

# Background Information SOAB

Document containing information on background and expertise of organisations being part of the JPI  
MYBL's Societal Advisory Board, including contact details.

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## AGE Platform Europe

AGE Platform Europe is a European network of non-profit organisations of and for people aged 50+, which aims to voice and promote the interests of the 200 million citizens aged 50+ in the European Union and to raise awareness on the issues that concern them most.

Our work focuses on a wide range of policy areas that impact on older and retired people. These include issues of anti-discrimination, employment of older workers and active ageing, social protection, pension reforms, social inclusion, health, elder abuse, intergenerational solidarity, research, accessibility of public transport and of the build environment, and new technologies (ICT).

We seek to give a voice to older and retired people in the EU policy debates, through the active participation of their representative organisations at EU, national, regional and local levels, and provides a European platform for the exchange of experience and best practices. We furthermore inform older people on their rights as EU citizen or resident and on EU policy making processes and recent EU policy development.

Through our involvement in several EU projects, we also seek to promote older people's participation in the development of projects and devices intended for them ('user involvement').

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## Confederation of Family Organisations in the European Union (COFACE)

COFACE Families Europe is a pluralistic network of civil society associations representing the interests of all families.

COFACE Families Europe promotes the well-being, health and security of families and their members in a changing society and serve as a trusted entity for family mainstreaming and for the voice/needs of families in the EU and beyond.

COFACE's focus is essentially on policies and legislation that impact the lives of children and families, in particular in the fields of social protection and inclusion, safeguarding the rights of disabled and dependent persons, prevention and fighting child poverty, reconciling family and work life, migration, inclusive education and early childhood education and care, parenting support services to families, information and communications technologies, health and consumer policies and other relevant policy areas.

COFACE Families Europe advocates for policies of non-discrimination and equal opportunities between persons and between family forms, and specifically supports policies aimed at increasing equality between women and men, with a special focus on reconciliation between work, care and family life.

COFACE was originally founded in 1958 as the European Action Committee of the International Union of Family Organizations. Over time, it gained more independence, and in 1979 turned itself into an international not-for-profit voluntary organization with the name Confederation of Family Organisations in the European Community, and now the European Union. In June 2016, the General Assembly agreed on a new name: COFACE Families Europe.

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## Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR)

The Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) is the oldest and broadest European association of local and regional governments. We are the only organisation that brings together the national associations of local and regional governments from 41 European countries and represents, through them, all levels of territories – local, intermediate and regional.

Since its creation in 1951, CEMR promotes the construction of a united, peaceful and democratic Europe founded on local self-government, respect for the principle of subsidiarity and the participation of citizens. Our work is organised around two main pillars:

1. Influencing European policy and legislation in all areas having an impact on municipalities and regions;
2. Providing a forum for debate between local and regional governments via their national representative associations.

CEMR is also the European section of the world organisation United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), through which we represent European local and regional government on the international stage.

CEMR's work focuses on five thematic areas, which affect all aspects of the lives of European citizens as well as the local and regional governments that represent them:

- Governance, democracy and citizenship
- Environment, climate and energy
- International engagement and cooperation
- Economic, social and territorial cohesion
- Local and regional public services management
- CEMR statutory affairs, general CEMR affairs

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## Eurocarers

Eurocarers, the European voice for informal Carers, is the European Network representing informal Carers and their organisations, irrespective of their age or the particular health and care need of the person they are caring for.

Our aim is to advance the issue of informal care at both national and EU levels, by:

1. Raising awareness of the significant contribution made by Carers to health and social care systems and to the economy as a whole, and of the need to safeguard this contribution;
2. Ensuring that EU and national policies take account of Carers, i.e. promote social inclusion of Carers, the development of support services for Carers, enable them to remain active in paid employment and maintain a social life.

Eurocarers has two departments/sections for:

- Carers organisations and
- Research institutes and university departments

With ca. 70 member-organisations in 25 EU-members states. This unique combination enables evidence-based advocacy.

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## European Network for Accessible Tourism (ENAT)

ENAT, the European Network for Accessible Tourism is a Belgian non-profit association, founded in 2008, which promotes accessibility to tourism for all citizens. ENAT began as an EU-funded pilot project for “mainstreaming disability policies” in 2006-2007 and is led by an international Board of Directors. It is a multi-stakeholder network of member organisations, comprising public bodies, tourism suppliers and consumer organisations. Members include National and Regional tourist boards, public and private tourism enterprises, tourism professionals, academic and research institutions, NGOs of people with disabilities, numbering almost 100 members from over 30 countries worldwide.

ENAT’s mission is to make European tourism destinations, products and services accessible to all travellers and to help promote Accessible Tourism around the world.

ENAT aims to achieve this by bringing together sector actors to share their experience, learn from each other and collaborate in national and international projects and programmes. ENAT conducts research on and promotes wider awareness and understanding of the need for accessibility in all areas of travel and tourism throughout Europe and supports the development and spread of accessible tourism policies and practices.

It develops vocational training curricula and programmes and accredited courses for tourism and hospitality students and professionals .

ENAT manages two key products that are used in the accessible tourism sector: Pantou – The online Accessible Tourism Directory and the World Tourism for All Quality Programme. It has signed Memoranda of Understanding and actively collaborates with, inter alia, the UN World Tourism Organisation, ONCE Foundation, International Social Tourism Organisation, Blue Flag International, Lonely Planet, Design for All Foundation, European Federation of European Tourist Guide Associations and the European Association of Service Providers for People with Disabilities.

ENAT collaborates with the European Travel Commission as a member of the Tourism Manifesto Group and has advised the European Commission on initiatives concerning Accessible Tourism, Skills Development, Senior Tourism, European Tourism Indicators System, Extending the Tourism Season and Smart Tourism Capitals of Europe.

