

Joint Statement
from the event promoted by What-IF International

**“A Challenge for Horizon 2020:
Ageing and Intergenerational Fairness”**

Brussels, 24th April, 2013

Addressed to the EU Institutions and Citizens

-**Ms. Kartika Tamara Liotard**, Member of the European Parliament, Rapporteur of the European Innovation Partnership on Healthy Ageing;

-**Ms. Maria da Graça Carvalho**, Member of the European Parliament, Rapporteur of Horizon 2020;

-**Prof. Matteo Bonifacio**, University of Trento, President of What-IF International.

1. Our societies are facing one of the greatest, if not the greatest, demographic transition in history. This phenomenon is commonly referred to as Ageing.
2. The working-age population is projected to constantly decline in all countries, limiting our growth capacity which is already hampered by an unprecedented financial and economic crisis.
3. Such demographic transition impacts all aspects of our lives, from the sustainability of lifestyles to employment, from our growth capacity to our consumption models, from our possibility to protect the weakest segments of society to that of supporting families.
4. Furthermore, the above trends will most likely lead our societies to situations of intergenerational unfairness, in which rights and opportunities are unequally distributed amongst generations.
5. As a solution to these problems, the European Institutions are proposing to invest in active and healthy ageing. Healthcare, environment and creating equal opportunities have to be set as top priorities. A healthy nation in an age-friendly and promising environment will make the society as a whole stronger and more flexible.
6. On the other hand, due to the complexity of this challenge, we invite European Institutions and citizens to:
 - a. **Open the problem space:** the Ageing challenge cannot just be framed on how to deal with an increased aged population; however semantically correct, this word,

“ageing”, reminds in the common sense mainly a focus on the elderly; rather it should remind us the need to give a proper place to all generations. For this reason we suggest to talk about ageing as an intergenerational issue that challenges the natural equilibrium of the entire human life cycle.

- b. **Open the solution space:** Indeed, ageing calls for a society able to foster Intergenerational Fairness and a so called “age friendly society”. Lifetime investments in healthcare, healthy environments, safe nutrition, employment, education, training, respect and social inclusion will bring benefits to all generations.
7. The coming calls for action should rely on the wealth of analyses and experiences that have been carried along the 2012 "European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between generations" as well as on other fundamental studies, policy papers and direct input from both elderly and younger EU citizens.
 8. In a nutshell, we invite European Institutions to call the challenge simply as it is, with no other qualifications: Ageing. Furthermore, the European Institutions should openly call for solutions that create dignity and intergenerational fairness, whatever form the solutions will be.

Brussels, 24th April, 2013

Signed by:

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