

ESPON Conference Week on Ageing

Monday 30 November – Friday 4 December 2020

DAY 1 / Monday 30 November 2020

Opening session

10:00-10:05 Welcome and introduction

Piera Petruzzi

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Welcome everyone to the ESPON Conference Week on Ageing which takes inspiration from the World Health Organisation Decade of Healthy Ageing and is organized in cooperation with AGE Platform Europe, Eurocities and Greater Manchester Combined Authority.

Population ageing has become even more evident in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis that has affected our whole society, but older people in particular. This shows once more how important it is to design our territories age-friendly and keep older people's interest in mind in policy making.

A group of cities asked for ESPON's support to investigate the effectiveness of policies and initiatives to develop age-friendly cities. ESPON responded with the project ACPA that includes a report, a policy handbook, case study reports, maps and figures. All these deliveries are available at our website in EN and the sh national languages.

This opening session will be followed by sessions on the case study cities investigated in ESPON ACPA. These sessions will take place between tomorrow, Tuesday 1 December and Friday 4 December. You can still register for the stimulating city at our website and exchange with policy makers, experts and peers in national languages (EN, FR, NL, NO, ES, SE).

I would like to thank all participants, speakers, our partners, namely Ecorys and Nordregio, and the stakeholders that have asked for ESPON's support, namely:

- Paul Mc Garry and his colleagues from Greater Manchester Combined Authority, which is the lead stakeholder of the ACPA analysis,
- Tom van Benthem and Johan Osté from Amsterdam
- Natalia Rosetti Maffioli and Ramon Pablo Malagrida from Barcelona
- Lisa Holtz from Gothenburg
- Annemieke Knol and Yvonne van Wijk from Hengelo
- Michel Lorant from Nantes
- Monica Enge Eriksen and Anne Berit Rafoss from Oslo
- Francisco Rivas Gorostiaga from Zaragoza.

It has been a huge pleasure to work with all of you!

Finally, I would like to mention that we are drafting a policy brief on ageing that will include the outcomes of this conference.

So, let's kick-off this ESPON week. To do so, I would use a WHAT IF approach:

What if we turn the risk of ageing into an opportunity
and launch a “**Silver Deal**” just like the “**Green Deal**”?

Thank you and enjoy the opening session with our inspiring speakers.