

UNECE Policy Webinar on Ageing

Older persons in emergency situations: lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic

Wednesday 18 November 2020, 10:00 – 16:30

Opening session

Vitalija Gaucaite Wittich

Population Unit, UNECE

Vitalija Gaucaite Wittich is responsible for the UNECE work in the area of population ageing and intergenerational relations. She coordinates activities of the UNECE Standing Working Group on Ageing and oversees the organization of the reviews of national policies and strategies in implementing the Madrid International Plan of Actions on Ageing in the UNECE region, capacity development and publication of policy briefs in the area of population ageing. Vitalija Gaucaite Wittich has a doctoral degree in Social sciences and before joining UNECE was an Associate Professor of Economics at Vilnius University in Lithuania.

Manfred Huber

World Health Organization / Europe

Manfred Huber is working as a coordinator in the Regional Office for Europe on Healthy Ageing, Disability and Long-term Care. He has joined WHO in 2009, where he provides advice to Member States in Europe on health and social care reform for healthy ageing, better coordination of care, long-term care, disability and rehabilitation. Prior to this, he has been Director Health and Care with the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research in Vienna. Moreover, he worked for ten years with the OECD in Paris, where he was in charge of ageing and health, health indicators and health accounting. Manfred Huber graduated from the University of Munich with a Master of Science in Mathematics and holds a PhD in Economics.

Adelina Comas-Herrera

London School of Economics/ Care Policy and Evaluation Centre

Adelina Comas-Herrera is an Assistant Professorial Research Fellow at the Care Policy and Evaluation Centre at the London School of Economics and Political Science. She is co-lead of the Strengthening Responses to Dementia in Developing Countries (STRiDE) project funded by the Research Councils UK Global Challenges Research Fund. Moreover, she is the curator of LTCcovid.org, an initiative linked to International Long-Term Care Policy Network that shares evidence and resources to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 amongst those who use and provide long-term care. Adelina Comas-Herrera has a background in Economics (BA and MSc, Universitat Pompeu Fabra).

Ageism and COVID-19 in the UNECE Region

Session Moderator: **Alana Officer, World Health Organization, Geneva**

Alana Officer is Senior Health advisor at World Health Organization. She joined the Department of Ageing and Life Course in July 2014 to lead the development of the World Report on Ageing and Health, and to support the development of the Global Strategy and Action Plan on Ageing and Health (GSAP). She currently oversees the Organization's work on age-friendly environments, related to the Global strategy and action plan on ageing and health, including the Global Network on Age-friendly Cities and Communities and the development of a Global Campaign to Combat Ageism. She holds a master's degree in Applied Science (research) from the University of Sydney, and a master's degree in Public Health from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

Silvia Perel Levin

NGO Committee on Ageing, Geneva

Silvia Perel Levin represents the International Longevity Centre Global Alliance at the UN in Geneva. An expert advocate for Elder Abuse and the rights of older persons at the global level, she is the Chair of the NGO Ageing Committee Geneva and engages in research on elder abuse and violence against older women. She has been engaged in ageing-related issues, the rights of older persons, development and global health for the last 15 years at the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Union against Cancer (UICC) and as an independent consultant in Geneva. She holds a master's degree from City University London in Society Violence and Interprofessional Practice and adapted her dissertation on elder abuse for a WHO publication.

Ruud Dirkse

Dirkse Anders Zorgen (DAZ) Bureau for Healthcare-innovation, Netherlands

Ruud Dirkse is a Dutch expert in care of older persons. He is managing director of a health innovation company and involved in lots of renewing projects in the care of older persons in general and the dementia care in particular. He is author of four of the most popular books about dementia in the Netherlands. Moreover, Ruud Dirkse is a well know trainer. His specialties are the learning ability of people with dementia, the increasing emotional life of people with dementia, DemeTalent, and dealing with the change of behaviour.

Erika Winkler

Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection, Austria

Erika Winkler is Deputy Director of the Unit for Ageing, Population and Volunteering Policies in the Austrian Federal Ministry for Labor, Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection. At present she is in charge of International Ageing and Volunteering Policies and the project "Healthy and Active Ageing through Social Inclusion". Moreover, she is Chair of the Working

Group “Strengthening Health through Social Cohesion” and chaired the UNECE Working Group on Ageing 2010 – 2017. Since 2010 Erika Winkler is observer in the NGO Committee on Ageing in Vienna. She holds a Doctor of Philosophy.

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Wednesday 18 November 2020, 14:00 – 16:30

COVID- 19 and older persons in residential care facilities

Session Moderator: **Karl Duff, Department of Health, Ireland**

Karl Duff is a senior manager with the Department of Health where his programme of work includes the Nursing Homes Support Scheme and the National Positive Ageing Strategy. In this role he provides performance and budgetary oversight on the Fair Deal Scheme which supports on average 23,000 people in long term care within a budget of almost €1 billion per annum. Coupled with this he is responsible for the continued implementation of the 2013 National Positive Ageing Strategy across all of Government and the older people’s sector as a whole. Karl Duff also represents Ireland at key European and global institutions playing an active role on the UN’s Standing Working Group on Ageing.

