

Bio-sketch of speakers and rapporteurs



Amal Abou Rafeh is the Chief of the Programme on Ageing Section at the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs in New York. She serves on the Secretariat of the General Assembly's Working Group for the purpose of strengthening the protection of the human rights of older persons. Amal is a member of the Steering Committee of the Titchfield City Group on Ageing-related Statistics and Age-disaggregated Data. She is also a member of the World Economic Forum's Global Future Council on Healthy Ageing and Longevity 2020-2021. Amal joined the United Nations in 2001, working in the areas of social policy, sustainable development and demography, and served on the Secretariats of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (2002) and the High-level Meeting on Youth (2011). She held positions in Beirut and New York. Before joining the United Nations, Amal lectured on analysis of social and demographic data. Amal was born in Riyadh, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and holds a Master of Science in Population Studies from the American University of Beirut.



Renata Bagatin had a career of 40 years with the Italian Union CGIL as Regional Chair (Segretaria Regionale), then as National Chair of Trade, Tourism and Service Workers. From 1999 to 2013 she was Regional Chair, then National Chair of the Pensioners Union (SPI CGIL). She also represented Italy in the Board of the European Federation of Pensioners (Fédération européenne des retraités et des personnes âgées – FERPA). In 2013 she was elected Regional Councillor of the Italian Region Friuli Venezia Giulia. For five years, she was Vice President of the Commission of Health, Social Services and Nutrition of the Regional Government. Among various other legislative proposals, she promoted the Regional Act 22/2014 on Active Ageing. To date, she continues to be an active pensioner.



Francesco Barbabella is a Sociologist working as Research Fellow at the Centre for Socio-Economic Research on Ageing (CRESI) at INRCA IRCCS, Ancona (Italy). He is also Researcher at the Department of Health and Caring Sciences at the Linnaeus University, Kalmar (Sweden). He has a long track of scientific publications, contributions to high-level policy briefs (published by WHO Europe and European Commission) and coordination of international research projects. His research interests focus on ageing, informal care, long-term care, digital health, and social policy issues.



Dr. Cristina Calvi, is a Sociologist of medicine with a second level master in Epidemiology. Currently she is working as Research Fellow at the Centre for Socio-Economic Research on Ageing (CRESI) at INRCA IRCCS, Ancona (Italy) and she is also collaborating with the Department of Law and Political, Economic and Social Sciences of the University of Eastern Piedmont (Italy) where she is involved in research projects in the field of health. Her main research interests focus on the medicalization of life, ageing, informal care, long-term care and coping strategies of patients and caregivers facing long-term illness. Dr. Calvi received her doctoral degree from University of Padua (Italy) and her second level master from University of Turin (Italy).



Sebastian Fischer lives in Scotland and contributes to the work of four carer organisations in Scotland, Germany and Europe:

VOCAL – Voice of Carers Across Lothian – www.vocal.org.uk. VOCAL is a carer-led carer support and advocacy organisation, supporting some 10,000 carers a year in and around Edinburgh;

Coalition of Carers in Scotland – www.carersnet.org. This Coalition brings together some 50 carer-led organisations in Scotland's cities, rural areas and islands to represent carers in national and local health and social care policy developments;

wir pflegen e.V. – Interessenvertretung und Selbsthilfe pflegender Angehöriger – www.wir-pflegen.net. *wir pflegen* is German's main carer-led advocacy and self-help agency and is developing carer representation at federal, Land and regional level;

EUROCARERS – www.eurocarers.org. Eurocarers is the European Carers Network based in Brussels.



Based in Ottawa Canada, **Margaret Gillis** is the founding President of the International Longevity Centre Canada, a human rights based organization and Co-President International Longevity Centre Global Alliance, which is an alliance of 16 Centres dedicated to the needs of older people. An award winning executive and innovative leader, Margaret played a key role in establishing the Age-friendly Community program in Canada and internationally. Other career highlights include a joint government-NGO project to protect seniors in disasters which was recognized by Her Majesty the Queen. Margaret has strong credentials in regard to human rights, working with and speaking at the UN General Assembly on behalf of older people and as Canadian Delegate to the Organization of American States, Institute for Children. She is currently the Chair of the National Advocacy Working Group at the Global Alliance on the Rights of Older Persons and has been actively working for a United Nations Convention on the Rights of Older Persons in Canada and internationally. With a background in health promotion, protection and programming, Margret is committed to improving the rights of older people.



