



# Age Friendly Cities: Participation and Well-being of Older People

Building solutions by co-creation  
UNIC Virtual Meeting Platform

## Let's meet!

08.12.2022  
12:00-14:30  
(Istanbul Time)  
(10:00-12:30 CET)  
via Zoom

To register to this online  
event visit  
<https://mirekoc.ku.edu.tr>



## Age Friendly Cities: Participation and Well-being of Older People

UNIC Virtual Meeting Platform

**December 8<sup>th</sup>, at 12.00-14.30 (Istanbul Time) (10:00-12:30 CET) via Zoom (registration required)**

Koc University, University of Liege, Erasmus University Rotterdam and Ruhr University Bochum are organizing a UNIC CityLabs Virtual Meeting Platform aiming to gather the university community and the city to share different views on this important social challenge and to learn about inspiring practices implemented in Istanbul, Liège, Rotterdam and Bochum for the co-creation of solutions to this common challenge.

### Program of the Panel

#### **12:00-12:10 Welcome and Introduction**

#### **12.10-12:50 A sustainable care model for older individuals**

*Questions:* How can we have a better care model which is more democratic and inclusive? A care model involves access, ability, opportunity, capacity and referral to existing care practices and facilities, both in terms of health care and social care. In addition, to what extent do we prioritize ethics of care?

- Dr. Başak Akkan, Bilgi University
- Zelal Yalçın, İPA Social Policy Center Coordinator (TBC)

#### **12:50-13:30 Digital competency, inclusivity in public space and use of technology**

What can we do to enhance digital competency of older individuals? How can we combat digital inequalities? How can we increase digital inclusion of older persons?

- Prof. Dr. Sebastian Merkel, Ruhr University Bochum
- Dr. Gülüstü Salur, 65+ Elder Rights Association, Founder and Member of Board of Directors

#### **13:30-14:10 Age inclusive public spaces: best practices from post-industrial cities**

Questions: From gathering spaces to public parks, buildings they enter in their everyday life, how cities evolve and adapt to aging populations? Research, data, best practices, city examples and experiences are welcome.

- Prof. Dr. Catherine Elsen, University of Liège
- Warsha Jagroep, PhD Researcher, Erasmus University Rotterdam

#### **14:10-14:20 Wrap up**

→ Please click [here](#) for registration.





Get the chance to participate in future international UNIC activities in 2023 in UNIC cities (Rotterdam, Zagreb, Bochum, Cork, Deusto, Liège, Oulu, Łódź, Malmö) with your participation certificate.

### **About UNIC Virtual Meeting Platforms**

**The European University of Post-Industrial Cities – UNIC** – is an alliance of ten universities in post-industrial cities which all face similar challenges and opportunities in terms of mobility, inclusion and diversity. To contribute to the urban resilience and renaissance of post-industrial cities, we establish **UNIC CityLabs and UNIC Virtual Meeting Platforms (VMPs)**

As part of UNIC, **UNIC Pop-Up CityLabs VMPs**, are physical and virtual urban meeting places, where UNIC students, researchers and educators meet UNIC's associate partners, local communities and stakeholders face to face to co-create innovative solutions to real-life societal challenges where they occur.

**Within this context, the VMP will be organized on December 8<sup>th</sup> 12.00-14.30 on the theme of “Age Friendly Cities: Participation and Well-being of Older People” where we will discuss the solutions, best practices and good examples for Age Friendly Cities.**

Our ambition is to eradicate the strict borders between university and city to develop relevant solutions for pressing issues as well as provide students with a learning experience that is connected to and rooted in the actual challenges experienced in urban contexts.

