

Myriam VAN ESPEN

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Date of Birth: 8th June 1955

Studies:

- social worker
- degree in sociology
- family therapy in systems analysis

Languages:

Dutch, English, Spanish

Keywords:

Innovation, creativity, networking, advisory

Action domain:

Aging population, a major worldwide issue for the 21st century

Specifics:

International Expertise and Advice in Gerontology

Founder of the first advisory bureau for gerontology in Belgium - SENIOR INNOVATION
(www.seniorinnovation.com) (2005).

Professional activities

- Expert on **aging** to the Head of the Multilateral World Console within the Walloon-Brussels International Space
- Expert on **Sustainable Development and Aging** to the European Commission
- Expert in **Long-term Care** to the European Commission
- Expert to the **King Baudouin Foundation** (international and Belgium)
- Member of the movement entitled “Aging is living”, chaired by Mrs Paulette Guinchard-Kustler, vice-chairwoman of the **French** lower house of parliament
- Trainer with various organizations in **France**
- Member of the Jury and Scientific Committee of the AG2R Foundation – **France**
- Expert as part of the social jury for the “European Architecture and the 3rd Age Competition” organized by AG2R – **France** (May 2004)
- Quality expert to the department of the Prime Minister and the State Secretariat for aged persons in **France** and to the Senatorial Committee (post-midsummer 2003)
- Expert to the **Spanish Basque Government** (June 2003)
(The stakes in reconciling private and professional life)
- European expert to the International Conference on Aging, Disability and Independence.
(Washington D.C., **USA**, Dec. 2003)

BELGIUM

- Expert to the Federal Minister for **Sustainable Development** regarding the issue of aging in the context of the Pre-draft Federal Sustainable Development Plan (2004).
- Expert to the Federal Minister for **Employment** and pensions and the State Secretariat for the Organisation of Work and **Welfare at Work** regarding the issue of **older workers in business** (recent launch of Fund 55+ – Professional Experience Fund) (2004)
- Technical adviser on **Third Age policy and the family** to the Minister for Social Affairs and Health of the Walloon Region (1999-2004)
- Technical adviser to the Head of the **Belgian Delegation at the World Assembly on Aging and the Pan-European Conference on Aging.**
- Active member of the Aging Working Group set up by the Head of the Multilateral World Console within the Walloon-Brussels International Space in 2001.
(Preparatory work for the Madrid World Assembly on Aging, April 2002, and the Pan-European Inter-Ministerial Conference on Aging in Berlin, Sept. 2002)

- Expert to the Office of the Federal Minister for Social Affairs in the context of the preparatory work to the World Assembly on Aging of the United Nations (2002).
- Technical adviser to the Head of the **Belgian Delegation** at the 26th session of the Conference of European Ministers charged with **Family Affairs** (Portoroz, June 2001)

PRIVATE APPOINTMENTS

- Director of the Family Center Brussels (family care service)
- Director of the palliative care platform in the Brussels Region
- Director of the “asbl Wolu-Social” (services in hospitals, rest homes and family care services)
- Member of the Belgian Society for **Geriatrics and Gerontology** in Belgium
- Member of the Royal Society for **Political Economy** of Belgium
- Member of the Belgian French-speaking Society for **Demography**
- Member of the **American Society on Aging (ASA)**

Professional history in the sector of the aged

1. Asbl “III^e Millénaire” (Mutualités Chrétiennes) = Christian Mutual Insurance Fund, Rue Malibran, 53, BRUSSELS

- Setting up and management of the **daycenter for old people** (1985-1986)
- Setting up and management of the social service for the **coordination of home care** (1986-1987)
- Setting up and management of the **social service of the Malibran private clinic** (1987-1989)
- Founder member of the **geriatrics service** (Saint Michel-Malibran clinic)
- Founder member of the **palliative care service** (Saint Michel-Malibran clinic)

2. “Asbl Infor-Homes Bruxelles”, Boulevard Anspach, 59, BRUSSELS

- **Head of the Research and Study Centre in Public Relations** (1989-1992)

