



**Applying the Right to the City
to older persons:
Seizing the opportunity of the
EU Urban Agenda**

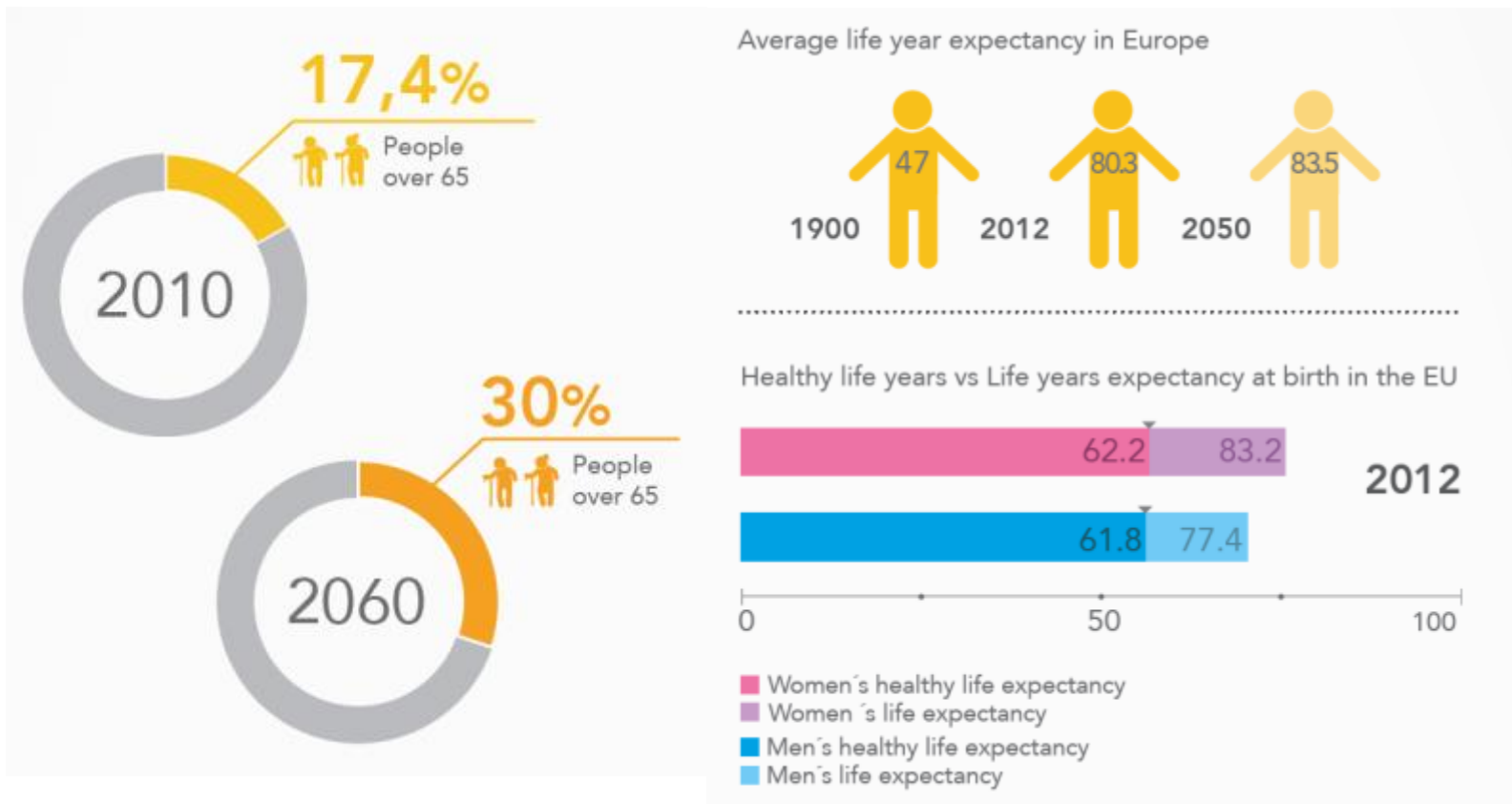


AGE Platform Europe

Voicing needs & concerns of 50+ in Europe

- ❖ European Social NGO founded in 2001
- ❖ **Bringing older people's point of view in the European policies' debates and projects** on key dossiers such as social protection, employment, social inclusion, health, new technologies, accessible mobility and built environment
 - **150 Member organisations** from all over Europe
 - **12 Task Forces**
 - **Involvement in around 20 EU project**
- ❖ **Pooling with other European NGOs and stakeholders** to face the challenges brought by the demographic change
- ❖ AGE is funded by an EU operational grant (Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme), membership fees and EU Research Projects.

