

Translation from Polish

APPEAL
OF THE SENATE OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND

of 13 May 2021

for taking measures to increase the mobility of European Seniors

The Europe Day, established on the anniversary of presenting by Robert Schuman, on 9 May 1950 a plan to create the European Coal and Steel Community, is a holiday of the European states and their citizens. It is also the best opportunity to speak up for the elderly people whose needs with regard to cognition, recognition, usefulness and self-realization have been marginalized in EU programmes so far.

As it results from the studies, the European Seniors are interested in discovering the world – widely understood foreign trips, as evidenced by the rapidly growing sector of senior tourism.

The European Seniors are characterized by their activity, high social potential, openness and interest in learning new people, languages, culture and customs.

An opportunity to quickly implement necessary solutions for the Seniors may be the work on the legislation related to the “Erasmus+” programme. Currently, few Seniors use foreign educational trips as part of “Educational mobility” with regard to which courses and conferences are organized for those involved in adult education, providing an opportunity to learn the solutions applied in other European countries and helping develop the skills of teaching staff.

The division of the “Erasmus+” programme into the following areas: higher education, vocational education and training, school education, youth, sport and adult education is insufficient. The classification of the Seniors as “adult learners” prevents the application of special tools addressed to this exceptionally important social group, and the monitoring of their efficiency and functionality. In the opinion of the Senate of the Republic of Poland, it is required to create a special development and cognitive path for the European Seniors.

Another offer, which could also be better adapted to the needs of the European Seniors, are strategic partnerships, including the work within an international group on the issues of non-professional adult education.

With regard to the above-mentioned projects or irrespective of them, it is worth considering to create “DiscoverEU – Senior”, an initiative similar to the “DiscoverEU” initiative addressed to the European 18-year-olds. The “DiscoverEU – Senior” initiative could be a great gift for a retiring Senior, in this period which is not easy for them.

In connection with the Europe Day, the Senate of the Republic of Poland appeals to the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Council to undertake rapid, intense work on increasing the mobility of the European Seniors so as to allow them to exchange experience internationally, learn new cultures, establish acquaintances and friendships.

The appeal is published in the Official Journal of the Republic of Poland “Polish Monitor”

MARSHAL OF THE SENATE

/ - / Tomasz GRODZKI