

**ACTIVE PARTICIPATION
GIVING THE ELDERLY A VOICE
FLANDERS**

The Flemish Council of the Elderly

BRUSSELS – 28/04/2014

JUL GEEROMS

PARTICIPATION OF THE ELDERLY

= aims to give a voice to elderly and defend the interests of older and retired people

WHY?

Older people should be able to speak out on their own behalf

HOW?

- Advisory Board
- Indirect participation = voice of the elderly

POLICY FOR ELDERLY IN FLANDERS

DECREE CONCERNING THE STIMULATION OF AN INCLUSIVE POLICY FOR THE ELDERLY IN FLANDERS AND THE PARTICIPATION OF THE ELDERLY

21 APRIL 2004

=> MINISTER FOR THE ELDERLY +

Policy for the elderly

=> FLEMISH COUNCIL OF THE ELDERLY

=> STIMULATE an inclusive POLICY FOR
ELDERLY AT LOCAL LEVEL

THE FLEMISH COUNCIL OF THE ELDERLY

- Structure Council of the Elderly
 - 60 % are 60-plus
 - Chairman is an older person (60+)
- Representative
- Expertise
- Autonomy



INFLUENCE THE GOVERNMENT

Core business:
giving advice

on request

e.g. the elderly policy

own initiative

e.g. intergenerational solidarity



HOW DO WE OPERATE?

- Based on the input of the elderly
- Committees prepare the advices and view points
- Composition of the committees: representatives of the elderly organisations = elderly people, older experts, professionals
- Important themes: income, sport, accessibility, lifelong learning, housing, care, health...

OTHER OBJECTIVES

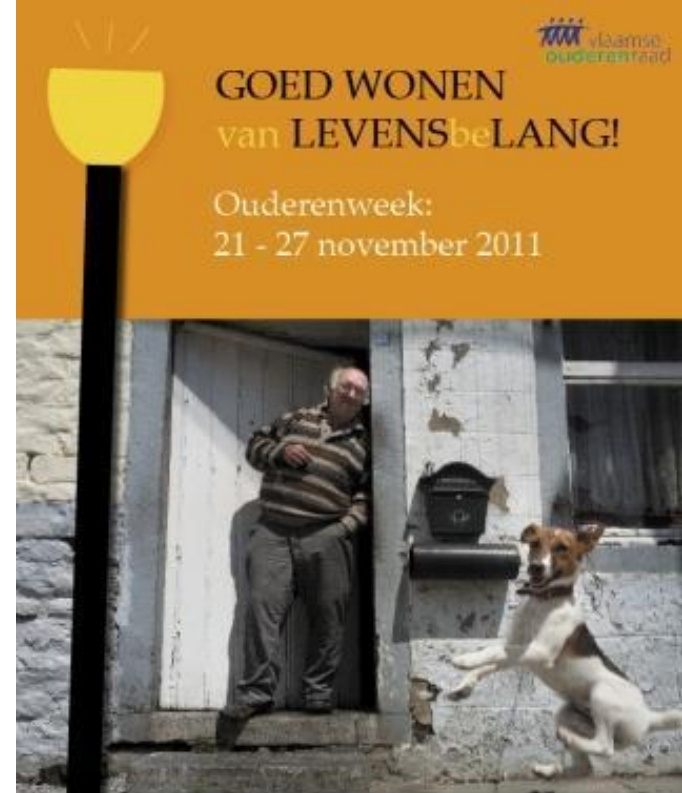
- Inform: newsletter – website – individual questions
- Raise awareness, e.g. negative image, elderly week
- Identify the needs, e.g. digital exclusion
- Research (support, participate in peer groups)



ELDERLY WEEK

- Raise awareness
- Theme - Brochure
Information and
Methodology
- Elderly Week 2012:
19-25 November

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



De Vlaamse Ouderenraad roept beleidsverantwoordelijken op om een structureel en krachtig woonbeleid te voeren dat armoede en sociale uitsluiting bij ouderen voorkomt.



STRENGTHS

- Speak with one voice = voice of the elderly
- Reach consensus
- Council of the elderly at all levels
- Respect for the diversity between the different organisations
- Commitment of older volunteers
- Competence of older people and their organisations
- Follow the developments and be alert for the needs of the elderly

LOOKING INTO THE FUTURE

- Increase the request for advice at all levels and concerning different policy areas (not only care)
- Support elderly through education so that they can participate
- Support the elderly organisations
- Stimulate seniors to continue as contributing members of society



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

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