



**Gender and health impacts of policies to extend working life  
in western countries**

***Genderewl IS1409 COST Action***

***Policy Event***

***European Parliament***

Bât. Altiero Spinelli  
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Belgium



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## Welcome

I'd like to extend a very warm welcome to all participants and attendees to our Policy Event at the European Parliament. The purpose of the event is to highlight the policy messages that represent the culmination of four years' collaborative research into the gender and health implications of policies designed to extend working life. Our COST Action research network has 140 members from 34 countries across Europe and beyond from a range of disciplines including social policy, sociology, business, gender, economics and health and population research.

We have an exciting programme planned, starting with brief introductory remarks from the Vice President of the European Parliament, Mairead Mc Guinness, MEP, Mr Lambert van Nistlerooij, MEP, Chair of the Subgroup on Active Ageing, European Parliament and Ronald De Bruin, Director of COST.

Next we have a presentation of six policy briefs by the leaders of Working Group 4 on Policy Toolkits, Dr Jonas Radl and Dr Nata Duvvury. The briefs are on Age Management (2), health, employment and care, inclusion and gender, pensions and pension planning and were developed by members of Working Group 4. This is followed by a policy roundtable involving European policy-makers and stakeholders affected by Extended Working Life from a gender and age perspective. Each roundtable participant will speak briefly on Extended Working Life policy from the perspective of their organisation and there will be time for questions and discussion. Then, we will have policy messages from 18 countries in our Action, highlighting the key policy priorities related to Extended Working Life in each country. Finally, the Action Chair will close the event, discussing future policy needs.

I would like to thank Mr Van Nistlerooij and his team, especially Thijs Jacob at the Intergroup for Active Ageing, Intergenerational Solidarity and Family Policies for hosting the event here at the European Parliament. I would also like to thank Mairead Mc Guinness MEP for opening and supporting the event. Thanks are also due to Dr Ronald de Bruin and to the COST Association for their financial support for this event and for the Action over the past four years. Last but not least, the members of the Action deserve congratulations for their hard work, which has already resulted in a collaborative book, published in 2017 and several joint articles in peer-reviewed journals, working papers, a video and a series of policy briefs and country reports. A major book on extended working life policy involving chapters from all 34 countries is due to be published later this year.

I hope you will both enjoy and learn from the event. Please feel free to take a pack with our policy briefs which are available at the event and on our website.

Áine Ní Léime - Chair  
COST ACTION IS1409

## Biographies

### Dr Ronald de Bruin



Dr Ronald de Bruin was appointed Director of the COST Association on 1 June 2016. Before joining the Association, Ronald was Director of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) and Head of Department of the European Network and Information Security Agency (ENISA). For almost eight years, he played a key role in managing and setting up these European Union agencies from scratch. Prior to this, he was Deputy Director of a public-private partnership platform for the Information Society in the Netherlands for over three years. His main responsibilities included drafting the annual work programs including public-private partnership projects, managing the implementation of national multi-stakeholder projects, and coordinating EU-funded projects. For almost three years, he worked for a global COM company with top-100 clients. During his one-year stay as manager at KPMG, he worked on developing e-security services for the growing e-commerce market. He started his career as Policy Advisor for the Dutch national government, where, for three years, he was responsible for developing a national policy on e-security services, and scenarios for introducing digital TV. He is Ambassador to Brussels for the Greenleaf Center for Servant Leadership Europe and Founding Director of the Greenleaf Center in Brussels. Dr De Bruin has also authored several books on servant-leadership, digital television, online consumer trust and computer security. He holds a Ph.D. in Law and Computer Science, an M.Sc. in Technology Management and a B.Sc. in Electronic Engineering.

### Lambert van Nistelrooij



Lambert graduated cum laude in social geography from the Catholic University in Nijmegen. At the age of 24, he started as a member of the municipal council. From 1982 to 2004 Lambert was a member of the Provinciale en Gedeputeerde Staten in the Dutch region of Noord-Brabant. Lambert has been a Member of the European Parliament since 2004. As a member of the Dutch political party CDA, he is a MEP for the European People's Party. As an MEP, he has focused on regional policy, research, innovation, energy and the Digital Agenda. Currently, he is EPP Coordinator of the Committee on Regional Development and a substitute Member of the Committee on the Internal Market and Consumer Protection. He is Co-Chair of the Intergroup on Active Ageing, Intergenerational Solidarity and Family Policies.

## **Mairead McGuinness**



Mairead McGuinness MEP is First Vice-President of the European Parliament and represents the Midlands-North-West constituency. As First Vice-President, she oversees relations with EU national parliaments and has responsibility for Parliament's dialogue with religious and non-confessional organisations. Mairead is a member of the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee and has championed legislation on fairness in the food supply chain. As a member of the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety Committee she has worked on a number of important files, including revision of Medical Devices legislation.

Mairead is also a member of the Constitutional Affairs Committee, the Parliament's lead committee on the ratification of the Brexit agreement.

