



The European Older People's Platform  

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La Plate-forme européenne des Personnes âgées

## **Third CE-Ageing International Conference**

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Rome**

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- 1. Presentation of AGE**
- 2. Eurobarometer survey**
- 3. Age - Platform and NGOs requests to Governments**





# 1. Presentation of AGE

## What is AGE?

- ▶ a network bringing together European, national and regional non-profit organisations of older people working with, and for, older people
- ▶ set up in January 2001 following a process of discussion on how to improve cooperation between older people's organisations at EU level
- ▶ a non-profit international association, financed by membership fees and an annual subsidy from the EU Commission (PROGRESS: EU's latest employment and social solidarity programme)



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## **AGE at a glance**

- ▶ **Gathers 140 associations from 27 EU Member States:**
  - **114 Full Members (9 Europe-wide organizations and 105 national- or regional-level associations)**
  - **18 Observer Members (NGOs located outside EU, regional and local authorities, research centres etc.)**
- ▶ **Represents 25 million older people across Europe**
- ▶ **Promotes and defends the interests of 150 million older people in Europe**
- ▶ **A network that keeps on growing !**



## Finance

Under the PROGRESS Program, the EU Commission funds 4 European social networks defending the rights of people subject to discrimination (on the basis of gender, age, disability, race, religion and/ or sexual orientation):



**AGE**



**ILGA-Europe** (European Region of the International Gay and Lesbian Association)



**ENAR** (European Network against Racism)

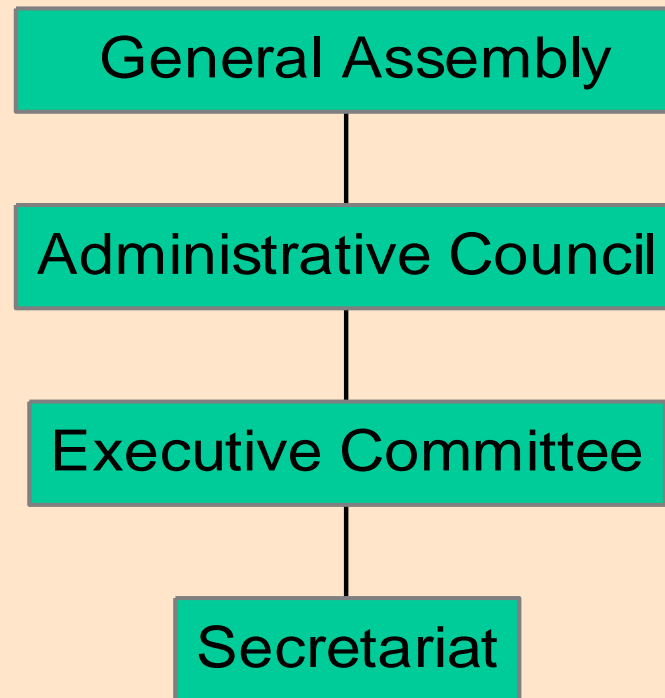


**EDF** (European Disability Forum)



# AGE Organisational Chart

- ▶ Social NGO
- ▶ Belgian Statutes
- ▶ 6 Working Groups with national experts





## 2. AGE Objectives

- ▶ To voice and represent the interests of older and retired people vis-à-vis EU institutions
- ▶ To improve dialogue and cooperation between its members and the EU institutions
- ▶ To support networking among older people's groups in Europe
- ▶ To disseminate information among its members and influential decision makers
- ▶ To cooperate with other European NGOs



## **3. AGE Activities**

### **Policy influencing and development – 6 political priorities**

- ▶ **Non-discrimination**
- ▶ **Employment of workers > 50, active ageing**
- ▶ **Social inclusion and fight against poverty**
- ▶ **Social protection (pension reform, minimum income)**
- ▶ **Health care and long-term care of the elderly**
- ▶ **New technologies, Accessibility and transport**
- ▶ **Active Participation of older people, including the most vulnerable**





# Eurobarometer survey

## Relevant data

The most recent Eurobarometer survey, carried out in the EU Member States, about Discrimination in the EU in 2012, revealed that:

