

ROSEnet COST ACTION (CA 15122)

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

Sustainable Ageing

Older People and European Public Policy Beyond 2020

Policy Seminar Programme

3rd European Policy Seminar

of COST Action Reducing Old-Age Exclusion in Europe:

Collaborations in Research and Policy – ROSEnet (CA 15122)

The Auditorium, Royal Academies for Science and the Arts of Belgium

Tuesday 20th February 2018



Rationale

With continuing social and economic uncertainty, and stagnated population growth, it is critical that European public policy is reflective of the needs, agency and participation of a growing and diverse older population. This requirement takes on additional significance with the emergence of new European Union goals targeting the development of a sustainable, active and social Europe. It is also crucial given the Europe 2020 target to substantially reduce the prevalence of social exclusion amongst such populations groups, by 2020. However, there are concerns that existing age-related public policy has an overly narrow focus, and a homogenising approach. There is thus the potential for some older adults in Europe to be excluded civically and symbolically, impacting on their capacity to participate as full members of European societies. As such, there are legitimate questions about whether or not existing public policy is equipped to support a sustainable and equitable ageing experience for all older adults in Europe.

Seminar Aim

This Seminar aims to explore the capacity of existing and emerging policy frameworks to reduce old-age social exclusion in Europe, and how interdisciplinary research evidence can help underpin this endeavour. Focusing on state-of-the-art research and policy perspectives, the Seminar will involve policy and research experts, from across European and international institutions, who are at the forefront of policy analysis, innovation and implementation. This Seminar is organised by the COST Action ‘Reducing Old-Age Exclusion in Europe’ – ROSEnet (CA15122), in collaboration with the Royal Academies for Science and the Arts of Belgium.

Seminar Structure

The seminar is structured in four parts, with opportunities for discussion throughout.

First, following an opening address by Manuela Geleng, Directorate C Social Affairs (DG EMPL), the background and rationale for the Seminar will be presented introducing why old-age exclusion, and its civic and symbolic elements, is a critical public policy consideration.

Second, drawing on contributions from international experts, developments in policy formation and research evidence will be outlined. Speakers will highlight considerations regarding combating exclusion, and enhancing social and civic participation of older adults.

Third, illustrative examples of policy and practice interventions from different European regions that challenge and positively affect how older people are viewed will be presented.

Fourth, a panel discussion that brings together a range of key European stakeholders, who are instrumental in policy formation and implementation, will offer a forum for debate and dialogue on the positioning of ageing and older people in public policy in Europe.

After concluding remarks, the closing address will be given by Marian Harkin, MEP, Vice-Chair of the Intergroup on ‘Active Ageing, Intergenerational Solidarity and Family Policies.



About ROSEnet

ROSEnet (Reducing Old-Age Exclusion in Europe – www.rosenetcost.com) is an innovative networking partnership between policy stakeholders, researchers and older people from 41 countries, involving over 135 members.

ROSEnet aims to overcome critical knowledge gaps in research and policy to tackle social exclusion amongst older people in Europe.

Funded by the COST Association, and focusing on different forms of old-age social exclusion (economic, social, services, civic, and community and spatial), members are engaged in a four-year (2016-2020) programme of research, dissemination and networking activities. ROSEnet is dedicated to developing shared understandings of old-age exclusion, that are underpinned by state-of-the-art research and innovation, and that help to direct meaningful policy and practice development.

This Seminar is the 3rd ROSEnet European Policy Seminar, with four further bi-annual Seminar and conference events planned for the remainder of the Action. For further information on these events and ROSEnet's research activities please visit www.rosenetcost.com.

About COST

COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology – see www.cost.eu) is a unique platform where European researchers can jointly develop their ideas and initiatives across all scientific disciplines through trans-European networking of nationally funded research. COST is supported by the European Union (EU) Horizon 2020 Programme.



Sustainable Ageing

Older people and European public policy beyond 2020

Seminar Programme

*3rd European Policy Seminar of COST Action Reducing Old-Age Exclusion in Europe:
Collaborations in Research and Policy – ROSEnet (CA 15122)*

*The Auditorium, Royal Flemish Academy of Sciences and Arts,
Tuesday 20th February 2018.*

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

09:00 – 09:15 **Welcome**
Ariela Lowenstein
Haifa University, Israel

Background and Context

Session Chair: Ronald de Bruin
Director, COST Association

09:15 – 09:45 **Opening Address**
Manuela Geleng
*Acting Director, Directorate C Social Affairs
Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion*

09:45 – 10:10 **Reducing Old-Age Exclusion in Europe – ROSEnet Actions**
Kieran Walsh
ROSEnet COST Action Chair, National University of Ireland Galway, Ireland

