

PRESS RELEASE

European Retirement Week: Joint event AEIP/ PensionsEurope Joint Event (E)SG: Social and Governance Factors in Europe

BRUSSELS, 5 December 2022 – On 29 November 2022, PensionsEurope and AEIP organised a joint webinar focusing on equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) policy in pensions, and on the integration of Social and Governance (SG) considerations in investment decisions.

During the event, Petra Hielkema, Chairperson of EIOPA, and Åsa Norrie, Regional CEO and Head of Distribution at Principal Asset Management, emphasised that EDI policy is an important topic in many respects. Petra Hielkema highlighted the challenges posed by the gender pension gap, stressing that the difference in retirement income between men and women stands around 30% and explaining that this is also due to women often taking up caring responsibilities and working part-time.

In relation to the role played by policymakers in promoting EDI policy, Petra Hielkema said *“Policymakers can make a difference, and the forthcoming review of the IORP II Directive provides a great opportunity to tackle some of the issues, including promoting EDI in pension funds’ management boards.”*

Two distinguished panels followed, dealing respectively with EDI policy in pension funds’ management bodies, and incorporating Social and Governance (SG) factors in the investment decisions of pension funds.

Among the many salient questions: why IORPs are different from other financial institutions and how this diversity is reflected on their management and supervisory bodies? How to increase diversity of thinking in management bodies? How pension funds integrate SG factors in investment decisions? What are driving developments in SG investing: regulation, member preferences or reputation? How do we go from SG scores to (E)SG metrics?

If you missed these interesting conversations, you can watch the Webinar on demand [here](#).

This webinar was part of [the European Retirement Week](#).