## **Nata Duvvury**



Nata Duvvury is Senior Lecturer and Director, Center for Global Women's Studies and Leader of Gender and Public Policy Cluster in the Whitaker Institute at National University of Ireland, Galway. She is also the Leader for Working Group 4 on Policy Toolkits for the COST Action on Gender and Health Impacts of Extended Working Life in Western Europe. Dr. Nata Duvvury is an international development expert with more than 30 years of experience in gender, development and empowerment. Her work includes research and advocacy on gender-based violence, women's property rights, and gender and pensions in a variety of settings including

conflict and post-conflict contexts. She has several peer reviewed journal articles, book chapters and research reports on these themes.

## **Jonas Radl**



Jonas Radl is Associate Professor of Sociology and "Ramón y Cajal" Fellow at the Department of Social Sciences of Universidad Carlos III de Madrid as well as member of the Carlos III-Juan March Institute of Social Sciences (IC3JM). Since March 2018, he is the Principal Investigator of the research project "Effort and Social Inequality" (EFFORT), funded by a Starting Grant by the European Research Council, and he leads a Research Group at the WZB Berlin Social Science Center related to this interdisciplinary project. His research focuses on the relationship

between social stratification and the life course. Representing the Spanish State Research Agency (AEI), Jonas Radl is also a member of the Network Board of the transnational funders network NORFACE and of the General Assembly of the Joint Programming Initiative "More Years Better Lives". Since 2019 he is member of the Global Young Academy (GYA). Within the GenderEWL COST Action, he is the Co-leader of Working Group 4 on Policy Tool Kits.

## Patricia Vendramin



Patricia Vendramin is Professor of Sociology at the University of Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium. She is also Director of the Open Faculty in Social and Economic Policies (FOPES) and head of the Labour-University Chair, both at the University of Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium. Her research interests relate to work and employment issues

## Nathalie Burnay



Nathalie Burnay is Professor in Sociology at the University of Namur and at the University of Louvain since 2008. Her main research focuses on the evolution of social policies and changes in working conditions in a perspective of extending working life. She is the author of several publications in the field:

SANDERSON J.P., BURNAY N., Life course and ends of career: Towards de-standardization? An analysis of the Belgian case, *Journal of Population Ageing*, vol 9, 1-2, 2016, pp.1-16, DOI 10.1007/s12062-016- 9147-1.

BURNAY N., HUMMEL C. (Eds), *Vieillessement et classes sociales*, Bern, Peter Lang, collection Population, famille et société, n°27, 2017.

BURNAY N., HUMMEL C., VOLERY I., The Kaleidoscope of the Sociology of Aging Seen through the French-speaking Field, *The American Sociologist*, vol. 48, n°3-4, 342-365, 2017.

BURNAY N., Belgian temporary workers at end of career: An intersectional analysis of life course, *Ageing and Society*, first view 30/10/2018.

She is a member of COST Action IS1409, Gender, Health and Extended Working Life in Western Countries. She is also a member of the Executive Board of the *Association Internationale des Sociologues de Langue Française* (AISLF) since 2016 and co-director of the Research Committee on “Life Course and Ageing” of AISLF.

## Katarina Ivanković Knežević



Since September 2018 Katarina Ivanković Knežević is a Director for Social Affairs in the Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion. Her area of activity is modernisation of social protection systems and wider social policies fostering social and labour market inclusion, through the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and other relevant social policies of the European Union. Before the European Commission she was a State Secretary in the Ministry of Labour and the Pension System of the Republic of Croatia, in which she was responsible for the management and implementation of the European Social Fund and other EU instruments aiming at human resources development. For the last 20 years her professional interests are human

rights and gender equality, social policy and employment with particular accent to the labour market policies.

## Virginija Langbakk



Virginija Langbakk is currently the Director of the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) in Vilnius, Lithuania. EIGE is a regulatory agency of the European Union. It supports the EU and its Member States in promoting gender equality, fighting discrimination based on sex and raising awareness about gender issues. Previously, Ms Langbakk worked as Deputy Director at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Sweden. In her capacity as a gender expert, she has been involved in bringing the gender perspective into the public sector at local, regional and national levels in numerous countries worldwide. At the helm of the European Institute for Gender Equality since 2009, she is responsible for the management of both the administrative and operational structures. Her leading role includes developing and implementing the Institute's strategic programmes of activities and budgets. She aims at positioning the Institute as the most important knowledge centre for gender equality in the EU

## Philippe Seidel Leroy



Philippe Seidel Leroy is responsible for AGE Platform Europe's policy activities in the fields of employment of older workers and social protection, as well as gender equality. He coordinates AGE members' work in these fields, and their monitoring of the European Semester process. He also coordinates AGE's relations with the European Parliament and the EP Intergroup subgroup on Active Ageing and Solidarity Between Generations. His prior experiences were in the field of childrens' rights and migration. He holds MScs in Human Rights and in Political Science. AGE Platform Europe is Europe largest network of organisation of and for older persons.

