

ROSEnet COST ACTION (CA 15122)

REDUCING OLD-AGE SOCIAL EXCLUSION:
COLLABORATIONS IN RESEARCH & POLICY

Inclusive Ageing

*Reducing social exclusion amongst older people –
The Way Ahead*

Closing Conference

*COST Action Reducing Old-Age Exclusion in Europe:
Collaborations in Research and Policy – ROSEnet (CA 15122)*

Manos Conference Centre

Chaussée de Charleroi, 135-1060 Brussels - Belgium

Thursday 5th March 2020

Conference Proceedings

Conference Programme

08:30 – 09:00 Registration (tea and coffee)

09:00 – 09:20 **Welcome**

Jean-Luc Vanraes
European Committee of the Regions

Kieran Walsh
ROSEnet COST Action Chair

Setting the Agenda

Session Chair: Päivi Topo, Director, the Age Institute, Finland

09:20 – 09:50 **Opening Address – Older people in inclusive societies**

Katarina **Ivankovic-Knezevic**, Director, Social Affairs Unit
DG for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, European Commission

09:50 – 10:10 **What is social exclusion of older people? A European picture**

Sofie Van Regenmortel, *Attaché statisticien at Statbel (Statistics Belgium), and Affiliated Researcher, Belgian Ageing Studies, Vrije Universiteit.*

10:10 – 10:40 **Framing social exclusion amongst older people in policy**

Norah Keating - *Director, Global Social Issues on Ageing (GSIA), International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics*

10:40 – 11:00 **Coffee**

Evidence Informed Policy for Reducing Old Age Exclusion

Session Chair: Maciej Kucharczyk

Policy Director, AGE Platform Europe and ROSEnet Civic Exclusion Working Group member

11:00 – 11:30 **Policy Messages from Research (5 minutes each)**

Economic Exclusion

Michal Myck, Centre for Economic Analysis (CenEA), Poland
Jim Ogg, Ageing Research Unit, Caisse nationale d'assurance, France

Exclusion from Social Relations

Marja Aartsen, NOVA Centre for Welfare and Labour Research, Norway
Vanessa Burholt, Centre for Innovative Ageing, Swansea University, UK

Exclusion from Services

Veerle Draulans, Centre for Sociological Research, KU Leuven, Belgium
Giovanni Lamura, INRCA National Institute of Health and Science on Ageing, Italy

Community and Spatial Aspects of Exclusion

Lucie Vidovičová, Office for Population Studies, Masaryk University, Czech Republic
Isabelle Tournier, Luxembourg

Exclusion from Civic Participation and Rights

Ariela Lowenstein, University of Haifa, Israel
Sandra Torres, Uppsala University, Sweden

11:30 – 12:10 **Response by Key Knowledge Users**

Patricia Conboy
Head of Policy, HelpAge International, UK

Prof. Anne Margriet Pot
Strategic Advisor – Care for Older People, Health Care Inspectorate, Ministry of Health, The Netherlands

Mr Rait Kuuse
*Deputy Secretary General at Ministry of Social Affairs
Chair of the Social Protection Committee*

Representative of the ROSEnet Older Adult Reference Group

12:10-13:00 **Panel discussion - Converting Policy into Action**

13:00 – 14:00 **Lunch**

Future Directions

*Session Chair: Vitalija Gaucaite Wittich, Chief, Population Unit, Statistical Division
United Nations Economic Commission for Europe*

14:00 – 14:30 **Supporting Older People's Social inclusion and Participation**

Anne-Sophie Parent & Representatives of ROSEnet Older Adults Reference Group,
Secretary General, AGE Platform Europe

14:30 – 14:45 **Research Capacity: Reflections on the European Project**

ROSEnet Early Career Researchers

Dr. Rodrigo Serrat – *University of Barcelona, Spain*
Ms. Arianna Poli - *Linköping University, Sweden*

14:45 – 15:15 **Reducing Social Exclusion Amongst Older People – A Roadmap**

Kieran Walsh/Thomas Scharf

ROSEnet COST Action Chair and Vice-Chair

15:15-15:30 **Reflections & Closing Address**

Kieran Walsh

Chair, ROSEnet COST Action, Professor, National University of Ireland Galway

Birgitta Sacrédeus

Regionråd, Region Dalarna, European Committee of the Regions

Speakers, Panellists and Chairs



Jean-Luc Vanraes - European Committee of the Regions
Member of the Uccle municipal council
Member and Chairman of the College of the Flemish Community Commission, in charge of education in the Flemish-speaking Community in Brussels, and of Communications
Minister of Finance and the Budget within the Government of the Brussels-Capital Region (2009-2011)

Minister of Health within the Common Community Commission (2009-2011)

Member of the Committee of the Regions (2012-).



