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### **Health literacy in ageing Europe**

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**Background & Aim:** Population ageing presents a number of challenges for health systems and public finances. As a matter of fact, EU Member States spend, on average, more than a quarter of their GDP on social protection, most of it for the benefit of older people in the form of pensions, health and long-term care.

On the other hand, it has been proved that an alarming part of the population lacks proficient knowledge on understanding instructions (such as the label of a prescribed drug) or on how to take healthy choices. Therefore, there is a lack of understanding about how health literacy and health policies should meet in order to have a healthier population in Europe.

**Method:** This proposed 90 minutes symposium aims to bring together different health literacy European actors to tackle the issue and to propose solutions through progressive plans and intersectoral and interprofessional solutions: primary healthcare providers, medical students, youth doctors, patients organizations and international stakeholders.

The proposed speakers are: WHO Europe, European Public Health Alliance (EPHA), Global Health Literacy Europe, IFMSA, with the support of WONCA Europe and the Vasco Da Gama Movement.

A press release would be developed on the day of the event.

**Results:** The symposium objectives are:

1. To address the ageing population in Europe from a multidisciplinary and interprofessional approach.
2. To discuss health literacy challenges from the primary to tertiary healthcare, as well as from a students perspective.
3. To give suggestions and recommendations for the actors and organizations present at the symposium.

**Conclusions:** This symposium comes as an opportunity to discuss a topic often neglected and worsening day by day with ageing and growing populations. While health systems have been strengthened by adopting Universal Health Coverage as a vision, health literacy still requires and deserves more attention if we aim to achieve a better health status and wellbeing for all.