

CONFERENCE ON “ACTIVE AND HEALTHY AGEING” Celebration of the “European Day of Solidarity between Generations”

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Workshop on “Intergenerational solidarity”

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Intergenerational Solidarity (IS). A European overview
(Presentation outline)

General framework: As relational beings, humans need nurturing and bonding. Our being in the world is a *shared being*, a *being together*. Our lives are relational and relationships are an essential part of us. So there is intergenerational solidarity, whether we acknowledge it or not.

1. Intergenerational Solidarity, active ageing and healthy ageing: Some connections

- Intergenerational solidarity is a core component of active and healthy ageing since ageing well is a life-course socially oriented endeavour.
- Some practices of intergenerational solidarity may be sources of healthy ageing and social capital.

2. Intergenerational Solidarity within the European Union: Some features

- European intergenerational solidarity is changing its shape not its strength.
- The risk of a conflict between generations is being overemphasized by sources of public opinion (mainly mass media and political leaders).

3. Intergenerational solidarity in the future: Some challenges ahead.

- Revising the political discourse: intergenerational solidarity is not threatened but changing into new shapes.
- Political top-down approaches to intergenerational solidarity primarily focused on employment and pensions should be reconsidered.
- There is a need to foster approaches able to connect familial and non-familial intergenerational solidarity practices around issues such as childcare, dependency care, family and domestic responsibilities, social issues and community development.
- Introducing an intergenerational solidarity framework in all programs and policies may be a good source of new and richer forms of solidarity.
- Some national networks on intergenerational practices are emerging; Spain may be a good example to this regard. These networks should be supported to extend their work throughout the European Union.

Mariano Sánchez (resumé)

- Tenured Professor, Department of Sociology, Faculty of Political Sciences and Sociology, University of Granada (Spain), 1999-
- Technical Co-ordinator of the Spanish Intergenerational Network, 2005-
- Co-editor of the *Journal of Intergenerational Relationships*, 2005-

- Member of the Management Committee of the *International Consortium for Intergenerational Programmes*, 2002-
- Honorary Member of the Association *Education and Ageing*, Great Britain, 2001-
- Professor Sanchez has participated in national and international research projects and training plans on intergenerational practices.
- Most of his recent publications -among which it is his 2007 book *Intergenerational Programmes. Towards a Society for All Ages*- focus on the link between active ageing and intergenerational relationships.