

SIDE EVENT – 22ND SEPTEMBER
Auditorium VIII ([Congress Centre](#))

AGEING AND DISABILITY – POLICY CHALLENGES TO SOCIAL SERVICES PLANNING AND DELIVERY

Facilitators:

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Persons with disability are living longer. Old people are living more time with a disability. This change leads to the need of discussing the frontiers and interactions between social care of older people and rehabilitation of persons with disabilities.

The associative movement of persons with disabilities is focused on persons that acquire a disability at an early age. In spite of the fact of most of the persons with a disability being also old persons, they are not the focus of attention of the associative movement.

The rehabilitation centers and even newly established support to independent life facilities are targeting youngsters and young adults focused in professional and social life with little attention to social life of older persons.

The network of social care is providing more and more services to persons because they do have impairment, but is not conceptualising its intervention as targeting persons with disabilities.

In last decades, we progressed a lot in reinforcing the autonomisation perspective in rehabilitation policies, but we are failing to extend this approach in dealing with persons whose disability is part of their ageing process.

The discussion that we want to raise is about the need to reconceptualise rehabilitation policy in order to develop services targeted at quality of life and access to independent life to persons that became persons with disabilities as older people, as well as the need to reorganize social care in to be more inclusive of persons with disability without conceptualizing them as dependent people.

Moreover, state, families and NGO's need to renegotiate their roles in the process of having an ageing population, leaving longer time with a disability.