



# EU projects dealing with an ageing population and services for elderly

## July-August 2010



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# **Programme LIFELONG LEARNING**

## **Subprogramme GRUNDTVIG**

### **Action Category MOBILITY**

#### **Action GRUNDTVIG Senior Volunteering Projects**

##### **Objectives and description of the action**

Grundtvig Senior Volunteering Projects support bilateral partnerships and exchanges of senior volunteers between local organisations located in two countries participating in the Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP).

The Lifelong Learning programme aims to offer various kinds of educational opportunities to people of all ages, in order to facilitate formal, non-formal or informal learning. Volunteering is increasingly recognised as a very valuable informal learning experience, for people of all ages. In particular, it has been recognised as a way of offering new learning opportunities to senior citizens in Europe, promoting the process of active ageing and emphasising the contribution of seniors to our societies. Indeed, senior citizens are a rich source of wisdom and experience from which society should derive far greater benefit than has usually been the case in the past. This Action therefore offers a new form of mobility to European senior citizens and will allow them to learn, to share knowledge and experience in a European country other than their own.

The term "volunteering" refers to all forms of voluntary activity, whether formal or informal. It is undertaken of a person's own free-will, choice and motivation, and is without concern for financial gain. It benefits the individual volunteer, communities and society as a whole. It is also a vehicle for individuals and associations to address human, social or environmental needs and concerns, and is often carried out in support of a non-profit organisation or community-based initiative. Thus voluntary activities add value to society, but do not replace professional, paid employees.

This form of mobility also fosters collaboration between the organisations which will send and host volunteers. It should allow new types of organisations to join the Grundtvig programme, enrich their work, through the exchange of good practice, and create sustainable European collaboration between them.

##### **The Action pursues the following interlinked, equally important, objectives:**

1. To enable senior citizens to volunteer in another European country for any kind of non-profit activity, as a form of informal (and mutual) learning activity (learning / sharing knowledge).
2. To create lasting cooperation between the host and sending organisations around a specific topic or target group, and thanks to the exchange of volunteers.
3. To enable the local communities involved in the exchange of volunteers to draw on the potential of senior citizens as a source of knowledge, competence and experience.

##### **Expected outputs:**

###### **• For the volunteers:**

- 1) increase of personal, linguistic, social and intercultural skills and competences,
- 2) contribution to the development and implementation of non-profit activities, and beyond this, contribute to the community as an active citizen,
- 3) acquisition / development / transmission of specific task-related skills (the learning and competence development outcomes of the mobility period for the volunteers will be given appropriate recognition by the participating organisations, i.e. validation of informal learning);

###### **• For the sending and hosting organisations and the local communities in which the volunteers spend their mobility period abroad:**

- 1) exchange and mutual acquisition of experience, knowledge and good practice,
- 2) development of European collaboration around a particular theme,
- 3) intensified European outlook.

### **Bilateral and reciprocal cooperation:**

Projects should involve two organisations, i.e. one from each of the two LLP countries participating in the project. One of these countries must be an EU Member State. Each organisation will be expected to send 2-6 volunteers and to host 2-6 volunteers during the grant period. 2 volunteers are regarded as an absolute minimum. Organisations may send/receive more than 6 volunteers, but this will not lead to an increase in Grundtvig funding. Volunteers may move in a group or individually. If, after the two-year funding period is over, a further grant is awarded to the Project to continue the exchange, the individual volunteers involved must be different (each individual person can only participate as a volunteer once over a period of three years). Sending and hosting may take place at the same time but does not necessarily have to do so.

### **Profile of volunteers:**

The action is open to all adult citizens aged 50 or above, subject to the conditions set out in the Specific Eligibility Criteria below. Particular emphasis will be given to encouraging the participation of volunteers from socially disadvantaged groups and ethnic minorities, thereby helping to strengthen their integration in Europe and to combat racism and xenophobia. Equal participation of both genders should be encouraged.

It is expected that in many cases volunteers will be experienced local volunteers, and this will enhance the exchange of experiences between the host and sending organisations. However, this is not compulsory, and volunteers may also be people wishing to volunteer for the first time.

Profile of sending and hosting organisations and of the volunteering activity

Any organisation may send and host volunteers, provided that it can show that it has the necessary capacity to do so in an effective manner. It should, however, be noted that:

- the activities in which the volunteers will be involved must be non-profit making and should provide real learning opportunities - whether formal, non-formal or (most usually) informal - for the volunteers.

The volunteers should not only observe but also participate actively in the partners' activities.

- the sending and hosting organisations who are the project partners are expected to build a lasting cooperation around a specific theme / activity / target group, through the exchange of volunteers. They should therefore have similar or complementary profiles. For the same reason, the volunteers should be sent by and hosted in the organisations which are the partners in the project.

### **Duration of the activity:**

The volunteering activity in the other country is carried out in one continuous period of 3-8 weeks, not including the necessary preparation and debriefing phases. 3 weeks are an absolute minimum. The volunteering period may extend beyond 8 weeks, but this will not lead to an increase in the Grundtvig funding. Both the volunteering activities as such and the preparatory and debriefing activities, should be clearly described in the application.

