



European Anti-Poverty Network, AGE Platform Europe

The voice of older persons at EU level



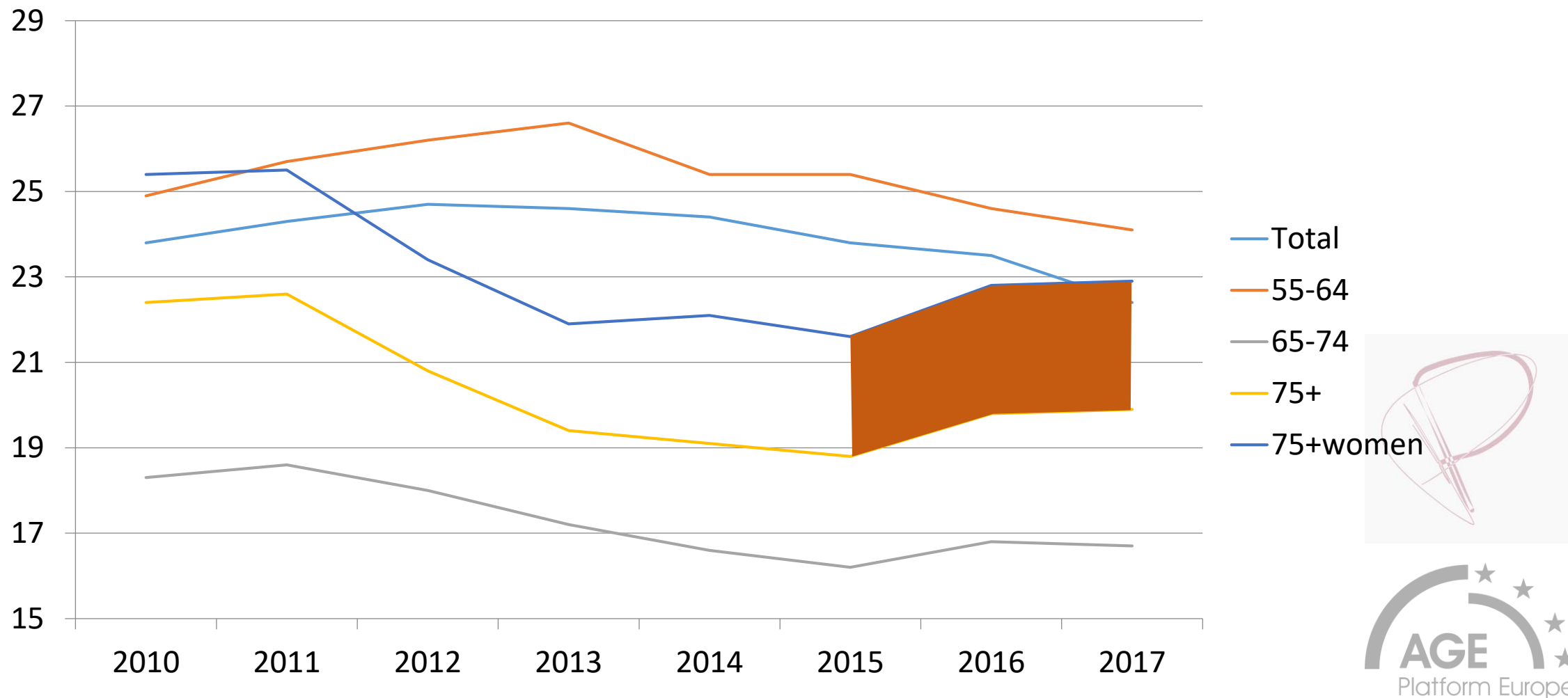
2019 Country Reports from the perspective of AGE members

EAPN meeting with Romanian, Finnish, Portuguese
and Belgian Permanent Representations

14 May 2019

Philippe Seidel Leroy – philippe.seidel@age-platform.eu

Risk of poverty and social exclusion



Observations on Country Reports



- Attention on **public deficits** stronger than on social issues
- But with the EPSR, **the right analysis is there**; it could sometimes be deeper
- Good idea to highlight the **European contribution via EU funds**
- **Pensions** are mostly treated as costs to be cut, not under the angle of their social function
- Lack of attention on **erosion of contributions base**
- Pension reforms are being felt; basic mention of this is there – **but no follow-up**



Observations on the Belgian Country Report



- Contradiction between **calls for investment** and concern for **financial sustainability**
- Mentioning of **underinvestment** into public infrastructures since the 90s as a negative point, but these were to comply with the SGP
- Interesting reflections on **enlargement of the taxable base** to generate income for public budgets, but does not mention the issue of **undertaxed financial incomes**

Exclusion risks reported by AGE members

- The **oldest old** – point to problems related to pensions indexation
- Older **women** and older **self-employed** (cf. Pension Adequacy Report 2018)
- Older people with **impairments / health issues** (cost of health and long-term care; ageism in the attribution of benefits)



Social exclusion from the spending side



- **Increase of living costs** can be fast for some items (cf. housing, food), with strong geographic differences (rural/urban)
- **Needs of older persons** can shift with age (transportation, social participation)
- Significant risks to personal finances: **health and long-term care**
- Need to further develop the approach **of reference budgets** to assess adequacy; or assess individual financial burden of long-term care / health care



Want to know more about us?

www.age-platform.eu

[@AGE_PlatformEU](https://twitter.com/AGE_PlatformEU)



[AGE Platform Europe](https://www.facebook.com/AGE_PlatformEU)



AGE work is co-funded by the Rights, Equality and Citizenship Programme of the European Union. The contents of this document are the sole responsibility of AGE Platform Europe and cannot be taken to reflect the views of the European Commission.