

German National Association of Senior Citizens' Organisations

BAGSO in European and International Contexts

Participation within European and international contexts is a major element of senior citizens' policy work by BAGSO. Typical thereof is its coordinating role within the framework of age-related European and International Theme Years, and its substantial involvement in accomplishing the UN International Plan of Action on Ageing. At the German Senior Citizens' Days, debate is stimulated on current European and international topics in open fora and workshops; and by including guests from all over Europe, this major event attracts a broader public and thus becomes a venue for international encounters and cross-border exchanges.

against violations of the (human) rights of older people.

With a view to demographic change in Germany, BAGSO underlines the opportunities in innovation and research to improve quality of life in old age; a cause that is promoted in the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) with single-minded determination by Dr. Renate Heinisch, BAGSO Representative in the EESC, through numerous statements and own-initiative reports.

With funding from EU programmes, BAGSO implements cooperation projects with European partners and, in so doing, achieves project ideas on current issues that could not be managed on a purely national scale. By this means, networks are sustainably formed and consolidated at the European, regional, and local levels. Topical examples thereof are the GRUNDTVIG projects "WEDO II – For the Wellbeing and Dignity of Older People," "Yes, you can! – How to support the cultural activities of disadvantaged groups" (2013–2015), and "Social Inclusion and Dignity in Old Age" (2012–2014). ■



On the Board of AGE Platform Europe, BAGSO – represented by Dr. Heidrun Mollenkopf – advocates the creation of an age-friendly environment guided by the concept of the "AGE Friendly City" (World Health Organization, WHO). The intention is to establish conditions in Europe that permit ageing persons to lead a life that is as self-determined and independent as possible and maintain their quality of life. Other important themes within the framework of the current AGE working programme are protection against age discrimination and



http://www.bagso.de/fileadmin/Aktuell/Projekte/YesYouCan_-_Guidebook_on_Funding_for_Culture.pdf