

Dear colleagues and friends,

Spring brings plenty of life to the homes and the streets, society looks completely different again than a year ago. We are gradually leaving COVID-19 behind us, enjoying togetherness.

We are looking forward with hope, but the Russian invasion in Ukraine and tensions and threats at the European borders are worrying us.

Let us stay united and defend together in solidarity, our European values.

We wish you a pleasant reading of our newsletter.

An Hermans

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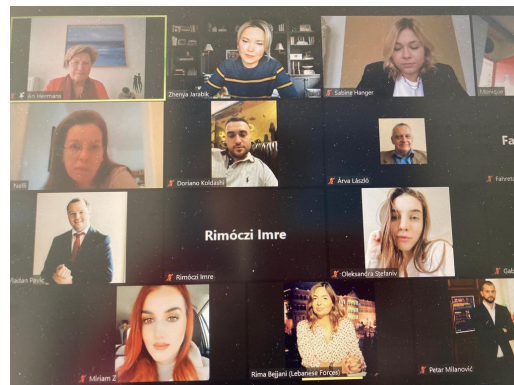
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29.04.2022:

European Day of Solidarity between generations.

How it started (2008): At an EU conference in Brdo, Slovenia on 28 - 29 April 2008, the (first) Slovenian Presidency of the European Union proposed that 29 April be declared European Day of Solidarity between generations. The first EU Day was officially launched on 29 April 2009.

ESU takes part every year in this awareness-raising campaign in order to draw attention to the concept of intergenerational solidarity and initiate greater cooperation and shared perspectives in future social development. Also on 28 April 2022, as part of this celebration, our President An Hermans participated in an online meeting 'Intergenerational Dialogue in Political Environments: Challenges and Opportunities' hosted by the Robert Schuman Institute in Budapest, with speakers Monique Vogelaar (CDA seniors, the Netherlands) and Sabine Hanger (Youth of the ÖVP, Austria).



Solidarity: one of the cornerstones of the European Union

Solidarity between generations starts in warm relationships in families and neighborhoods where parents and children, grandparents and grandchildren, young and old meet, and care for each other. But solidarity is a cornerstone not only in direct interpersonal relationships. We also need this solidarity to create common political perspectives to tackle social problems or find sustainable solutions for the future.

Ageism and negative attitudes towards certain age groups divide people of different generations and create barriers to their full participation in society. These stereotypes, which are learned at a very young age, usually stem from a lack of understanding of the reality in which other age groups live. Promoting regular interaction between people of different age groups can help to break down

common challenges faced.

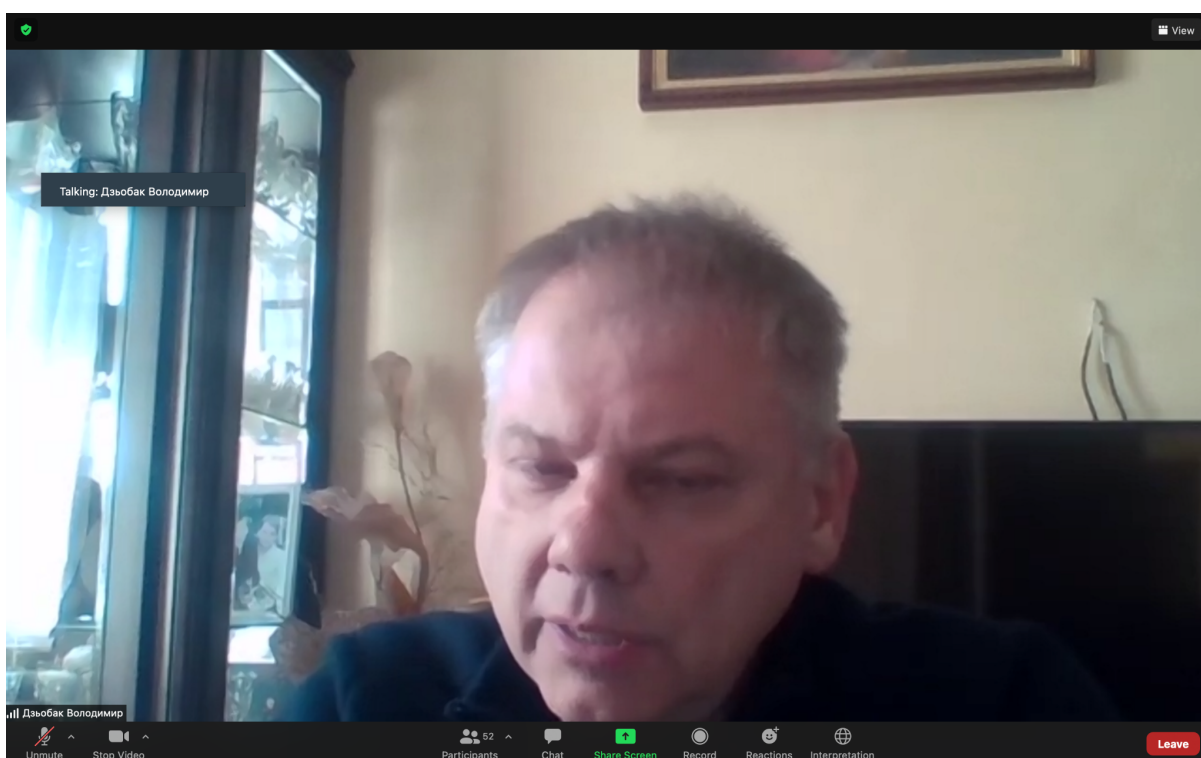
19.04.2022 ESU Executive Committee meeting