## **SEVEN: Senior European Volunteers Exchange Network**

Since 2008/09 a part of the EU's Programme Lifelong Learning, Grundtvig, is the sponsorship of "Senior Volunteering Projects" (SVP). In the first months it was called GIVE ("Grundtvig Initiative for senior Volunteering in Europe"). The exchange refers at the moment to an exchange of seniors from institutions from two countries (as at September 2009).

### **1) SVP-Project „FELIZ“: ViLE e.V. of Ulm University/Germany and the University of Third Age in Lodz/Poland**

#### **Project description:**

The project "Voluntary work in Europe: Lifelong learning through intercultural, intergenerational and internet-based cooperation" (FELIZ) of the partner organizations University of third age in Lodz/Poland and the association for virtual and real learning in adult education (Vile e.V.) of Ulm University/Germany likes to enhance voluntary work of people over 50 in order to strengthen European mobility and identity of the target group. During their exchange of three weeks the eight senior volunteers will deal with the

topic “livelong learning” in both organizations through exchange of good practice. Furthermore the volunteers will have the opportunity to get to know the culture and working aims of the partner organization. The function of the volunteers in the partner organization is to be seen within the domain of “livelong learning”, “intergenerational learning” and “information and communication tools (ICT)”

## **2) SVP-Project, ACTIVE AGEING – ACTIVE AGEING POLICY“: CESVOT Toscana / Italy and ZAWiW of Ulm University / Germany**

### **Project description:**

The project ‘ACTIVE AGEING – ACTIVE AGEING POLICY: acknowledging and enhancing the contribution of over-55s to the local community` allows 12 senior volunteers from Germany and Italy to get to know the voluntary work at ZAWiW and CESVOT within three weeks. In the partner country they are ambassadors of voluntary work, of livelong learning and its various possibilities (mainly in the sector of the use of new technologies for senior citizens) and are standing for European mobility at any age. In meantime they are playing the role of learners, teachers, interpreters and ambassadors of their own culture and should reinforce active ageing through voluntary work in the particular regions.

## **3) Project "Senior Volunteering in Social Services" (A, BG) - Austrian Red Cross and Bulgarian Red Cross**

### **Project description:**

Senior Volunteering in Social Services“ sees itself as an intercultural project in the framework of life long learning that will allow older volunteers that are active in the social services of the Austrian Red Cross and the Bulgarian Red Cross to participate in a mutual exchange programme.

The participants will volunteer in the host country and will get to know different social service provisions for the socially disadvantaged that are available in the other countries. The volunteering opportunities will be chosen according to the visiting volunteers’ interests and skills. Possible areas of volunteering will be for example:

- Visiting services
- Day centre for seniors citizens
- Providing food for the socially disadvantaged
- Assisting migrants and refugees
- Assisting frail and disabled people in train stations

The exchanges will take place in the Spring and Fall 2010, this will be planned in detail by the Austrian Red Cross and the Bulgarian Red Cross at the SEVEN-network meeting in Vienna in December 2009. Four volunteers from each country will volunteer in the other country for three weeks.

One aim of the exchange project is to enable participants to experience how volunteers in the social services are coordinated in the other country. They will find out how older, volunteers are recruited, how they are supported and which training courses they can take part in. After coming home, the volunteers will share the lessons they have learned with members of their organisation at home. This exchange project will improve the individuals’ intercultural and language competence as well as their personal development as well as give the respective local organisations’ impulses for developing their volunteer activities.

## **4) Project Ecoseniors**

Start date: 01/08/2009

End date: 31/07/2011

Coordinator: **Lunaria** –Italy-

Partner: **études ET chantiers (UNAREC)** –France

### **Project description:**

In the project “EcoSeniors” the volunteers will be involved in a short-term voluntary service project centred on the theme of the sustainable development, protection of the environment and the landscape.

In both projects volunteers will perform two activities:

1. Coordinated by local staff, they will carry out concrete activities such as cleaning the path and the wood, cutting trees, gardening, preparing informative materials for youngsters who will visit the centres, etc. This part of the work will be done jointly with local and international youth volunteers. This will give to the senior volunteers a great chance not only to acquire new skills and competences about sustainable development and bio-diversity protection but also to improve their relational skills trying to bridge different generations that often have problems to communicate.
2. In the second of the project time volunteers will be involved in dissemination activities about their environmental work and the senior exchanges experiences in the cities of Rome and Clermont Ferrand to spread this kind of activities

### **Background and objectives:**

Different European project carried out in the past years have shown that a period of voluntary service abroad represents a relevant learning experience. As a matter of fact environmental issues become more and more of general interest. Apparently is mainly young people and the new generations interested in learning more about it, but we believe that an ecological awareness should be developed also by senior citizens, being the latter, at turn, educators as they will daily deals with children nephews and other young people.

In this perspective, this process addresses not only active citizenship and active ageing but also social cohesion and with this project we aim at favouring inter-generation experiences with a potential process of change of mentalities of young people and senior citizens, one towards the others.

With this project we want to achieve three general objectives:

- to spread and demonstrate the possibilities of involvement of senior people to local partners and authorities.
- to create a sustainable model of involvement of senior people in the current activities of our activities.
- Create tools and events of peer dissemination among senior citizens about the international voluntary service opportunities.

