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CONFERENCIA INAUGURAL

**COMUNIDADES Y COVID-19:
DESARROLLO DE UNA PLAN DE
RECUPERACIÓN AMIGABLE CON LA EDAD**

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#EusLagunkoiaBBPP20

***Communities and COVID-19:
Developing an "Age-Friendly"
recovery plan***

***IV Conference: European Good
Practices in Friendliness Covid-19***

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TOPICS COVERED

- **Background to debate on age-friendly communities**
- **Policy debates influencing urban agenda on age-friendly issues**
- **Achievements of the age-friendly movement**
- **Covid-19 and challenges for the age-friendly movement**
- **Developing age-friendly recovering planning**
- **Questions for the age-friendly movement**

**Policy
debates
influencing
agenda on
age-friendly
issues**

- **‘Sustainable Cities’**
How can urban development meet the needs of *current and future generations*?
- **‘Harmonious Cities’ (UN-Habitat)**
How can we achieve *social justice* in the city?
- **‘Unequal Cities’**
How can we reduce the *health and income gap* between neighbourhoods?
- **Lifetime homes and neighbourhoods**
How can we best support *‘ageing in place’*?

Achievements of age- friendly movement

- **Greater recognition in regional planning of the implications of population ageing**
- **The development of organisations and networks at regional and local government levels**
- **Interventions supporting the empowerment of older people at a neighbourhood-level**
- **Campaigns around ageism and inter-generational solidarity**

Covid-19 is raising a significant challenge for the age-friendly movement

- Evidence for increasing **inequality** between poorer and wealthier neighbourhoods – in England people in poorest communities **dying at twice** the rate of Covid-19 as those in richer areas (ONS, 2020)
- **Austerity policies** following 2008 financial crisis cut many of the key services necessary for tackling the pandemic (health personnel, public health, nursing home care)
- Rise of **ageism and discrimination** against older people (García-Soler et al., 2020; Ayalon et al., 2020)
- Rise of **violence against women** by male partners (United Nations, 2020)

**Developing
age-friendly
recovering
planning**

- 1. Develop community support**
- 2. Combatting ageism & discrimination**
- 3. Developing an age-friendly strategy for nursing and residential homes**
- 4. Planning for the future**

Community Interventions

- **Extra funding is needed** for the poorest communities to combat the effects of Covid-19
- **Develop new models of neighbourhood working** which strengthen *collective organisation* at a local level e.g. food and energy co-operatives
- **Supporting co-research** by older people to identify issues and concerns within their community
- **Develop community leadership** bringing together different generations
- **In urban areas, strengthen ties between ‘anchor institutions’** (e.g. universities) and low income neighbourhoods

Combatting ageism & discrimination

- Rise of **ageism** with Covid-19 with older people presented as a 'burden' & 'cost' to society
- Pandemic has increased difficulties of those in **minority & LGBTQ communities**
 - Age-friendly movement needs to link with **equalities organisations** to ensure Covid-19 recovery programmes respond to intersecting issues of **ageism, racism, & sexism**
 - **Elder abuse** needs to be have more prominent focus in age friendly work – prevalence may be increasing given pressures on families and communities
 - Extend existing work strengthening **inter-generational ties**

Develop an age-friendly strategy for nursing & residential care

- **30 – 40% of deaths have occurred in residential and nursing homes in many European countries**
 - Need to **incorporate care homes** into age-friendly planning and activities
 - Need to develop **new models of residential care** (especially for those diagnosed with dementia)
 - **Transform pay and conditions** of those working in care homes
 - Protection of **human rights** of residents of care homes (Amnesty International, 2020)

Planning for the future

- Need an age-friendly strategy which responds to the likely medium-term **continuation of social distancing**
- Age-friendly movements will need to **collaborate with other organisations** working on 'healthy cities', 'smart cities', and climate change
- **New inequalities** may emerge as Covid-19 continues (e.g. *digital exclusion*)
- **New solidarities** may also emerge (e.g. *rise of mutual aid, co-operatives, improved cohesion within neighbourhoods*)
- **Developing research collaborations**

Questions for the age- friendly movement

- **Questions raised by the age-friendly debate:**
 - Can the age-friendly movement be part of the drive to address issues of inequalities in social **justice and rights** affecting urban life?
 - Post-Covid: can older people play a bigger role in the **future planning of cities and regions** and the communities within them?
 - Can the age-friendly movement play a leadership role in challenging the impact of **ageism**, in bringing different generations together?
 - Can the age-friendly movement contribute to the debate about what kind of post-Covid society we want to **re-build** or **'recover'**?

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