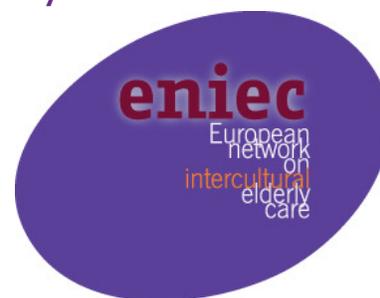


# ENIEC Newsletter



April 2011, no. 42

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## ENIEC is growing

ENIEC meeting at Gothenburg was an important event with a lot of changes.

Firstly, Grete Madsen from Copenhagen is no longer in the board as founder of ENIEC. We would like to write about her energy, the adventures and accomplishments in every newsletter but we cannot. It is strange that Grete is not in the board anymore.

Secondly, there are more new people who joined us and I am sure there will be more to come next year! This is the way it must go to keep the company healthy. ENIEC is an organization of members, which is us.

We have new editors and this newsletter is a first result of their efforts so I encourage all of you to share your thoughts about this. Editors of the ENIEC newsletter have the freedom to compose the newsletter about their personal ideas and thoughts. What is important is that the content is

based on ENIEC's goals and perspectives; that European elderly with a foreign ethnic background can live in an environment of tolerance, intercultural understanding and respect for their needs and for their cultural background. Keeping and sharing differences and yet maintaining the same goals and aspirations is what ENIEC is all about, in my opinion.

Next year we will all go to Amsterdam. It will be nearby for a lot of ENIEC members. We have a lot of members working or living in that city so there will be a big organizing committee. This should be easy for the organizing committee, but on the other hand, the Dutch have an opinion on just about everything so Kristel Logghe will have a big task ahead of her as chairwoman of the organizing committee.

On June 17, the new board will hold their first meeting in Delft. It will be nearby for me and for Kristel. Jenny Malmsten will fly from Malmö to Holland and Frédéric is used to traveling from Frankfurt to The Netherlands. There will be a lot to talk about as you gave us a lot to think and talk about during the annual meeting at Gothenburg.

One of the biggest challenges for the board this year is finding a host city for 2013. It is important to form an organizing committee of more members from that city. The board will appreciate all efforts and thoughts from all its members regarding this challenge.

But first let's all enjoy Spring!  
Jan Booi, Chairman

## Impression meeting on Gothenburg, 9-11 of March

### No one should be afraid of becoming old in Sweden

Gothenburg has some Dutch influences because in the 17<sup>th</sup> century the Dutch were being asked to help designing the city centre. One of the reasons we all felt very at home, haha. Gothenburg is famous of the special kind of humour. We all could notice that when we arrived: snow, snow and...snow!! The Swedish organising committee had prepared a diverse, interesting and nice program. We all met Wednesday evening during the official reception. It is always a fiesta meeting all the members again, some were new, most were familiar members. But everyone is welcome and everyone belongs immediately to the ENIEC-family.



It is an informal open group of people who all have the same

ambition and dream: good intercultural care, housing and welfare for older migrants. Jan Booij, chair of ENIEC welcomed us all. 'We have 100 members of 11 different countries.'

### To get information at the right place

Babbs Edberg, director of elderly care in the area Angered explained us the national objectives of the Swedish government. The Swedish government wants older people to live active, to be treated with respect and to be able to live in a secure and good environment. Who can be against this? Older migrants in Sweden are people from Bosnia, Finland, Somalia, Iraq and Iran. In Angered, a multicultural area in Gothenburg, the biggest problem is loneliness and isolation even though the area has a young population. One of the toughest tasks is to

get the right information at the right places.

### No one should be afraid of becoming old in Sweden

Barbro Westerholm explained to us the Swedish welfare system. 'Elderly are individuals, it is not a group wanting the same. Older people should be able to choose how to live their own lives, be respected and been seen as a resource in society.'

The social welfare Act (1981) and the health care, medical service law (1982) are important for Sweden. These laws are the basis of the system. There are three types of taxes in Sweden. A state tax, a local tax (counties are responsible to take care of health care and medical care) and another local tax (municipalities are responsible for social welfare and social care). The national government can force municipalities to do what they have to do. But the main problem is that there is a grey area where politicians can argue about who is paying what. That is why there is a big research if the municipalities must become responsible too for the health and medical care.