The Ageing context



Ageing and Urbanisation

- By 2030, 60% of the world population expected to reside in urban areas
- By 2050, 60+ will represent around 35% of the urban population in Europe (25% at global level)

(UN figures)



Reconciling these two challenges

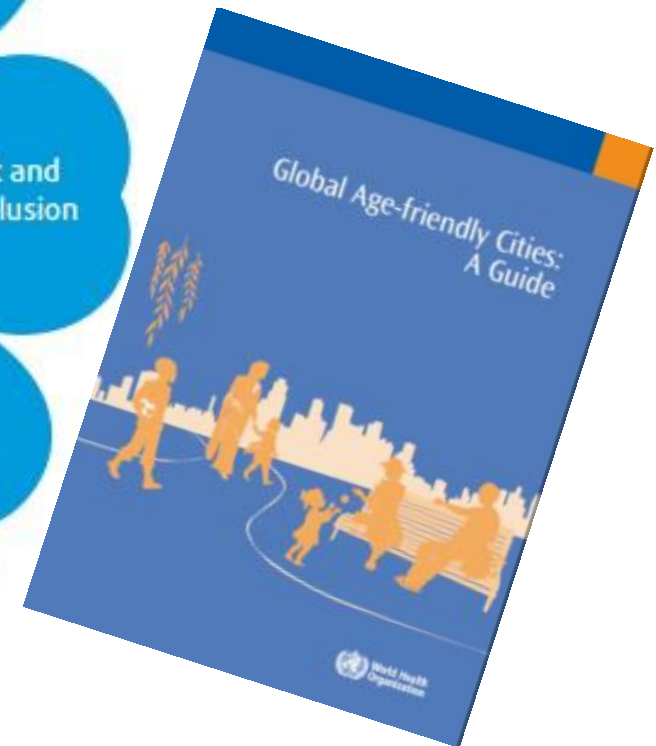
How Allowing older urban dwellers to remain healthy, independent and autonomous long into their old age?



According to the World Health Organisation, adapting our physical and social environments to the needs of the ageing population:

- empowers people to age in better physical and mental health
- promotes their social inclusion and active participation
- helps them maintain their autonomy and a good quality of life in their old age.

Age-Friendly environments



The Right to the City

Ageist attitudes and age stereotypes affect the recognition of older persons' contributions to society.

“A city is a collective place which belongs to all its residents and which must offer the necessary conditions for a decent life from a social, political, cultural, economic and environmental point of view.” *Global Charter-Agenda for Human Rights in the City*

Age-friendly environments are essential to ensure that older urban dwellers enjoy the same rights as other age groups, i.e. benefit from the right conditions and opportunities to live decent lives.



The EU Urban Agenda

Key opportunity for cities to design their social and physical environments in a way that respect our rights as we grow older

→ Right to the City all along our life course

How to make the EU Urban Agenda's themes work for older persons?

- Demographic change has been identified as cross-cutting issue for the Agenda's themes
- All themes are relevant for older persons but AGE has identified 8 key ones



Key themes

- Inclusion of migrants and refugees
- Jobs and skills in the local community
- Urban poverty
- Housing
- Air quality
- Urban mobility
- Digital transition
- Innovative and responsible public procurement



Citizens' participation

Genuine citizens' participation will indeed help maximise the impact of the Agenda, notably by:



- Sharing evidence on grass roots level observations on obstacles, shortcomings, as well as the needs and wishes of the population
- Taking decisions on where the public money should be spent
- Sharing best practices and collect data

Breaking the silos

Demographic change impacts a large spectrum of fields, and is relevant for all themes.

The Urban Agenda rightly underlines the necessity to encourage horizontal and vertical cooperation:

- decision made in a field can affect other fields
- competences in the field of ageing are greatly shared among different levels of governance



What's next?

- June 2016: AGE's position paper on the EU Urban Agenda.
- November 2016: AGE's review of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing – notably commitments on independent living, mobility, housing and accessible built environments
- Active involvement in:
 - ✓ EU Covenant on Demographic Change
 - ✓ The EIP on Active and Healthy Ageing
 - ✓ The EIP on Smart Cities and Communities





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