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National Council for Older Persons

Member of AGE Platform Europe

Monday 10 November 2025

## Press Communication

### HURDLES TO ACTIVE AGEING

The National Council for Older Persons notes that a major low-cost airline is shortly discontinuing the paper version of its boarding pass. The paperless trend re-enforces the digital divide and hampers active participation of a considerable number of older persons. Prohibitive insurance premiums for older persons, if available at all, discourage older persons from travelling.

KNA is fully supportive of the Active Ageing policies that were developed and enhanced through the years by subsequent public administrations. Nevertheless the progressively increasing hurdles to active ageing cannot go unnoticed.

Age-friendly towns and villages have never featured high on the planning agenda and the public policy for active ageing in society is counterpoised by lack of an age friendly planning policy.

The progressive elimination of face-to-face and paper-based communication is inhibiting access of older persons to banking, ordinary administration, utilities and other services, disempowering them, curbing their autonomy and increasing their dependency on third parties and powers of attorney. Telephone communication is hampered with complicated protocols while online access more often than not is not user friendly.

Active Ageing is more than the provision of the various high-level services and facilities, as it permeates the daily life of each individual, life-wide and life-long. Limitations to full participation in society have dire effects on the quality of life and health of every person.

The National Council for Older Persons advocates a wider vision of Active Ageing.