### Old fashioned mantra?

'In the 80's there was this mantra: older people should live as long as possible in their own homes', says Barbro. 'But gradually it become evident that older persons are individuals and like to choose whether they will stay in their own houses or not. Many options are available now, like sheltered houses, senior housing and residential homes. Barbra paints some challenges: the demographic change, the multi-ethnic society, staffing and new treatment methods. There is also a need of suitable statistics. Furthermore, Barbra is convinced it is important to respect the self-determination of the patient. More palliative sedation is needed. But her main message was: see older persons as individuals, listen to the views of the individuals 'No one should be afraid of becoming old in Sweden'.

### **Not everything was better in the past**

Gerdt Sundström, professor emeritus of social work at the School of health sciences, institute of gerontology, has to admit that there is a lack of research about older migrants. But he knows a lot about different cultures: his wife is from China, he met her in Japan, his son lives with his Danish wife in Australia and met her in Israel and his neighbour is from Iraq. Gerdt teaches us that people from southern countries, like Italy, Spain and Greece are feeling more lonely than people from Sweden and Denmark. And that has all to do with expectations.

He has another surprise for us: we all think that we do separate a lot and that a lot of people live alone nowadays. But... never before have so many people lived this long with their spouse. More people receive care from a family member than before!

### **No shortage of houses**

Maria Ehn-Notrica works at Mi casa Fastigheter Stockholm AB, one of the four housing companies owned by the city of Stockholm. There is no shortage of houses in Stockholm. The city has a young population. There is a greater openness for ethnic living. An increasing amount of ethnic organisations are contacting Mi casa with requests for living groups. There are also senior living homes for homosexual and transsexual persons. Mi casa has built houses for Arabian, Persian, Hungarian, Estonian, Finnish groups of people. 'The next generation will have Swedish as their native language', says Maria. 'We built Persian and Arabic care homes, with somatic and dementia wards where also married couples are able to live together. The staff speaks both languages, relatives are welcome to help and there is food and furniture from the country of origin.' Some people warn that the problem will soon be reversed: no Swedish speaking workers in elderly care. The entire staff will be foreigners.

### **Spanish heart**

We visited a Spanish ward Dahlia at residential home Lillhagsparken. The youngest person at this small-scale ward

(maximum 8 people) was 82 years old and the oldest person was 96 years. The older people originally came from Spanish speaking countries like Spain but most of them came from South-America, like Chile, Venezuela, Peru,. You could see some Spanish influences at the ward, like flags of all countries, the Spanish television, Spanish food ('arroz con leche' and 'polo'). They eat the Spanish way: a long time. The staff speaks two languages and has a Spanish heart. Normally in Sweden, people cannot choose between residential homes. You have to go to the home in your area. But the Spanish ward attracts people all over Gothenburg and outside.

### **Do not smoke**

We all enjoyed the field visits. It is always a pleasure to travel in small groups, to meet older people and to learn from them. One older woman in the residential home told her the secret why she looked so active even at her age (96!): 'I have had a demanding mother and learned to do the things by myself. That is why I refuse to use that wheelchair. I am not going to use that thing. And....I have never smoked.'

Gothenburg has some Dutch influences as said earlier. Next year we will visit Amsterdam and we will show you that Amsterdam has a lot of multicultural influences. But be prepared, Amsterdam is famous of its complete anarchy!!

Yvonne Witter

## **Minutes of the board meeting**

### ***Minutes, ENIEC Board Meeting, 9 March 2011 in Gothenburg***

Jan Booij (JB), The Netherlands, chairman of the board

Grete Madsen (GM), Denmark, who took the minutes

Frédéric Lauscher (FL), Germany

Ria Lidén (RD), Sweden, representative of the annual meeting in Gothenburg 2011

**1. Comments on last board meetings minutes**

No comments

**2. Programme the upcoming annual meeting**

Ria presented the final facts of the meeting, and all agreed on the programme

**3. Financial strategy for the coming years**

The subject was up for discussion due to the fact that ENIEC's financial resources will be reduced by 50% after this annual meeting in Gothenburg, as the city did not provide any financial support.