Giovanni Lamura

INRCA · Centre for Social and Economic Research on Ageing, Italy

Giovanni Lamura leads the Centre for Socio-Economic Research on Ageing at INRCA (Italy’s National Institute of Health and Science on Ageing). He is a social gerontologist with an international and interdisciplinary background, working at INRCA since 1992. He graduated in economics in Italy in 1990; obtained a PhD in “Life course and social policy” at Bremen University (Germany) in 1995; was visiting fellow in 2006-07 at the University of Hamburg-Eppendorf (Germany); and research director of the pillar “health and care” of the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research in Vienna (Austria) in 2010-11.

Natasa Todorovic

Red Cross of Serbia

Natasa Todorovic is a psychologist, Master of Public Health and has worked for the Red Cross of Serbia since 2001, focusing on elder abuse and human rights of older people. She is one of co-founders of HumanaS, a national network of organisations working with older people, promoting the global advocacy campaign for the new United Nations’ convention on older people rights. Moreover, Natasa Todorovic is Member of the Governmental Council of Aging, the Governmental Council for Intergenerational Solidarity and Vice-President of the Gerontological society of Serbia. She is a regional representative for Europe of the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse.

Pia Pulkkinen

Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare

Pia Pulkkinen is a researcher in the Ageing, Disability and Functioning Unit at the Finnish Institute of Health and Welfare (THL). She has been involved in the Follow-up of the Status of Older People Services Survey and has participated in various dementia-related networks on an international and Nordic level. She holds a MSocSc and a BSc (Psychology).

Jennifer Zelmer

Canadian Foundation for Healthcare Improvement

Jennifer Zelmer is the inaugural President and CEO of the new organization formed in 2020 through the amalgamation of the Canadian Foundation for Healthcare Improvement and Canadian Patient Safety Institute to achieve safer, higher quality and more coordinated patient-partnered healthcare. She has been a C.D. Howe Research Fellow for several years and is also an adjunct faculty member at the University of Victoria, as well as a member of several health-related advisory committees and boards. Jennifer Zelmer received her PhD and MA in economics from McMaster University and her B.Sc. in health information science from the University of Victoria.

Reaching out to older persons in need of care at home or in the community

Session Moderator: **Anne-Sophie Parent, AGE Platform Europe**

Anne-Sophie Parent is an Expert in AGE task forces on age-friendly environments, adequate income and consumers rights at AGE Platform Europe. She has served as Secretary General of AGE Platform Europe and has led the EU network from 2002 to 2020. Anne-Sophie Parent has more than 20 years' experience in dealing with policy and project development at EU level, having been Director of Autism-Europe for 6 years and President of the Social Platform for 2 mandates. She contributed to various advisory committees set up by the European Commission.

Assiya Akanova

Director, Centre of Active Ageing in Almaty, Kazakhstan

Assiya Akanova serves as director in the Centre of Active Ageing in Almaty in Kazakhstan. Moreover, she is the head of the Department of Family Medicine at Kazakh Medical University of Continuing Education. Assiya Akanova holds a Master's degree in Neuroscience from University College London and a PhD in Medicine from Semey State Medical University in Kazakhstan.

Edmundo Martinho

President of Santa Casa da Misericórdia de Lisboa, Portugal

In October 2017, Edmundo Martinho was appointed by the Government to serve as President of Santa Casa da Misericórdia de Lisboa. Before, he was Vice President of Santa Casa da Misericórdia de Lisboa and CEO of the Gaming Department. He had also worked as a Social Security International Consultant and served as Director for Social Security Development at the International Social Security Association in Geneva. Since 2005, Edmundo Martinho has served as President of the Governing Board of the Social Security Institute. He holds a degree in Social Service by the “Instituto Superior de Serviço Social de Lisboa” and is post graduated in Project Management.

Seán Moynihan

CEO of ALONE, Ireland

Seán Moynihan has been working as Chief Executive of ALONE since December 2008. After a career within senior management and business owner, he moved to the NGO sector as Head of Housing and then Director of Service for the Simon Community. He went on to work as Management Consultant for a number of years before becoming Chief Executive of ALONE. Seán Moynihan has also been involved in multiple national oversight groups and has played a key role in influencing social and health policies for older people on housing, loneliness, and ageing at home, in order to meet emerging needs.

Aliona Cretu

Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection, Republic of Moldova

Aliona Cretu is the Head of Demographic Policies Division at the Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection of the Republic of Moldova. She is leading the demographic policies agenda and promoting active ageing programmes at local level. Aliona Cretu was leading the Government’s efforts of shifting from “demographic security concept” towards rights-based and data-driven policies. She has also advocated for providing domestic funding to implement active ageing programmes by grass-roots organizations and in integrating demographic changes into the national policy framework. She is Bureau member of the UNECE Standing Working Group on Ageing.

Yossi Heyman

JDC Eshel, Israel

Yossi Heymann was appointed Executive Director of JDC-Eshel in May 2014. Yossi comes to JDC-Eshel from the municipality of Jerusalem – Israel’s largest and most complex city by virtue of its demographic, religious and socioeconomic diversity. As the city’s Director-General, he managed an 8,000-strong workforce and oversaw a total budget of some 5.6 billion NIS. During his tenure, Yossi lead a reform in the way that the city formulates its annual work plan and conducts ongoing outcome evaluations and assessments. Yossi earned a B.Sc. in economics and management from the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology, and an M.A. in political science from the University of Haifa.