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Women's career for a lifetime SESSION (NO. 5)

in partnership with

Association for Women's Career Development in Hungary (AWCDH)/1

International Cooperations of the Association for Women's Career Development in Hungary (AWCDH)

**AWCDH's participation in research within the frameworks of COST
Actions in the field of Ageing**

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Background

Demographic change affects almost all spheres of society, so we consider it one of our priorities to deal with the situation of older women, the largest and fastest growing group within the world's population, including Hungary.

According to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs women comprise 54 percent of those aged over 60 globally, rising to 62 percent of those aged over 80 years.

Generally, women live longer than men by an average of five years, but not all are living their later lives in good health and adequately resourced.

We have been drawing attention to this significant group, who have fewer sufficient self-advocacy skills, within the framework of our awareness raising program in Hungary as well as internationally.

“Women’s Career for a Lifetime” Program – since 2009

The aim of the "Women’s Career for a Lifetime” awareness-raising program is to give women 55 and over the chance to participate in the workforce, share their experiences and participate in lifelong learning, to develop their skills, including digital skills, and to continue playing an active role in society, including volunteer work, and to prepare consciously for longer, healthier and more meaningful lives.

Our mission

At the AWCDH we know that we must do our utmost to enhance the lives of women over 55, not only with respect to employment, but other fields as well, such as lifelong learning, including digital skill building, knowledge transfer, health, elder abuse and neglect, human rights, cyber security, life in rural environments, art, culture, business and social services as well as the media.

It is our aim to draw the attention of decision makers, stakeholders and various social groups to aspects of active ageing and its social benefits.

Our Cooperation with International Organizations

In recognition of our initiative, the “Women’s Career for a Lifetime” program and our activities in this field, we have received the opportunity to participate in international expert teams in the UN and the European Union working for the rights and empowerment of older women.

For the past fifteen years we have participated as experts and speech holders in conferences to help advancing the cause of 55-plus women in the labor market both as employees as well as entrepreneurs, in lifelong learning, the digital world, and enhancing awareness of the situation of the "sandwich generation”, ageism and the role of the media.

In order to achieve our aims, we work closely together with the following organizations: In the EU: Age Platform Europe, Older Women's Network Europe, BAGSO, and, in the UN: International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA), NGO Committee on Ageing, Geneva, AARP, etc.

Our cooperation in the UN with the organization INPEA – International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse

At the United Nations we have been working together with INPEA since 2012 on ageing issues mainly in the interest of older women. Thanks to our „consultative status with the Economic and Social Council” we may submit written statements for sessions, participate in events and organize parallel events.

We have signed a joint Written Statement for the Commission on the Status of Women – 69th session, which was officially submitted by INPEA on October 10, 2022.

The last paragraph of our Written Statement sounds like this:

“The way forward

Member States must ensure, in the context of Beijing +30, the equal rights of all women and girls across the life-course in line with the universal principles and standards of international human rights obligations. Older women must be better protected by human rights-based legislation and policies that have a life-course perspective, are age inclusive, tackle ageism and address older women's rights and needs. The human rights of older women must be fully protected.”

We also plan to organize a joint parallel event at the NGO Forum of CSW69 within the frameworks of our “Women's Career for a Lifetime” Program.

At the CSW69 / Beijing+30 (2025) the global community will mark the 30 th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995).

Our Participation in COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) Actions

Through our participation in research projects (funded by the EU Erasmus+ Grant and the Visegrad Fund) as well as our initiatives the “Best Workplace for Women” surveys (since 2007) and the “Women's Career for a Lifetime” awareness raising program (since 2009) we have gained knowledge, experiences and an international network enabling us to participate in international scientific cooperations. Our tasks: as an NGO are representing the gender

dimension, the situation of 55+ women in various fields of aging, coordination with target groups and stakeholders, country reports and comparisons, utilizing the research results, meetings in Budapest, dissemination through our international collaborations in the UN, in the EU and in Hungary.

At the moment we participate in 4 COST Actions:

CA22167 2023-2027 Participatory Approaches with Older Adults (PAAR-net)

CA22120 2023-2027 Network to leverage the Multi-Age Workforce” (LEVERAGE)

CA21107 2022-2026 Work inequalities in later life redefined by digitalization (DIGI-net)

CA19136 2020-2024 International Interdisciplinary Network on Health and Wellbeing in an Age-friendly Digital World. (NET4AGE-FRIENDLY).