



# **EY2012 Awards**

## **Reporting on Ageing and Relations between the Generations Journalists - Audio visual**



**National Finalist**

**EU Third Place**

**Country: Ireland**

**Title: Age and the City: A 4-part Radio Series for RTÉ Radio 1**

**Submitted by: RTÉ (Raidió Telefís Éireann)**  
**(<http://www.rte.ie>)**

### **Summary:**

Age and the City ([http://www.rte.ie/radio1/podcast/podcast\\_ageandthecity.xml](http://www.rte.ie/radio1/podcast/podcast_ageandthecity.xml)) is a four-part radio series, which was broadcast on Ireland's national public service broadcaster, RTÉ Radio 1, in May 2012. It brought the subject of ageing in the city to life through a mix of personal stories told by older people, with analysis and discussion of some of the issues facing our ageing society.

In this special month of Bealtaine (May, in Gaelic), when the creative activities of older people are celebrated in the Bealtaine Festival, listeners heard from men and women in Dublin, Belfast, and Cork about the challenges they face as they grow older in an urban environment, and about the advantages and disadvantages of city living. We heard how our cities are preparing to meet the needs of older citizens and about the WHO Age-Friendly Cities initiative, whose recommendations are already being put in place by several local authorities. Transport and mobility, housing arrangements, health and creativity were among the issues discussed in the series.

Some of the participants are well-known: former Supreme Court Judge Catherine McGuinness, for example, or former Keeper of Marsh's library, Muriel McCarthy. Many others, though not in the public eye, had equally interesting and engaging contributions to make, and their voices were the main ones heard in the series.

The programmes were aimed not just at senior listeners, but also at a younger audience to help them appreciate and understand what older people need and what they have to offer.

### **Programme 1**

In the first programme, we heard from six older people from Dublin, Belfast and Cork as they spoke about their personal experiences of living in the city in their older age.



European Year for **Active Ageing**  
and **Solidarity between Generations 2012**



## Programme 2

The second programme marked the nationwide Bealtaine Festival celebrating creativity in older age, and featured older filmgoers, dancers and a lover of theatre and music. The value of creative activity, and its accessibility in cities was the main theme of this programme.

## Programme 3

Where we live is one of the most important questions we face as we grow older. The third programme in the series looked at two examples of good practice: a sheltered housing project in Cork, and a specially designed apartment in Dundalk. And we heard about how innovative technology can support independent living in the future.

## Programme 4

In the final programme we heard more from some of those who took part in Programme 1, as they discussed walking and other physical activity they practice to keep fit and active, feeling secure in the city, Dundalk's Cúltaca project combating loneliness among older people and the importance of community and contact for health and well being in older age.

The series was produced and presented by Doireann Ní Bhriain, with additional reporting by Nuala Hayes. It was made by for RTÉ by Fuaim Productions, with the support of the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland.

