

# German National Association of Senior Citizens' Organisations

## Lobbying with Competence and Moderation

More and more, BAGSO is being perceived by policymakers as a strong political lobby for the interests of older people, e.g. in its role as one of six organisations defending the interests of persons requiring long-term care and of their relatives during negotiations between long-term care insurers and long-term care providers. With its demand for self-representation, BAGSO promotes influence by older people on all levels of political decision-making; and emphasises that much of what is “relevant in senior citizens’ policy,” in urban development for example, benefits not only older generations but also the younger ones in the sense of one “Design for All.”

In this sense also of “integrative work” and considering the rising number of people at risk of poverty in old age, BAGSO keeps an eye on the interests of future generations

and relies on the “Dialogue of Generations.” The 2011 BAGSO position paper, “Acknowledge Lifetime Achievements – Prevent Poverty in Old Age,” attracted significant attention in political circles; the paper was passed unanimously even though a number of BAGSO associations had already taken a stand with proposals of their own.

With a view to the rising number of aged persons requiring support and assistance, BAGSO advocates inclusive, neighbourhood-oriented senior citizens’ work. BAGSO pleads in favour of a combination of social and welfare work that, admittedly, includes the voluntary, unpaid fulfilment of functions within the municipal public services; but campaigns for such efforts needs to be distinguished from career work, and for volunteers to receive greater flexibility and freedom of choice. ■



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EU-Projekt “Social Inclusion and Dignity in Old Age” 2<sup>nd</sup> partner meeting in Bonn