This project will develop four educative objectives for the volunteers:

- to ameliorate their knowledge about sustainable development and bio-diversity protection.
- to improve their competence and skills in the environmental work.
- to improve their communication skills with foreigners and youth.
- to increase their sense of usefulness and their consciousness of their skills and competences

### **Project Topic (GIVE):**

- 1 Environmental and sustainable development
- 2 Intergenerational learning / learning in later life / senior citizens
- 3 Volunteering

Exchanges:

- 6 Italian volunteers and 2 staff
- 6 French volunteers and 2 staff

### **5) Project "MARCHA 50" (ES, IT) – Ayuntamiento de Lleida (Spain) and Associazione Agire Sociale (Italy)**

#### **Project description:**

The main aims of the MARCHA 50 project are to organise Senior Volunteer exchanges and to provide support for the most vulnerable collectives and those facing the greatest risk of social exclusion.

This project is based on a partnership between the Service Centre for Volunteers (CSV) of Ferrara and the Personal Services Area (*Concejalía de Servicios Personales*) of Lleida City Council. These municipal authorities have been twin cities since 1996 and have already established a solid working relationship.

The project seeks to incorporate Senior Volunteers into innovative and educative social activities and to thereby encourage senior citizens to become more active and to associate old age with collaboration and education rather than with the need to receive help.

A total of 6 volunteers from each organisation, each with local experience in voluntary work, will provide help in another community. This volunteer work will involve: caring for the mentally disabled; helping to

integrate immigrants; looking after and educating young people; and sharing experiences with young people and promoting positive social values such as solidarity, tolerance and social commitment. Our aim is to gradually extend this project and to share its results with other communities in our network.

## **6) Project Neighbourhood Vienna-Berlin**

### **Project description:**

From March to June 2010 four volunteers regularly engaged with Vienna Social Aid and four Volunteers from the Berlin Neighbourhood and Selfhelp-Centre will be sent to Berlin and Vienna, respectively, for three weeks each. Elaborate selection and preparation workshops are accomplished in autumn 2009. As a prerequisite, the volunteers know their fields of engagement in their places of residence very well. During the exchange they are experiencing professional approaches and social structures sometimes differing from their former knowhow. Thus, by working in neighbourhood institutions like child care units or learning aid groups, by supporting social events or community work, and by researching new projects which should be transferable (and eventually be transferred) to their organisation at home, the volunteers acquire a broader professional horizon concerning their individual voluntary assignment but also regarding the whole social situation in which this assignment takes place.

Moreover, in the long term the two participating neighbourhood organisations shall benefit from the exchange on one hand by having more competent, engaged and motivated volunteers, and on the other hand by implementing new ideas, projects and initiatives "imported" by their volunteers.

## **7) Project "SEVOCA" (UK,HU) – The Budapest Cultural Centre (Hungary) and Lancaster University (United Kingdom)**

### **SEVOCA: Senior Volunteers as Cultural Ambassadors**

### **Project description:**

Senior volunteers from Hungary and the UK will be part of an exchange during which they will educate senior volunteers in the host country about the social and cultural history of the sending country. The focus of the volunteer led learning will be on food, social history and popular culture. A range of interactive learning methods including the use of Virtual Learning Environments and audio-visual material will ensure the training is engaging and informative and that the senior volunteers' cultural awareness and expression is developed using content that is both relevant and appealing. Each exchange will last three weeks.

The volunteers will receive significant training, using material developed from previous Grundtvig funded senior exchange projects, before the exchange and will play a significant role in the development and evaluation of the project primarily by keeping learning logs of their involvement and through a continuous process of evaluation.

This project was developed as a direct result of the SEVEN network as the proposal was first discussed when they met for the first time at a SEVEN network meeting.

The SEVOCA project will run from October 2009 – July 2011.

## **8) GRU-09-GIVE-5-DJ-PT- THE VOICE OF EUROPEAN SENIORS -RO-PTCoordinator association, "Orizont Cultural T"-Romania**

**Partner association :** Association VIDA – Intergenerational Valorisation and Active Development Association-Portugal

### **Project description:**

The idea of our project stems from the willingness of the seniors we work with to get involved in meaningful activities which could be a way of giving something back to the community. In order to use the different cultural background of the two partner countries the focus of their volunteering activities will be offering support and assistance to disadvantaged groups while involving them in new creative



activities useful not only for their own life but also for a better living environment in the institution which hosts them.

Our Volunteer Program provides an opportunity to volunteering in a community-based school or educational project for three weeks, while learning about different cultures.

The project focus on strengthening the solidarity between senior volunteers, raising the enthusiasm and motivation, improving the quality of life of the less fortunate, giving back their resources to the society.

Our GIVE project raise seniors' awareness of social shortcomings, to motivate them to seek solutions, to convey the broad range of European possibilities – particularly in view of its enlargement – for remaining active and performing volunteering work up to advanced old age, strengthening the solidarity between young and old through best practices in our countries and elsewhere. In order to achieve all this, the Senior Volunteers work together with target groups from economic-socially disadvantaged areas – medical centers, homeless children, imprisoned minors, cultural houses, libraries, educational centre from the rural area.