Dr. Tiago Hashiguchi is a Health Policy Analyst at the Directorate for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development in Paris, France. His work at the OECD seeks to inform evidence-based policies to improve across various health-related areas, including financial social protection for long-term care in old age. Before joining the OECD, Tiago held research positions in London at Imperial Business Analytics with KPMG, and in Seattle at the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation. Tiago has a PhD in Health Management from Imperial College London and an MSc in Biomedical Engineering from the Technical University of Lisbon.



A cognitive neuroscientist by training, **Dr. Vijeth Iyengar** is Director of Global Aging at AARP where he leads cutting-edge research, drives thought leadership on global aging issues, and cultivates relationships and strategic alliances to promote AARP's vision in service of older adults everywhere. Prior to joining AARP, from 2016-2021, Dr. Iyengar served in a number of roles in the U.S. Federal Government including as Brain Health Lead and Technical Advisor to the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Aging, as a Policy Advisor to the 4th U.S. Chief Technology Officer at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, and as lead author of the 2018-2022 U.S. country report for the Fourth Review and Appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing. Dr. Iyengar has co-authored articles appearing in leading venues including the Bulletin of the World Health Organization, JAMA Health Forum, Pan American Journal of Public Health, Scientific American, STAT News, and the U.S. National Academy of Medicine. A native of Louisiana, he was a visiting undergraduate student at Cornell University, received his bachelor's degree from Tulane University, and received his masters and doctoral degrees from Duke University.



Giovanni Lamura leads the *Centre for Socio-Economic Research on Ageing* at IRCCS INRCA (Italy's National Institute of Health and Science on Ageing). He graduated in economics, achieved a PhD in *Life course and social policy* (University of Bremen, Germany), and was visiting fellow at University of Hamburg-Eppendorf (Germany) and the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy & Research (Austria). His interests focus on international research on family and long-term care; migrant care work; interdisciplinary research on ageing. He has led several European projects on long-term care issues, including the use of new technologies to support care delivery and reduce the burden of family carers.



Kai Leichsenring has been Executive Director of European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research in Vienna (Austria) since 2016. He holds a doctoral degree in Political Sciences from the University of Vienna. Over the past 30 years he has worked in designing, organising, and directing national and cross-national research and development projects in the field of social welfare and health research as well as in consultancy for national and international policy makers. He published a range of reports, articles and books, in particular on long-term care in Europe, integrating health and social care services for older persons, the use of small housing units for persons suffering from dementia, etc.



Dr. Heidrun Mollenkopf (*AGE Platform Europe, Civil Society representative to UNECE*) has been Vice-President of AGE Platform Europe until 2021 and Board Member of the German National Association of Senior Citizens' Organisations (BAGSO) since 2014. Between 2007 and 2014, Dr. Mollenkopf was member of the Expert Council of BAGSO and Chair of the “Universal Access and Independent Living” Expert Group of AGE Platform Europe.

Dr. Mollenkopf has a background in sociology and gerontology. She was Senior Researcher at the German Centre for Research on Ageing at the University of Heidelberg until she retired in December 2004. Her main research focus is the interplay among personal, societal, technical, and environmental conditions regarding maintaining autonomy and social participation and, by this, quality of life in old age. She has pursued this interest in several large-scale research projects on technology and ageing and on the outdoor mobility of older persons first at the University of Mannheim, then at the Social Science Research Center Berlin (WZB) and the Free University of Berlin, and finally at the German Centre for Research on Ageing.

She has published widely in the fields of ageing and technology, mobility, senior friendly neighbourhoods and quality of life of older people. In addition, Heidrun Mollenkopf worked as a lecturer at several universities in Germany and Switzerland.



Sergio Murillo Corzo is Minister for Social Action of the Government of Biscay. Previously, he has been for 6 years the Director-General for Personal Autonomy Promotion, in the Department for Social Action.