10:10 – 10:40 **Civic Engagement, Social Exclusion and Older Adults - A Social Citizenship Perspective**
Joe Larragy,
Maynooth University, Ireland, and ROSEnet civic working group member

10:40 – 11:00 **Coffee**



Policy Framework and Research Developments

Session Chair: Maciej Kucharczyk

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

11:00 – 11:25 The European Pillar on Social Rights, Sustainable Development Goals and Older Adult Policy

Johan ten Geuzendam

Adviser, Directorate D Equality, Directorate-General for Justice and Consumers

11:30 – 11:55 Precarity in Old Age: Implications for European Social Policies

Chris Phillipson, University of Manchester, UK

11:55 – 12:20 Active Ageing Index: Highlighting a Need to Address Exclusion

Vitalia Gaucaite Wittich

Chief of the Population Unit, Statistical Division, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

12:20 – 12:45 Active Aging Policies and Old-Age Social Exclusion

Sandra Torres,

ROSEnet Civic Exclusion Working Group Co-Leader, Uppsala University, Sweden

12:45 – 13:00 Questions and discussion

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 15:00 What is Working? Insights from Interventions and Policies

Session Chair: Patricia Conboy

Head of Global Ageing, Advocacy and Campaigning, HelpAge International and ROSEnet Civic Exclusion Working Group member

Old-Age Social Exclusion from the Perspective of Older People

Anne-Sophie Parent

Secretary General, AGE Platform Europe

Equal Opportunities for Physical Activities in Old Age – The Finland National Action Program

Paivi Topo

The Age Institute, Finland and ROSEnet civic working group member

Insights from 13 years of the Belgian Ageing Studies

Liesbeth De Donder

Professor of Adult Educational Sciences, Vrije Universiteit Brussel



15:00 – 16:00 **Panel Discussion: Positioning of Older People in Public Policy**

Session Chair: Thomas Scharf

Institute of Health & Society, Newcastle University

Panel Discussants:

Ettore Marchetti

Unit C.2: Modernisation of social protection systems, DG EMPL

Alexandre Sidorenko

Senior Advisor, European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research, and former Head of UN Programme on Ageing.

Bart Vanhercke,

Director, European Social Observatory

Sofie Van Regenmortel

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

Rait Kuuse

Vice Chair of the European Commission Social Protection Committee, and Deputy Secretary General on Social Policy, Ministry of Social Affairs of Estonia

16:00-16:15 **Concluding Remarks**

Kieran Walsh

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

Closing Address

Marian Harkin

MEP, Vice-Chair of Intergroup on 'Active Ageing, Intergenerational Solidarity and Family Policies'



Speakers, Panellists and Chairs



Ariela Lowenstein

Gerontology Professor, Head, Social Gerontology, Center for Research & Study of Aging, Haifa University, Israel.

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, r 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.



Ronald de Bruin

Director, COST Association

Dr Ronald de Bruin was appointed Director of the COST Association on 1 June 2016. Before joining the Association, Ronald was Director of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) and Head of Department of the European Network and Information Security Agency (ENISA). For almost eight years, he played a key role in and managing and setting up these European Union agencies from scratch. Prior to this, he was Deputy Director of a public-private partnership platform for the Information Society in the Netherlands for over three years. His main responsibilities included drafting the annual work programs including public-private partnership projects, managing the implementation of national multi-stakeholder projects, and coordinating EU-funded projects. For almost three years, he worked for a global COM company with top-100 clients. During his one-year stay as manager at KPMG, he worked on developing e-security services for the growing e-commerce market. He started his career as Policy Advisor for the Dutch national government, where, for three years, he was responsible for developing a national policy on e-security services,



and scenarios for introducing digital TV. He is Ambassador to Brussels for the Greenleaf Center for Servant Leadership Europe and Founding Director of the Greenleaf Center in Brussels. Dr De Bruin has also authored several books on servant-leadership, digital television, online consumer trust and computer security. He holds a Ph.D. in Law and Computer Science, an M.Sc. in Technology Management and a B.Sc. in Electronic Engineering.



Manuela Geleng

Acting Director, Social Affairs, and Head, Social Investment Strategy Unit, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

Manuela Geleng works for the European Commission, where she is Acting Director of Social Affairs and also heads the Social Investment Strategy unit in the Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion. She joined the Commission in 1995, where she has held different positions. Prior to that, she worked in the private sector as a management consultant and for the United Nations Development Programme in the United States and Central Africa. She holds an MSc in Financial Economics from the University of London and a Masters in Public Administration and Management from the Solvay Business School in Brussels. She completed her postgraduate studies at the Diplomatic Academy in Vienna. She speaks Italian, German, English, French, Spanish and some Russian.