### **Background and objectives:**

- to promote mutual understanding, deeper engagement and continuing collaboration among the seniors volunteers through greater intellectual, cultural, and people-to-people exchanges between the two countries.
- Recruit people interested on volunteering and distribute them along volunteering organizations.
- Encourage people to volunteering activities.
- Make public volunteering opportunities more goals oriented through clear actions
- Explain the idea of volunteering creating a project culture and a first guide for a professional management of similar projects.

### **Impact and European added values:**

The experience will enables seniors to engage with participants through interests they are comfortable with such as faith, tradition, fashion and art, providing taster sessions that instill confidence to take 'first steps' to learning volunteering, sharing experience and good practice.

The participants will become aware that the intercultural dialogue is essential in a new European society; therefore, the project will make a valuable contribution towards the development of a better comprehension of European institutions and diversity in culture; a proper picture of Europe will be created, maintained and preserved seniors volunteers important activity.

Number of meetings between the participating organisations:

- 2 placement meetings, one for every institution involved,
- participants 4 from every institution,

## 7th FWP

### **1) The BIOTELEKINESY home-care service: a communication platform for the tele-monitoring and the tele-management of the elderly to detect locomotion disabilities and prevent fall (BIOTELEKINESY)**

Funded under 7th FWP (Seventh Framework Programme)

**Fields of research:** FP7-PEOPLE-IEF-2008 Marie Curie Action: "Intra-European Fellowships for Career Development"

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#### **Description of the projet**

The context of our ageing population and the expenses explosion linked up with healthcare request for the elderly, innovative solutions strongly related to prevention, to an improvement of the quality of life and to an upholding of an independent life as long as possible. Therefore, the core of the BIOTELEKINESY project is to provide an innovative ICT based interface with a holistic approach to detect and prevent as earlier as possible in the daily environment of the elderly person, motion disabilities and as a consequence fall risks.

It will consist of a monitoring and assessing devices, to gather biomechanics data that can be indicators of locomotion impairments, related to a secure interoperability system that connect the elderly, the healthcare providers and the family to early implement appropriate rehabilitation therapies. The method will deal with three main goals such as : firstly, the creation of a kinematic database through a clinical gait analysis to highlight and identify the biomechanics predictors of locomotion deficits ; secondly, the implementation of a real time motion recognition system for an accurate classification of elderly actions in different levels of locomotion deficits and thus the development of a threshold algorithm for the elderly activity classification ; thirdly, the development of a secure and friendly-user interface.

This home-care service promise to improve healthcare management procedures with benefits both for seniors, healthcare providers and healthcare systems. In particular, it will enable to prevent fall in an effective manner in term of quality and cost by an accurate and personalized follow-up of the seniors motion capacity; a more personal and efficient interaction between them and the medical staff to implement in real time relevant rehabilitation therapy ; an improvement of the elderly compliance with the provide therapy. According to that, this project will have clear benefits for Greece and the European community.

#### **Details about the projet**

**Acronym:** BIOTELEKINESY

**Reference:** 237087

**Start date:** 2009-06-01

**Duration:** 24 months

**Cost:** .00 euro

**Type of contract:** Intra-European Fellowships (IEF)

**End date:** 2011-05-31

**Status:** Execution

**Funding:** 146876.00 euro

## **2) Extending professional active life (EPAL)**

Funded under 7th FWP (Seventh Framework Programme)

**Fields of research:** ICT-2007.7.1 ICT and ageing

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CAPARICA

PORTUGAL

### **Description of the project**

Project ePAL aims to explore innovative ways to best facilitate the development of the active ageing process and to ensure an improved transition for the elderly citizen as they cope with the onset of age. In order to find appropriate ways towards this goal, a strategic RTD roadmap is proposed focused on innovative solutions and ensuring a balanced post-retirement life-style.

The ePAL vision - addressing new levels of quality of life - is that of an effective transformation of the current situation regarding retirement and the barriers to active ageing in Europe by introducing new approaches and ways to create actively contributing professional communities in society, which provides the elderly citizen with a supporting framework for leveraging their talents and expertise and creates value for the benefit of the Europe's economy. Moreover, such a framework would also support a balanced transition towards retirement. The ePAL vision will do much to place Europe as the leader in promoting active ageing worldwide.

ePAL aims at identifying and characterizing the key research challenges, required constituency, and the implementation model for a comprehensive approach to support in innovative ways the increasing numbers of professional retirees in Europe. ePAL proposes a feasibility study and development of the roadmap covering a comprehensive approach for discovering new ways to promote a balanced active life for retired professionals and a sustainable new notion of silver economy with a wide societal impact.

### **Details about the project**

**Acronym:** EPAL

**Reference:** 215289

**Start date:** 2008-02-01

**Duration:** 24 months

**Cost:** 1.12 million euro

**Type of contract:** Coordination and support actions

**End date:** 2010-01-31

**Status:** Completed

**Funding:** 800000.00 euro

### **Participants**

SENIORS ESPANOLES PARA LA COOPERACION TECNICA (SECOT) / SPAIN  
WHITE LOOP LIMITED / UNITED KINGDOM  
SKILL ESTRATEGIA, S.L. / SPAIN  
UNIVERSITEIT VAN AMSTERDAM / NETHERLANDS

### **3) Services and health for elderly in long term care (SHELTER)**

Funded under 7th FWP (Seventh Framework Programme)

**Fields of research:** HEALTH-2007-3.2-2 Health systems and long term care of the elderly

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#### **Description of the project**

One of the most relevant obstacle to assess and compare nursing home (NH) services and patients across countries relates to the fact that standardized and validated methodologies are not routinely in use in daily practice in Europe. The Minimum Data Set (MDS) is a comprehensive assessment instrument which contains a standardized set of essential clinical and functional status measures and allows evaluation of patients characteristics, measures of quality of care and patients outcomes. This instrument provides the informational basis for a system of outcome management and quality assurance for elders receiving long term care.

