Joint Opening Session

NGO Forum
Research Forum

Chair: Vitalija Gaucaite, UNECE Geneva
Welcome address

Lidia Bratanova
Director of the UNECE Statistical Division
The Contribution of Civil Society Organisations and Research to Realize the Potential of Ageing

Dr George W. Leeson, Director, Oxford Institute of Population Ageing & Senior Research Fellow, Kellogg College & Oxford Martin School, University of Oxford
What is old age?
1. Alms houses

They do not undergo senescence, making them biologically immortal… (Martinez 1998)
2. Pension systems

1. Bismarck system – state pension system

Bismarck introduced the idea of “State Socialism”, as a form of “practical Christianity”. Critics suggested that it was only meant to fight socialism as advocated by Marx and Engels.

1889: Old age and disability insurance law
Workers upon reaching 70 years would get a pension that was to be paid by a tax on workers.
3. Geriatric medicine
What happened?
Gerontology happened!
The potentials of ageing?

Active ageing
Healthy ageing
Ageing better

Individual ageing
What can research do?
What can civil society organisations do?
What can they do together?
And the rest of us?  
What can we do?
Thank you!

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