

PREAMBLE

The Ethical Code of FORUM 50+. Seniors of the Twenty First Century was created to fulfil the following tasks:

- to create a common set of rules of action, which enable the Coalition to form its identity,
- to enhance quality and prestige of the Coalition so that the membership was a 'mark of quality',
- to determine the common credo of the actions undertaken by the members of the coalition,
- to act in the belief that it is the actions and not the longevity and ability to endure that are the qualities of the Coalition,
- to act responsibly and remember we share the trust our beneficiaries placed in us; remember that the actions that we the members of the Coalition undertake prove the standards of operations of the Coalition and remember that the professional actions of individual associates of the member organisations also determine the perception of the Coalition,
- to work pursuant to common values and common standards,
- to improve the integration of the Coalition member organisations,
- to enable a higher level of cooperation between the Coalition members so that the voice of the Coalition FORUM 50+ Seniors of the Twenty First Century is heard and shared,
- to inform the general public, what kind of actions can be expected of the Coalition member organisations.

THE ETHICAL CODE - THE APPROACH

The Ethical Code of FORUM 50+. Seniors of the Twenty First Century provides ethical principles and general values which should be followed by the member organisations. These principles and values shall be the point of reference for all of the member organisations of FORUM 50+. Seniors of the Twenty First Century. These principles and values aim to provide guidance for ethical and professional behaviour of the Coalition's members. The Ethical Code consists of fundamental assumptions concerning the values and ethical principles. These shall be the first point of reference for the member organisations regarding the ethical conduct applying to all of the members of the Coalition. The Ethical Code emphasizes the importance of maintaining the values and ethical principles as these intend to provide a general guidance to cover all situations encountered by member organisations, even if not listed in this Code.

MAIN OBJECTIVES

1. The Ethical Code shall act as a directive for the FORUM 50+. Seniors of the Twenty First Century. It shall raise the awareness of the mission of the Coalition and adjust the philosophy of the member organisations (not only in terms of values and ethical principles, but also in terms of norms and guidelines).
2. It shall help in the ethical conduct of the member organisations working with and for elderly citizens. It shall provide an ethical code of conduct so that every representative of the member organisation of the Coalition may refer to, find solutions to ethically problematic situations and apply them.

VALUES, PRINCIPLES, STANDARDS

COMMON GOOD

- The mission of the organisation shall be the fundamental determinant of the actions undertaken by the organisation.
- When undertaking projects the organisations take into consideration social and individual consequences of their actions.

RESPONSIBILITY

- Member organisations of the Coalition manage voluntary and charity services with diligence.

TRANSPARENCY

- Those member organisations that draw up substantive and financial reports on their activity make this information available upon request to whosoever makes such request.
- The rules of access to the services offered by any member organisation are understandable, clear and made available in the public domain.
- Member organisations publish information on their sponsors (institutions or individual upon their approval).

INTEGRITY

- Member organisations plan their actions based on the needs of their beneficiaries and evaluate the efficacy of these actions.
- Member organisations understand the needs of their service recipients and they request feedback from them.
- Beneficiaries of member organisations are invited to take an active part in defining their course of action.
- Member organisations do not undertake any activities which are impossible to execute (due to time constraints, lack of finances, etc.)

LEGALISM

- The actions undertaken by the member organisations are consistent with the objectives for which they were created and adhere to its rules and regulations.
- The representatives of member organisations familiarise themselves with the statutes and rules of their institutions and they adhere to them.
- The Boards of the member organisations are competent and responsible in their actions.

RESPECT FOR HUMAN DIGNITY, RIGHTS AND FREEDOM

- Any action taken by a member organisation is aimed at improving the quality of life of elderly people and therefore the fundamental principle of this code is to respect the needs, feelings, rights and dignity of elderly people.
- Member organisations seek to safeguard senior citizens from any kind of abuse or discrimination.
- Member organisations promote a positive image of elderly age.
- No double standards are used in relation to older workers by associates and members of the organisations.
- Member organisations respect the privacy and confidentiality of information (including the confidentiality of personal data).

PARTNERSHIP

- Member organisations work closely with each other in partnership, foster healthy competition, which aims to fulfil organisation's mission (and not as a safeguard against possible closure).
- Member organisations can rely on the support, cooperation and help from FORUM 50+. Seniors of the Twenty First Century.
- Member organisations do not bring into disrepute the good name of FORUM 50+. Seniors of the Twenty First Century.
- Member organisations cooperate with local communities and all local sectors.
- Partnership means respect for the autonomy and equal treatment of the partners.

ACCOUNTABILITY

- Member organisations use the donated funds in accordance with their mission statements and statutory objectives and in accordance with their benefactors' will.
- Member organisations have clear financial accounting standards with regards to community-generated funds that are available for public inspection.
- Member organisations conducting economic activities make a clear distinction between those activities and statutory activities and use any profits earned towards implementation of its statutory objectives, and development of the organisation, and setting up an endowment capital account.

PREVENTING CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

- Member organisations ensure that their good name is not used by their sponsors and third parties to support actions contrary to their missions and the wellbeing of their stakeholders.
- Member organisations use common sense when dealing with business institutions.