



2012: European year of active ageing

Article

Europeans are living longer but are having fewer children and by 2060 there will be only two working adults for every person over 65, compared with four now. The 2012 European year of active ageing and solidarity between generations aims to raise awareness about the rapidly ageing EU population, promote an age-friendly environment and find new solutions to turn ageing into an opportunity.

Old age is often associated with illness, dependency and exclusion from employment, family and society, but with the number of over-60s rising by 2 million a year in the EU and an increasingly healthy older generation, the European year aims to change this mentality and help develop an active ageing culture.

"Active ageing can be successful only in a society built on solidarity and cooperation between generations," said German Christian Democrat **Martin Kastler**, who drafted a report on the year. "Maintaining vitality, respecting dignity, enhancing involvement in society as well as volunteering...and removing barriers between generations are the main aims of the European Year."

A raft of different activities are being organised from age-friendly sports clubs to projects bringing young children and seniors together. Click below to find out what events are being organised near you.

European Year

The European Year was launched in 1983 and seeks to raise awareness about major issues and the best ways of dealing with them.

Ageing population*

- 17.4% of EU population over 65 in 2010 vs 13.7% in 1990
- 30% over 65 by 2060
- percentage over 80 seen rising fourfold by 2060 vs 1990
- *source: European Commission Third Demography Report (April 2011)