Panel discussion on Intergenerational Collaboration
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- 2 or more generations putting their strength/forces together for the benefit of 2 or more generations. All depending on fewer and fewer to support them.
- Demographic challenge: 4 generations
- It operates within families, but also within society at local and national level
- It is multidimensional: financial, emotional, social…and it impacts our everyday lives

1. Stock taking:
- A general feeling that intergenerational collaboration is under strain even in countries where it was traditionally very effective
- Several reasons - changes in family patterns, poverty, conflicts, social protection systems (which reduce dependency)
- Official statistics very misleading

However there is strong evidence to indicate solidarity within family exists, both financial and in kind – childcare, elderly care (for the young elderly).

Image of the elderly being a burden, especially financially still too often prevails

2. Challenges:
- Weakening of International collaboration means a threat to social protection systems on social cohesion, and could lead to intergenerational conflict.
- Be it that the elderly are seen as too powerful (voting wise) or are excluded (even threatened)
- Focusing on opportunities, on the contrary shows: win win approach
  - Intergenerational collaboration is vital to the adaptation of social protection systems
  - Complementarity – key word – strengthen social cohesion, avoid human waste of potential
  - We must find new ways of promoting intergenerational collaboration even if this is not easy

3. Ways ahead:
- Necessary global approach as too focused policy on one generation could be detrimental to the other
- Necessity for participative policy making
- Necessity for internationally coordinated approach – UNECE, EU, Council of Europe
- 6 main policy areas –
  - 1. better access to the labour market for all generations
  - 2. family friendly policies ways of reconciling family and professional lives
  - 3. social services
4. role of education to help awareness of all generations and also as a good field for intergenerational collaboration (from basic learning to new technologies)
5. Encourage intergenerational collaboration initiatives, exchange of good practices and civil society and local level government involvement
6. ensuring good visibility to contributions of all generations and reshaping the attitude of the media

All in view of promoting mutual respect.

All the best, Marie