?fbclid=IwAR01dfiQ2nERNsiapHhG544nl9qG5yTg7kTbGaqsHh1tB3NS-0zIz4cG7Dc

COVID-19 and human rights concerns for older persons

Older persons are at higher risk of mortality and serious illness from COVID-19. It is essential that the Member States and other actors involved in the COVID-19 response put in place measures to ensure that older persons' human rights are protected on an equal basis with others, without discrimination and without exception in line with international standards. Arbitrary or discriminatory approaches or decisions on the basis of age are unacceptable. Decisions about the allocation and prioritisation of scarce medical resources must be made on the basis of medical and scientific evidence and not on non-medical grounds such as age or disability.

Neglect of older persons or the failure to provide them with necessary health, social and palliative care are practices that risk to undermining older persons' right to life and, by implication, rank their lives as being of lesser value than other person's life.

We all have equal rights, regardless of age *and these must be equally protected during the pandemic*. Advanced age should never by itself be a criterion for excluding persons from specialized care.

Read more

<https://www.age-platform.eu/policy-work/news/covid-19-older-persons'-rights-must-be-equally-protected-during-pandemic>