

Supporting autonomy: requirements and how they are financed

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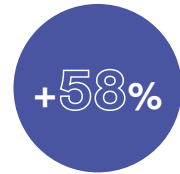
The French population is ageing, and the next decade will see a shift in balance. The likelihood of loss of independence increases with age. For this reason, although dependency is by no means an issue for the entire elderly population, its relative impact on society is set to grow.

Ageing can be associated with a loss of independence.

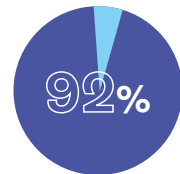
Ageing is a social challenge that extends beyond mere health issues. Given that this challenge concerns us all, it is right that the Council should focus on it and, for the first time, from the start of the project, include 15 citizens chosen at random. This co-construction approach has made it possible to engage in a wide-ranging discussion of the acceptability of the measures proposed to create a more transparent system that promotes social justice.

To address the risk of loss of independence faced by the entire population, a fifth Social Security branch was created in 2021, supported by the Caisse Nationale de Solidarité pour l'Autonomie (CNSA). At that time, it was required to be able to act as a fund in its own right, which is not the case today. For the ESEC, this CSNA-supported creation must not merely have a technical and financial scope; just as for illness, family, old age or work accidents and occupational illnesses, it must **cover this risk in line with the principles of Social Security, thus logically and legitimately providing access to social rights.**

This opinion statement is informed by guiding principles to guarantee the legitimacy of the operation of the fifth branch and its operational implementation in the real world: guaranteed rights for all, financed by national support mechanisms, an end to regional inequalities and a reduction in the remaining burdens weighing on those involved and their families.



the number of people aged 85 and over in the years 2030-2040¹



of French people want to grow old in their own home²

¹ French High Commission for Planning - Quand les babyboomers auront 85 ans, January 2023

² Ifop - Dispositif d'étude sur les attentes des seniors en matière de lieu de vie, December 2023

DEFINITION

Loss of independence is defined with reference to limitations in personal health which require the provision of assistance for essential day-to-day actions.

Supporting independence: requirements and how they are financed

1 Draw up a multi-year planning law on loss of independence

→ Why a planning law?

A planning law of this kind would be intended to establish “the trajectory of public finances in relation to the independence of senior citizens” on a five-yearly basis. It should define “the public funding objectives necessary to ensure the healthy ageing of elderly people at home and in establishments, the recruitment of professionals and the methods employed by the State to achieve these objectives”

2 Provide finance to improve training, qualifications, working conditions and recognition of the work done by professionals

→ How?

- Establish a supervisory standard for social and medical/social care and support establishments
- Remove limits on intervention times with individuals
- Raise and converge the contractual rights enjoyed by professionals through financial incentives from the State

3 Limit the costs borne by individuals and their families

→ How?

- Create a social benefit that replaces social housing assistance (ASH), covered by the fifth branch, which would also be responsible for its management at local level. This is because there is no national harmonising mechanism for ASH,

which poses problems of equal treatment. This new social benefit would be means-tested and capped.

- In nursing homes, establish a national maximum price, which could be a function of considerations such as the individual’s level of dependency
- Move towards zero remaining charges for healthcare and dependency

4 Establish a common legal definition for caregivers

→ What rights and status should caregivers enjoy?

- Unified leave that is more flexible and better compensated
- Periods of assistance to be counted as part of professional careers
- Access to old age insurance rights

5 Allocate additional resources to the independence branch based on the national support mechanism to cover the risk

→ **Why?** Additional resources need to be allocated to the independence branch, in the interests of social equality and universal treatment. Financing must therefore be based on broader bases than work income alone. All involved must participate according to their means and receive according to their needs.

THE RAPPORTEUR

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She is an ESEC member on the Social Affairs and Health committee and on the “End of Life” and “Democratic participation” temporary committees. She was Rapporteur for the “Guaranteed minimum social income” (April 2017) opinion statement and the “Poverty: listening to warnings to avoid the humanitarian crisis” declaration (December 2020). She was Chair of the “Extreme Poverty” ad hoc committee which issued two opinion statements: “Eradicating extreme poverty by 2030” and “People living on the streets: urgent action”.