Kieran Walsh is Professor of Ageing & Public Policy and Director of the Irish Centre for Social Gerontology, National University of Ireland Galway. Kieran has extensive experience in interdisciplinary social gerontology and life-course research. He has played a leading role in the development of international multi-site and interdisciplinary research programmes. Kieran's research interests and expertise focus on: social exclusion in later life; the relative nature of disadvantage in cross-national contexts; place and life-course transitions; and informal and formal infrastructures of care. Kieran is also Chair of the European COST Action CA15122 on 'Reducing Old-Age Social Exclusion' (ROSEnet – www.rosenetcost.com), which has over 140 members from 39 different countries. With objectives that address critical gaps in research, policy, and international interdisciplinary research capacity, ROSEnet aims to overcome fragmentation in conceptual innovation on old-age exclusion across the life course, in order to address the research-policy disconnect and tackle social exclusion amongst older people.



Päivi Topo, PhD, is Director of the Age Institute in Finland. The Institute promotes wellbeing and health of people in old age and is closely operating with non-profit organisations and municipalities all over Finland. She also holds the title of Adjunct Professor at the Universities of Helsinki and Jyväskylä. She has worked as a secretary general of the National Advisory Board on Social Welfare and Health Care Ethics and at the National Institute of Health and Welfare in different research positions.



Since September 2018 **Katarina Ivanković Knežević** is a Director for Social Affairs in the Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion. Her area of activity is modernization of social protection systems and wider social policies fostering social and labour market inclusion, through the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and other relevant social policies of the European Union. Before the European Commission she was a State Secretary in the Ministry of Labour and the Pension System of the Republic of Croatia, in which she was responsible for the management and implementation of the European Social Fund and other EU instruments aiming at human resources development. For the last 20 years her professional interests are human rights and gender equality, social policy and employment with particular accent to the labour market policies.



Sofie Van Regenmortel received her master's degree in Adult Educational Sciences (Agogische Wetenschappen) from the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB) in 2013. In October 2013 she started working at the Department of Adult Educational Sciences at the VUB, became a member of the Belgian Ageing Studies (BAS) research group and started her PhD research on social exclusion in later life, which she successfully completed in September 2017. Together with her supervisor, prof. dr. Liesbeth De Donder, she was part of the European project 'WeDO²! For the wellbeing and dignity of older people' (2013-2015). In 2016 she joined the ROSEnet COST action on 'Reducing Old-Age Social Exclusion: Collaborations in Research and Policy'. Currently she is working for Statbel (Statistics Belgium) and remains involved in the BAS research as a voluntary research member.



Professor Norah Keating is a social gerontologist whose theoretical and empirical research has created evidence, challenged discourses and influenced policy in global, social and physical contexts of ageing. She has placed this work on the international stage through the Global Social Issues on Ageing which fosters collaboration and critical thinking about ageing at the interfaces of regional issues and global trends. Professor Keating holds academic appointments in 3 world regions: University of Alberta, Canada; Swansea University, UK; North-West University, South Africa. She is a Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Health Sciences and the Gerontological Society of America.



Maciej Kucharczyk is Policy Director at AGE Platform Europe – a network of over 100 organisations *of and working for* people aged 50 years and over – Maciej has been working since 2006 on social policy issues, such as the adequacy and sustainability of social protection, minimum income, promotion of human rights, social justice and dignity. He is elected vice-President of Social Platform, the largest network of European rights-based NGOs working in the social sector. He has previous work experience in public administration at EU and national level on promoting social inclusion strategies. Graduated in international economic relations, Maciej holds post-graduate degrees in European affairs and in public administration.



Michal Myck - Director of the Centre for Economic Analysis, CenEA. Previously worked at the Institute for Fiscal Studies (1999-2004) and the DIW-Berlin (2005-2013). Dr. Myck contributed to top academic journals with research on labour supply and savings decisions and on the implications of exposure to shocks on long-term employment patterns and welfare. He has studied the effectiveness of tax and benefit systems and worked on issues related to measurement of poverty, income inequality and social and material deprivation. Polish Country Team Leader for the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE, 2005-2017). He received BA and M.Phil. degrees at the University of Oxford and holds a PhD from the University of Warsaw. In 2015 he completed habilitation at the Freie Universität Berlin. Currently associated as Privatdozent with Universität Greifswald.



