



European Year for **Active Ageing**
and **Solidarity between Generations 2012**



**HelpAge
International**

age helps

HelpAge International - EY2012 Call for Action

HelpAge International welcomes the 2012 European Year of Active Ageing and Solidarity Between Generations, which also marks the ten year anniversary of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA). As a member of the EY2012 Stakeholders' Coalition, HelpAge supports the Manifesto and Roadmap and joins the call for the creation of an age-friendly EU by 2020.

All countries around the world, whether rich or poor, are ageing. About 11 per cent of the world's population is aged over 60. By 2050, the number will almost triple to reach 2 billion (22 per cent). By then, older people will outnumber children under 14. People aged 80 and over are the fastest-growing population group, projected to increase almost fourfold by 2050.

Ageing is not just an issue for the world's richer countries. Today 60 per cent of the world's older people live in developing countries. By 2050, this will have risen to 80 per cent. Demographic change is a key concern for international development that cannot be ignored. With the right support, older people can make significant contributions to the development of their communities.

As a major global player and the world's largest aid donor, the EU must strengthen its work beyond its borders by mainstreaming ageing into its development and humanitarian programmes. We, the network of independent HelpAge International Affiliates in the EU, therefore call on European leaders, MEPs and the European Commission to mobilise in support of the EY2012 objectives and make the following commitments in 2012 towards the goal of **age-friendly EU aid by 2020**.

In EU Development Cooperation:

Inclusive and sustainable growth is at the heart of the Europe 2020 Strategy where population ageing is acknowledged as a key challenge. Whilst the goals of inclusive growth and sustainable development feature strongly in the Commissioner for Development's recent policy 'Increasing the impact of EU Development Policy: An Agenda for Change', the issue of ageing is completely absent in this document. We recognise that the Commission's work on social protection refers to some of these issues, but note that this approach is not consistent across all EU development cooperation.

One of the three central priorities of the MIPAA is to mainstream ageing into development. This Plan also highlights the importance of the participation and inclusion of older people in the development of national poverty reduction strategies. However, the rights of older women and men are rarely included in development and poverty eradication policies and programmes. As a result such initiatives fail to address poverty in old age or the intergenerational nature of poverty.

We call on the EU to:

- **Address the lack of synergy between its internal and external policies and recognise the significance of global ageing in its 'Agenda for Change' and all related policies. This will help to create the more inclusive and sustainable EU development cooperation that is necessary**

to tackle the intergenerational transmission of poverty and meet the Millennium Development Goals.

- **Promote age-friendly poverty reduction strategies and programmes at the national level by adding 'older people's rights' to the list of cross-cutting issues to be mainstreamed in its development financing instruments for 2014-2020 and in the programming guidelines to the EU Delegations.**

In EU Humanitarian Aid:

We welcome the joint statement on meeting the specific needs of older people as a vulnerable group in the European Consensus on Humanitarian Aid 2007. We recognise the role that the Commission's sectoral policies are intended to play in ensuring that humanitarian aid is provided in a principled way, according to need, taking into account the particular vulnerabilities of different groups.

However the reality today is that older people's needs are rarely considered or addressed. Needs assessments often fail to collect data on older people. Consequently, older people's needs and capacities are ignored by all sectors in responses to humanitarian crises. Humanitarian assistance and the humanitarian cluster coordination system focus mainly on younger age groups. They fail to prevent age discrimination. Research conducted by HelpAge shows that disproportionately little humanitarian funding is allocated to older people.

The EU must do more to ensure that it achieves the commitments set out in its Consensus on Humanitarian Aid and address the invisibility of older people in humanitarian responses.

We call on the EU to:

- **Fully integrate the needs of older people as a vulnerable group throughout its humanitarian sectoral policies.**
- **Develop a fully-resourced plan to build the capacity of the humanitarian system to better support the specific needs of older people, including training for key humanitarian actors to enable them to understand and respond better to the needs of older people and other vulnerable groups at all stages of humanitarian response.**

HelpAge International EY2012 initiatives:

In the framework of the EY2012, HelpAge's independent Affiliates across the EU will be leading and contributing to a number of exciting initiatives throughout 2012 promoting active and healthy ageing and solidarity between generations - both within Europe and between Europe and developing countries.

Our contributions include:

- **15 March – "fit as a fiddle – a legacy for health ageing", an Age UK Conference celebrating an England-wide project encouraging physical activity and healthy eating with older people funded by the Big Lottery Fund well-being programme to deliver 15.1 million pounds of projects across England by 2012.**

- **April:** Launch of a campaign targeting Europeans aged between 18 and 30 to build awareness and a strong intergenerational constituency of support in the EU for older people in developing countries.
- **April:** HelpAge Spain in collaboration with the Instituto de Estudios sobre Conflictos y Acción Humanitaria (IECAH) will launch a report about addressing the needs of older people in emergencies.
- **28 May – 1 June:** ZIVOT 90, Czech Republic, will organise the International Federation on Ageing's 11th Global Conference on Ageing in Prague with four key themes reflecting the content of MIPAA.
- **1 October, International Day of Older Persons:**
 - Older people themselves will lead a successful Age Demands Action campaign on 1st October in around 60 countries world-wide, including seven EU member states, to challenge age discrimination and fight for older people's rights.
 - Preparing and launching the State of the World's Older Persons 2012 report.
- **Autumn:** HelpAge International will organise a dissemination event in Brussels to share the findings of work around the needs of vulnerable groups and cross-cutting issues within the humanitarian system.
- **5-7 December:** HelpAge Germany will host a global conference on older people's rights in Osnabrück, Germany.
- **Throughout 2012:** In Slovenia, Slovene Philanthropy Association will create an online classroom and organise a series of workshops to share good practice, methods and tools relating to intergenerational cooperation.

This Call for Action is supported by the following HelpAge International EU Affiliates:



(Age Action Ireland, Age UK, Cordaid, DaneAge, HelpAge Spain, HelpAge Germany, Slovene Philanthropy, World Granny, ZIVOT 90)

Contact: Ellen Graham - EU Policy Adviser - HelpAge International EU office
Tel+3227402711 - egraham@helpage.org - www.helpage.org/get-the-eu-age-active