

## **ADVANTAGE JA – Final meeting**

### ***Slide 1***

### ***Slide 2***

First of all, let me thank again the coordination team of the ADVANTAGE Joint Action for inviting AGE Platform Europe to its final meeting.

I had the honour to participate to the meeting organised a year ago in Madrid. At that time, I shared with you the perspective of our organisation on framing the frailty prevention approach. The picture I am showing here is not a joke, only a nice way to say “well done”.

The comprehensive approach that is described is very much in line with the messages we shared last year with you, notably:

- involving older persons
- take into account their whole environment
- change the narrative around ageing

The document looks also very comprehensive and provide with concrete recommendations and illustrations from different countries on how to make them more concrete.

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From my perspective, drafting a document such as the Frailty Prevention Approach is a challenge: it basically develops a strong and comprehensive strategy to address an issue which could be looked as scary. Still the point is to give hope. To show that there is a bright future, that frailty is not an end point and a fatality. Underlining that older persons living with frailty are not only frail, that they still want to be considered as individuals with multiple identity, individuals with multiple needs and wishes. This is where the Face Up to Frailty! Campaign is a great tool because it provides human faces and stories to a complex issue.

Still I am asking myself whether frailty is the best word to be used. My point is obviously not to question your work and the results of the Joint Action. It is rather to think ahead and continue the reflection around the tension that exist between the situation faced by several older persons and the concern we have as civil society organisation to develop a positive narrative around ageing. It could be considered as a side question, but it is important when thinking about the deployment of such a strategy from the local to the European level.

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Therefore, this lexical question is a good hook to approach the recommendations. I have to say there is not a lot to add, the FPA already contains a lot!

You have made a clear and obvious links to the work of the WHO, mentioning the proposal for a Decade of Healthy Ageing. By May 2020 we should have a clearer picture regarding the launch of this Decade but let's say that so far there are positive signs. The purpose of this decade is to focus on the second part of life and to improve the lives of older persons. It will be based on four main pillars:

- ageism and how to change the narrative around ageing
- age-friendly environments
- integrated care
- long-term care.

The work that already been published around integrated care, what the WHO calls the **ICOPE guidelines** subtitled

*“Recommendations for managing declines in intrinsic capacity in older people”*: we are back to the lexical issue and we can see the WHO has started to change the direction.

## ***Slide 5***

Now what is also important to bear in mind is the new EU political context in which we operate: later today (or maybe right now) the European Parliament is voting on the new European Commission as a whole.

What I would like to highlight is that:

- it will be important to widen the political approach and contact above the usual suspects.
- For instance, it is important to bear in mind that the Vice President in charge of Democracy and Demography is supposed to deliver a Green Paper on ageing – from the mission letter she received and the commitment she made during her hearing, I have the feeling the FPA could be of interest for her.

## ***Slide 6***

Of course, AGE will stay committed to ADVANTAGE and we will be happy to continue exchanging with all of you and work in close collaboration whenever relevant. Like we did recently with a joint workshop held during the European Week of Regions and Cities.