IN LATVIA

Opening of European Year (2012)

The Minister of Welfare, Ilze Vi ele, opened European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations (2012) on February 3, 2012. Head of European Commission Mission in Latvia, Inna Šteinbuka, also delivered a speech. Coordinator of European Year (2012) informed about the objectives, proposed priorities and planned events of European Year (2012).

Goodwill Ambassadors

Those present in the opening of European Year (2012) got acquainted with Goodwill Ambassadors who have undertaken to share their experience and knowledge about active and healthy lifestyle and with their work, opinion and activity would try to promote positive, coordinated and respectful relationships between both generations throughout this year.

Goodwill Ambassadors of European Year (2012) are:
- Professor and doctor of Riga Stradins University - gastroenterologist **Anatolijs Danil ns**
- Managing director of folk dance ensemble "Zeltasieti š",**Baiba RasmaŠteina**
- Musician **K rlis B meisters**
- Chief conductor of Song Festival, choir conductor **Edgars Ra evskis**
- Actress from Liepaja Theatre, **Inese Ku inska**
- Ventspils Centre Primary School **Boys Choir** and its soloist **Miks Laksbergs**
- **Inese Zi   te** who is popular in Latvia with her life story revealing that with determination and pertinacity one can overcome any seemingly hopeless situation.

Work programme or schedule of events is elaborated for implementing the European Year (2012). The objective of this year and its priorities and events are set

forth in this program. There are 4 priorities set forth in Latvia: (1) Intergeneration cooperation; (2) Raising the value of elderly people in society; (3) Reduction of discrimination in the labour market; (4) Promotion of active and healthy lifestyle. There are 50 activities planned together that will be implemented by state and municipal authorities as well as non-governmental organizations. You can find the program here:http://www.lm.gov.lv/text/2124.

☞ If the planned event of your establishment or organization complies with the objectives and priorities of European Year (2012) and you want that other cooperation partners and European Union member states find out about your activity you can use the logo of European Year (2012) by contacting the Equal Opportunities Policy Department of the Ministry of Welfare (Evija K la, ☎ 67021684; ✉Evija.Kula@lm.gov.lv).

Our **cooperation partners** of European Year (2012) have **carried out several activities** since January.

- European Commission Mission in EU house coordinated topical monthly events: January was devoted to European Year (2012), February - to employment;
- Riga Active Seniors Alliance (RASA) organized training about *skype* software for seniors within the framework of monthly events in January at EU house as well as organized the event "Granny's contact exchange".

Planned events for February - March

On February 29, 2012, the Ministry of Welfare will host the *sitting of management committee* of the second European Year (2012). Agenda and protocol of the first meeting available here:http://www.lm.gov.lv/text/2127.

Topical month in EU house in **March** is devoted to social inclusion, discrimination reduction and gender equality topics.

From March 1, 2012, to November adults can participate in *pole walking classes* under supervision of certified instructor in all Riga Social Service day centres free of charge. Additional information here:

http://www.ld.riga.lv/aktuala_informacija.html.

On March 23, 2012, the Ministry of Welfare is organizing a *conference* to discuss, share experience and inform about good practice and promoting a good-quality life. Within the framework of conference it is planned to open *two competitions: for entrepreneurs and journalists* mainly focusing on breaking the stereotypes and forming a positive image of senior.

Within the framework of European Crafts Day **on March 30, 31 and April 1, 2012,** an event *"Meet your master!"* is being organized. During this event Masters who are skilled and practice various manifestations of immaterial culture heritage (oral traditions, plays and customs, rituals and celebrations, traditional crafts skills) will organize public workshops, individual classes, demonstration lessons as well as organise public talks and discussions in counties of Latvia. This event is going to foster the handover of knowledge and skills by creating a positive communication between the youngest and the oldest generation. Additional information here:

http://www.knmc.gov.lv/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=703&Itemid=1.

IN EUROPEAN UNION

Opening of European Year (2012) in EU

The opening ceremony of European Year (2012) in European Union took place from October 18-19 in Copenhagen (Denmark). Presentations on three bodies of questions were performed during the opening ceremony:

1. Identification of the situation - challenges and opportunities.
2. Long and healthy life - in labour market and afterwards.
3. Provision of rights and participation - new ways to inclusive society with active, independent and capable seniors.

Agenda and presentations of the opening ceremony available here:

Opening ceremony of European Year (2012) **in January/February has taken place/will take place** in Denmark, Luxembourg, Norway, Latvia, Germany, Slovakia, Poland, Sweden, Ireland, Estonia, Slovenia, Lithuania, Austria, Czech Republic, Cyprus, France, Portugal, Romania and Spain. Opening ceremony *in March is planned to take place* in Finland, Greece, Hungary, Malta, Italy, Bulgaria, United Kingdom and Netherlands.

Created home pages

Some member states have created home pages especially for European Year (20

Austria http://www.aktivaltern2012.at/

Norway http://www.seniorpolitikk.no/european-year-2012
Denmark http://www.aktivaldring2012.dk/

Finland http://www.ttl.fi/partner/aktiivinen_ikaantyminen/sivut/default.aspx

Poland http://analizy.mpips.gov.pl/

Home page on healthy ageing!

EuroHealthNet has created a home page www.healthyageing.eu featuring the information about health promoting practical activities - physical activities, diets, social relationships etc.

Publications

In order to find out the opinions and attitude of EU residents towards seniors, the contribution of the oldest generation in labour market and society as well as towards ways to better promote seniors' active role of seniors in society, Eurobarometer carried out a poll about active ageing from September to November 2011 Report and summary is available here:

http://europa.eu/rapid/pressReleasesAction.do?reference=IP/12/16&format=HTML&aged=0&language=EN&guiLanguage=en

On January 17, 2012, EuroHealthNet in cooperation with Federal Centre for Health Education published a report "Healthy and Active Ageing" where the good practices and other resources are included that are aimed at maintaining and promoting "new" seniors' health and welfare paying a special attention to socially excluded groups of inhabitants and migrants.

Report in English is available here:

Taking in consideration the trends of ageing society and further challenges in various fields of politics, „A Road Map for European Ageing Research" has been elaborated within the framework of project FUTURAGE.

Roadmap is available here: http://www.futurage.group.shef.ac.uk/raod-map.html

7 main research priorities in the field of ageing are put forward in Roadmap:

①Healthy ageing for longer life.

② Maintaining and recovering of intellectual abilities.

③Inclusion and participation in community and labour market.

④Provision of quality and sustainability of social protection systems.

⑤Favourable conditions for ageing at home and in the environment of community.