

# Elderly People: Teamwork and Intergenerationality as Best Practices



FONDAZIONE  
OPERA IMMACOLATA  
CONCEZIONE ONLUS

• **Davide Ceron**  
social and health educator



21st World  
Congress  
of Social Educators

# Aging on the journey of life



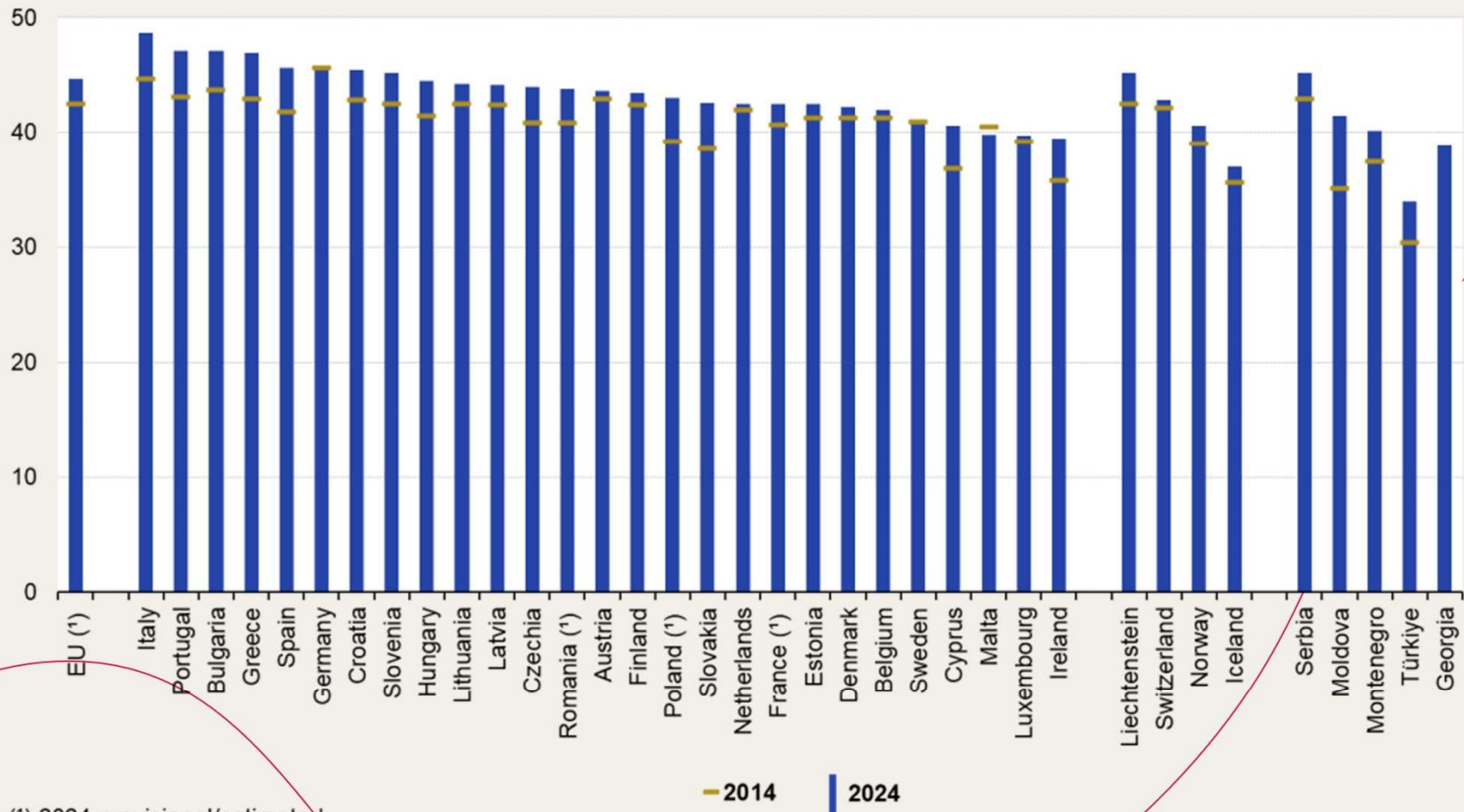


**BY 2100 1 IN 3  
EUROPEANS  
WILL BE OVER 65**

EUROPEANS LIVE LONGER, BUT THE HEALTHY AGEING AND PREVENTION INDEX REVEALS A 10.5-YEAR GAP BETWEEN LIFE SPAN (81.2 years) AND HEALTH SPAN (70.7 years), INDICATING A CONCERN ABOUT THE QUALITY OF EXTENDED LIVES AND WORKABILITY

