

PANEL AND FISHBOWL DISCUSSION

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Democracy and Ageing

Results from the Thematic Tables
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A central insight from our table was that ageing is experienced in very different ways, including from one country to another. Participants from Romania, Slovakia, Serbia and Germany asked whether the phase of “active ageing” is understood in the same way throughout Europe.

We agreed that ageing does not mean only weakness and a need for support. Older people possess skills, experience and resources that they can contribute to society and that society should recognise and use.

Education, advice and support empower older people and enable them to engage in society and democracy. At the same time, opportunities must be accessible and open to all older people. No one should be left behind.

Another topic was the provision of essential public services and good local living conditions. Municipalities and public administrations cannot handle this task alone. Civil society and municipalities must work hand in hand. Civil-society organisations themselves need support, guidance and empowerment.

Finally, we need places where people can live democracy together across generations. The open question was what motivates younger and older people equally to come together. We need to continue thinking about this. It is therefore especially encouraging to see so many young people here today, and it is important that their voices are heard just as much as those of older participants.

Editorial note: This contribution was corrected and edited on the basis of an automatically generated transcript. Obvious recognition errors, technical interruptions, repetitions and purely organisational remarks were removed. The substance of the contribution has been preserved.