Jim Ogg is Head of the Ageing Research Unit in the French National Pension Fund. He studied social anthropology at the University of Sussex (BA) and received his PHD in social gerontology from the University of Keele in 2001.



Marja Aartsen currently works as research professor at OsloMetropolitan University – NOVA Norwegian Social research. She is a sociologist by training, and specialized in longitudinal research on ageing on e.g. social inequalities in social participation, loneliness, cognitive functioning and social exclusion. She is one of the three editors-in-chief of the European Journal of Ageing. Current projects include GENPATH, a life course perspective on the GENDERed PATHways of exclusion from social relations in later life, and its consequences for health and wellbeing, SIA - Social Inequalities in Ageing, and COST Action Reducing Old-Age Social Exclusion: Collaborations in Research & Policy (ROSEnet). She (co-)authored wrote more than 80 articles of which most in peer reviewed international journals.



Veerle Draulans took her PhD in 1994 at KU Leuven (Belgium) in Ethics. She combined an appointment at Tilburg University, the Netherlands (master ethics, care and policy, master management of cultural diversity) with an appointment at KU Leuven. At this moment, she is associate professor genderstudies at KU Leuven, Faculty of Social Sciences, and teaches in an interuniversity master gender and diversity. Her research focuses on ‘diversity and care’, ‘gender and leadership’, ‘gender and STEM’, ‘values and religion in Europe’. She is member of the Belgian Governmental Advisory Committee on Bio-ethics, and the Board of Governors of Emmaus (healthcare and welfare organisations).



Giovanni Lamura leads the *Centre for Socio-Economic Research on Ageing* at INRCA (Italy's National Institute of Health and Science on Ageing). He graduated in economics, achieved a PhD in "Life course and social policy" at the University of Bremen (Germany), and was visiting fellow at the University of Hamburg-Eppendorf (Germany) in 2006-2007 and the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy & Research in Vienna (Austria) in 2010-2011. His research interests are focused on international research on family & long-term care; migrant care work; prevention of elder abuse; ICT-based support for informal carers; intergenerational solidarity; interdisciplinary research on ageing.



Isabelle Tournier studied psychology and holds a Master of Arts degree in Clinical Psychology (oriented on psychogerontology) as well as a PhD in Psychology from the University of Bordeaux (France). After completing post-doctoral positions at the LPC (Mobility and Behavior Psychology Laboratory; IFSTTAR, French institute of science and technology for transport, development and networks; Versailles), in the domain of elderly road users' safety, and at INSIDE (Integrative Research Unit on Social and Individual Development, University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg) for various projects related to aging or dementia, she is now project manager and coordinator at the Info-Zenter Demenz (Luxembourg). This independent service aims to raise awareness, inform, and orient citizens regarding dementia diagnosis and care in Luxembourg.



Lucie Vidovičová, PhD. is a sociologist. Her long-term research interests include the sociology of ageing, age discrimination, active ageing, and social exclusion. She is also involved in research projects in the field of gender and the labour market, lifelong learning, family, environmental gerontology, and social policy. She conducts research for national as well as European bodies and works as a consultant on a number of implementation projects. Recent projects she has been involved in include surveys of the labour market conditions of older workers, age discrimination, ageing in big cities and in rural areas, the issue of role overload in active ageing grandparents or usage of humanoid robots for active ageing.



Sandra Torres holds a Professorship in Sociology and the Chair in Social Gerontology at Uppsala University, Sweden. As a critical social gerontologist, she has conducted research that problematizes old age-related constructs, sheds critical light on commonly used methods in health and social care, and deconstructs some of the taken for granted assumptions that guide old-age policy and practice. Sandra is the President of the Int'l. Sociological Association's (ISA) Research Committee on Aging (RC-11), the Chair of the Socio-Behavioral Section of the Int'l. Association of Gerontology & Geriatrics – European Region (IAGG-ER), and the Co-chair of

the Gerontological Society of America's (GSA) Interest Group on International Aging and Migration. A GSA Fellow, as well as a member of the (Swedish) Royal Society of Sciences, Sandra's latest books include: *Ethnicity & Old Age: Re-Imagining the Intersection* (Policy Press 2019), and two edited collections for Routledge (2016): *Ageing in Contexts of Migration* (co-edited with Ute Karl) and *Older People and Migration: Challenges for Social Work* (co-edited with Sue Lawrence).