Kieran Walsh

Professor of Ageing & Public Policy and Director, Irish Centre for Social Gerontology, NUI Galway

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.



Joe Larragy

Lecturer in Social Policy, Maynooth University

Dr Joe Larragy is a Lecturer in Social Policy, Maynooth University (MU), since 2001. Formerly Research Officer at the National Council for the Elderly (1988-94), Social Policy Analyst at the National Economic and Social Council (1994-99), and Newman Scholar in the Non-Profit Sector at UCD from 1999 to 2001. His PhD (UCD), *Asymmetric engagement – the community and voluntary pillar in Irish social partnership* (Manchester UP), was published in 2014. Currently he is co-ordinator of the PhD programme in Applied Social Studies at MU. He lectures on Advanced Social Policy, Comparative and European Social Policy, Participative Governance and Social Gerontology and researches on topics related on ageing, and on state-civil society relationships. He has worked with various age-related statutory and voluntary bodies. He is the founder chair of Maynooth Green Campus, established in 2013.



Maciej Kucharczyk

Policy Director, AGE Platform Europe

Maciej Kucharczyk is Policy Director at AGE Platform Europe – a European network of more than 100 organisations ‘of’ and ‘working for’ people aged 50 and over. Maciej has been working over the last 10 years on issues, such as adequacy and sustainability of social protection, fight against poverty and social exclusion, promotion of human rights, social justice and dignity. He is also vice-president of Social Platform, the largest network of European rights-based NGOs working in the social sector. Graduated in economics at the University of Lodz in Poland, Maciej holds post-graduate degrees in European affairs at the College of Europe and in public administration at the Ecole Nationale d’Administration.



Johan ten Geuzendam

Adviser, Directorate for Equality and Union Citizenship of DG Justice and Consumers

Johan ten Geuzendam has worked in the European Commission in a variety of policy areas like industrial policy, industrial relations, management training, labour law and working conditions. In 2001 he became Head of the Employment Services Unit (with responsibility inter alia for the management of the EURES network) and in 2006 of the Employment Services Unit and Mobility Unit. From January 2008 until May 2014 he was Head of the Unit for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities first in DG Employment, social affairs and equal opportunities, and from January 2011 in DG Justice and Consumers. In mid-May 2014 he became Adviser in the Directorate for Equality and Union



Citizenship of DG Justice and Consumers that coordinates and promotes policy developments to combat discrimination on grounds of gender, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation. One of his main areas of attention is "the Rights of older persons".



Chris Phillipson

Professor of Sociology and Social Gerontology, University of Manchester, UK

Chris Phillipson is Professor of Sociology and Social Gerontology at the University of Manchester, UK. He is the former director of the Manchester Institute for Collaboration on Research into Ageing (MICRA). Before coming to Manchester he was Professor of Applied Social Studies and Social Gerontology at Keele University where he founded the Centre for Social Gerontology. His research concerns social, political and economic issues associated with ageing populations. Professor Phillipson is especially interested in studying questions relating to problems of poverty and social exclusion, and the impact of globalization on later life. He has written extensively on social theory applied to ageing, developing a critical gerontology which challenges some of the dominant social and cultural assumptions made about ageing societies. His books include: *Ageing* (Polity Press), *Ageing, Meaning and Social Structure: Connecting critical and humanistic gerontology* (Policy Press, co-edited), and *Age-Friendly Cities and Communities: A Global Perspective* (Policy Press, co-edited).



Vitalia Gaucaite Wittich

Chief of the Population Unit, Statistical Division, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

Vitalia 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.





Sandra Torres

Professor of Social Gerontology, Social Gerontology at Uppsala University, Sweden

Prof. 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 co-chairs the interest group on International Aging and Migration for the *Gerontological Society of America* and was a member of the Scientific Expert Advisory Committee to the (Swedish) National Elderly Care Policy which was launched in 2017. Her latest books – published in 2016 - are edited collections for Routledge: *Ageing in Contexts of Migration* (co-edited with Ute Karl) and *Older People and Migration: Challenges for Social Work* (co-edited with Sue Lawrence). At present she is finalizing a new book for Policy Press entitled *Ethnicity & Old Age: Re-Imagining the Intersection*.