On the 19th of April in the morning we had a meeting with our ESU Executive Committee. We welcomed more than 50 members online.

On the agenda:

- Report of the President and the General Secretariat
- Financial issues
- Upcoming events 2022
- News from our partner association (observer) in Ukraine
- News from our associations

During the ExCo meeting we also welcomed Mr. Volodymyr Dzobak, who is the president of the Ukrainian Pensioners Union, an observer organisation of ESU. He gave a moving testimony about the current situation in Ukraine and the humanitarian aspect of the war. He made a strong appeal for solidarity.: *"Currently, Ukrainians are on the frontline, defending all the values of the civilized world: freedom, democracy... Only solidarity can stop the war. Solidarity at all levels and in all its manifestations. Solidarity in world view and perception. In the perception of good and evil, what is right and wrong, what is truth and what is fake. Solidarity in humanitarian and military aid in medical assistance and sanctions, in defensive and offensive weapons."*



Upcoming events:

19-21/05: ESU Northern and Baltic Countries Regional Conference

On 19-21 May the ESU Presidency will attend a Regional Conference in Tallinn “*Life with Covid-19. New tasks and challenges for senior members of society. solutions and social adaptation to the new situation.*” We have been invited to conference by ESU Vice President Ann Räämet and Georg Männik, President of our local organization [IRL Seenioride Kogu](#).



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The objectives of the conference are to give an overview of how the countries of the Baltic region coped with the pandemic and how it affected the daily lives of older citizens.. Furthermore we will look at how this new situation of COVID-19 has changed seniors’ lives and what could be done differently. And finally, we zoom in on how to reduce confusion in all the different quarantine and restriction rules in the future.

31/05: ESU-CDA side-event at the EPP Party Congress in Rotterdam

On 31 May the ESU, together with the CDA seniors, is organizing a side-event at the [EPP Party Congress in Rotterdam](#). Please find attached the invitation and the programme. The theme is ‘*What does the Green Deal mean for our way of life?*’



Thereby, we will address the challenges of a greener and more sustainable society and what impact this will have on our lifestyle. It promises to be an interesting event with speakers from various fields of interest.

As European Seniors’ Union, we can register a limited delegation for the Party Congress, but we warmly invite you:

- To inquire whether you as representative of the seniors in your party, can be part as delegate or as guest of the delegation of your party in the EPP Congress and thus also attend our side-event.;
- To inform your party members, coming to Rotterdam, about our ESU side event ‘*What does the Green Deal mean for our way of life?*’ and to enthuse them to participate;