## Dr. Alexandre Sidorenko



Dr. Alexandre Sidorenko is an expert on national and international policy on ageing. His current assignments and duties: Senior Advisor, European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research (Vienna, Austria); Member, HelpAge International Board of Trustees (London, United Kingdom); Member, Societal Advisory Board for the Joint Programming Initiative More years, better lives (European Union); International Tutor, International Institute on Ageing (United Nations-Malta). He is involved in providing advisory services to the Central European, Eastern European and Central Asian countries in developing and implementing national policy on ageing, including organizing and conducting training programmes. Previously, he served as the Chief of the Population Unit, United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (Geneva, Switzerland, 2010); Head of the United Nations Programme on Ageing (Vienna – New York, 1988-2009). Within the United Nations, he acted as Coordinator of the International Year of Older Persons (1999). He also coordinated substantive preparations of the Second World Assembly on Ageing, including drafting

the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, and the global follow-up activities of the Assembly.

### **Professor Debra Street**



Debra Street is *Professor of Sociology at the State University of New York at Buffalo, USA*. Debra is author of 80+ articles, chapters, and working papers; a monograph; and co-editor of three books, Street researches the challenges of aging societies, particularly health and income security over the life course. She is a Fellow of the Gerontological Society of America, the National Academy of Social Insurance, former Senior Research Fellow at King's College, London and recipient of the UB Gender Institute Janice L. Moritz Distinguished Lecturer award. Street's research has been funded by the National Science Foundation, the National Institute on Aging, the

International Council for Canadian Studies, and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. Professor Street is also an award-winning teacher, the recipient of the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching and the Outstanding Contributions to International Education from the Council on International Studies and Programs award.

### **Dr. Áine Ní Léime**



Dr. Áine Ní Léime is Deputy Director, Irish Centre for Social Gerontology, National University of Ireland, Galway; Chairperson of COST Action IS1409. Áine is Chair of COST Action IS1409 a research network entitled, Gender and Health Implications of Extended Working Life Policies with 140 researchers from 34 countries in Europe and beyond. Aine has been Principal Investigator on cross-national projects funded by CARDI and by the European Union under Framework Programme 7 and is recipient of a Marie Curie International Outgoing Fellowship. Her recent research has focused on

gender, older workers and extended working life using a lifecourse perspective. Her current project is Dynamics of Accumulated Inequalities for Senior in Employment (DAISIE) a three year cross-national project, funded by NORFACE involving researchers from Sweden, Switzerland, the Czech Republic and the UK. Her most recent publication is: Ní Léime, Á, & Street, D. (2018). Working later in the USA and Ireland: Implications for precariously and securely employed women. *Ageing & Society*, 1-25. doi:10.1017/S0144686X18000508

## Policy Seminar Schedule

- 2.00                      Tea/Coffee with light snacks
- 2.00                      *Opening: Director of the COST Association, Ronald de Bruin*
- 2.05                      *Welcome address:*
- Mr Lambert van Nistelrooij** Chair of Intergroup on Active Ageing
- Mairead McGuinness** - Vice President of the European Parliament.
- 2.15                      *Policy Session - Policy Briefs*  
                              Chaired /introduced by: Dr. Áine Ní Léime, NUI Galway, Ireland.
- Introduction - Dr. Nata Duvvury, NUI Galway, Ireland / Prof. Jonas Radl, Carlos III University of Madrid, Spain*
- 2.30                      *Policy Roundtable:*
- Chaired /introduced by:  
                              Prof. Nathalie Burnay, University of Namur/University of Louvain, Belgium  
                              Prof. Patricia Vendramin, University of Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium
- Panel & Discussion*
- Katarina Ivankovic-Knezevic,  
Director for Social Affairs within DG EMPL
  - Virginija Langbakk  
Director, European Institute for Gender Equality
  - Phillippe Seidel - Policy and EP Liaison Officer, Age Platform
  - Alexandre Siderenko, Senior Advisor,  
European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research, and former Head of UN Programme on Ageing
- 3.10                      *Country Reports - 18 Countries*  
                              Chaired by Prof. Debra Street, University of New York at Buffalo, U.S.A.
- 3.50                      Wrap up and Close: Where to? Future  
                              Action Chair – Dr. Áine Ní Léime, NUI Galway, Ireland.





## Country Policy Messages

1. Albania- Merita Xhumari
2. Austria – Mischa Gstrein
3. Belgium- Patricia Vendramin/Nathalie Burnay
4. Bulgaria- Kamellia Lillova
5. Croatia- Maja Vehovec/Siniša Zrinščak
6. Czech Republic – Martina Rasticova
7. France - Julie Rochut, Jim Ogg
8. Germany - Laura Romeu Gordo
9. Ireland – Dinali Wijeratne
10. Italy- Chiara Ardito
11. Poland- Ilona Matysiak
12. Portugal - Rita Néves
13. Romania- Daniela –Tatiana Soitu
14. Sweden- Clary Krekula
15. Spain- Juan Manuel García González
16. Slovakia- Anna Pilkova
17. Serbia- Mihajlo (Michael) Jakovljevic
18. United Kingdom- Daniel Holman