As Minister for Social Action of the Government of Biscay, he is responsible for the design, implementation and management of public policies addressed to children, older people and people with disabilities. Currently he is leading the Long Term Care transition plan in Biscay, as key issue for the quality and sustainability of present and future public care systems.

He holds a Bachelor in Economics and Business Administration from the University of Deusto (Bilbao), MSc in Management Development. He has a background in management of social and health service centres, education centres and auditing services.



Dario Paoletti, in the past was an IT Project Manager with long experience in business intelligence using IT tools to help companies to discover, identify and share the available data. He has been involved in training for many years and has specialized in adult life long learning. As a volunteer for about 20 years he has been involved in active aging, helping those who lose their jobs at senior age. In 2016 he became a professional counselor and is involved in social inclusion projects for poor families, Roma and immigrants. He has participated in many European projects also as a designer and is a member of two Age Platform Europe task forces concerning the work of senior people and well-being of the elderly. He is also currently organizing a social inclusion project for Ukrainian families. For about two years he is promoting social innovation, ecological responsibility and energy communities in small municipalities.



Andrea Principi is a social gerontologist at the Italian National Institute of Ageing (IRCCS INRCA). His research interests concern active ageing, including work in older age and the retirement transition; reconciliation between work and informal family care; volunteering; education in older age; grandparenting and informal family care to older relatives. He has participated in several European projects and published numerous scientific articles on these issues.



Lucie Vidovičová, PhD. is a sociologist and social gerontologist. Her research interests include sociology of ageing, gerotechnology, active ageing, ageism and social exclusion. She is also involved in research projects in the field of the environmental gerontology, social policy, labour market, family, lifelong learning. She conducts research for national as well as European bodies and works as a consultant on a number of implementation projects. Lucie also cooperates with different governmental and NGO bodies in the field of senior advocacy. She was part of the UNECE Task Force for Ageing-related statistics and serves as a Vice-president on the Executive Committee of RC 11 Sociology of Aging at the International Sociological Association. Recent projects she has been involved in focused on age discrimination, ageing in big cities and in rural areas, the issue of role overload in later life, social exclusion from social relationships, the use of humanoid robots for the active ageing community programmes and elder abuse and neglect. She is a part of the expert advisory group of the Minister for Labour and Social Affairs of the Czech Republic since 2022.



Ina Voelcker is the Head of the Secretariat for International Policy on Ageing at BAGSO, the German National Association of Senior Citizens' Organisations. She coordinates BAGSO's international work which involves representing older persons' interests in international policy debates and fostering the exchange of older people's organisations from various countries. Before joining BAGSO, Ina Voelcker was technical director at the International Longevity Centre Brazil based in Rio de Janeiro, where she coordinated the implementation of the Age-Friendly Cities project of the WHO in some Brazilian cities. From 2009 to 2012 she worked at HelpAge International, responsible for producing "Ageing in the Twenty-First Century", a joint report with UNFPA. She is gerontologist and holds a Master's degree in Public Policy and Ageing from King's College London.
e-mail: voelcker@bagso.de



Barbro Westerholm is a Medical Doctor and Professor Emeritus of drug epidemiology at Karolinska University. Barbro has been Director General at the National Board of Health and Welfare, Medical Director at the National Corporation of Pharmacies, and Chairperson of the Swedish Association of Senior Citizens. She is now a Member of the Swedish Parliament (Liberal Party) and a Health Expert of Age Platform Europe.



Eszter Zólyomi is a researcher at the European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research in Vienna (since 2007). She has 15 years of professional experience in comparative research on social and gender inequalities and social inclusion of vulnerable groups. Between 2008 and 2012, she was a coordinator of the “Mainstreaming ageing: Indicators to monitor Implementation” project that provided scientific and technical assistance for the monitoring of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing within the UNECE region, and she was part of the 2012 European Commission/UNECE/European Centre joint research project on developing the Active Ageing Index. She is currently involved in the EU Gender ERA-Net funded transnational research project “FUTUREGEN” which seeks to understand how gender inequalities in health and care evolve across generations and to assess possible gender biases in current health and care indicators. She has been a member of the UNECE (Standing) Working Group on Ageing since 2008.