

EURAG - The European Federation of Older Persons

Mission statement

The European Federation of Older Persons (EURAG) founded in 1962, is an international non governmental, non profit, organization without political or religious affiliations which represents a wide spectrum of national and regional member organizations and individuals, in more than 30 European countries committed to advancing the wellbeing of older people and their participation in society.

EURAG supports the broad principles of maintaining **human dignity** as the basis for European society for all people at all time in their life including independence in retirement, the prevention of any forms of discrimination on the grounds of age. To improve the living and working conditions of older people through the full development of their potential, the offering of appropriate training opportunities to support these objectives and allowing self determined decisions on retirement.

EURAG also seeks to strengthen their participation in the decision making processes and to safeguard their financial security in retirement, by ensuring adequate income and the safeguarding of savings , to provide access to life long learning, to promote self help activities and secure adequate representation of their interests giving particular attention to those most vulnerable and disadvantaged.

EURAG also believes that a non governmental organization of this type should preserve its total independence and act with the full involvement of its network of members but also in cooperation where possible with others who have similar and compatible objectives.

EURAG's philosophy and actions are based on the fundamental principle of **human dignity** as the ethical basis of European democratic society to be enjoyed by all people at any time in their life. EURAG considers that **independence**, seen as the right to lead a self-determined life, and **participation**, understood as the right to contribute to and benefit from various aspects of society, are fundamental rights which need to be fully recognized and implemented also for older people.

EURAG's mission is to promote social, economic and cultural developments in society which raise the recognition of the value and the contributions of older persons, to improve their integration in society, to reinforce the prevention of any kind of adverse discrimination on grounds of age, to improve the living and working conditions and the quality of life of older persons through the full development of their potential by creating the necessary enabling and supportive environment offering appropriate training opportunities and self-determined retirement flexibility.

in society. In all these areas EURAG gives particular attention to the situation of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged.

In working to achieve its mission, EURAG seeks effective cooperation with governments, international and intergovernmental organizations and agencies, the European institutions, non-governmental organizations,

the scientific world and other advocates for the conception, the implementation and the monitoring of appropriate policies and programs which correspond to the needs, aspirations and capacities of older persons.

EURAG believes that a non-governmental advocacy organization should, in the first place, preserve its total independence and act with the full involvement of its network of members but also in cooperation with a wide range of other local, national and international level organizations and individuals which have compatible objectives.

EURAG's main ways of pursuing its aims includes the gathering and disseminating of information, undertaking research and analysis on the needs, problems, capacities and aspirations of older people and specific segments of the older population, convening seminars and conferences on such issues, participating in international projects, drawing on people's experiences, strengthening participatory democracy, developing policy proposals, engaging in public debates and working with policy-makers and administrators in public structures at local, regional, national and European levels. Consequently, EURAG actively promotes the principle of civil dialogue and fully participates in it in order to contribute to a European society for all.