All annual meetings must still be free for the members; this is an important issue for the association. The costs for the annual meeting must be obtained through grants and sponsorships, and it is expected and prioritized that the host city will contribute with most of the financial needs for the meeting.

ENIEC needs to raise its ground capital after this year's meeting, as the board agreed for a ground capital of approximately € 35,000. After this year's meeting it will be €15,000.

Also we have learnt, that all agreements of funding must be immediately confirmed in writing.

**4. Next year's membership fee**

The board agreed to suggest to the members only a slight raise in the fee, so the proposed fee will be €140 in 2012.

**5. Annual meeting 2012 and 2013**

The board will – as previously discussed – suggest Amsterdam as host city in 2012. They have already formed an organising committee there.

For 2013 we must look at Norway or maybe Belgium as possibilities

**6. Statement of account**

Granted by the board

**7. Budget 2011**

Granted with the agreement about raising our savings in the coming years

**8. Election of the board**

Grete will withdraw from the board to let new members come forward. Jan wishes to take one more year, and Frederic wishes to continue as well. GM will introduce the point during the General Assembly.

**9. Recruiting new members**

It goes excellent with the recruiting. We have now 11 countries represented. The board was very pleased to get Belgium back as a membership country, and also our first Italian and Spanish member have registered. We are now 98 members and 31 new members since last year.

**10. New editors**

Jan B. has been talking with a few Dutch members who are willing to take over the editor's task. It will be decided on the General Assembly

**11. Website**

No news, but the website is visited and functions very well, also thanks to the fact, that Jan B. can now place material on the website himself.

Grete Madsen

**Minutes of the General Assembly of Eniec**

**General Assembly ENIEC  
Thursday 10th of March 2011,  
Sweden**

Welcome and start of the assembly

Jan Booi, chairman of ENIEC opens the general assembly and welcomes everybody to this meeting.

Minutes

Yvonne Witter, member of ENIEC will write the minutes.

### Annual report

-ENIEC has 98 members of 11 different countries. We have achieved finding new members, 32 new members since last year. That is great, so thanks to everyone who has found new members.

-Take care of your payments as not everybody has paid his or her fee!!

- The organising committee of Gothenburg has organised this meeting under difficult circumstances. It was hard to find any funding and there were some complications to get support from the municipality. That is the reason why ENIEC itself contributed around 22.000 euro to fund this meeting. The main lesson we all could learn from this is that all agreements should be made in writing, 'black on white'. Oral agreements seem not always to work. All ENIEC members agree on this and agree on the fact ENIEC pays for this meeting at the end. We all compliment the Swedish committee for the wonderful way they achieved to continue and to prepare this great meeting.

There were a few questions about aspects of the report. Will we spread the newsletter outside our network? Well, it is a intern oriented newsletter. It focuses on members. The website, leaflets and social media (twitter, linked in and so on) are open for other people and are focuses also on the outside world. One member suggests to put articles on the website. This is already the case and we will continue this.

We all agree with the annual report. Chapeau!!

### Statement of accounts 2010

We also agree all the statements of accounts 2010. Thanks to Frederic Lauscher, and to **Margot Scholten and Pim Nederstigt** for doing the auditing! They are willing to do this next year as well.

### Newsletter

Jan Willem Pijpers, Nicolet van Eerd and Marja van Berkel and Cobie Schippers did a great job in taking care of the newsletter for the past two years. Well done, you folks! Many thanks! All members give

them a big applause. The board will thank them also.

**Freddy May, Lola Sanchez, Helena Bjurback and Yvonne Witter** will take this honourful job over.

### Budget 2011

Frederik Lauscher explained the budgets in a clear and good way. ENIEC received two donations (thanks Johan Groen and Frederik Lauscher). As said earlier, ENIEC paid 22.104,00 euro for this meeting. That means we will keep 15.663,33 at our account. That is not a problem but it is a good idea to raise some money so we can have some 30.000 left at our account. That is a safer surplus. Every member will look for opportunities to raise some money. A suggestion is to ask at your municipality. The municipality of The Hague for example always sponsors ENIEC.