The MDS is a powerful tool that can serve to assess outcomes, to measure quality of care and to compare provision of care, health care organization and systems across countries. We proposed to conduct a study aimed to validate the use of MDS as a methodology to assess provision of care in NH in Europe. Such methodology will allow to: a. measure patients outcomes and identify predictors of outcomes (changes in physical function, cognitive status, mood, hospitalization and survival) both at a patient level and at a service level; b. evaluate and monitor quality of care provided and identify incentives to improve quality and enhance prevention; c. compare structural and organizational characteristics of NH Services in European countries, along with the clinical and functional characteristics of their residents.

To this aim we propose a large cross-national, prospective, observational study enrolling older people in NH in European countries. NH residents in the study will be assessed using the MDS. Information collected with this instrument will contribute to the creation of the first cross-national database on NH in Europe and will contribute to the validation of a methodology of assessment of NH residents that can be applied on large scale.

#### **Details about the project**

**Acronym:** SHELTER

**Reference:** 223115

**Start date:** 2009-01-01

**Duration:** 36 months

**Cost:** 3.03 million euro

**Type of contract:** Small or medium-scale focused research project

**End date:** 2011-12-31

**Status:** Execution  
**Funding:** 2.35 million euro

### **Participants**

UNIVERSITY OF HAIFA / ISRAEL  
ASSISTANCE PUBLIQUE - HOPITAUX DE PARIS / FRANCE  
UNIVERSITY OF KENT / UNITED KINGDOM  
TERVEYDEN JA HYVINVOINNIN LAITOS / FINLAND  
UNIVERZITA KARLOVA V PRAZE AS / CZECH REPUBLIC  
VERENIGING VOOR CHRISTELIJK HOGER ONDERWIJS WETENSCHAPPELIJK ONDERZOEK  
EN PATIENTENZORG / NETHERLANDS  
UNIVERSITAET ULM / GERMANY

### **4) Self mobility improvement in the elderly by counteracting falls (SMILING)**

Funded under 7th FWP (Seventh Framework Programme)

**Fields of research:** ICT-2007.7.1 ICT and ageing

**URL of the project:** <http://www.smilingproject.eu/>

### **Coordinator**

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### **Organisation:**

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### **Description of the project**

Mobility means freedom, flexibility and autonomy for all citizens, including older persons. Aging is characterized by functional changes in the sensory, neurological and musculoskeletal systems, affecting motor tasks including gait and postural balance. Gait and balance disturbances in elderly are the main risk factor for falling. The SMILING project is planning to diminish age related impairments by interfering with mobility disability and improving carry-over into real life situations. Research undertaken in USA and Israel has shown strong indications that the vicious circle of muscle weakness and time delay of the Central Nervous System (CNS) that causes gait and balance impairment could be weakened by applying unexpected external motion perturbations.

Elderly at risk of falling can be considered to be suffering from an involuntary and stereotyped motor behaviour that restricts their participation in society. One method to overcome such a situation is to break the stereotyped motion schema and activate a new learning process to better approach real life tasks. To pursue such a target, the SMILING project will use chaos theory and dynamic systems theory with applications in the training of the ageing populations.

The SMILING solution, a wearable non-invasive computer-controlled system, is aimed to perform chaotic perturbations to lower extremities during active walking by small alterations of the height and slope of weight-bearing surfaces. SMILING will implement a systemic solution to re-model training sessions used prevalently in fitness clubs or home environments to facilitate and ameliorate walking schemas. It will not develop any assistive technology to cope with ageing related mobility limitations but will offer a reorganization of the rehabilitation process in ageing, through new training procedures and

advanced technologies needed to deliver them.

### **Details about the project**

**Acronym:** SMILING

**Reference:** 215493

**Start date:** 2008-01-01

**Duration:** 30 months

**Cost:** 2.87 million euro

**Type of contract :** Collaborative project (generic)

**End date:** 2010-06-30

**Status:** Completed

**Funding:** 2.25 million euro

### **Participants**

STEP OF MIND LTD / ISRAEL

MERCAZ MISHAN LTD / ISRAEL

HOSPICES CANTONAUX - CENTRE HOSPITALIER UNIVERSITAIRE VAUDOIS /  
SWITZERLAND

AB.ACUS SRL / ITALY

VYSOKOSPECIALIZOVANY ODBORNY USTAV GERIATRICKY SV. LUKASA V KOSICIACH  
N.O. / SLOVAKIA

STICHTING IMEC NEDERLAND / NETHERLANDS

ECOLE POLYTECHNIQUE FEDERALE DE LAUSANNE / SWITZERLAND

TECHNICKA UNIVERZITA V KOSICIACH / SLOVAKIA

UNIVERSITY OF STRATHCLYDE / UNITED KINGDOM

ALMA MATER STUDIORUM-UNIVERSITA DI BOLOGNA / ITALY

### **5) Vital mind (VM)**

Funded under 7th FWP (Seventh Framework Programme)

**Fields of research:** ICT-2007.7.1 ICT and ageing

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### **Organisation:**

COGNIFIT LTD

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### **Description of the project**

Cognitive decline in aging people can often be accompanied by mental, physical and social hardship. Cognitive training and, in particular computerized training in executive functioning, memory and speed of processing is associated with prolonging personal autonomy in these three life domains. However, many among the elderly are computer illiterate, and cannot benefit from the growing number of computer programs designed to train cognition. Instead, the elderly resort to television viewing, known to have adverse cognitive effects on aging.

