

**Abstract:**

## **AGEING AND DISABILITY: A QUALITY OF LIFE PERSPECTIVE**

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### **SUMMARY**

This lecture is intended to give a European overview of ageing and disability and to highlight some of the key quality of life challenges associated with the conjunction of ageing and disability.

First of all the uniqueness of the demography of Europe is emphasised and two of the negative myths associated with ageing are rebutted briefly. This leads on to an exploration of the relationship between ageing and disability covering current prevalence rates, projections and the prospect of a compression of morbidity. This analysis is hampered by the absence of reliable standardised data on intellectual disability and the common statistical practice in Europe to ignore disability after the age of 65.

The second part of the lecture introduces the main quality of life dimensions from gerontological research with a particular emphasis on older people's own definitions of life quality.

The third and final part of the lecture touches on four of the policy priorities that European countries should address in order to promote quality lives for older people with disabilities. The four priorities highlighted are: employment, maintaining health and autonomy, care and carers, and social inclusion. The lecture ends with a quick run through the policies necessary to respond to these priorities and then some practical advice for service providers.

The four main points of the lecture are:

1. The ageing of the population, including those with intellectual disabilities, is a sign of progress.
2. While there is an association between age beyond 75 and disability it is not inevitable that all older people will be severely disabled.
3. Quality of life assessments should start with the perspectives of disabled older people.
4. Policy makers and service providers need to ensure that the needs of all older people with disabilities are recognised and there must be special measures for those who age with an intellectual disability.

## Revised Outline

### II. Financing Strategies and their effect on equity, choice, effectiveness and sustainability: Mr. Raphael Wittenberg (30 min.)

#### Aim:

- Making clear the implications of different funding strategies for long-term care for equity, dignity, choice, independence, efficiency and effectiveness, and sustainability.
- Showing that there are different financing systems with different effects
- Showing that demand for long-term care for older people is likely to rise – depending on trends in disability rates – requiring an increase in resources for long-term care.

#### Key questions:

- What is the link between financing systems for long-term care and equity, choice, efficiency, sustainability and ultimately QoL of service users and their families
- How to finance the sector in the future – what are the options.

#### Outcomes:

Have a clear view on the impact financing strategies have on equity, choice, effectiveness and sustainability. Have a clear idea of strengths and weaknesses of different approaches in relation to financing strategies

### Three Main Statements

There are several different approaches to funding long-term care and different countries have adopted different approaches.

A key issue is the balance between private funding, from people's own resources or private insurance, and public funding from taxes or social insurance.

Financing arrangements can be assessed in respect of their likely impact on equity, choice, efficiency/effectiveness and sustainability