3. Family Centre of Brussels (1993-1995), Rue de la Prévoyance 58, 1000 BRUSSELS

- **In charge of a service of 120 family home helpers.**

4. “Union Nationale des Mutualités Libres” = National Union of Non-denominational Mutual Insurance Systems (1995-1999)

- **National Coordinator on aging policy** at the National Union of Non-denominational Mutual Insurance Systems
- Working out concrete responses per region and/or sub-region in matters of aging: home care – rest homes – palliative care – alternative accommodation/housing. Follow-up of projects via regular contacts in the field.
- Public relations in associative and political networks to be able regularly to follow policy changes in relation to aging. Setting-up of a training program for social services.

OTHER EXPERIENCE

- Effective Member of the Consultative Council for Aid to Persons and Health in the Brussels-Capital Region (1998-2003)
- Member of the Psychogeriatric Group of the “Ligue d’Hygiène et de Santé Mentale” = League of Hygiene and Mental Health
- Expert on the Seniors Commission of the PSC = Christian Social Party (Home Care and Rest Homes)
- Head of the Brussels Contact Group of social helpers in hospitals, mental health centers and in rest homes
- Member of the “séminaire hospitalier itinérant en gériatrie” (UCL) = mobile hospital seminar in geriatrics
- Trainer at the “Collectif Formation Société” – Local Employment Mission in St Gilles (Brussels) – teacher in Gerontology
- Secretary at the Family Care Services Association of the Brussels Capital Region
- Secretary of the Federation of Family Centers
- Director of the “Centre de Coordination de Soins des Marolles” = Care Coordination Center in Brussels
- Director of “Télé-Secours”
- Director and Member of the Office of the “ACCOORD Federation” (Walloon and Brussels Federation of coordinators in home care)
- President and spokeswoman (press secretary) of the Old People’s Group of the Brussels Social Coordination Committee (40 associations) (“Coord’Ages”)
- Director and Member of the Office of the Federation of Health Care Associations
- Vice-chairwoman of the Brussels Social Coordination Committee
- Director of “Seniors Services” (centre for health care coordination in Anderlecht) Brussels

- Director-delegate at “Entr’âges”
- Director of the Association of Medical Prevention against Cancer
- Director of “Soins chez Soi” (coordination of home care)
- Contact at DG XXIII of the EEC – Social Economy
- Contact at DG XXIV of the EEC – Consumer Protection
- Member of the “Centre de Recherche Interdisciplinaire sur le Vieillissement” (CRIV) = Aging Research Center Administrator of the palliative care platform in the Brussels District
- Member of the “Vieillissement” (Aging) “Contact Group” of the “Fédération Nationale de Recherche Scientifique” = National Scientific Research Federation
- Consultancy and training and the sector of accommodation for the aged and the non-trading sector concerned by aging of the population (health – social affairs – intergenerational)
- Professional activities with the hearing-impaired and deaf (1978-1982) (*introduction of sign-language in Belgium in partnership with the Gallaudet College, Washington*)
- Professional activities in the banking and consultancy sector (1977-1979) (*public relations*)

Presentations, articles and research

- “Solidarités sociales et Santé des Aînés” Tome II - Le réseau associatif. X. Leroy - I. Neyrinck - M. Van Espen. Centre de Recherche Interdisciplinaire sur le Vieillissement. Février 1994. Recherche commanditée par les Ministres Thys et Chabert.
= Article on social solidarity in the health of the aged, published by the Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Aging. February 1994. Research sponsored by Ministers Thys and Chabert.
- Training of unskilled care staff in rest homes: research sponsored by Minister Désir (1991-1992)
- “Le paradoxe de la vieillesse” – Ouvrage collectif du CRIV, édité par Philippe Meire et Isabelle Neyrinck; Editions De Boeck – septembre 1997
= The paradox of aging – book to which several authors contributed (collective work of the CRIV), edited by Philippe Meire and Isabelle Neyrinck, De Boeck publishers – September 1997
- Several articles in magazines or journals in the French-speaking associative sector