### **When?**

December 8th, at 12.00-14.30 (Istanbul Time) (10:00-12:30 CET) via Zoom

### **How to register?**

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1RczPRNuwj1Z5aAvFDc35548yp9lF3pZW5QeBlmH2ZnQ/edit>

**More information about the meeting is available at**

<https://mirekoc.ku.edu.tr/events/unic-vimp-age-friendly-cities>

### **Information**

For more information about UNIC, please visit <https://unic.eu/>





Dr. Başak Akkan, Bilgi University

Başak Akkan is a faculty member at the International Relations Department at Istanbul Bilgi University. She holds a PhD in Interdisciplinary Social Science from Utrecht University and an MS in European Social Policy from the London School of Economics. Her research interests include care regimes, comparative social policy, child poverty and well-being. She has published in scientific journals, including *Child Indicators Research*, *Children and Youth Services*, *Feminist Theory*, *Historical Social Research*, *Journal of Gender Studies*, *Social Inclusion*, and *Social Politics*. She is an associate editor at the *International Journal of Care and Caring*. She is co-editor of the book *Analysing Overlapping Inequalities in the Welfare State: Methodological Strengths and Challenges of Intersectional Approach* to be published by Springer in 2023.



Zelal Yalçın, İPA Social Policy Center Coordinator (TBC)

Zelal Yalçın is the İstanbul Metropolitan Municipality, İstanbul Planning Agency Social Policy Center Coordinator. During and after her studies in Statistics at Mimar Sinan University, she worked with Purple Roof Women's Shelter Foundation (Mor Çatı Kadın Sığınağı Vakfı) and several other foundations for women's rights and protections; also giving trainings on gender equality, local governance and participation during her time with NGOs. Previous to İstanbul Metropolitan Municipality, she worked at Şişli Municipality as Gender Equality Expert.



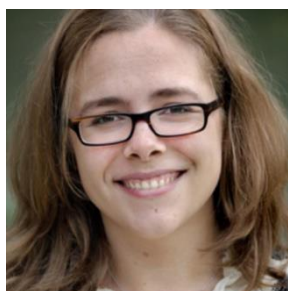
Prof. Dr. Sebastian Merkel, Ruhr University Bochum

Sebastian Merkel holds the junior professorship "Health and E-Health" at the Ruhr-University Bochum since 2020. He has been involved as a researcher in multiple national and international projects in the field ageing and technology. His research is focused on innovation theory, particularly with respect to participatory approaches on technology development in health and social care.



Dr. Gülüstü Salur, 65+ Elder Rights Association, Founder and Member of Board of Directors

Gülüstü Salur graduated from Istanbul University Medical School and completed specialization in the Department of Neurology of IU Medical School followed by further specialization in behavioral neurology and movement disorders. Working on the front lines of clinical services for elders, she founded the 65+ Elder Rights Association of Turkey along with others dedicated to elder issues and continues to lead development and implementation of educational programs to raise awareness and improve quality of life for elders. The current focus of the educational programs is healthy and active living, importance of exercise, preventive measures, fighting loneliness, legal issues specific to elderly, financial planning and financial literacy for elderly, second careers, aging in place in aging friendly houses and cities, digital literacy/inclusion for the elderly, intergenerational support and preparing for aging.



Prof. Dr. Catherine Elsen, University of Liège

Catherine Elsen is a Professor at University of Liège (ULiège - Belgium) at the Faculty of Applied Sciences. She received her PhD in Engineering Sciences in 2011 (ULg), a Master in Social Sciences in 2009 (CNAM, Paris), and a MS degree in Architecture and Building Engineering in 2007 (ULg). Her research interests cover design processes (in architecture and industrial design), and more specifically the impact design tools and methods have on specific cognitive processes (integration of end-users' needs; creativity; cooperation between team members). She lately developed special interest in Aging processes, researching them with the intent to develop adequate living environments designed with an eye for aging well.



Warsha Jagroep, PhD Researcher, Erasmus University Rotterdam

Warsha Jagroep is a PhD candidate at the Erasmus School of Health Policy and Management, Erasmus University Rotterdam, in the Netherlands. Her research is about age-friendly neighbourhoods and the health and well-being of older Surinamese migrants in the Netherlands. Warsha holds a bachelor's degree in Health and Life sciences and a master's degree in Vitality and Ageing. She also holds a degree in nursing and has provided care to older adults with somatic and psychogeriatric diseases.