

Highlights from the 1st International Conference of the Sustainable Ageing EAPS Working Group

The **1st International Conference of the Sustainable Ageing EAPS Working Group** held at the University of Padua on 11-12 September 2025, brought together leading scholars from across Europe and beyond to discuss how ageing, care, digitalisation, work and social participation as well as environmental challenges intersect in shaping well-being over the life course and across generations.

Organised by **Bruno Arpino** (University of Padua) and **Valeria Bordone** (University of Vienna), the event fostered vibrant exchanges among researchers in demography, gerontology, sociology, and other social sciences.

Over two half-days, participants explored the theme of “*Ageing well for all*” through five scientific sessions, a keynote lecture, and an engaging poster session showcasing emerging research.



Opening and Programme Overview

The conference opened with welcoming remarks by Bruno Arpino and Valeria Bordone, who highlighted the need for interdisciplinary perspectives on ageing and sustainability in a rapidly changing world.

Five thematic sessions followed, covering:

- **Caregiving** – exploring intergenerational transfers of care, the effects of informal care on well-being, and inequalities in healthcare access during and after the COVID-19 pandemic;
- **Digitalisation and Digital Divides** – addressing how digital skills and infrastructure affect inclusion, participation, and the use of e-government services among older adults across Europe;
- **Health and Well-being** – investigating the interplay between gender, cognition, health inequalities, and future projections of disability in ageing populations;
- **Climate Change and Environmental Influences** – examining the vulnerability of older adults to environmental stressors and their attitudes toward sustainability and intergenerational responsibility;
- **Work, Social Participation, and Leisure** – analysing how work transitions, time allocation, and intergenerational family dynamics affect satisfaction and health in later life.

Each session featured four to five presentations and insightful discussant contributions, ensuring lively debate and synthesis of key findings.

Keynote Lecture

A highlight of the event was the **Keynote Lecture by Professor Pearl Dykstra** (Erasmus University Rotterdam), titled “*An Intergenerational Family Perspective on Sustainable Ageing.*”

Her talk underscored how interdependencies across generations — within families and societies— shape opportunities for ageing well and achieving sustainability. Dykstra called for a renewed focus on policies that support reciprocity and solidarity between generations.



Poster Session

A dynamic **poster session and light lunch** concluded the conference, featuring research from institutions across Europe. Topics ranged from resilience and frailty to environmental attitudes, grandparenthood, and digital inclusion. The poster session provided a lively forum for exchange and networking.



Atmosphere and Acknowledgements

The atmosphere throughout the conference was stimulating, with participants praising the scientific quality and organisation. Discussions extended well beyond the sessions—over coffee breaks, the social dinner at Caffè Pedrocchi, and informal gatherings in Padua's historic city centre.



The organisers express their sincere thanks to all presenters, discussants, and chairs, as well as to the Scientific Committee and EAPS for their invaluable contributions to the success of the conference.

Looking Ahead

The conference reaffirmed the importance of combining demographic, sociological, and policy perspectives to promote *sustainable ageing for all generations*. The insights shared in Padua will continue to inform collaborative research and policy dialogue in the years ahead.