Source: International Longevity Centre UK

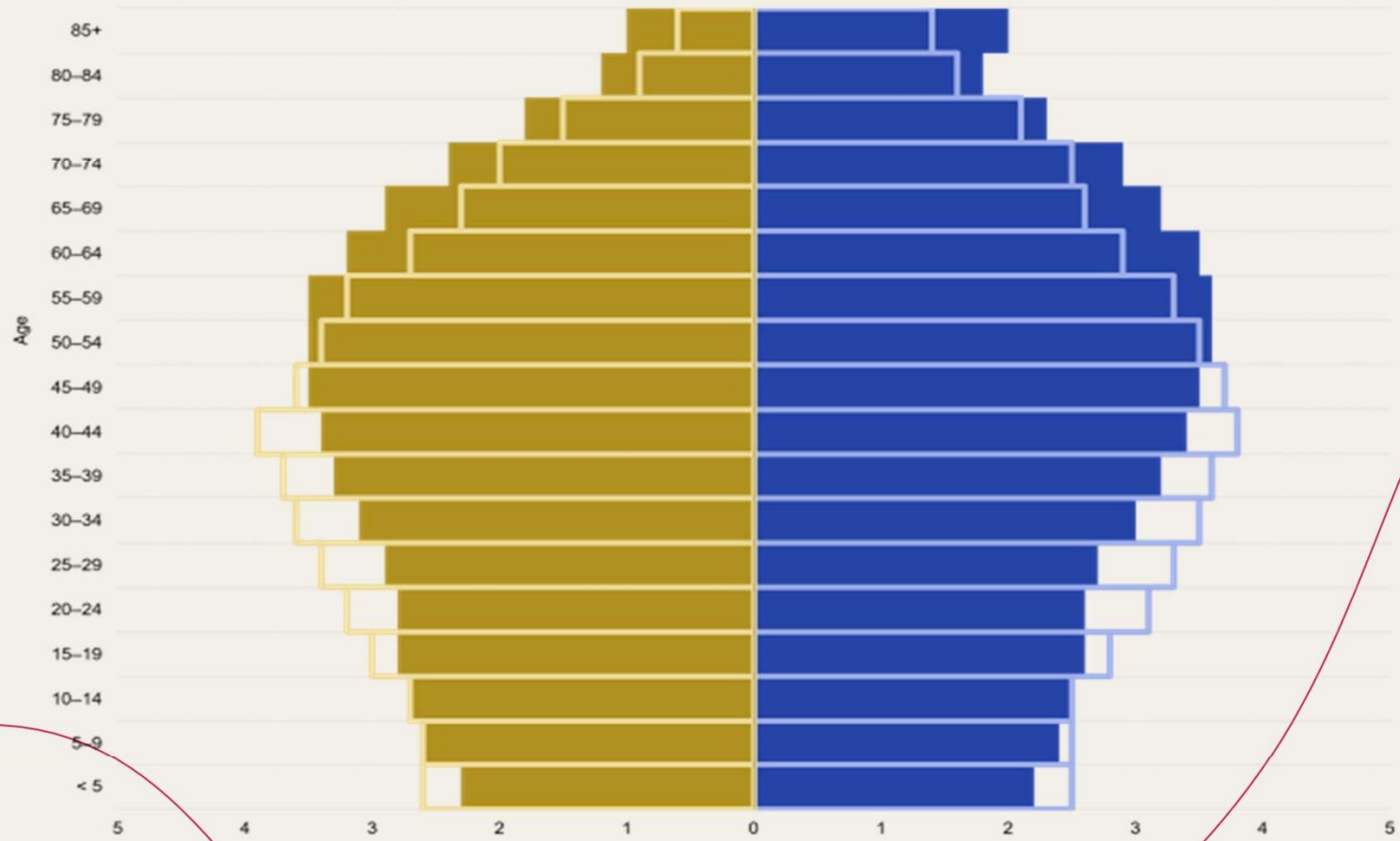
## Median age of population, 2014 and 2024 (years)



(\*) 2024 provisional/estimated.