Ariela Lowenstein is Gerontology Professor at Haifa University, Israel. In 2000, Ariela established the MA Dept. of Gerontology and headed it for first 5 years. In December 2012, she was elected President, Yezreel Academic College, finishing 2017. Lowenstein publishes extensively, with 250 publications; two Hebrew books, an English book with a colleague; co-editor of three English books. Recipient of numerous competitive research grants, prestigious scholarships, national and international awards. Lowenstein is reputed as a leading national and international expert in aging. Was past chair, *European Behavioral, Social Science & Research Section* - International Ass. of Gerontology; for 5 years Chair, *Israeli Gerontological Society*, receiving a prize for *life achievement*. She is a GSA Honorary Fellow; was a board member of IFA; Board member of Intl Network, Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA), receiving Rosali Wolf Award; board member & co-chair, NICE Elder Abuse team, Toronto Univ., Canada. Invited as an expert evaluator for research proposals European Commission. Member of EU COST network on Elder Exclusion. Serves on Israeli govt. & local agencies as consultant & policy advisor. Awarded a prestigious Prize for contribution to Aging innovation from Israeli Ministry of Welfare. Has an MA, Public Administration, New York University; Ph.D. in Sociology, Hebrew University, Jerusalem. Research areas: intergenerational family relations, family caregiving, elder abuse, elders' quality of life, policy development.



Patricia Conboy is Head of Global Ageing, Advocacy and Campaigns with HelpAge International, a global network of organisations advancing the right of older people in low- and middle-income countries to lead dignified, healthy and secure lives. Patricia leads a team promoting age-inclusive policy and practice in development and humanitarian contexts. They do this through influencing multilateral stakeholders, governments and civil society organisations and supporting the agency and voices of older people. Prior to joining HelpAge in 2016, Patricia was director of Older & Bolder, a national alliance of NGOs campaigning for older people's rights in Ireland.



Anne Margriet Pot is Strategic Advisor Care for older people at the Health Care Inspectorate, Ministry of Health, The Netherlands, and Professor of Geropsychology at the Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam. She also holds an Honorary Professorship at the School of Psychology, University of Queensland, Australia, and an Extraordinary Professorship at Optentia, North West University, Johannesburg, South Africa. For over the past 30 years, has dedicated her work on improving the health and wellbeing of, and care for older people through policy, research, education and clinical practice. From 2014 till 2018, she was posted in Geneva at the World Health Organisation (WHO), where she oversaw WHO's work on the establishment of sustainable and equitable Long-Term-Care systems worldwide. A prolific writer with over 220 publications in scientific, academic, professional and peer-reviewed journals, editor of the first Dutch Manual on Geropsychology, and in excess of 160 presentations and workshops at scientific and policy meetings, she is highly regarded for her devotion to the improvement of research, policy, education and care in the field of health and wellbeing of older people, and her determination in engendering fundamental changes in how society views aging. Her new book Care of a carer: a dozen daily dilemma's will be published March 30 [In Dutch].



Mr. Rait Kuuse has been working since 1999 in the Estonian public sector. He started his career as a probation officer, moved in 2001 to the Ministry of Justice. Since spring 2014, he is working as a deputy secretary general on social policy in the Ministry of Social Welfare. His field of responsibility is the coordination of the country's social policy and its agenda setting. More specifically, under his direct supervision are the issues of social insurance, social welfare services, child and family benefits and policy, equality policies. He is currently also a chair of a board in the foundation responsible for care home services for 200 persons and a board member of Estonian Prison Industry. Mr. Kuuse is skilled at international cooperation, his experience involves working many years as an expert for various international organizations. Mr. Kuuse is currently active at EU level, holding a position of the Chair of the Social Protection Committee



Vitalija Gaucaite Wittich is a chief of Population Unit of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) and is responsible for the UNECE work in the area of population ageing and intergenerational relations. She coordinates activities of the UNECE Working Group on Ageing and oversees the organization of the reviews of national policies and strategies in implementing the Madrid International Plan of Actions on Ageing in the UNECE region, capacity development and publication of policy briefs in the area of population ageing. She also acts as the UNECE coordinator for the Generations and Gender programme. In addition, she leads UNECE activities related to the review of implementation of the Programme of Action of International Conference on Population and Development. Ms. Gaucaite Wittich is a member of the UNECE staff since 1994; prior to this post she worked in the Statistics and Economic Analysis Divisions.

She has a doctoral degree in Social sciences and before joining UNECE was an Associate Professor of Economics at Vilnius University in Lithuania.