Patricia Conboy

Head of Global Ageing, Advocacy and Campaigning, HelpAge International

Patricia Conboy joined HelpAge in 2016. She has extensive professional experience in policy on ageing and older people. Previously, she was Director of Older & Bolder, an alliance of NGOs that campaigned successfully with older people for the delivery of Ireland's first national strategy on ageing; and Policy Analyst with the National Council on Ageing and Older People. In her role in HelpAge, Patricia leads a team advocating for a UN Convention on the Rights of Older People, the delivery of Agenda 2030 commitments to older people, and the implementation of a global campaign on ageism with WHO and other global organisations.



Anne-Sophie Parent

Secretary General, AGE Platform Europe

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.



Päivi Topo

Director, the Age Institute, Finland

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 The National Advisory Board on Social Welfare and Health Care Ethics and at the National Institute of Health and Welfare in different research positions.



Liesbeth De Donder

Professor Adult Educational Sciences, Vrije Universiteit Brussel

Liesbeth De Donder is Professor Adult Educational Sciences at the Vrije Universiteit Brussel where she teaches “Research Methodology”, “Social Gerontology” and “Civil Society and Community Development”. Her research focuses on social participation and inclusion, caring communities, safety and elder mistreatment, with a particular interest in participatory methodologies.



Thomas Scharf

Professor of Social Gerontology, Institute of Health & Society, Newcastle University

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 (see: <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/ihs/staff/profile/thomasscharf.html#background>).





Ettore Marchetti

Unit C.2: Modernisation of Social Protection Systems, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion

Ettore Marchetti, statistician, worked at the European Commission in the past 30 years, in various areas, on policy development. In the past 10 years Ettore has been working on social protection and lately especially on older people (demography, pension, active-ageing).



Alexandre Sidorenko

Senior Advisor, European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research, and former Head of UN Programme on Ageing

Dr. Alexandre Sidorenko is an expert on national and international policy on ageing. His current assignments and duties: Senior Advisor, European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research (Vienna, Austria); Global Ambassador for HelpAge International (London, UK); International Tutor, International Institute on Ageing (UN-Malta); Member, Societal Advisory Board for the Joint Programming Initiative *More years, better lives* (EU). He is involved in providing advisory services to the Central European, Eastern European and Central Asian countries in developing and implementing national policy on ageing, including organizing and conducting training programmes. Previously, he served as the Chief of the Population Unit, UN Economic Commission for Europe (Geneva, Switzerland, 2010); Head of the United Nations Programme on Ageing (Vienna – New York, 1988-2009). Within the UN, he acted as Coordinator of the International Year of Older Persons (1999). He also coordinated substantive preparations of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, including drafting the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, and the global follow-up activities of the Assembly.



Bart Vanhercke

Director, European Social Observatory

Bart Vanhercke - PhD in Social Science (2016), has been Director at the OSE since 2010. His current research focuses on the social dimension of the EU's economic governance and the European Pillar of Social Rights, topics on which he also works as an associate academic staff member at the Research Institute for Work and Society (HIVA), University of Leuven. He was appointed as Policy Fellow at the Institute for the Study of Labour (Berlin) in 2015. He recently co-authored several studies for the European Social Policy Network (ESPN), for which he is Social Protection leader. Contact address: vanhercke@ose.be





Sofie Van Regenmortel

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

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.



Rait Kuuse

Vice Chair of the European Commission Social Protection Committee, and Deputy Secretary General on Social Policy, Ministry of Social Affairs of Estonia

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 vice chair of the Social Protection Committee. He has diploma in social work, graduated MBA programme on European studies at the Tartu University and is currently active in doctoral studies programme in the University of Tallinn on the subject of deinstitutionalisation.





Marian Harkin

MEP, Vice-Chair of Intergroup on 'Active Ageing, Intergenerational Solidarity and Family Policies'

Marian Harkin is an Independent MEP representing Ireland in the European Parliament since 2004. Marian is a member of the Employment and Social Affairs Committee, a substitute member on the Economic and Monetary Affairs and substitute member of the Petitions Committees. Her legislative work has included the EU Globalisation Fund, rapporteurship of the Employment Committee's Opinion on Recommendations on the negotiations for the TTIP as well as following files on the Accessibility Act, the Disability Strategy and the framework agreement on parental leave. Currently Marian's EMPL dossiers include the e-card, European Solidarity Corp and the revision of Regulation 2004/883 on Social Security. As well as her legislative work, Marian has a deep interest in Social and Public Health issues. She is Chair and founding member of both the Carers Interest Group and the Volunteering Interest Group and is also Vice Chair of the Mental Health Group and the Brain, Mind and Pain Group. She is a member of the Intergroup on Ageing and Solidarity between Generations, the MEP Heart Group and the MEPs against Cancer Group.

