

ROLE OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS IN PUBLIC HEALTH AND HEALTHY AGEING ON THE EXAMPLE OF THE ANDRIJA ŠTAMPAR - ASSOCIATION OF PEOPLE'S HEALTH

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Background

- Europe is facing demographic changes causing the need for different solutions in long term care.
- Governments are still not including enough of non-governmental organizations (NGO's) as partners in creating healthy aging policies
- Different ways in which NGO's contribute to healthy ageing: workshops, educational activities, creating social interaction
- Working directly with the elderly provides NGO's with an irreplaceable end user feedback

Discussion

- We founded Andrija Štampar - Association of People's Health in 2009.
- Since then we have organized free counseling and lectures for the general population, many workshops and public health actions such as:
 - **"Štampar's days"** – international public health symposium with themes ranging from health promotion and disease prevention to palliative care
 - **Health for all project** – measuring blood pressure, lipids and glucose of the general population in the Požega-Slavonia county
- **Coffee without cream** – lectures and workshops for the general population on the stroke risk factors
- By designing, organizing and implementing numerous projects, we have formed a network of experts in the field of public health and healthy ageing
- Next step is the creation of an **Advisory Center for synergistic cross-sectoral cooperation** – the institution that brings together experts in different health-related fields who could advise, influence and create new standards in public health activities

Conclusion

- Through their work and successful projects, NGO's necessarily create a network of quality experts.
- It is extremely important to harness this knowledge and experience and transfer it into the broader framework of policy, regulation and law formation
- By doing so, we could significantly improve the healthy ageing process