

Thursday, 18th April 2024
14.30 to 16.30 CET

Promoting civil and political participation of older persons

Part of the series

**"An engaged civil society as engine for an age-friendly society:
an international exchange"**



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Today, it is largely taken for granted that citizens have a say in public decisions, have access to public goods and services and can exercise their right to vote. At the same time, older people in many countries face obstacles when they want to exercise their civil and political rights. Age discrimination also plays a role here.

With the adoption of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA) by the United Nations (UN) in 2002, governments committed to ensuring that older people can fully enjoy their civil and political rights. In 2022, the states of the UN Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) reaffirmed this commitment in a ministerial declaration.

But how are the guaranteed rights of older people implemented at national and local level? The online event will present examples of how older people are exercising their right to civil and political participation and taking part in public decision-making processes in their immediate living environment.

The online event is part of the series "An engaged civil society as engine for an age-friendly society: an international exchange". The kick-off conference focussed on [the voice of older people at the United Nations](#). The series comprises a total of six online events until the end of 2026 and gives representatives of civil society the opportunity to engage in a dialogue with non-governmental organisations from countries in the UNECE region¹ and to learn about the international frameworks.

1 The UNECE (United Nations Economic Commission for Europe) comprises 56 states. In addition to European states, these also include Canada, Israel, the USA and some successor states of the Soviet Union.

Programme

14.30 Uhr

Welcome

- Dr Heidrun Mollenkopf, President of AGE Platform Europe, BAGSO board member and representative of civil society at the Standing Working Group on Ageing (SWGA) of the UNECE
- Martin Amberger, Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth of Germany and SWGA

14.40 Uhr

Introduction to the event series

- Ina Voelcker, BAGSO Secretariat for International Policy on Ageing

14.45 Uhr

Civil and political participation: examples from across the UNECE

- Esther Klein (Israel)
- Jose-Luis Tejedor, Association of Retired University Professors (Spain)
- Piotr Nakonieczny, Bonum Vitae (Poland)
- Uta Saenger, Grannies against the Right Wing (Germany)

15.30 Uhr

Comfort break

15.40 Uhr

Commentary on the examples from a human-rights perspective

- Sarah Loriato, AGE Platform Europe

16.00 Uhr

Elevating the discussion to the UNECE: civil society participation in the updating of the Regional Implementation Strategy of MIPAA

- Martin Amberger, BMFSFJ and SWGA
- Dr Lisa Warth, UNECE–Population Unit
- Dr Heidrun Mollenkopf, AGE Platform, BAGSO and SWGA

16.30 Uhr

End

Moderation: Silvia Perel-Levin, NGO Committee on Ageing Geneva

**Conference languages will be English and German.
Simultaneous translation will be provided.**

Organisational information

Registration

Participation in the event is free of charge. Registration via the online registration form is required. Individual registrations by telephone are also possible.

[Registration](#)

Accessibility

Please inform us of any support requirements when registering. Within the scope of our possibilities, we will be happy to make appropriate arrangements associated with the event.

Organiser

Secretariat for International Policy on Ageing
BAGSO, German National Association of Senior Citizens' Organisations

In cooperation with



Contact

**BAGSO –
Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft
der Seniorenorganisationen e.V.**

**German National Association of
Senior Citizens' Organisations**

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a contribution to the
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of healthy
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