

Celebrating Memorable Moments and Embracing the Summer Spirit!

Dear ESU members and friends,

As we bask in the warmth of the summer sun, we take a moment to look back on the exciting highlights of the past few months. It has been an eventful period, filled with inspiring initiatives and memorable gatherings that have brought our ESU family even closer together. However, amidst these joyful memories, we also bid a heartfelt farewell to our esteemed colleague, Marilies Flemming, the driving force behind the creation of our ESU Summer Academy.

We kicked off the summer with our Summer Academy in Brussels and Leuven at the beginning of July. The vibrant energy and enthusiasm of all the participants made the event truly special, setting the tone for the rest of the season.

In this newsletter, we'll delve into the following topics: the latest update on the ESU Summer Academy, commemorating the European Day of Solidarity between Generations, and the empowering symposium on "Creating Dignity in the Final Phase of Life." We'll also explore the significance of empowering active retirees in the digital era.

Happy reading and warmest regards,

*An Hermans
ESU President*

10-13.07.2023

Update on ESU Summer Academy

On 13th July, the Summer Academy, a four-day event organized by WMCES, CEDER, and ESU, came to a successful conclusion, leaving all participants inspired and enriched with valuable information. The event took place in both Brussels and Leuven, and its [empowering program](#), planned with engaging speakers, discussants, assistants, and interpreters, ran seamlessly from day to day, hour to hour.

We've been hard at work processing the reports from the speakers at the ESU Summer Academy, which took place earlier this month from July 10th to 13th. You can now find these insightful reports including the presentations and speeches from the speakers on our [website](http://esu-epp.eu/#events): <http://esu-epp.eu/#events>.

Relive the enriching knowledge-sharing moments and dive into the wealth of information shared during the event. We hope these resources will inspire you on your own learning journey.

Feel free to explore the website and let us know your thoughts! Don't forget to share this exciting news with your fellow enthusiasts.

Happy learning!



In Loving Memory of Dr. Marilies Flemming



It is with profound sadness that we share the news of the passing of Marilies Flemming, the driving force behind the creation to our ESU Summer Academy. She served as an inspiration to many, and her absence will be deeply felt. Our beloved Marilies passed away, leaving behind a legacy that will forever be cherished.

Dr. Flemming passed away peacefully at her home in Vienna on 9th July 2023, at the age of 89, with her family by her side.

The ESU will deeply miss Marilies Flemming, a remarkable European with extensive experience in politics and a dynamic advocate for the older generation. Her absence leaves a void that will be felt profoundly.

29.04.2023

The European Day of Solidarity between Generations



The European Day of Solidarity between Generations was launched in 2009 by the European Parliament and the European Commission as part of the European Year of Solidarity between Generations. Its aim is to raise awareness of the importance of intergenerational solidarity and to promote dialogue and cooperation between people of all ages. The day is celebrated every year on April 29th, and various events and activities are organized throughout Europe to highlight the contributions of different generations and to foster greater understanding and respect between them. Solidarity between generations is seen as a key factor in creating a more cohesive and sustainable society, and the European Day of Solidarity between Generations serves as a reminder of the need to work together across age groups to achieve common goals.

"Solidarity is not only necessary in the public sphere to establish a fair and democratic society; it is also a dynamic principle that operates within our own personal lives, families, and living environments." - An Hermans

On the request of our colleagues the Seniors of Cyprus, organising a common event with young people, President An Hermans has written a message which can be found on our website: <http://esu-epc.eu/events/the-european-day-of-solidarity-between-generations-2/>

20.04.2023

Symposium CD&V-senioren – CDA senioren – ESU “Creating Dignity in the Final Phase of Life”



On 20th April over 100 seniors attended the Sint-Janskerk in Maastricht, a fascinating day on ‘Creating dignity in the final phase of life’. Ethical reflection and debate, experiences of formal and informal caregivers, were part of the search for responsible and humane behavior and policy on end-of-life care. Please find the full report on our website: <http://esu-epp.eu/events/symposium-cdv-senioren-cda-senioren-european-seniors-union/>

20.07.2023: Empowering Active Retirees in the Digital Era

ESU-President An Hermans spoke at an event in Kortrijk, Flanders, on July 20, 2023. The event was organized by the 'Probus' group, led by emeritus Professor Marc Depaepe, and provided a platform for retired professionals to engage in lifelong learning and camaraderie. During the event, An Hermans presented her publication titled 'The digital Era? Also my era!' which discussed media and information literacy for seniors' participation in the digital era. The participants, aged between 65 and 94, showed keen interest in the topic, given their experiences with the digital information transformation during



their professional lives. The importance of continuous learning to navigate the digital landscape was emphasized. A Willem Vermandere song brought back nostalgic memories for the group. An Hermans shared her inspiration for writing the publication and the significance of involving seniors in digital equity policy processes. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the necessity of being part of the digital environment, making the event empowering and motivating for all

participants. For more information, check out our website: <http://esu-epp.eu/events/empowering-active-retirees-in-the-digital-era-an-inspiring-encounter/>

04.05.2023

EPP's Political Assembly in Munich



The EPP Political Assembly, which brings together representatives from all EPP member parties and associations, met in Munich on May 4-5, 2023. This meeting occurs four times a year, and since the new leadership took over, the two-day event has been held in various locations and includes presentations from hosting political parties, thematic round tables on political issues, and discussions on internal EPP party matters. An Hermans and Guido Dumon were present, please find the full report on the event at our website:

<http://esu-epp.eu/events/%E2%80%8B%E2%80%8BEuropean-peoples-party-political-assembly-in-munich/>

Upcoming events

The Cyprus meetings from 23 to 25 November 2023

Thursday, November 23

- 10:00 : Presidency meeting
- 15:00 : Executive Committee meeting

Friday, November 24 : conference (all day)

Saturday, November 25; time for hospitality and social contacts

Our Cypriot colleagues will soon provide additional information.

End of January/early February 2024 (exact date to be determined):

Executive committee (congress preparation) and conference in Bratislava (Slovakia) : a one-day event

ESU Statutory Congress in Brussels

presumably in the week of April 8, 2024 (to be confirmed as soon as possible).