Today the elderly represent the largest proportion of the television viewing public. This project will use cognitive psychology, the television medium and advanced interactive Information Computer Technology

(ICT) to enable older adults to actively and autonomously participate in mind fitness activities while sitting in front of their TV set. The research question of whether cognitive training will prove more beneficial if trained in de-contextualized, contextualized settings or in both settings will be verified using randomised, double-blind methodology. This home-based tool would be inexpensive and easy to use for healthy or handicapped individuals.

The project fits in propitiously with recent developments: DTV is planned for deployment in Europe and the Digital Terrestrial Broadcasting (DVB-T), which will use MHP STB technology including the DVB-C, DVB-S and the IPTV, is planned to replace the Analog Broadcasting by 2010. New advancement in USB Memory Flash Cards ("Disk on Key") and the MHP STB having a USB port will provide new alternatives for delivery of content to the TV. Vital Mind also proposes innovative developments in the detection of hand movements, non-speech (vocal) as well as in the use of the iDTV remote control so as to enable and facilitate the user's autonomous participation in the cognitive training program.

### **Details about the project**

**Acronym:** VM

**Reference:** 215387

**Start date:** 2008-01-01

**Duration:** 30 months

**Cost:** 3.89 million euro

**Type of contract:** Collaborative project (generic)

**End date:** 2010-06-30

**Status:** Completed

**Funding:** 2.75 million euro

### **Participants**

CESKA TELEVIZE / CZECH REPUBLIC

UNIVERZITA HRADEC KRALOVE / CZECH REPUBLIC

GOLDSMITHS' COLLEGE / UNITED KINGDOM

PHILIPS CONSUMER ELECTRONICS BV / NETHERLANDS

CESKE VYSOKE UCENI TECHNICKE V PRAZE / CZECH REPUBLIC

THE UNIVERSITY OF DUNDEE / UNITED KINGDOM

UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI GENOVA / ITALY

### **6) Design HEALS: Investigating Design Guidelines for Healthy Assisted Living Settings (DESIGN HEALS)**

Funded under 7th FWP (Seventh Framework Programme)

**Fields of research:** FP7-PEOPLE-2009-RG Marie Curie Action: "Reintegration Grants"

### **Coordinator**

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HISARALTI CAD CIBALI FATIH CIBALI MERKEZ CAMPUS PO Box 000

ISTANBUL

TURKEY

### **Description of the project**

Recent European Commission (2008) report on Long-term care in the European Union announced that demands for quality and quantity of long-term care services bound to rise. As current models for healthy ageing define institutional care as the last resort, assisted living settings fill a big gap between home and institutions. Varying in scale and design, the overall concept of assisted living facilities is to provide home-like physical environment and social support for those who require help in performing their activities of daily living.

The aim of this research is to study the link between environmental qualities of assisted living facilities and well being of cognitively intact elderly. Multiple case study methodology will be followed by selecting facilities varying in size and plan layout configurations. The size of facility, plan layout configuration, walking distances between resident s room and common areas, accessibility and presence of neighborhood amenities will be the independent variables of this study. Well-being outcomes (dependent variables) will be collected by structured observation of resident s use of common spaces and their social interactions. Personal digital assistants that run geographical information software will be used to record location and behaviors of residents in social areas. Residents will be asked about their perceptions of facility and neighborhood in an interview. Caregivers will be asked to provide non-medical information and make behavioral assessments about each resident. Research findings will be transformed into design guidelines and an assessment tool for assisted living settings. Currently, no tool exists that links well-being of elderly and physical environment of assisted living, with the potential of affecting policy. Results will be communicated to network of decision-makers, architects, planners, caregivers, and residents of these facilities within European Union.

#### **Details about the project**

**Acronym:** DESIGN HEALS

**Reference:** 249280

**Start date:** 2010-07-01

**Duration:** 36 months

**Cost:** 75000.00 euro

**Type of contract:** International Re-integration Grants (IRG)

**End date:** 2013-06-30

**Status:** Execution

**Funding:** 75000.00 euro

#### **7) Emergent health-care occupations & quality of life: A study of the USA, SPAIN & ITALY (EHCO & QOL)**

Funded under 7th FWP (Seventh Framework Programme)

**Fields of research:** FP7-PEOPLE-2009-RG Marie Curie Action: "Reintegration Grants"

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#### **Organisation:**

UNIVERSIDAD DE NAVARRA

Campus Universitario S/N, Edificio Central

PAMPLONA

SPAIN

#### **Description of the project**

This project aims to understand the dynamic structuring of emergent occupational and organizational forms in health care services. Employment growth in health related fields leads labor markets today. This



growth results from a well known economic and demographic phenomenon affecting mostly Europe and North America, namely, the increasing demand for healthcare and social assistance because of an aging population and longer life expectancy.