Source: Eurostat (online data code: demo\_pjanind)

**Population pyramids, EU 2009 and 2024**  
 (% of the total population)

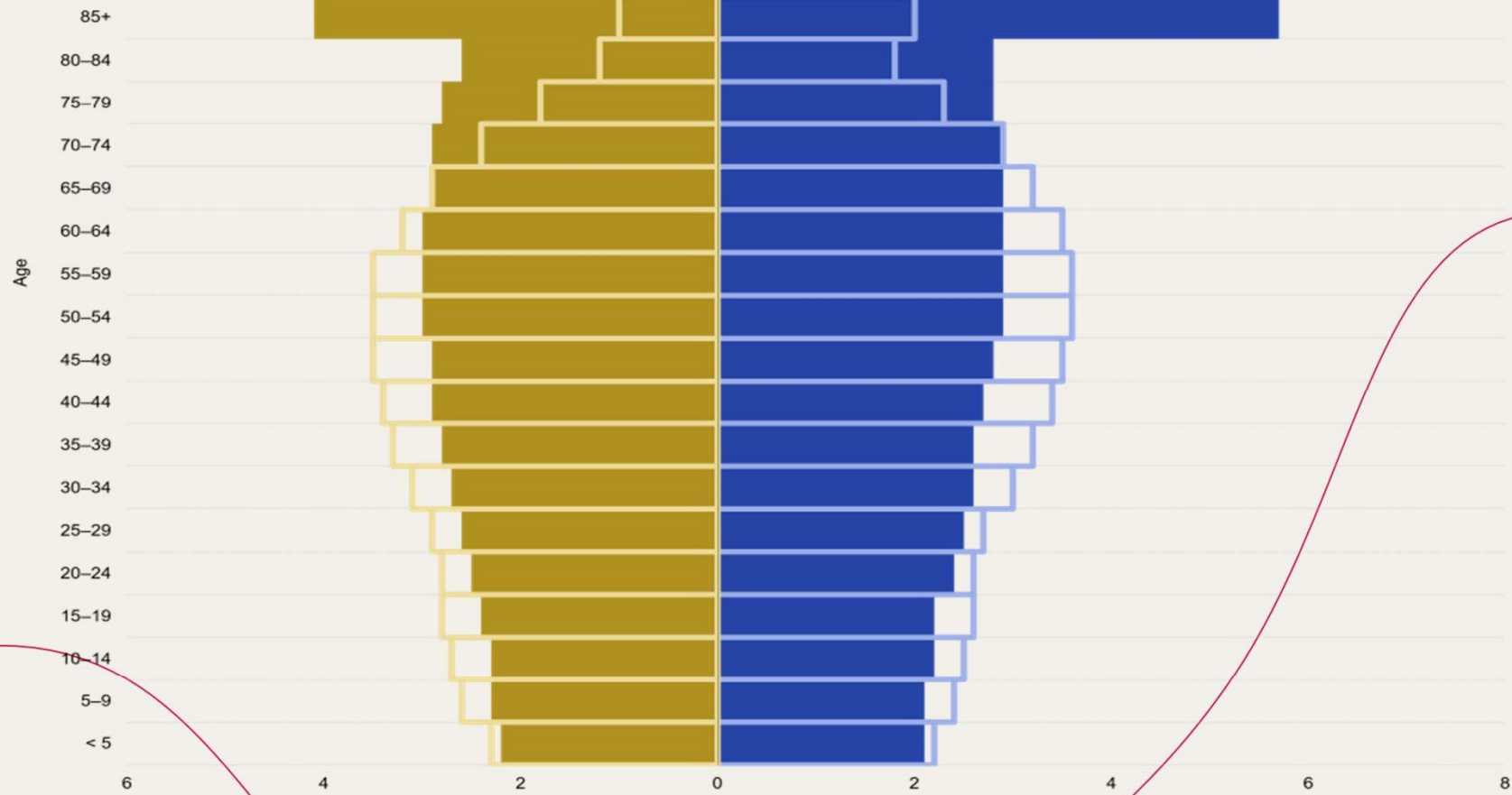


Note: 2024 provisional/estimated.  
 Source: Eurostat (online data code: demo\_pjangroup)