Anne-Sophie Parent is Secretary General of AGE Platform Europe. In January 2016, Ms. Parent was elected Secretary General of the newly established European Covenant on Demographic Change. Ms. Parent sits on various advisory committees set up by the European Commission: European Health Policy Forum, European Pensions Forum, the Advisory Board of Assisted Ambient Living Joint Programme, the Societal Advisory Board of the More Years Better Lives Joint programme, the Financial Services Users' Group, the Steering Group of the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing. She is also a member of the Euro Retail Payment Board set up by the European Central Bank, of the Expert Group of the EU UN-ECE Active Ageing Index project, and of the Advisory Board of the New Pact for Europe.



Thomas Scharf is Professor of Social Gerontology in the Institute of Health & Society and the Institute for Ageing at Newcastle University. He joined Newcastle in 2016, having previously been Director of the Irish Centre for Social Gerontology, NUI Galway. Tom is a Fellow of the UK Academy of Social Sciences and holds visiting professorships at NUI Galway and Keele University. His research addresses issues relating to social inclusion and exclusion in later life, often with a focus on the spaces and places in which inclusion and exclusion arise and on the policy responses to forms of exclusion.



Rodrigo Serrat, PhD, is a Serra Húnter tenure-track lecturer and a member of the Gerontology Research Group at the Department of Cognition, Development, and Educational Psychology of the University of Barcelona, Spain. His research focuses on civic engagement in later life, exploring issues of diversity and inclusion in different contexts, such as local and state policy making, volunteering and political organisations, seniors' interest organisations, and aged-care facilities. He has been a visiting researcher at the universities of St Thomas (Canada), Queensland and La Trobe (Australia), Newcastle (United Kingdom), and Uppsala (Sweden), among others.



Arianna Poli is Ph.D. student in Ageing and Later Life at the Division Ageing and Social Change (ASC), Linköping University, Sweden. Her research lies in the field of social gerontology, particularly at the intersection of ageing, inequality, and new technologies. Arianna investigates digital technologies as possible contributing factors to increased risk of exclusion and social inequalities among older people. In her Ph.D. work, she aims at understanding the link between inclusive participation of older people in research on digital technologies and the inclusiveness of new digital-based services among older people. Before joining Linköping University and ASC, Arianna worked as research assistant at the Italian National Institute of

Health and Science on Ageing (INRCA), at the Centre for Socio-Economic Research on Ageing, where she was involved in the EU project INNOVAGE. Arianna is currently affiliated to the National Graduate School on Ageing and Health (SWEAH) in Sweden, member of the ROSEnet COST Action (CA 15122) Reducing Old-Age Social Exclusion and part of the Socio-Gerontechnology Network. Twitter: @Arianna__Poli



Birgitta Sacrédeus – Regionråd, Region Dalarna has 29 years of experience in regional healthcare in Dalarna, Sweden and 20 years of experience in fostering integration and cooperation between the local and regional healthcare systems. EU Committee of Regions, CoR rapporteur of “Active and healthy ageing”.

Paper Abstracts

Opening Address – Older people in inclusive societies

Katarina Ivankovic-Knezevic, European Commission

Europe's high life expectancy is a remarkable achievement, which brings opportunities. Pensions protect most older people from poverty, but not all. Women, the less-educated, persons with disability, people suffering from mental health, or in social isolation, need more support. We need to focus on these groups, while also pushing ahead with those who can work longer and be more productive. And this should go on even after retirement, with education, and volunteering. We need to close gaps on services. Countries offer different access, quality, and coverage, with varying out-of-pocket expenses, including between high-income countries. Many people still depend on informal long-term care, but we have to support the cared-for and the carers; this calls for better design of policy interventions. In the context of Work-life balance, a Carer's leave was difficult to negotiate, but has become an important achievement which the Member states have to implement. Fostering more active ageing and reducing the gender pension gap are going to be our next difficult objectives. The Commission will highlight challenges in its 8 April 2020 demography report, and launch a broad debate with an end-2020 Green Paper on ageing. Moreover, next year's Action Plan for implementing the Pillar of Social Rights will rely on countries, social partners and civil society to address each of the 20 principles, some of which are dedicated also to older persons.