These social changes imply more than just a growing need for management of the expanding provision of health care and social services. They also mean profound transformations in the institutional and social settings where care is given, as the health care system moves away from large hospitals and centers around focused-care organizations and individuals homes. However, limited research exists concerning the effect of these changes on the emergence of new occupations and the need for multidisciplinary work approaches in caring for the aged. In addition, there is little in understanding the educational programs necessary to develop competencies in these jobs.

Because these trends encompass large geographical regions (Europe and USA) and involve different disciplines such as health management, labor relations and sociology of work, the Researcher has built an international and interdisciplinary team of scholars from the USA, Italy and now Spain.

Overall, the project aims to achieve:

- an understanding of health caregivers jobs and the design of a corresponding educational program, that would permit employees to effectively deliver quality care
- an adequate definition of healthy elderly quality of life (QOL), departing from the multiple conceptualizations currently used in research
- a theoretical framework that would help categorize the growing number and type of organizations and occupations in the health care sector

#### **Details about the project**

**Acronym:** EHCO & QOL

**Reference:** 249235

**Start date:** 2009-10-01

**Duration:** 48 months

**Cost:** 100000.00 euro

**Type of contract:** International Re-integration Grants (IRG)

**End date:** 2013-09-30

**Status:** Execution

**Funding:** 100000.00 euro

#### **8) Bioactive compounds from blackcurrant processing waste for brain health (BRAINHEALTHFOOD)**

Funded under 7th FWP (Seventh Framework Programme)

**Fields of research:** SME-1 Research for SMEs

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#### **Description of the project**

Alzheimer's disease (AD) is the most common age-related neurodegenerative disorder, and one of the most devastating diagnoses that patients and their families can receive. Currently ~10 % of over 65 year old have AD, and the direct and indirect cost of its care is estimated to be >100 billion \$ in the US alone and in the UK ~ 22M, and therefore causing profound medical, social and economic consequences.

New findings in recent epidemiological studies suggest that polyphenolics containing foods may offer effective means to delay the onset of Alzheimer's disease development. This provides great business opportunities for food and nutraceutical companies. The polyphenolic extracts from blackcurrant have recently been demonstrated to provide neuroprotection against oxidative stress induced neuronal damages in human cell cultures, and therefore it may hold a promising natural target for the preparation of bioactive food ingredients for a variety of applications.

In this BrainHealthFood European consortium, our aim is to provide research support for SMEs by integrating the different expertise from chemistry, metabolomics and neurology from European countries to identify neuroprotective compounds from blackcurrant processing waste, which helps SMEs to develop novel products in a business area with a high future potential. Neuroprotection activity will be analyzed in neuroblastoma cells and in a mice model of Alzheimer's disease.

Research provide strong scientific basis for SMEs to the development of novel berry juices, dietary supplements and other products for elderly people having a high risk of developing Alzheimer's disease.

#### **Details about the project**

**Acronym:** BRAINHEALTHFOOD

**Reference:** 222503

**Start date:** 2009-01-01

**Duration:** 24 months

**Cost:** 1.14 million euro

**Type of contract:** Research for SMEs

**End date:** 2010-12-31

**Status:** Execution

**Funding:** 870100.00 euro

#### **Participants**

INDULLEIDA S.A. / SPAIN

SUSSMOST & WEINKELTEREI HOHENSEEFELD GMBH

VIN - KON S.A. / GERMANY

PYHASALMEN MARJAVAKKA KY / POLAND

PHARMIA OY / FINLAND

MAA JA ELINTARVIKETALOUDEN TUTKIMUSKESKUS / FINLAND

VEREIN ZUR FOERDERUNG DES TECHNOLOGIETRANSFERS AN DER HOCHSCHULE / FINLAND

BREMERHAVEN E.V. / GERMANY

SCOTTISH CROP RESEARCH INSTITUTE / UNITED KINGDOM

#### **9) A road map for European ageing research (WHYWEAGE)**

Funded under 7th FWP (Seventh Framework Programme)

**Fields of research:** HEALTH-2007-2.2.2-5 Research on human development and/or healthy ageing across the EU

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**Organisation:**

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NAMUR / NAMEN

BELGIUM

**Description of the project**

The rapid increase of life expectancy in Europe is essentially a positive outcome from improved health care and socioeconomic progress. However age-related deteriorations of health greatly impinge upon the health care and social security systems. This fosters an increasing necessity of keeping as long as possible the *elderly* in relatively healthy conditions. Unravelling the fundamental mechanisms of ageing is a pre-requisite for maintaining activity and independence of the *elderly*, thus improving the quality of life at older age. After some preparative effort made in FP6, time has come to federate the European research on ageing around commonly agreed perspectives, considering the need for progress in an area of great socioeconomic and political stake in Europe. The next step is therefore to raise a road map for the European research on the molecular aspects of healthy human ageing, considering also some aspects of development. Based on an assessment of the state of the art in molecular gerontology and breakthroughs in biotechnology, we shall clarify the main priorities for the next 15 years. We will engage an open and transparent mechanism to support a closely prepared and coordinated series of subtopic research workshops merging in a get-together integrative conference. In order not to start from scratch again, the selection of the participants will be based namely on the list of 50 associate and 14 full members, academic and industrial, of the ongoing FP6 « Linkage » Coordination Action, led by the coordinator of this proposal, experienced in successfully managing European projects. Distinguished scientists working in other fields of molecular biology and biotechnology will also participate. The conclusions of the workshops and final conference will be published in a series of position papers. This will serve as a reference tool for further support of European policies on ageing, considering other stakeholders in the field who will also be invited to participate