**Grete Madsen** will send a set of guidelines to us (in the newsletter) for the communication (as an example how to ask for some funding).

**The board** will write a financial strategic document for the future.

### Membership fee 2012

The fee of the membership 2012 will be 140 euro. All ENIEC members agree with this proposal.

### Board election

The board announced in the newsletter to withdraw all. But some members said that is not a good idea to withdraw all at the same time. The board took this serious. So Grete Madsen will leave the board. After 5 years of good and hard work she will give room and place for someone else. Jan and Frederik will stay one more year because of the continuation. Jan Booij says some nice words to Grete. Without Grete, there would not have been ENIEC at all. Grete, you are a fantastic ENIEC-mother! Grete will stay an ENIEC member (for always), so there is happily no real goodbye.

Every year there must be an election of the board. Some members suggest to install a small 'election committee.' And to write down some guidelines and

regulations. The board will take care of this.

**Jenny Malmsten** from Sweden is elected a new board member and all ENIEC members agree on that. Welcome, jenny! **Kristel Logghe** will join the board also for one year as she is the chair of the organising committee Amsterdam 2012.



Some members spontaneously offer help to some tasks of the board.

Anne Rose Abendanon likes to help the board with thinking about a good structure  
Maria van Boekel is willing to help the board writing a strategy of communication  
Johan Groen likes to join the board next year

#### ENIEC meeting 2012

Everyone agrees on the suggestion to organise the 6<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of ENIEC in....Amsterdam!!

**Kristel Logghe (chair), Harry Mertens (vice chair), Harry Moeskops, Wendela Gronthoud, Anne Rose Abendanon, Carlijn van Os, Mohammed Baba, Jan Willem Pijpers and Yvonne Witter** and **probably some other members** will be responsible organising an unforgettable and nice meeting.

And we all should consider organising the 7<sup>th</sup> meeting in 2013....Belgium? Norway?

#### Future points

There are some points mentioned by some members that are worth to think and talk about:

- It is a good and important issue to attract more older migrants and their organisations to become a member of ENIEC. Now we have 3 members of NOOM, the Dutch National Network of Older migrant organisations. More organisations should follow this good example
- It is hard to attract members of the Southern countries. The language might for some be a problem and the fact that there live relatively 'poco' older migrants in these countries.
- It is important to think about people with disabilities. We should also focus on that, because also disabled people are becoming older and older.
- We should not focus too much on care, but also be aware of paying attention to welfare, prevention and the use of the strength of the older migrants.

#### **Actions of the board:**

1. regulations of election
2. discuss about the topic of disabled older persons
3. recruitment of southern countries and the language problem
4. focus on welfare, prevention
5. write a financial strategic document for the future
6. prepare a communication strategy for the future

Yvonne Witter

## Quote of the month

*An old Indian told his grandchildren:  
"There goes on a terrible fight in every  
person's life; a fight between two wolves.  
One of them is: fear, anger, envy, greed,  
arrogance, self-pity, resentment and  
deceit. The other one: joy, love, humility,  
trust, generosity, truth and compassion."*

*One of the children asked: "Grandpa,  
which wolf wins?"*

*The old man looked him in the eyes and  
said:  
"The one you feed".*

Yvonne Witter

## News from the new editors

We are happy to fulfill the honourful task to take over the work of the previous editors, Jan Willem Pijpers, Nicolet van Eerd en Marja van Berkel. Cobie Schippers, the wonderful editor introduced us to this new task and helped us a lot! Many thanks Cobie!! You are really great! We will not change a lot because every ENIEC member appreciated the newsletter a lot. Never change a winning team. We would like to introduce 3 new rubrics.

"I have a dream": Members can send the editors their vision of future elderly care in their country. What would be the dream scenario? If nothing was impossible and everything makeable what would they do? Boost each other in visionary dreaming can inspire and generate in a creative mind for the today work and hope for the tomorrow and future in elderly care! Who likes to answer this question in the coming newsletter? And... be prepared... if you do not come to us, we will....

