

## Cascais Conclusions

In the **European Year of Active Ageing and Intergenerational Solidarity (2012)** CEV decided to dedicate one of its twice-annual conferences to the subject and look at how volunteering can contribute to age-friendly societies.

Through a series of panel debates, workshops and a keynote address from Mr Robert Leigh, Senior writer on the UNV State of the World Volunteerism Report, the conference participants explored the theme aiming to answer the question: ***Are we in this together?***

The conclusions focused on identifying the **indicators of age-friendly societies and any barriers** that exist especially where these can be found within volunteer organisations themselves.



The conference concluded with a reminder about the benefits of age-friendly societies recalling the reflections made by CEV to the European Commission in 2005 following their report of demographic change that addressed the ageing society and growing number of elderly people as a problem.

The dedication of a European Year to active ageing and intergenerational solidarity shows that European policy makers now understand the importance of age-friendliness for cohesive and inclusive societies. The conclusions of the CEV conference in Cascais demonstrate the role of volunteering in promoting age-friendliness and highlight the importance for volunteer organisations to assess the ways in which intergenerational solidarity and active ageing is promoted and supported in their working approaches and structures.

It was highlighted that **the need for efficiency** can result in the under inclusion of different age groups due to age-related support that could be needed, for example younger people needing training or older people becoming less able through reduced physical or mental capacities to undertake their previous roles.

The **lack of openness** from some organisations that are dominated by one age group and their reluctance to involve people from other generations causing “age ghettos” was also noted.

The participants also identified possible strategies, tools and approaches to facilitating age-friendly societies through volunteering.

Particular emphasis was placed on **the recognition of changing competencies due to age and life experience** including the increase and decrease of specific capacities and the need for organisations to have systems in place to help individual volunteers recognize and adapt to these changes.

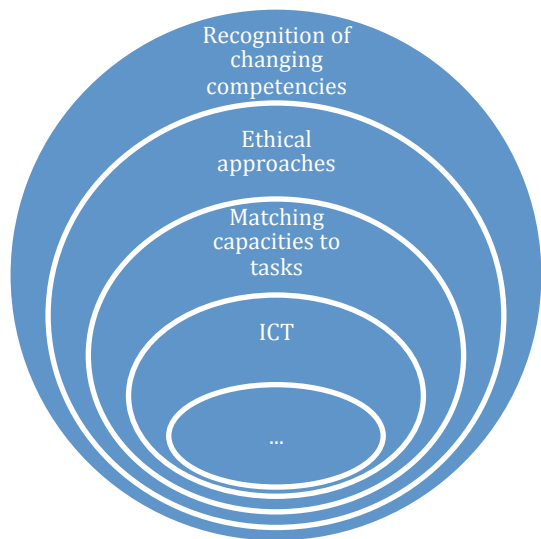
**Information and communication technologies** were also given special attention and seen to provide innovative and unique ways for people from different generations to reach better understanding and respect.

- **The need for efficiency**
- **Lack of openness**
- **Prejudices**
- **Disengagement**
- **Discrimination**
- ....



- **Equal opportunities**
- **Mutual respect**
- **Awareness**
- **Shared Learning**
- **Complementary roles**
- ....

**Facilitating age friendly societies through volunteering:**



**Age friendly societies lead to:**