What is social exclusion of older people? A European picture

Sofie Van Regenmortel, Vrije Universiteit, Belgium

Although social exclusion might offer valuable insights into the complexity of disadvantage affecting older adults, little attention was given to older adults in social exclusion research. In addition, as research is spread across the sub-fields of gerontology and related disciplinary fields there is a lack of knowledge synthesis. Two review papers, a systematic review (Van Regenmortel et al. 2016) and a scoping review (Walsh et al. 2017) have addressed this gap. The reviews showed that old-age exclusion research is a recent research area in full development. Research on old-age exclusion [OAE] in general and its subdomains however lacks conceptualisation. A wide range of domains are used to operationalise old-age exclusion, namely: 1) neighbourhood and community, 2) services, amenities and mobility, 3) social relations, 4) material and financial resources, 5) socio-cultural aspects, and 6) civic participation. It is clear from the reviews that domains of OAE are interrelated. Furthermore, in OAE research almost equal attention was paid to individual and environmental determinants, but insight in the influence of macro drivers and the life course was lacking. Finally, the reviews formulate some methodological gaps such as the lack of mixed method, longitudinal and qualitative studies. The scoping review of Walsh and colleagues (2017) resulted in a conceptual framework and definition of OAE. In addition, it was the basis of the ROSEnet COST action which encouraged and supported research(ers) to continue OAE research. An exploration of literature shows that there has been an expansive growth of research on OAE since the start of ROSEnet. A big gain of the ROSEnet was the increasing visibility of research across Europe

and the growing comparative research which unravels the variation of OAE and the influence of welfare regimes on old-age exclusion. Also the lack of knowledge synthesis is further addressed, resulting in conceptualisations of (domains of) OAE. The interrelatedness of OAE domain kept on being mentioned in papers, and it even became the subject of study in many. Some researchers took this interrelatedness into account when developing a measure for OAE. Besides this, some of the methodological gaps addressed by the reviews were addressed by new longitudinal or qualitative studies on OAE. Both the life course approach and the environmental perspective were increasingly present in research since the start of ROSEnet. Also macro influences, socio-cultural aspects and social categorisations gained more attention in OAE research. Other important evolutions are the attention to exclusionary processes in research or projects itself, the emphasis on the importance of older adults' preferences and the growing inclusion of the digital domain. In addition some research also paid attention to the exclusion of the supportive surroundings of older adults (e.g. exclusion of adult informal carers). Finally, research continues to get insight in the detrimental effects of OAE, which emphasize the need to continue the research on OAE.

Framing social exclusion amongst older people in policy

Norah Keating, International Association of Gerontology and Geriatrics

From the outset, the mission of Reducing Old-Age Social Exclusion (ROSEnet) was to create shared understandings of late-life exclusion that would be foundational to the development of meaningful policy and practice. It is an ambitious agenda, given the goal of reducing exclusion across broad contexts of peoples' lives that intersect and that evolve and diverge across the life course. Policy is the most macro of these contexts. It is within the policy environment that we can come to understand beliefs and values about age and ageing, about who is seen to be deserving of full citizenship and about how these cultural 'ways of knowing' frame courses of action within a society. Discourses on combatting exclusion are evident in international documents including the Sustainable Development Goals, and the World Report on Ageing and Health. Articulation of an explicit social exclusion conceptual framework and evidence to support it have created a solid foundation to inform social action. We have grown up as we have grown old. Yet pathways to action are uncertain. Challenges include tensions around framing older people as dependent or independent; determining whether conventions on the rights of older persons separate or include; and whether life course perspectives provide opportunities for early intervention or deflect attention from the deep exclusion that may occur in late life.

Policy Messages from Research

Presented overleaf.

Policy Message 1

Economic Exclusion

Michal Myck, Centre for Economic Analysis (CenEA), Poland

Jim Ogg, Ageing Research Unit, Caisse nationale d'assurance, France

Old-age social exclusion is related to increasing economic inequalities in Europe. Resulting poor material conditions of many older people are reflected in all domains of exclusion. Current reforms of labour market and pension policies give precedence to financial sustainability and pay insufficient attention to the provision of welfare safety nets to those who stand to lose out on the introduced reforms. Such an approach can exacerbate inequalities and reinforce risks of old-age exclusion.

Sub-message 1: Ensure that all job contracts, including those associated with flexible employment, are linked to pension contributions. Precarious workers are under-pensioned, often lacking access to workplace schemes. The levels of private saving are often insufficient to ensure adequate levels of resources in later life. Policy therefore needs to focus on measures such as obligatory contributions or auto-enrolment to pension schemes, especially for the self-employed.

Sub-message 2: Reinforce or introduce universal social pensions or adequate means-tested support to ensure a sufficient basic, guaranteed or minimum income for individuals who are not able to obtain sufficient pension rights. Public first-tier pension provision is where efforts should be placed to reduce poverty and economic exclusion. Defined contribution schemes with disability and minimum pension benefits can be effectively designed. Means-tested welfare support systems should address the challenges of inadequate resources in later life.

Sub-message 3: Ensure that the high costs of social care related to physical decline associated with ageing can be adequately met. Ageing societies have not adequately addressed this major policy issue and many older people are foregoing social and health care because they cannot afford it. Particular attention should be paid to the development of insurance schemes for long-term care, both in the public and private sectors.