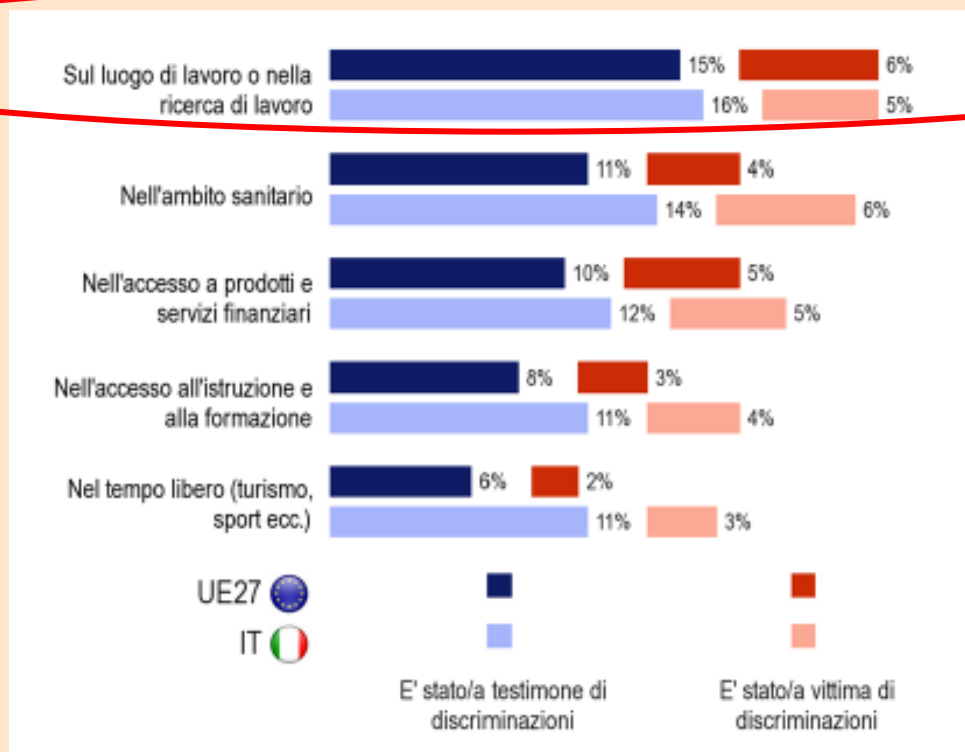
- 45% of Europeans believe age discrimination is widespread.
- 67% believe the economic crisis is contributing to more discrimination against workers aged 55 +.
- 54% believe that a job applicant's age is a disadvantage if he/she is over 55.

## Raising awareness

Fair treatment is a basic right in the EU. In principle, it is illegal to discriminate on the grounds of a person's age. Yet EU citizens are not fully aware that they are legally protected against discrimination. Since 2003, the EU has been supporting an information campaign "For diversity. Against discrimination " across Europe, to make more people aware of their rights and responsibilities.



