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#EUAgeing

In the last 50 years, life expectancy at birth has increased by about 10 years for both men and women. This is a remarkable achievement that poses challenges and offers opportunities. The Green Paper on Ageing opens a wide debate on the impact of this trend - for citizens, whatever their age, and for society as a whole. It raises questions that span across the life-cycle - from the formative years, to working age, to retirement, and stages of growing needs.

**Ageing:**
challenges & opportunities throughout the life-cycle

**Formative years:**
life-long learning, healthy & active ageing

**Growing needs:**
healthcare, long-term care / mobility, connectivity, well-being

**Working age:**
labour markets, productivity, innovation and business opportunities

**Retirement:**
volunteering, intergenerational relations / adequate, fair and sustainable pension systems, old-age poverty
Many older people continue to make an active and valuable contribution to society and the economy. One-fifth of 65-74 year olds participate in formal volunteering while people aged 75+ also remain engaged when their health allows.

*Lifelong learning and healthy and active ageing* need to start at a young age and continue throughout adulthood. Acquiring new skills boosts job opportunities during working years, but also helps people stay active into later life.
With people living longer lives nowadays, the demand for healthcare and long-term care in the EU is increasing. Ensuring access, affordability, and quality as well as adequate workforce will be a common challenge.

The number of people who receive publicly-funded long-term care is expected to increase from 19.5m in 2016 to 23.6m in 2030 and 30.5m in 2050 in the EU.

Source:
United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2019).
The EU’s old-age dependency ratio is projected to be **59%** in 2070, almost a **75%** increase (from 34.1% now). So, there will be fewer than two persons of working age for each person aged 65 and over.

This requires immediate action, if we want to ensure intergenerational fairness, and good living standards for all our citizens, young and old.

Old-age dependency ratio in 2020 and the start of old age in 2040 that keeps the projected old-age dependency ratio constant per Member State.

![Graph showing old-age dependency ratio and start of old age]

Old-age dependency ratio (OADR), in 2019 | People aged 65 and over per 100 people aged 20-64

Start of old age in 2040 that keeps the OADR constant relative to 2020

European citizens are living longer, healthier lives. This achievement shows the success and strength of our social market economy.