Solid colour 2024  
 Bordered: 2009

Men  
 Women

### Population pyramids, EU, 2024 and 2100 (% of the total population)



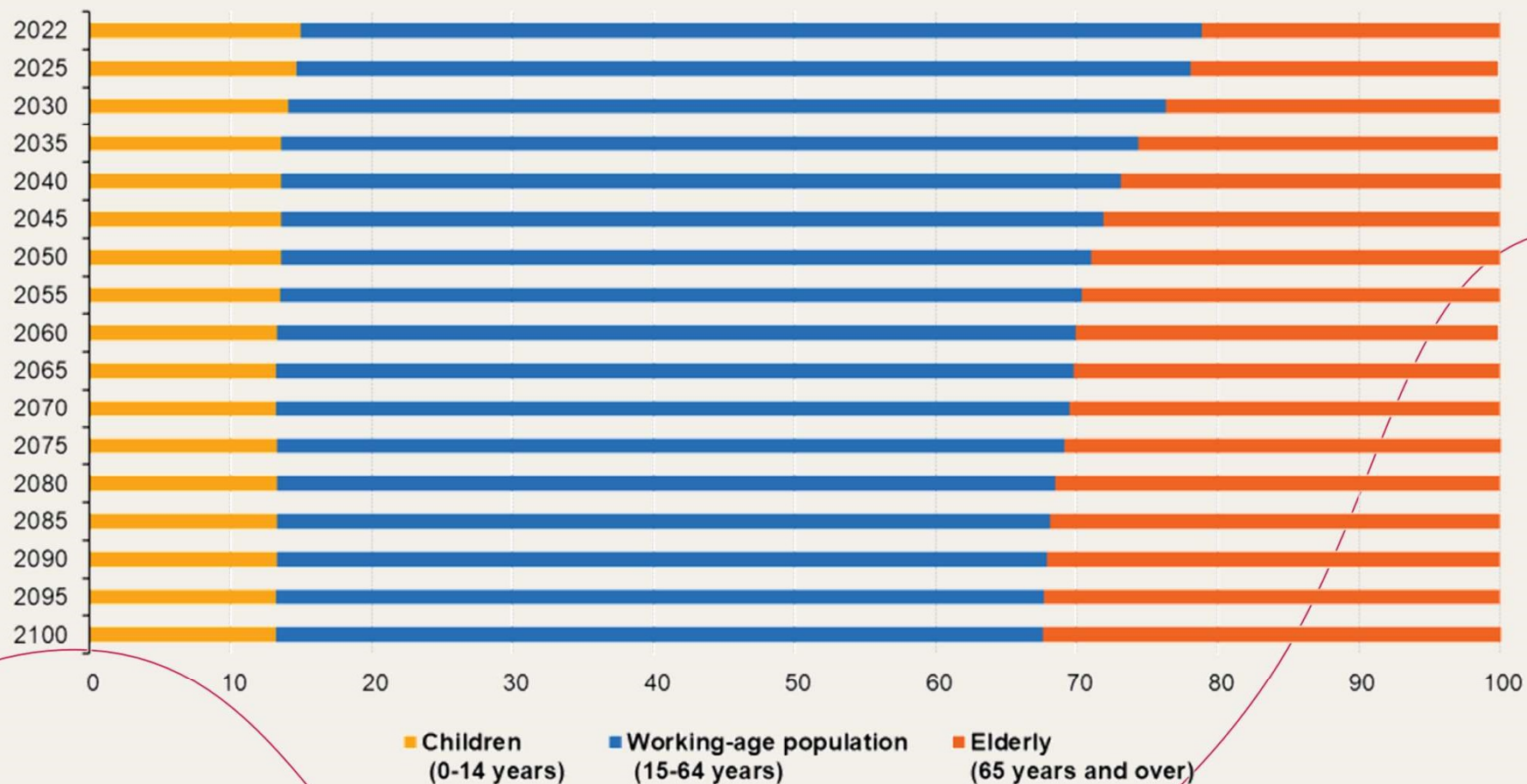
Note: 2024: provisional/estimated. 2100: projections (EUROPOP2023).  
Source: Eurostat (online data codes: demo\_pjangroup and proj\_23np)

Solid colour: 2100  
Bordered: 2024

Men Women



## Projected population by broad age group, EU, 1 January 2022-2100 (% of total population)



Source: Eurostat (online data code: proj\_23ndbi)

## Life expectancy around the world



NiceRX data



# Fondazione OIC onlus



[WWW.OICONLUS.IT](http://WWW.OICONLUS.IT)









