



Guaranteeing older persons' right to independence

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AGE Platform Europe

- ❑ European network of non-profit organizations of older people
- ❑ Around 120 members across Europe
- ❑ Member of the European Social Platform and the European Anti-Poverty Network





AGE Platform Europe

❑ Involvement in the UN Open-Ended Working Group

❑ Ongoing process:

- **Training/informing** members
- **Motivating** members to lobby at national level
- **Gathering contributions** – consultation open until 9/2 + webinar, task forces and **Annual Conference**





Independence: How do we define it?

“From the perspective of older people the **right to independent living** means an opportunity to **choose whether they want to live in their own homes or in residential settlements**. It also represents the existence of an **adequate network of social services in their neighborhood** where they can ask and find the necessary support and social assistance (...). Independent living also means an opportunity to **actively participate in social events** in their environment and become an equal partner in the community life”.

Zivotgo, AGE member in the Czech Republic



Independence: How do we define it?

Key elements:

- ❑ Freedom of **choice**
- ❑ Access to quality, person-centered **care and support**
- ❑ Active **participation** to social life

= independent living



Independence: How is it violated?

- By losing the ability to **choose**

“I am afraid my daughters will decide suddenly to send me to a residential care home without talking about it to me beforehand”

Older person quoted in the European Quality Framework for LTC services



Independence: How is it violated?

“ What I miss is the freedom to choose, to choose when I get up, what to have for lunch, what to wear today”

Older person quoted in the frame of the European Union project EUSTACEA



Independence: How is it violated?

- By lacking access to **quality, dignified** care and support

"We have to go to bed at 6pm everyday and to stay in bed all day on weekends. They say they don't have enough staff to look after us."

Older person quoted in the European Quality Framework for LTC services



Independence: How is it violated?

"It took me three years as a child to learn not to wet my bed at night and now they want me to do it again because they don't have time to come and help me to the toilet at night!"

Older person quoted in the frame of the European Union project EUSTACEA

Independence: How is it violated?

- By losing access to **social life** and becoming **isolated**

“The transport issue is a huge problem. Getting out and about is absolutely vital, and gets harder as one gets older”

Freddi Greenmantle, older person acting as co-investigator on age-friendly environments in Manchester (UK)



Independence: Addressing the lack of enjoyment

Need to ensure access to **adequate care and support services**

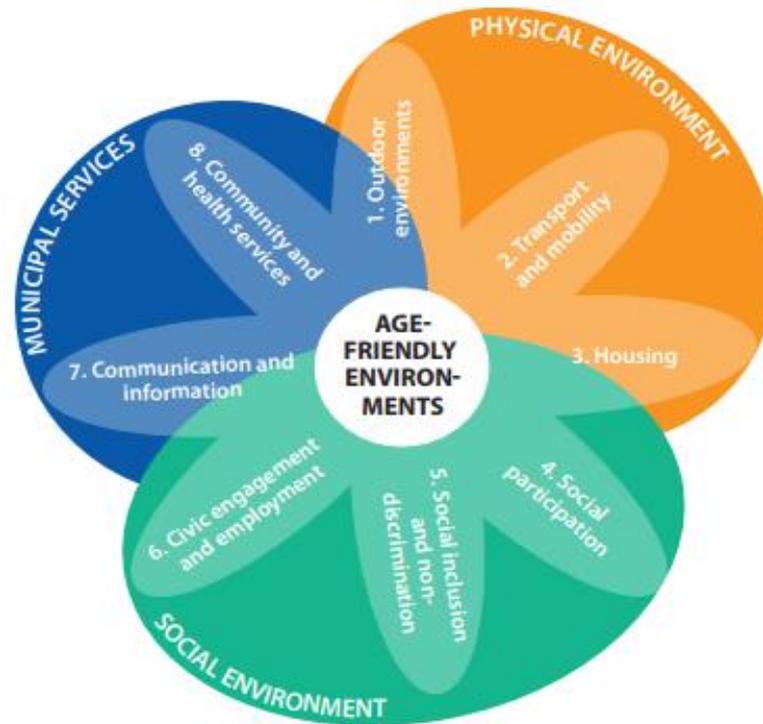
30% of older European lack access

Older people unable to make choices and participate

Insufficient access + traditional approach to care → **independence at stake**

Independence: Addressing the lack of enjoyment

Need to implement measures to enable independence and remove barriers in the local environment – **age-friendly environments**



Independence: Elements of a right

- ❑ Ensuring **access to person-centered care and support** allowing for **community living** regardless of living arrangement
- ❑ Measures for support should include **mobility, decision-making, communication support, access to services available to the general public, participation,** etc.
- ❑ Adapting the **local environment** to remove physical and symbolic barriers to **participation**



Thank you!

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