Policy Message 2

Exclusion from Social Relations

Marja Aartsen, NOVA Centre for Welfare and Labour Research, Norway

Vanessa Burholt, Centre for Innovative Ageing, Swansea University, UK

Exclusion from social relations is a situation in which people are disconnected from adequate levels and quality of intimate relationships, social networks, social support, and/or social opportunities to participate in wider society. Since this form of exclusion is associated with reduced wellbeing, poor health and premature mortality, policy and practice should respond by supporting social relations as people age.

Sub-message 1: There is a need for a whole-system approach to address exclusion from social relations. This requires not just a focus on individual risk factors, behaviours and expectations, but also on macro-level factors that are associated with exclusion from social relations. Macro-level factors include, political, social, and economic climate, neighbourhood safety, housing quality and attitudes towards old age.

Sub-message 2: Prevention needs to take into account all stages of the life course, as well as the micro and macro level risk factors, and to be orientated towards promoting and maintaining social bonds in later life.

Sub-message 3: Successful intervention strategies are likely to require a combination of initiatives that target the general population-level, and programs aimed at high-risk groups, such as persons who are retired, bereaved, ill, poor, of ethnic minorities and/or LGBTQ+.

Policy Message 3

Exclusion from Services

Veerle Draulans, Centre for Sociological Research, KU Leuven, Belgium

Giovanni Lamura, INRCA National Institute of Health and Science on Ageing, Italy

Exclusion from services must be tackled to secure equity in access and usage, and the appropriateness of service infrastructure, for all older people across key service domains, such as long-term care, mobility and transport, and smart services based on information and communication technologies. Including the voices of older people in design and implementation processes will enhance the relevance and impact of services and help to ensure that they address needs and facilitate fundamental participation rights in society.

Sub-message 1: It is important to distinguish between mobility and transportation. Mobility can be considered as a general human right, and refers to broader problems than those concerning transportation only. All restraints and barriers for older people regarding mobility should be removed or, when this is not fully possible, alternatives should be provided to ensure accessibility to spaces and services for all, independently of physical, mental or cognitive limitations. The provision of adequate and accessible transportation is crucial to ensure the fulfilment of people's mobility rights.

Sub-message 2: It is time to encourage active and healthy ageing through the manifold opportunities created by smart services based on Information and Communication Technologies (ICT). However, the rapid development of digital services and e-administration solutions risks to reducing the accessibility of services for those older adults who are digitally less skilled. Improved training, support and accessibility for the tools of contemporary digital societies are therefore needed, so that older people do not face avoidable loneliness, lack of mobility, neglect in health, depression and forgetfulness.

Sub-message 3: Effective long-term care systems must ensure that high quality, equitable care is provided to all older people, irrespective of their economic resources and socio-economic background, and in a manner that is culturally and ethnically appropriate for heterogeneous sub-groups of the older population.

Policy Message 4

Community and Spatial Exclusion

Lucie Vidovičová, Office for Population Studies, Masaryk University, Czech Republic
Isabelle Tournier, Luxembourg

The places where older people live influence their risk of social exclusion, by protecting against and/or exacerbating the impact of exclusionary processes. Addressing and being vigilant of the different dimensions of place, such as social and relational aspects, amenities and build environment, safety and sense of belonging, in policy development is a necessity to offer environmental support for social inclusion.

Sub-message 1: Ageing in place may not in all cases be an active choice: some older adults are ‘stuck in places’, without the possibility to live where they would like to live or have a voice over the changes in their surroundings. Policies on community care provision and ageing in place need to consider the diverse circumstances, preference and needs of older residents in designing an attempt to support older residential population

Sub-message 2: Public spaces, such as retail and shopping zones, and green places where older people can socialise and pursue leisure activities are limited in number in some environmental contexts. Greater consideration is necessary of the ways that such spaces and places can be used to support social inclusion and used to inform urban and rural development and regeneration strategies

Sub-message 3: Climate change and severe weather conditions, such as heat waves, represent major threats to vulnerable and frail older adults and lead to the risk of environmental injustice. Active consideration of older populations is necessary in the development of disaster preparedness plans, flood risk management strategies and longer-term environmental sustainability policies.

Policy Message 5

Civic Exclusion

Sandra Torres, Uppsala University, Sweden

Ariela Lowenstein, University of Haifa, Israel

Civic exclusion diminishes the voice and power of older individuals and groups, marginalising their views and homogenising their experiences within a society's institutional structures, policies and communities. It can involve exclusion from civic engagement, such as barriers to political and voluntary activity, and symbolic and identity aspects of exclusion, such as ageism and age discrimination. Addressing these exclusions is critical to ensuring the recognition and participation of older people as full members of our European societies.

