

*Dear colleagues and friends,*

2022 has already been very busy and challenging. We certainly feel that in our own operations and those of our associations. We are all excited to meet each other again 'in the flesh' after almost two years. It feels good to exchange thoughts, to find comfort in sorrow and pain, to understand each other's questions and needs, and also to make plans together for the future!

In this Newsletter we present some of the activities of the past few months and look ahead to the Summer Academy in Vienna. After two years, we hope to welcome delegations from all over Europe.

We wish you a pleasant reading.

An Hermans

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# EPP Congress Rotterdam: 31 May - 1 June



## Election of Manfred Weber as EPP President and EPP Leadership

During the European People's Party Congress Manfred Weber was elected as EPP President, he succeeded Donald Tusk.

*"I am extremely proud to be elected President of the biggest political party in Europe and I am humbled to be able to continue in the footsteps of EPP leaders like Donald Tusk. Together we say no to a Europe of mistrust of the populists, that polarises people and destroys our future. We say no to a Europe of the elites and their top down approach. We are the party that is closest to the day to day realities of citizens. More than ever we will work to unite our societies and we will never stop fighting for a better and stronger EU for the people of Europe." - President Weber*

We wish Mr. Weber and his entire EPP leadership every success. We thank former President Tusk and Secretary General López for their cooperation over the past years.

## ESU intervention at the Congress



The EPP partner associations had the opportunity to address the audience during the Congress. Our President An Hermans gave a speech in which she emphasised the importance of "A sustainable world for all ages".

You can find her full speech [here](#) and video [here](#).

Please find the report on this event on [our website](#).

# *‘What does the Green Deal mean for our way of life?’*

## ESU & CDA Side Event



On 31 May until the 1st of June, the European People's Party (EPP) held its [27th Congress](#). The congress took place in Rotterdam Ahoy. On the day of the opening of the congress, 31 May, we organised a side-event of the European Seniors' Union together with the seniors of the Christian Democratic Appeal (CDAS). This side-event concerning 'What does the Green Deal mean for our way of life?' addressed the challenges of a greener and more sustainable society and what impact this will have on our lifestyle.

You can find the report on this event on [our website](#).

# Solidarity with Ukraine



In early April, we had contact with Volodymyr Dzobak. The interest grew to get to know Mr. Dzobak and his organization better and so we took the opportunity to have him speak in our Executive Committee about the current situation in Ukraine and his warm appeal for solidarity. On the 3rd of May, we had a second meeting with him to further introduce himself, his organisation and its history. We have made a report of this on our ESU [website](#) and we warmly invite you to check it out.



# ESU Summer Academy

From 30 June to 2 July, nearly 50 senior citizens and leaders of senior citizens' organisations will meet at POLAK in Vienna for our "Summer Academy". Think tanks (WMCES, Polak), umbrella organisations of senior citizens (ESU, OSB) and the Consumers Empowerment Project (CEP) are joining forces to make this "Summer Academy" a success. For three days, POLAK will be a meeting place where empowerment initiatives will be offered to senior participants from all over Europe.



We hereby give you a brief overview of the draft programme:

- We will start on Thursday 30 June with a welcome dinner at Polak;
- On Friday 1 July we offer a two-part programme:
  - In the morning focus on Ukraine and the European geopolitical situation: the European response to the war situation and the new geopolitical environment (Keynote speaker: Prof. Dr. Stefan Kramer of the University of Graz);
  - In the afternoon we will highlight some aspects of 'senior citizen participation in the new economic and digital era'. (Including the responsibility of politics, the commercial and non-commercial sector, media, private and public initiatives to realise people's fulfilment throughout life). With keynote speakers and debates by speakers from different sectors of society.
- On Saturday, we will organise an ESU Members' Executive Committee and Country Reports will be presented by our member organisations. Also, the brochure of the Council of Europe ['The digital era? Also my era!'](#) will be discussed.

# Interesting and festive meetings with our associations

## Finnish Seniors' Association's 50th Anniversary



President An Hermans was invited to participate in the festive cruise from Helsinki to Tallinn to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Kansallinen Senioriilitto, our Finnish member association. About 1700 members of Kansallinen Senioriilitto from all over the country came together on the boat to be part of this extraordinary event. An Hermans was welcomed by Anneli Taina, Leena Jääskeläinen and Maarit Kuikka. Read the full report on our website.

## ESU Northern and Baltic Countries Regional Conference: Life with COVID-19

Our President An Hermans and Secretary Guido Dumon were invited by Georg Männik and Ann Räämet to Tallinn for the ESU Northern and Baltic Countries Regional Conference that took place from 19-21 May. The central theme was: *'Life with COVID-19. New tasks and challenges for senior members of society. Possible solutions and social adaptation to the new situation.'*

*"It is crucial to maintain contacts, this was partly hampered by the pandemic, but especially in the baltic states with its rich geopolitical history, people must be able to tell their story. We have to be here physically to have contact and to see and experience things."* - President Hermans during her speech.



The full programme, report and powerpoints of the conference are available on [our website](#).

## In Memoriam

## Dr. Guna Putnina



Dr. Guna Putniņa, passed away on 16 April 2022 at the age of 81. She was the founder and long-term chairman of the Latvian Christian Seniors Union. As a member of the ESU Executive Committee, Guna Putniņa has participated in many of its congresses and conferences, as well as in the Vienna Summer Academies.

## Upcoming Events

Event	Location	Date
Summer Academy	Vienna	30/06-02/07
European educational-scientific conference	Krakow	23/09-25/09