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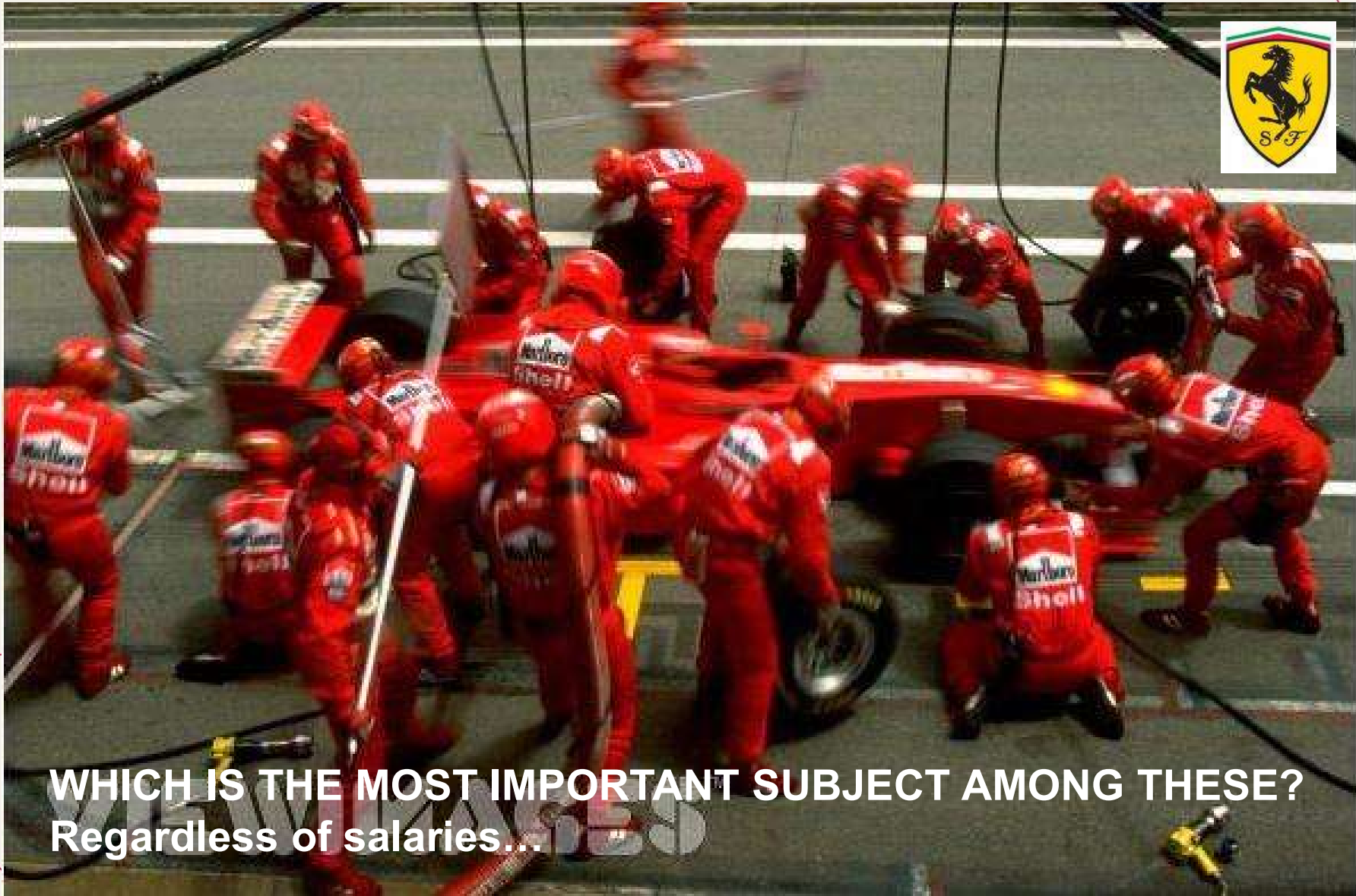


**VIDEO LINK**

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1UYPzZFim-xplf3Qn4t3kzP1Qj70PqyuR/view?usp=sharing>







