

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*

Conference Programme

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

Rationale

Demographic ageing has the potential to impact individual lives, communities and societies. While the significance of this transition for the future of Europe is understood, there is uncertainty around how best to support diverse older populations as full participants in the European community. Complex forms of social exclusion faced by some older individuals and groups only serves to intensify this uncertainty, and impede efforts of social fairness. It also sets a significant challenge with respect to reducing multifaceted forms of disadvantage and enabling participation across the key domains of European life. With new and innovative policy frameworks on social rights and sustainable development now embedded within European context, e.g. the European Pillar of Social Rights, our capacity to enrich the participation of older people is, potentially at least, greater than ever before. However, how we ensure that policies and practices emerging from these frameworks actually improve older people's lives and reduce multidimensional inequality, remains a critical and unanswered question. Given the significance of ageing in Europe's demographic transition, answering this question is of crucial importance to *reinforcing a strong social Europe*, today and into the future.

Conference Aim

The aim of this Conference is to direct future policy and practice innovation to secure inclusive ageing experiences for all older people as a part of a strong social Europe. It will present new, evidence-based policy messages targeting major participation domains: civic; social; economic; services; and neighbourhoods and communities. The Conference will also present a roadmap for research and policy collaboration at all levels that advances the capacity of our societies to manage demographic ageing in a fair and just manner. The Conference which is a culmination of the four-year work programme of the ROSEnet Cost Action, – Reducing old-Age Social Exclusion, should eventually inform the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights in policy initiatives targeting inclusion of older persons.

Seminar Structure

The seminar is structured in three parts, with opportunities for discussion throughout. First, following a welcome from Jean-Luc Vanraes of the European Committee of the Regions, an Opening Address will be delivered by Katarina Ivankovic-Knezevic, Director of the Social Affairs Unit within the DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion. Together with sessions exploring what is known about old-age exclusion, and why it is a critical public policy issues, this part of the conference will begin to set the agenda for inclusive ageing. Second, based on state-of-the-art ROSEnet research evidence, international experts will present policy messages targeting major domains of participation. Key policy stakeholders, instrumental in policy formation and implementation, will respond to these messages and a panel discussion will present a forum for debate and dialogue on how best to enable inclusive ageing. Third, an agenda for future directions in national and EU policies and research on inclusive ageing will be presented. This will include consideration of the role of the EU institutions in supporting older people's wellbeing, dignity and participation based on human rights. It also includes the presentation of a roadmap for research and policy collaboration on social exclusion and

older people. The closing address will be given by Birgitta Sacrédeus of the European Committee of the Regions, outlining the synergies between the European Committee of the Regions and ROSEnet research evidence.

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 180 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.

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.

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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 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 modernisation 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.



responses to forms of exclusion.

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



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”.