Sub-message 1: Establish and implement old-age policy proofing. When laws and regulations are being formulated around Europe, we would like these to be old-age proofed so that their implications for older people are assessed from the get-go.

Sub-message 2: Governments need to invest in developing tools and platforms to enable older people's civic participation, including political participation, and we urge them to take into account the heterogeneity of older people in their design.

Sub-message 3: Many European countries have stopped collecting statistics for older people over the age of 74 years. This practice needs to change since we cannot address what we cannot measure and count. Failing to collect statistics on all age brackets associated with the older segment of our population is one of the ways through which we enable exclusion to take place in older age.

Evidence-informed policy for reducing old age exclusion: A response as a knowledge user

Patricia Conboy, Head of Policy, HelpAge International

My observations as a knowledge user are shared from the perspective of a civil society organisation advocating for the dignity and rights of older people in low- and middle-income countries. In order to achieve impact in counteracting ageist norms and policies on ageing, we have to continually ask “Who are the key political players and how do we interest them in ageing and older people?” This challenge of involving key political players beyond our familiar domains of expertise and engagement applies to both academics and civil society advocates. Through my participation in ROSEnet, I have been struck by the richness of the gerontological knowledge and understanding of ageing and older people within the network; the absence of the same gerontological understanding and expertise in many of our key political and policy arenas – and the negative consequences for older people; and the challenge in enabling effective diffusion of knowledge and more meaningful exchange between domains. This is a two-way process of course but academics can help knowledge users in civil society and policy arenas by becoming more innovative in terms of knowledge translation; communicating their findings in clear, direct and accessible formats; and anticipating inevitable questions about the practical application of findings.

ROSEnet has made a good start with attention to evidence-based policy messaging and partnership working with civil society groups and older people. There is more to be done and there are possibilities for engaging in new ways with policymakers in the context of the Coronavirus public health crisis. The crisis highlights our global and social interdependence and is showing that none of us are safe unless all are safe. There are very high risks for older people and older age inclusion must be part of the global response to the crisis.

Research Capacity: Reflections on the European Project

ROSEnet Early Career Researchers

Dr. Rodrigo Serrat, University of Barcelona, Spain

Ms. Arianna Poli, Linköping University, Sweden

Rodrigo Serrat is a Serra Hünter tenure-track lecturer and a member of the Gerontology Research Group at the Department of Cognition, Development, and Educational Psychology of the University of Barcelona, Spain. His research focuses on civic engagement in later life, exploring issues of diversity and inclusion in different contexts, such as local and state policy making, volunteering and political organisations, seniors’ interest organisations, and aged-care facilities. Although Rodrigo is not officially a member of ROSEnet, he has been involved with the action from its beginning through two different channels: Training Schools (TS) and Short Term Scientific Missions (STSM). The participation on TS has helped him to bring an exclusion lens to his research into older people’s civic engagement, as well as to acquire skills to translate research into policy messages. Moreover, these TS has allowed him to build and maintain contacts with other ECIs and senior researchers working on similar or related issues. Regarding

STSMs, he visited the Institute for Health and Society at Newcastle University during 2017, and the Department of Sociology of Uppsala University in 2018. As a result of these visits, he presented his work at international conferences, and co-authored three papers and two book chapters on the topic of older people's civic participation.

Research Capacity: Reflections on the European Project

Arianna Poli, PhD student in Ageing and Later Life, Division Ageing and Social Change (ASC), Linköping University (Sweden)

The focus of this presentation is a personal reflection on the involvement in the ROSEnet COST ACTION (CA15122) as a PhD student working in the field of old-age exclusion. Joining ROSEnet CA and its PhD Forum represented a great opportunity for PhD students to enrich their research education. The ROSEnet PhD Forum was a place for thematic discussions and doctoral work presentations, during which we learned from seniors and from each other's works. As PhD Forum members, we participated and contributed to most of the activities within the CA, such as taking part in working group meetings, attending policy seminars, presenting own research projects to the network members, and more. Taking part in the CA activities gave us the opportunity to establish fruitful collaborations, typically in the form of scientific papers, conference symposia, research projects, and research visits. ROSEnet has worked as a career accelerator by offering PhD students a large range of resources, such as international contacts, expert knowledge, information on new and ongoing projects in the field; by providing conceptual and theoretical inputs to our doctoral theses; by stimulating network development and solid collaborations.