**WHICH IS THE MOST IMPORTANT SUBJECT AMONG THESE?  
Regardless of salaries...**







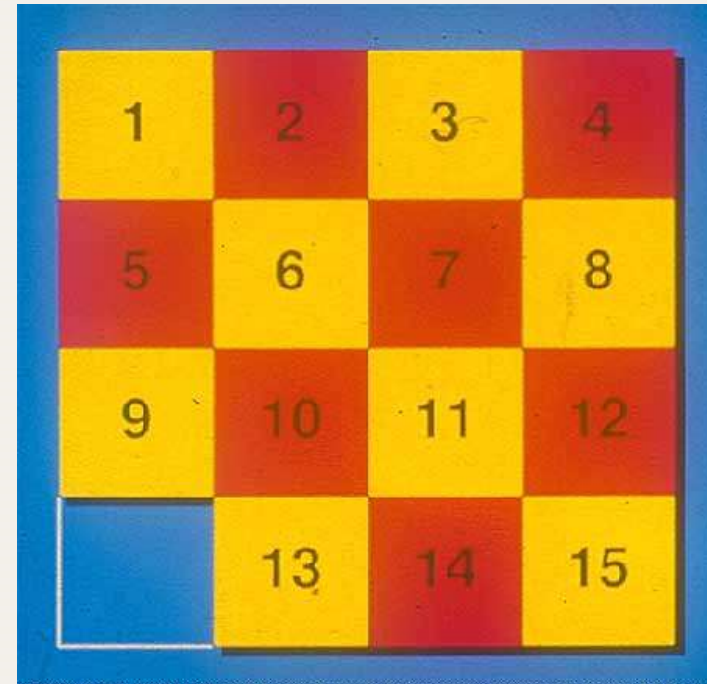
## Meaning of the team

The frail elderly person at a social and health level presents complex problems that therefore require a group approach.

Teamwork means that the care is carried out by an "integrated" group, that is, by people who work harmoniously with each other and who influence their task through a continuous correlation made of exchanges, comparisons, contributions, suggestions, opinions ...

Does it have to be hard?

Of course



Feeling lonely?

Dislike working independently?

Loathe making decisions?

Call a meeting!

You'll get to see people, draw diagrams, feel important, form working groups, impress colleagues, offer unhelpful advice..

All on company time, of course.

**Team meetings: An alternative to actual work!**





**BUT ALSO IN THE BEST OF TEAMS...**



**oic**  
OPERA IMMACOLATA  
CONCEZIONE DIVINA

**VIDEO LINK:**

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/17Rua-XaFgrgaCPFrUlt3ZQfuRDd6fDTE/view?usp=sharing>



# The Foundation for Working with Older Adults



*Alberto Cester*



**Intergenerationality**

**Margherita 109 years  
old Irene 9 months.**

**It was 2012,  
the European year  
of active ageing  
and solidarity  
between  
generations**





**VIDEO LINK:**

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1EGIsI8a-23KV1YpJ4LDHU4N3I7q-kZrw/view?usp=sharing>

# **The Value of Intergenerational Dialogue**

- **Benefits both young people and older adults**
- **Digitalization and fast-paced life widen the generational gap**
- **Risk: losing connection across generations**
- **Solution: structured and intentional intergenerational dialogue**



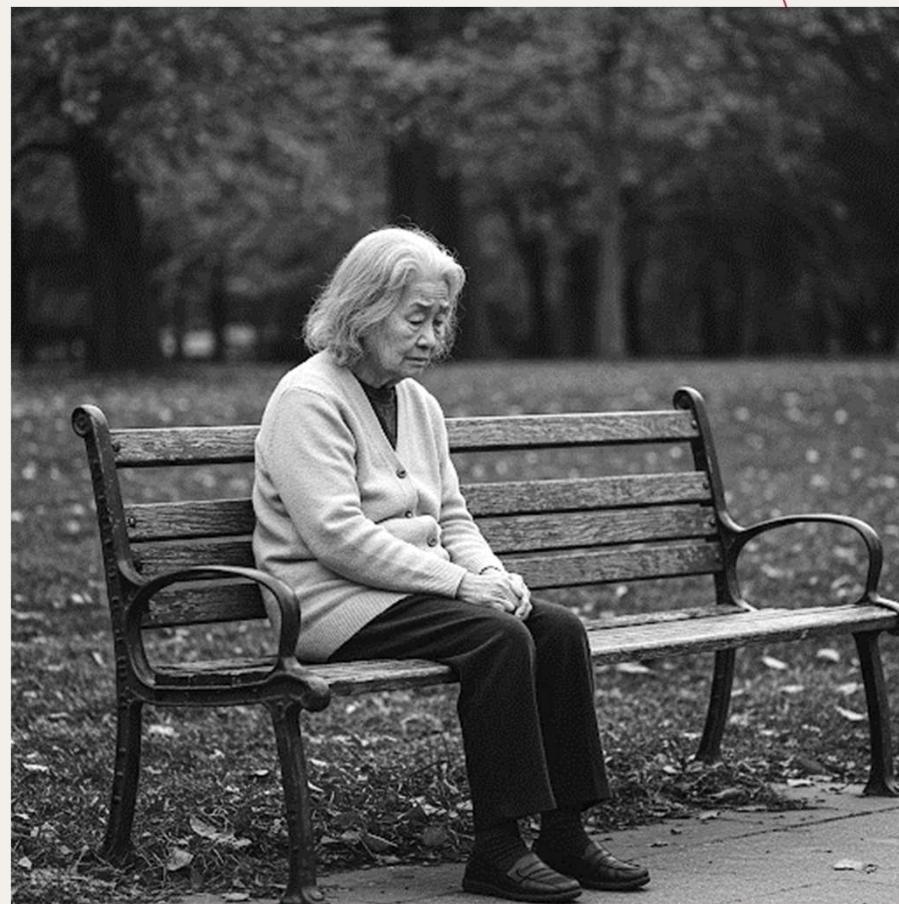
# What Is Intergenerational Dialogue?

