



To: United Nations General Assembly Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) for the purpose of strengthening the protection of the human rights of older persons.

Subject: Our response to the Call For Inputs issued to ECOSOC Status in preparation of the 11th OEWG.

Date: 28 October 2019

Dear Sirs,

The present document contains our response to the Call For Inputs issued by the OEWG to NGOs with ECOSOC Status and previously accredited organizations to the Working Group.

Fondazione del Monte di Bologna e Ravenna is a non-profit private legal entity with autonomous statute and management, pursuing public interest and social development activities in various sectors. A significant part of our activities is directed to the "Elderly Assistance" sector, with the aim to widen the scope of services offered to the elderly population and to accompany and support caregivers and families with proximity and support initiatives.

Our activity in this sector is in line with Fondazione del Monte's general commitment to rebuilding Italy's welfare system towards a more participative model, involving both private non-profit entities and public bodies to overcome the limitations of the traditional "welfare state". To better answer the needs of elderly people and their families, our strategy is not act simply as a funding institution but to play an active role of coordination and stimulus between private subjects and public territorial bodies. Our Foundation is not anymore only a provider of resources, but it has become an active part in the elaboration and implementation of fundamental policies on the territory.

Starting from this assumption, Fondazione del Monte plays a subsidiary and autonomous role in the initiatives undertaken by public and private actors on the territory, by building partnerships with those organizations that demonstrate collaboration, networking and innovation capabilities. The Foundation mainly supports projects proposed by private social bodies and public institutions, in some cases launching directly own projects in the frame of national and European programs.

In relation to the present OEWG Call for Input, the present contribution is meant to provide input in the form of best-practice examples related to the two focus areas of the previous 10th of the Working Group, namely: "Social Protection and Social Security" and "Education, Training, Life-long Learning and Capacity Building".



Social Protection and Social Security

Fondazione del Monte's initiatives related to social protection policies for elderly men and women are mainly focused on two areas of intervention:

- Health protection;
- Long-term assistance.

Health protection

This area includes projects that focus on senile dementia and Alzheimer's disease. These are interventions aimed at creating welcoming communities towards people with cognitive impairment, so that they may be active subjects and protagonists, with the right to live the environment in an inclusive way. A relevant example in this area is the project "Cities friendly to people with dementia and Alzheimer's", implemented with our support by Società Dolce Cooperativa Sociale – Bologna.

Several other initiatives focus on cognitive capabilities strengthening, reactivation and stimulation and psycho-social interventions that are widely recognized forms of non-pharmacological treatment, alongside traditional drug therapy, to improve the condition of patients with mild or moderate and medium-grade dementia. A relevant example in this area is the project "Cognitive enhancement "MCI Course" and cognitive stimulation "Gyms of the mind and meeting spaces"", implemented with our support by Alzheimer Association Ravenna – Ravenna.

To promote the so-called active aging, and thereby reduce the share of disabled people in need of assistance, we support projects to implement cognitive training systems aimed at maintaining sufficient levels of intellectual performance. A relevant example in this area is the project "Implementation of a computerized cognitive training system for older people", realized with our support by Auser Volunteering Bologna – Bologna.

Long-term assistance

This area includes all home-care initiatives that aim to create some essential conditions for elderly people staying in the family and social environment. These initiatives are implemented by activating collaborations between social services and volunteering, for example to answer basic needs such as socialization, e.g., through social housing experiments, and mobility through services specifically designed for elderly people, e.g., to drive and accompany them to meeting places, care institutions, shops and public offices. Relevant examples in this area are the projects "Anziani in rel-azione" implemented with our support by Insieme Azienda Consortile Interventi Sociali Valli del Reno, Lavino e Samoggia - Casalecchio di Reno and "Mo Va Là - Portierato Sociale" implemented with our support by Ravenna Coop. Soc. Villaggio Globale – Ravenna.

A further important activity in this area is the creation of a dedicated portal providing access to information, dedicated contents and tools to satisfy the increasing demand on the changes, difficulties and problems associated to aging. The web site provides easy access to concrete content, based on everyday experience, on possible strategies to prevent, recognize, address and compensate for cognitive impairment in elderly people. The web site content is addressed to family members, caregivers, the elderly themselves and healthcare operators (structures coordinators, case managers, professional caregivers). The project is entitled "Orientation in the fragility", implemented with our support by ASPHI Foundation, non-profit organization.



Education, Training, Life-long Learning and Capacity-building

Fondazione del Monte supports the centrality of continuing education throughout a person's lifetime. Lifelong learning programs must be customized to each individual's needs, age and conditions, to help improving his/her quality of life and to keep up with changes in society. The projects supported by our Foundation have the objective of allowing a public of mature adults and the elderly to acquire or improve their knowledge of crucial historical, societal and economic developments, and of how these affect our way of living and perceiving reality. An example is the "Roots, present and future" project, implemented with our support by the University for Permanent Training of Adults Giovanna Bosi Maramotti (Ravenna). The project revisits the specifics of local communities in light of the imposing transformations of a world in which economy, morals and culture are strongly globalized as a way to allow "mature" people to keep up with the present and the future without losing their roots and identity.

Projects promoting intergenerational education in a community perspective are also supported, to fight social isolation and reconnect the urban fabric in specific areas of demographic fragility. Through co-participated laboratories of artistic expression, orientation to work, re-use, narrative, planning to facilitation, an effective synergy is achieved between complementary needs: active aging for elderly people, youth inclusion and social re-insertion for adults. These projects focus on strategic public places from which to revive the sense of belonging to the territory and recover the identity of its inhabitants through the use of "active memory". Relevant examples in this area are the projects "Re-Generations", implemented with our support by Zoe 'Theaters Association (Bologna) and "Progetto Voci", implemented with our support by University Primo Levi (Bologna).