## "Short Cut in Cultural things"

Every newsletter gives shortly "suggestions" from the cultural spectra such as music, food or traditions/ happenings, poetry etc. So, if you have anything interesting... please let us know!

## "PS!"

Short writing about "good to know- from members / the board or editors Recommendations" like Theories/ Studies/ Programs/ Books from different countries.

## New ENIEC members

From France - our first French member!

### **Emilie Blondy**

Emilie is a Project Officer of Migrations and European Partnerships at GRDR. GRDR is a French association conducting development actions in sub-Saharan migrants and their organisations in their economic initiatives and social inclusion in France. Currently GRDR is conducting a study on migrant elders in 2 regions in France, especially with a focus on sheltered housing.

From Italy - our first Italian member!

### **Emiliana Gamba**

Emiliana works as a councillor in social policy in the municipality of the city Sorisole

From Spain - our first Spanish member!

### **Alvaro Da Silva**

Alvaro is a doctor, working with elderly, and he has progressively more patients of different intercultural backgrounds. He is from Burgos.

From Sweden:

### **Sari Scheinberg**

Sari is a Dr. She has worked with integration and discrimination for more than 30 years, also outside Sweden, e.g. in NYC supporting elderly Jewish survivors.

In Sweden Sari has among other things worked with developing and leading programs for unemployed immigrants.

Maria Ehn-Notrica, Sweden. She is an information manager at Micasa Fastigheter in Stockholm, a housing company also having properties where there is ethnic elderly living.

We have 100 members now!!  
Welcome dear new members to ENIEC!!

Grete Madsen

## Presentation of an ENIEC member

### Päivi Sundell

#### Presentation of an ENIEC member

**Born:** Tampere, Finland

**Home:** Helsinki, Finland

**Profession:** I work as a Health Care Advisor at Social Service Department of the City of Helsinki in the Unit for Immigrants Services. Our customers are the refugees, who are new in Finland and in Helsinki.

Continue developing the services for this group. In cooperation with other organisations we have developed group activities for the immigrants and for example produced instructive visual materials like DVD's to guide them in new society and culture in clear and tangible manner.

**Relation to ENIEC:** Helsinki City sent me to the first ENIEC-meeting in Copenhagen.

**Thoughts about ENIEC:** It is so comforting to know that such a big group of enthusiastic people work in different parts of Europe to improve the position of the group of people, which are in the

vulnerable position. I believe that we are able to get out the concealed and many sided resources in the future for the senior immigrants and we make everything possible that their voices would be heard in welfare construction of the society.

#### **Something about your personal situation:**

I live with my husband in the suburbs of Helsinki near to the sea and in the middle of a big forest and park area. Half of the year we live in the island near Helsinki. I like nature and especially the sea. I've got a motor sailing boat and we travel a lot by it in the summer. Travelling is my pleasure and when I have a chance I like to travel wherever and explore new cultures. My last trip was to Bali in Indonesia and next year we plan to travel to China.

I am a grandmother. I've got three wonderful grandchildren. And it's so nice to follow their growing and developing process.

#### **Have you been to the Annual Meeting in Gothenburg, Sweden?**

Yes, I was there. It was nice to see that those who participated for the first time took part in discussions and activities so enthusiastically.

#### **Where will you be in March 2012?**

Hopefully in Amsterdam if my situation at work permits it...

#### **Invitation – Maiu Kauber, Estonia:**

We had very interesting discussions together in Gothenburg.



When can you expect the ENIEC newsletter?

Around the: 18<sup>th</sup> of April, 23<sup>rd</sup> of May, 20<sup>th</sup> of June, 19<sup>th</sup> of September, 17<sup>th</sup> of October, 21<sup>st</sup> of November, 16<sup>th</sup> of January, 17<sup>th</sup> of February, 17<sup>th</sup> of April.

Deadlines:

Before the 1<sup>st</sup> ,of the month that the newsletter will be there, all input should be sent to the new editors.

Who are the editors:

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Send your items for the next ENIEC newsletter before **May 1<sup>st</sup>** , 2011 to the editors.