- **A bridge between generations through mutual exchange**
- **Often modeled on grandparent-grandchild relationships**
- **Children lack support; older adults have time and experience**
- **Takes place in families, communities, schools, and institutions**



# Elderly people and Loneliness: A Growing Concern

- **Individualism and digital life weaken social bonds**
- **Loneliness is a health risk: linked to cognitive decline and disease**
- **Intergenerational contact combats isolation and depression**
- **Mutual benefits: energy vs. wisdom, curiosity vs. reflection**



[https://www.sigg.it/assets/congressi/63-congresso-nazionale-sigg/slide/103\\_Diego%20De%20Leo.pdf](https://www.sigg.it/assets/congressi/63-congresso-nazionale-sigg/slide/103_Diego%20De%20Leo.pdf)



# Benefits for Children and Adolescents

- **Emotional and psychological support**
- **Acquisition of values and life skills**
- **Improved social interaction and empathy**
- **Development of critical thinking**
- **Positive views of aging**



# Benefits for Older Adults

- **Reduced loneliness and depression**
- **Enhanced physical and emotional well-being**
- **Renewed sense of purpose**
- **Connection to current trends and technology**
- **Boosted self-esteem and confidence**





# **Implementing Intergenerational Exchange: Practical Approaches**

- **In family and community settings: often spontaneous**
- **In care settings: must be intentionally designed**
- **Examples:**
  - **Creative workshops**
  - **Gardening and cooking**
  - **Walks, games, technology use**
  - **Community events**

# **Role of the social and health Educator**

- **Create safe and inclusive spaces**
- **Plan time and resources effectively**
- **Define goals and outcomes**
- **Encourage participation**
- **Evaluate and adapt**
- **Be open to spontaneity and human connection**



# Case Study – Children & Elders with Dementia

- **Project by OIC Foundation (Italy)**
- **Participants:**
  - **7 elders with dementia**
  - **14 preschool children**
  - **Multidisciplinary team**
- **Key questions:**
  - **How to manage energy, fragility, behaviors?**
  - **How to overcome stereotypes and biases?**

<https://www.luoghicura.it/operatori/professioni/2025/03/un-progetto-intergenerazionale-con-anziani-con-demenza-e-bambini-della-scuola-materna-racconto-di-unesperienza/>

# Outcomes of the Case Study

- **Focus on emotional connection, not performance**
- **Safe, simple, emotionally rich spaces**
- **Elders change when children are present**
- **Children gain confidence and empathy**
- **Deep, moving, human connection occurs**

<https://www.luoghicura.it/operatori/professioni/2025/03/un-progetto-intergenerazionale-con-anziani-con-demenza-e-bambini-della-scuola-materna-racconto-di-unesperienza/>



# Future Perspectives and Conclusions

- **Intergenerational work is a valuable, underused resource**
- **Enhances well-being and life quality**
- **Encourages societal interdependence**
- **A powerful tool for educators worldwide**

<https://www.luoghicura.it/operatori/professioni/2025/03/un-progetto-intergenerazionale-con-anziani-con-demenza-e-bambini-della-scuola-materna-racconto-di-unesperienza/>

# Elderly People: Teamwork and Intergenerationality as Best Practices

*Thank  
you*



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