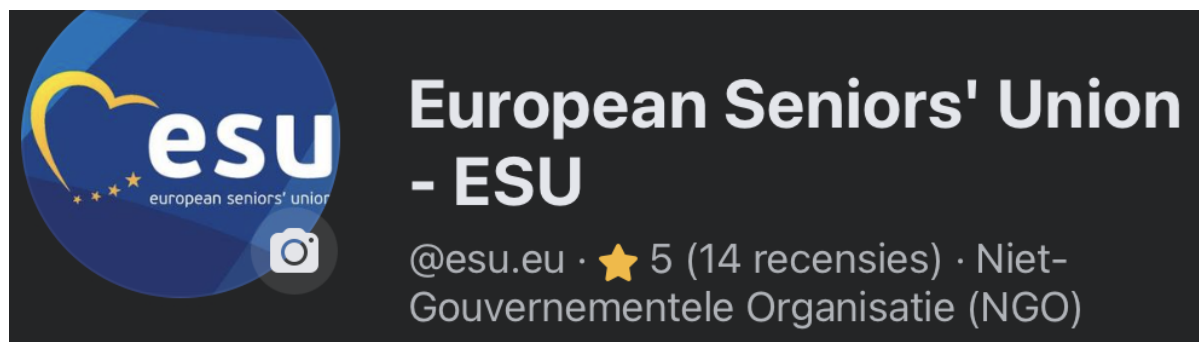
representative can be invited through your party to the Congress (31 May-1 June) and also to inform your party members who will be present at the Congress about our event! And to

enthuse them about our side-event. The more different people from different Member States, the livelier and more interesting the discussion and questions can be, we are counting on you. Feel free to share our invitation, it promises to be an interesting get-together: 31 May 11h-13h @ Ahoy.

Looking forward to meeting you all in Rotterdam!

Likes Facebook

In addition to several editions of our newsletter per year, we also use social media to bring the news of our organisation and senior news in Europe to you. This is a challenge as social media is a medium that older people do not get in touch with as much. Nevertheless, it has been successful and we managed to make some valuable contacts through Facebook. We are therefore proud to announce that we have almost reached the milestone of 2500 likes!



Promoting digital inclusion for all - 'good practices'

In our previous newsletter we emphasized the importance of different types of learning-coaching-empowering initiatives close to the people, respecting their life experience and practical needs and the strengthening impact of the involvement of seniors in the implementation of objectives and strategies. We therefore asked some good examples from your country, your local community, your association.

We received an inspiring response from Georg Männik from Estonia:

How to behave and fight a pandemic?

Regular meetings at the local Senior Association's clubs of ISAMAA Party (Estonia)

We have drawn up a plan for our regional clubs to hold regular meetings with doctors, politicians and various other professionals to:

- Be informed of the progress of the pandemic,*
- Get suggestions on how to behave at each stage of a pandemic to stay healthy.*

Considering the pandemic, there will be no large gatherings and these meetings will take place regionally of Estonia. As Estonia has been relatively open, national restrictions have been short-lived and that is why we have still been able to hold meetings.

Participants are senior members of our community.

Meetings are popular because everyone needs up-to-date information.

Organized by the local boards of ISAMAA senior clubs. The overall strategy is reflected in our general action plan.

Deepening digital knowledge

Organized by the University of Tartu, within the framework of the Lifelong Learning Program.

As a rule, this is completely web-based training to raise digital awareness - from artificial intelligence to programming.

We receive regular training programs and participation is free. The plans are designed in such a way that the initial knowledge and age of the participant are not important. Those who have participated have been very pleased. The design of the programs is convenient and affordable even for participants with poorer basic knowledge.

Therefore, we provide information to our seniors when there are topics of interest to us in the programs.

We are currently negotiating with the University whether it is possible to prepare specific training plans for senior members.



MEMORIAM

Prof. Dr Ursula Lehr, passed away on 25 April 2022 at the age of 91. She inspired our vision for older generations and policies for aging societies. She was an icon of 'active ageing'. Prof. Dr Lehr was

Heidelberg. She was Federal Minister for Family Affairs in Germany (1988-1991) and pioneered a modern policy for demographic change that regards older people not only as recipients of social benefits, but as an active part of society. The ESU welcomed her regularly as a speaker. We are grateful to have known her, keep her memory and share her legacy with future generations.

In memory of Prof. Dr. Lehr, several beautiful writings have been published, we would like to refer you to some of them:

- The University of Heidelberg: "[Heidelberg gerontologist Ursula Lehr is mourned](#)"
- CDU: "[Die CDU trauert um Ursula Lehr](#)"
- More information, see [Wikipedia](#)

Upcoming events

- Regional Conference in Tallinn: ESU Northern and Baltic Countries Regional Conference (19-21 May 2022)
- EPP Congress Rotterdam, with side -event (initiative and local organization: ESU- delegates Monique Vogelaar and Lenny Geluk, CDAS): 31 May-1June 2022.
- Summer Academy : 30 June – 2 July 2022