ENAT has strategic training and learning partnerships with the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO), Fundación ONCE (Spain) and manages a “Learning Group” of EU National and Regional Tourist Boards on Accessible Tourism.

ENAT manages the e-learning platform for tourism business training at [www.accesstraining.eu](http://www.accesstraining.eu) which is used for delivery of interactive e-learning information programmes for tourism SMEs, professional tourist guides and staff in the hospitality sector.

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## European Regions Research and Innovation Network (ERRIN)

Founded in 2001, ERRIN is a Brussels-based platform of regional authorities, research and innovation organisations and stakeholders in regions. ERRIN aims to strengthen regional research and innovation capacities by exchanging information, sharing best practices, supporting European project development, policy shaping and profile raising by working together with a partnership approach. ERRIN helps regions get their voice heard in Brussels. ERRIN members are place-based non-for-profit organisations (local/regional authorities, universities/academia, development agencies, intermediary bodies such as chambers of commerce, foundations, etc.) and/or their representation offices in Brussels. Through the local network that our members establish back in the region, ERRIN reaches out to the quadruple helix actors although we do not have direct contact with the private sector and SMEs, only through intermediary bodies like chambers or cluster organizations. Through its 13 Working Groups, ERRIN facilitates contacts between regional offices and regions so that they can enhance their knowledge of European policy in research and innovation and develop strategic European projects to strengthen regional competitiveness.

ERRIN plays a key role in Brussels by raising the profile of its members and the regional agenda in EU policies in order to make them respond better to the needs of European regions. ERRIN also works closely with European Institutions and other relevant networks and organisations to advance the interests of regions in research and innovation.

ERRIN is involved in three digital-health related projects supported by the European Commission under the H2020 programme.

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## European Social Network (ESN)

The origins of the Network go back to 1992, when the first European Social Services Conference took place. Then, a group of directors in public social services from across Europe met to discuss the most pressing social services issues that they were facing in their municipalities with the aim to exchange knowledge and bring back ideas that they could implement at home.

ESN was established as a charity and company in the UK in 1999, and since then it has had a special relationship with the European Commission. ESN partnered with the Commission to deliver projects, such as Towards a People's Europe (1999) on personal budgets, or care for unaccompanied minors in 2005. Since 2006, ESN has been a strategic partner of DG Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion and has signed several framework partnership agreements to support the European Commission's social inclusion agenda. As of 2018, ESN is based in Brussels.

ESN is now an ever-growing Network with over 125 member organisations in 33 European countries and supports the sharing of knowledge, practice and policies between social services across Europe. We enable knowledge sharing and building through multiple events and publications aimed at developing best practice guidelines and policy recommendations across themes. These include important target groups for social services, such as older people, people with disabilities, vulnerable children and young people as well as cross-cutting issues, such as the social services workforce, management, quality or evidence-based services.

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## European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC)

The ETUC was set up in 1973 and now comprises 90 national trade union confederations in 38 countries, plus 10 European trade union federations. It speaks with a single voice on behalf of European workers to have a stronger say in EU decision-making. The ETUC defends fundamental social values such as solidarity, equality, democracy, social justice and cohesion.

The ETUC works with the European institutions to push EU legislation and policies in the right direction. The ETUC also coordinates trade union involvement in a number of consultative bodies, such as the European Economic and Social Committee.

The ETUC last but not least represents workers through European social dialogue. European social dialogue brings together representatives from the trade unions and the employers' organisations (the European social partners) and involves discussions, negotiations and joint actions. Social dialogue is enshrined in the Treaty and is a fundamental part of the European social model.

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## Independent Policy Advisor

Dr. Alexandre Sidorenko is an expert on national and international policy on ageing. His current assignments and duties: Member, Societal Advisory Board for the Joint Programming Initiative More years, better lives (European Union); Senior Advisor, European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research (Vienna, Austria); Member, HelpAge International Board of Trustees (London, United Kingdom); 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.

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## Insurance Europe

Insurance Europe is the European insurance and reinsurance federation. Through its 37 member bodies, the national insurance associations, Insurance Europe represents all types of insurance and reinsurance undertakings, e.g. pan-European companies, mono-liners, mutual insurers and SMEs.

Insurance Europe, which is based in Brussels, represents undertakings that account for around 95% of total European premium income. Insurance makes a major contribution to Europe's economic growth and development. European insurers generate premium income of more than €1 200bn, directly employ over 950 000 people and invest over €10 200bn in the economy.

Insurance Europe:

- Draws attention to issues of strategic interest to all European insurers and reinsurers in a sustainable manner.
- Raises awareness of insurers' and reinsurers' roles in providing insurance protection and security to the community as well as in contributing to economic growth and development.
- Promotes – as the expert and representative voice of the insurance industry – a competitive and open market to the benefit of the European consumer as well as corporate clients.

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## International Society for Gerontechnology (ISG)

Gerontechnology: designing technology and environment for independent living and social participation of older persons in good health, comfort and safety.

### Mission

ISG encourages and promotes technological innovations in products and services that address older peoples' ambitions and needs on the basis of scientific knowledge about ageing processes including cultural and individual differences.

### Vision

ISG works toward the realization of a society fully served by technology that is as accessible to ageing people as it is to people in younger generations.

### Values

Innovative technology that serves an enabling role for ageing people by:

- Maintaining their independence and equality including considerations of residence, mobility, safety, security, communication, activities, and quality of life
- Supporting their well-being and health as defined by the WHO
- Realising their individual and collective/social ambitions and needs
- Keeping them embedded in their changing socio-cultural environment
- Enhancing their dignity
- Supporting their caregivers

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