



Budapest Declaration on Intergenerational Solidarity

Adopted in Budapest, 30 April 2026

Conference on Intergenerational Solidarity organised by the European Seniors' Union (ESU), EPP Women, SME Europe, YEPP, Robert Schuman Institute, and co-organised by the European People's Party

Resolution

The Conference on Intergenerational Solidarity,

We, the undersigned participants, representing seniors, youth and women from across Europe, within the EPP family and beyond,

Whereas

A. The values of human dignity, respect, solidarity, fairness, responsibility and equal opportunities for all generations are at the core of the European People's Party, of the European project, and of the founding principles of the European Seniors' Union (ESU), YEPP and EPP Women;

B. Europe is undergoing profound and long-term demographic change, including population ageing, declining birth rates, changing family structures, rural depopulation and evolving labour markets, which together constitute a major structural transformation affecting all policy fields;

C. Intergenerational solidarity is a cornerstone of social cohesion, democratic resilience and economic sustainability, and is essential for ensuring trust between generations and confidence in Europe's future;

D. Demographic change must be recognised as a megatrend in European politics, requiring early, coordinated and evidence-based responses across all institutions, levels of governance and policy areas;

The Conference hereby declares and resolves as follows:

1. **Reaffirms** its commitment to the fundamental values of dignity, respect, solidarity, fairness and equal opportunity across all stages of life, and to policies that strengthen cohesion between generations rather than setting them in competition;
2. **Affirms** that demographic change, including population ageing, must not be framed as a burden only, but as an opportunity to strengthen solidarity, foster the transmission of values, knowledge and experience, and build sustainable, family-friendly and inclusive European societies;

3. **Calls for the systematic recognition of demographic change as a strategic priority** in European and national policymaking, ensuring that its impacts are assessed and addressed across all relevant policy fields, including economic policy, social affairs, family policy, labour markets, education, healthcare, housing, regional development and digitalisation;
4. **Commits** to promoting fair, adequate and financially sustainable social protection systems, including pensions, healthcare and long-term care, while encouraging innovative financing models, prevention-oriented healthcare, and the responsible use of technological progress to improve accessibility, efficiency and quality of care;
5. **Supports policies that enable people of all ages to participate fully in economic and social life**, including active ageing strategies, lifelong learning, digital inclusion, flexible retirement models, age-diverse workplaces, and the voluntary and civic engagement of older generations; older generations, while also addressing loneliness and social isolation in older age through community-based support, intergenerational initiatives, age-friendly services, and innovative approaches that promote health, dignity, independent living and social participation;
6. **Supports digital literacy**, innovation and the use of facilitating technologies across all generations, by promoting access to digital skills training, fostering user-friendly and inclusive digital solutions, and encouraging the responsible use of emerging technologies to enhance participation, service delivery and quality of life.
7. **Stresses the importance of strong family and parenthood-supporting policies**, including flexible parental leave, work–life balance measures, accessible childcare, and working arrangements that allow families to combine professional and family life, as a key response to demographic change;
8. **Affirms the importance of the right to family life across all generations**, including in old age, and supports policies that strengthen family bonds, promote intergenerational living, and prioritise home- and community-based care wherever possible, so as to uphold dignity, autonomy and social connection in later life;
9. **Encourages intergenerational employment, mentoring and skills-transfer schemes**, as well as youth participation and coaching initiatives, recognising their contribution to productivity, social cohesion and Europe’s long-term competitiveness;
10. **Highlights the need to strengthen rural vitality and territorial cohesion**, including through targeted infrastructure investment, affordable housing and land, access to services, job creation, and incentives for young people and families to remain in or return to rural and depopulating areas, based on long-term demographic data and spatial planning;
11. **Pledges to combat all forms of ageism and discrimination based on age**, at both societal and institutional levels, and to actively promote the dignity, rights and contributions of people at every stage of life;
12. **Encourages structured intergenerational dialogue and civic engagement** through concrete initiatives, including youth–senior exchange platforms, joint civic and political projects, mentoring and coaching schemes, community-building actions, and cross-border cooperation;
13. **Calls upon the EPP institutions, EPP member parties, the European Commission, the European Parliament and the Member States** to integrate intergenerational solidarity and age-friendly approaches into their political agendas, and to work towards the development of a coherent European Intergenerational Dialogue Strategy;
14. **Announces the establishment of a Permanent Intergenerational and Demographic Cooperation Working Group within the EPP family**, involving ESU, YEPP, EPP Women and other relevant EPP-affiliated organisations, tasked with follow-up, policy

coordination, implementation of joint projects, monitoring progress, and reporting regularly to EPP bodies;

15. **Emphasises the importance of geographical balance and inclusiveness**, ensuring meaningful participation of all EU regions, including Central and Eastern Europe, in order to reflect Europe's demographic diversity, challenges and opportunities;
16. **Invites civil society organisations, local and regional authorities, municipalities, families, youth organisations and senior associations** to actively contribute to strengthening intergenerational solidarity at grassroots level across Europe;
17. **Commits to reconvening periodically to assess progress**, including the organisation of a follow-up intergenerational conference within the next 24 months, and to reporting on concrete outcomes and actions to the next EPP Political Assembly.

Implementation Targets

To ensure measurable progress, the Conference commits to the following targets:

1. **By mid-2027**, the Intergenerational and Demographic Cooperation Working Group shall present a first progress report and a set of policy recommendations to the EPP Political Assembly;
2. **By 2028**, intergenerational solidarity and demographic impact assessments should be systematically reflected in relevant EPP policy positions and electoral programmes;
3. **By the next EPP electoral cycle**, at least one concrete intergenerational pilot project or exchange initiative shall be supported or launched in each EU region, with particular attention to rural and demographically challenged areas;
4. **Within 30 months**, a follow-up intergenerational conference shall assess implementation, share best practices, and update priorities in light of demographic developments.

The Conference agrees that this Declaration may be refined through plenary and closing debates, and that the final text shall be adopted by consensus among the partners and presented to the EPP Political Assembly on 30 June 2026 in Vienna, Austria.