# Age discriminations in work places and job research are the most frequent



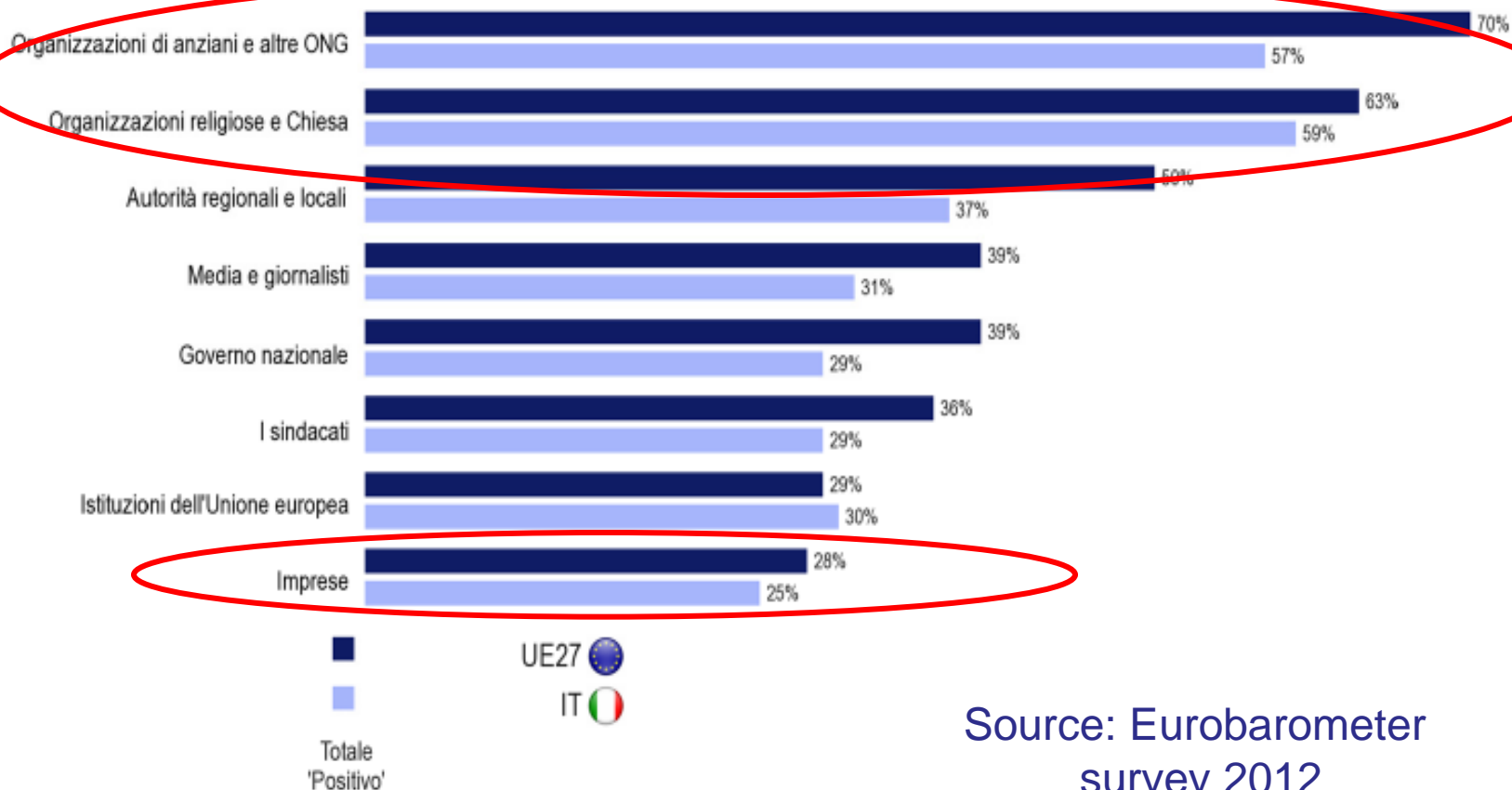
Source: Eurobarometer survey 2012



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# Role played in active ageing by the different kind of institutions

QB35. Per ciascuna delle seguenti istituzioni, mi dica se secondo lei svolge un ruolo positivo o negativo nell'affrontare le sfide legate all'invecchiamento della popolazione in Italia.



Source: Eurobarometer survey 2012



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# HOW AGE - PLATFORM ANSWERS? NGO POLITICAL DECLARATION

By the NGOs contributing to UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing 19-20 Sept. 2012, Vienna

- Much has to be done to achieve the aims and objectives of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing (MIPAA)
- **NGOs** were **recognised** as playing “a **significant role** in representing people and their needs in society and thus can contribute to policy making”;
- **Member States** need to implement the **three priority** actions of MIPAA that they themselves have agreed:
  - older persons in **development**;
  - advancing **health and wellbeing** into old age;
  - ensuring **enabling and supportive environments**



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By the NGOs contributing to UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing 19-20 Sept. 2012, Vienna (*cont. 'd*)

## **NGOs URGE UNECE Member States to:**

- **Protect the rights** of older persons by: **enforcing legislation that already exists**; promoting **good practice** that enables older persons **to understand and claim their rights**; strengthening national, regional and international **human rights legislation**
- **Eliminate poverty** and inequality among older persons by: ensuring **adequate incomes**, including **universal access to non-contributory pensions** and **equal access to essential goods and services**;



## NGOs URGE UNECE Member States to:

- **Facilitate access to decent work** and adequate pay for persons of all ages by: abolishing mandatory retirement ages; **eliminating discrimination** on the basis of **age for access** to work and pay across the life course; implementing **flexible working practices** that meet the needs of older persons; supporting **retraining programmes** for older workers; supporting older workers in the **informal sector**;
- **Guarantee** access to **lifelong learning** across the life course, recognising that **access to affordable high-quality education, informal and non-formal learning** for people of all ages is necessary for older persons' participation in society, increasing social inclusion and reducing discrimination



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*Thank you for your kind attention !*



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