



Annual Activity report 2012 ILC-the Netherlands

Care for later is care for now!

ILC-the Netherlands (ILC-NL) is an independent movement of people who have the aim to put aging high on the social and political agenda. The goal is to activate people in thinking about active and healthy aging in an early stage by organizing debates, media attention, and sharing experiences and expertise, both nationally and internationally.

ILC-NL is committed to the independence state of being of the elderly, requiring tailored conditions, skills and a good living environment. The vitality of the elderly should be promoted while vulnerability and dependency are postponed as long as possible. Also it is important to remain active as an employee, volunteer or entrepreneur without being discriminated because of age.

Organisation

The organisation is gradually changing its direction from a project into a network organization with special interest groups.

General board

- A.H.M. Wouters, president
- Prof. dr. M.G. Boekholdt, secretary
- Ir. M.C. van Veen, treasurer
- Prof. dr. J.T. Allegro
- Prof. dr. W.A. Arts
- Drs. A.C.M. Breij
- Drs. H. Bakkerode
- Drs. T. van den Klinkenberg
- H. Muller
- W. Sandberg
- H.J. van Tilborg
- Prof. dr. R.G.J. Westendorp

Special Interest Groups (SIG)

ILC-NL initiated three Special Interest Groups: Awareness, Information and Communication; Housing, Care and Welfare, and Labour, Income and Participation. These SIGs discuss relevant developments concerning their

theme and examine how ILC-NL can translate this into specific activities.

Management team

- Ir. M.A.E. van der Waal, director
- Y.J. Koemans, office assistant
- F.H. Fiechter, project coordinator (till 1-5-2012)
- J.M.M. de Gruijter, communications officer

Partnerships

ILC-NL has initiated partnerships with Leyden Academy on Ageing and Vitality: a pioneer organization who educates master students and managers to improve the quality of life of older people; Vereniging Het Zonnehuis: an organization who tries to increase the knowledge for better institutional care; and Rode Kruisvereniging West-Brabant: a regional association for care close to home. Furthermore, cooperation took place with Vereniging AEGON, Communication Concert, Fund RCOAK, Fund Sluyterman van Loo, Association Instituut Gak, Van Bylandt Fund, Vilans and ZonMw.

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Projects

ESF Age Network

ILC-NL worked together with the ministry of Social Affairs to organize meetings to exchange knowledge with the ESF Age Network. In this project 16 regional and national agencies of the European Social Fund teamed up to promote longer and sustainable employability of workers. In the first phase guidelines for the assessment of projects and programmes were set (see the [baseline study](#) of the



European Institute for Public Administration). In the second phase, programs and projects were rated on their goals, results, strengths and weaknesses, success factors and transferability to another socio-economic and political context. The results are available on the website: www.esfage.eu. In the last phase, information and findings were promoted and recommendations were made. After having concluded this project, it is now important that active ageing is adapted in the new ESF programme, where proven good practices of age management are further encouraged, and (long-term) unemployment of older people is prevented.

Wage indicator 45-plus

What is the perception of older workers about their work? How do they think about working after they reached the age of 65? Are they afraid of losing their job? What kind of ambitions do they have concerning their work? Given the relevance of these issues for Dutch society, information on the perception of older workers is useful for policy making and politics. The project results show a decrease in the percentage of workers that anticipate working for the same employer until they retire. Moreover, this decrease turned out to be stronger among young people. Furthermore, workers tend to think their employer no longer wants to retain them as they get older.

Innovations in housing and care schemes

Growing old in your own home and surroundings is the ideal of most older people. In America, this has led to the Village to Village Network, a remarkable movement of older citizens who arrange their own local support and services, and who stimulate mutual social contacts and joint activities, in order to live independently and to maintain control over their own lives. In Amsterdam, 'StadsdorpZuid' was founded in 2010, as the first Dutch village. StadsdorpZuid aims for senior citizens to live at their own home, in an active, healthy and safe manor. They provide the members with information on care and on services offered, such as craftsmen, handymen, restaurants etc. Furthermore, they

organise a variety of activities. Now the pilot phase has successfully been completed, the set up of a help desk is looked into, to further enrol this initiative in Netherlands.

Continue working after 60

What are the experiences and opinions of people who choose (not) to remain working after their pension? The qualitative research report shows that most employees want to stop working as early as possible. This decision is primarily guided by whether they feel their work still matters. Secondly, they are guided by the influence of their immediate social environment, like their partner. In addition, the financial and economic crisis also plays a role in the question whether or not to stop working. Colleagues and the employer do not seem to play a significant role in the decision process.

Meetings

Jan Brouwer Conferentie, 25 January 2012

The Jan Brouwer Conference is organized every year by the Jan Brouwer Fund, in collaboration with the Koninklijke Hollandsche Maatschappij der Wetenschappen and ILC-NL. This cycle of annual conferences, deals with the demographic changes in Dutch society, and opportunities to successfully anticipate this. The theme of the Jan Brouwer Conference 2012 was vulnerable generations: how can we prevent our youngest and oldest being abused and mistreated?

ILC-Global Alliance Symposium, 28 May 2012

The goal of the symposium 'Productive ageing: conditions and opportunities' was to convince policy-makers that our aging world is an opportunity, not a threat. Marieke van der Waal presented the Dutch situation, where extending working lives is important for politics and policy. The ageing society has implications for the individual, economy and society. From demographic perspective increasing the state pension age had to be put on the political agenda a lot earlier. As it is no surprise that the relative number of workers is reducing compared to the retirees, which number



is growing. The debate on the sustainability of intergenerational solidarity is held in such a way that the various age groups are drifting apart. Besides raising the retirement age, it is important to stimulate longer employability (continuing vocational training, adapted work), as well as the employment of older workers. Other ILC countries experienced similar issues. Remarkable is the recognition that volunteering gets in Singapore and Israel: it's a valued form of productivity. The policy in Japan to get people to extend their working life is paying off; 48.9% of the 65-69 year-olds are still working. The average of the OECD countries is 30% for this age group. The final conclusion of the symposium was that longer working lives is about personal and political choice, and varies per country. Click [here](#) for the paper, in which all contributions are bundled.

Seniors cooperatives: 22 November 2012

StadsdorpZuid organized in collaboration with ILC-NL a well visited conference on the theory and practice from seniors cooperatives in the Netherlands, Germany and the United States.

Future activities

- Strengthen the position as a network organisation.
- Strengthen the movement of people who wish to influence their own future and to improve intergenerational cooperation.
- Increase our communication about our goals and project outcomes.