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INTRODUCTION

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MULTIPLE DISCRIMINATION OF OLDER LGBTI

Eurobarometer on discrimination (2015) – Perceptions of discrimination in EU:

- 58% sexual orientation
- 56% gender identity
- 42% age

**AGEISM + HOMO/BI/TRANSPHOBIA =
Discrimination towards older LGBTIs**

Consequences for older persons

- Although, research shows that many older people enjoy an active sexual life (Taylor & Gosney, 2011), ageistic stereotypes tend to describe older people as **lacking sexual appeal and desire**, being related with the general perception and prejudice of older people as asexual, and this continues to be perpetuated nowadays (Haesler, Bauer & Fetherstonhaugh, 2016; Taylor & Gosney, 2011).
- Sex among older adults is seen as **shameful, disgusting, laughable, and nonexistent**, which can lead to internalized stigma and increased sexual problems for older adults (Kaas, 1981; Walz, 2002; Weeks, 2002).
- Although sexuality should be recognized as an important part of older people's life and overall care, this appears to be **poorly understood and addressed by social and healthcare professionals** (Haesler, Bauer & Fetherstonhaugh, 2016).

Consequences for older LGBTIs

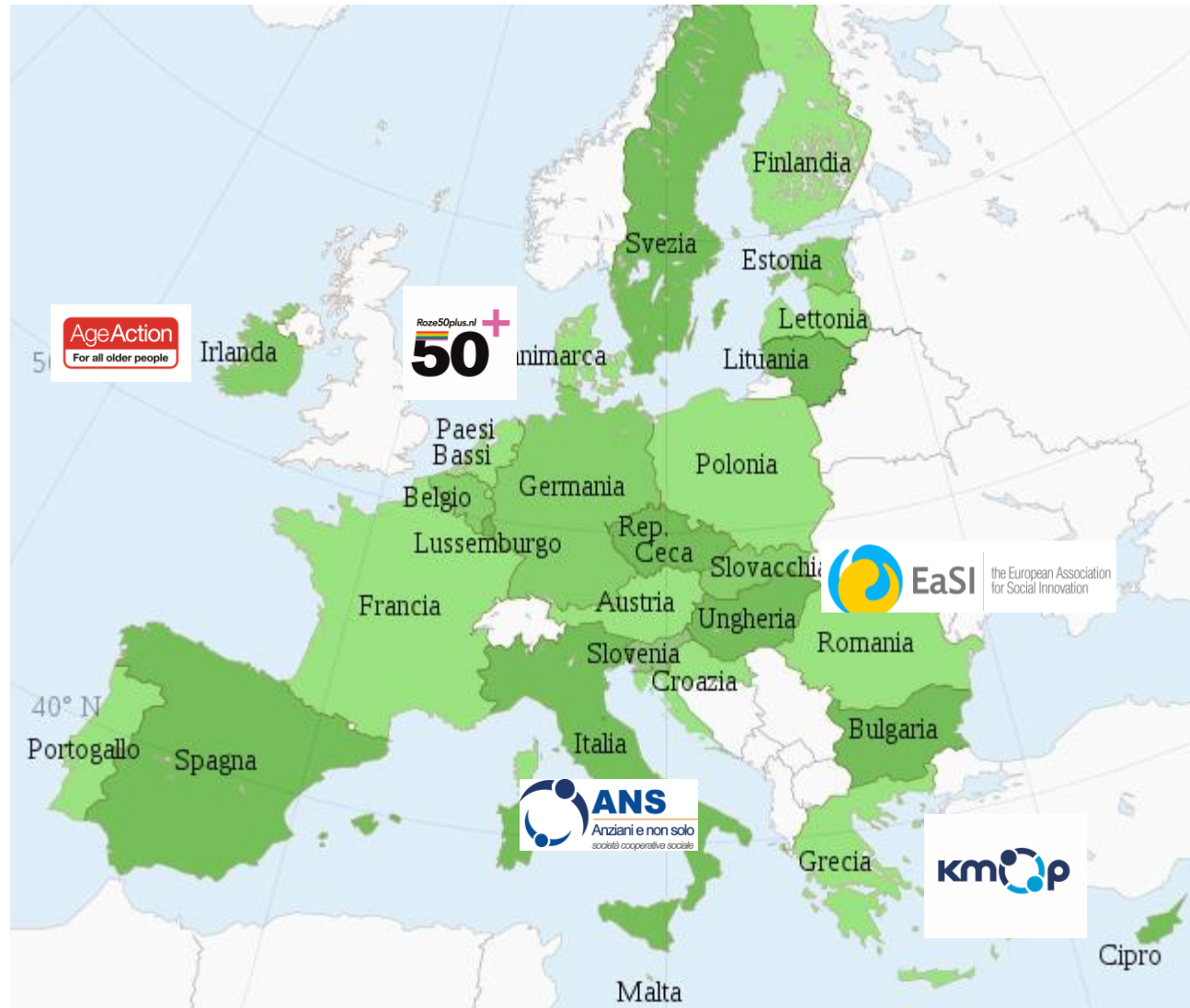
- The **lack of recognition of same-sex couples** has an impact on their access to social protection and on their financial security. This becomes particularly worrying when people get older and cannot ensure that their (dependent) partner will have access to their pensions and assets.
- Older LGBTI people, and in particular, older trans and intersex persons, may have specific health needs and may face ongoing **stigmatization in the field of healthcare**.
- Some older LGBTI people experience social exclusion and invisibility and cannot rely on the same family support as other older people. This raises specific challenges related to whether **long-term care is inclusive of older LGBTI people needs**.

Best4older LGBTI project

- The Best4OlderLGBTI project, funded under the REC programme of the EU, intends to **contribute to the fight against discrimination based on age, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics** of older people.
- Our **target groups** are NGO's, health and social professionals, anti-discrimination experts, public in general and other specific and strategic targets, such as professional of public services, employers and university students.
- The main activity is to develop a **raising awareness campaign** in 6 EU Member States, contributing to the **decrease of inequalities** and discrimination in attendance of public services and health and social care, as well as in encouraging the recognition and reporting of cases of discrimination

The partnership

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Advisory board:



Best4 OLDER LGBTI

www.best4older-lgbti.org

PROJECT PARTNERS:



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