**Details about the project**

**Acronym:** WHYWEAGE

**Reference:** 200970

**Start date:** 2009-01-01

**Duration:** 24 months

**Cost:** 559824.00 euro

**Type of contract:** Support actions

**End date:** 2010-12-31

**Status:** Execution

**Funding:** 499176.00 euro

**Participants**

EBERHARD KARLS UNIVERSITAET TUEBINGEN GERMANY

UNIVERSITAT KONSTANZ GERMANY

UNIVERSITY OF WALES INSTITUTE CARDIFF UNITED KINGDOM

OESTERREICHISCHE AKADEMIE DER WISSENSCHAFTEN AUSTRIA

UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE UNITED KINGDOM

UNIVERSITE PIERRE ET MARIE CURIE - PARIS 6 FRANCE

STRATICELL SCREENING TECHNOLOGIES BELGIUM

SEMMELWEIS EGYETEM HUNGARY

UNIVERSITE CATHOLIQUE DE LOUVAIN BELGIUM

ALMA MATER STUDIORUM-UNIVERSITA DI BOLOGNA ITALY

ETHNIKO IDRYMA EREVNON GREECE

CENTRE NATIONAL DE LA RECHERCHE SCIENTIFIQUE (CNRS) FRANCE

UNIwersytet Łódzki Poland

INSTITUT NATIONAL DE LA SANTE ET DE LA RECHERCHE MEDICALE (INSERM) FRANCE

## **10) Increasing the participation of the elderly in clinical trials (PREDICT)**

Funded under 7th FWP (Seventh Framework Programme)

**Fields of research:** HEALTH-2007-2.2.2-4 Increasing the participation of elderly in clinical trials

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### **Organisation:**

MEDICAL ECONOMICS AND RESEARCH CENTRE, SHEFFIELD

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SHEFFIELD

UNITED KINGDOM

### **Description of the project**

AIM. To investigate the reasons for the exclusion of the elderly in clinical trials and to provide solutions for this problem. INTRODUCTION. Although the elderly account for high drug consumption, they are underrepresented in clinical trials. With an increasingly ageing European population it is essential to demonstrate the efficacy and safety of drugs. Clinical trials need to take into account the relevant issues of this population, i.e. changed metabolism, multiple chronic conditions and poly-pharmacy. To examine this issue and effect a paradigm shift it is necessary to target gatekeepers and stakeholders of clinical trials. METHODS. The project will be coordinated by the Medical Economics and Research Centre, Sheffield, with guidance from the Centre for Interdisciplinary Research on Ageing at Keele University, UK. The 5 work packages (WP) will be carried out by a multi-disciplinary team of highly qualified experts in Geriatrics, Gerontology and social sciences. WP1 will involve a systematic review of the literature and review of ongoing clinical trials to assess the extent of exclusion of the elderly. Based on these findings WP2 and WP 3 will investigate why the elderly are underrepresented in clinical trials and what can be done to improve their participation. This will be carried out in 9 countries: UK, Spain, Holland, Italy, Poland, Lithuania, Romania, Israel and the Czech Republic. WP2 will research the views of health professionals and ethicists using structured questionnaires. WP3 will explore the perceptions of older patients and carers using a focus group methodology. For WP4, the recommendations from WP2 and WP3 will be used to develop a charter for the elderly in clinical trials. WP5 will disseminate and implement the findings. CONCLUSION. PREDICT will promote the inclusion of the elderly in clinical trials in Europe. This project will facilitate the improvement of the rights of older people and the quality of health care for the ageing population.

### **Details about the project**

**Acronym:** PREDICT

**Reference:** 201917

**Start date:** 2008-02-01

**Duration:** 27 months

**Cost:** 840612.00 euro

**Type of contract:** Support actions

**End date:** 2010-04-30

**Status:** Completed

**Funding:** 750047.00 euro

### **Participants**

VERENIGING VOOR CHRISTELIJK HOGER ONDERWIJS WETENSCHAPPELIJK ONDERZOEK  
EN PATIENTENZORG / NETHERLANDS  
UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI PERUGIA / ITALY  
UNIVERSITY OF KEELE / UNITED KINGDOM  
KAUNO MEDICINOS UNIVERSITETAS / LITHUANIA  
CORPORACIO SANITARIA PARC TAULI / SPAIN  
INSTITUTUL NATIONAL DE GERONTOLOGIE I GERIATRIE ANA ASLAN / ROMANIA  
THE JAGIELLONIAN UNIVERSITY MEDICAL COLLEGE / POLAND  
UNIVERZITA KARLOVA V PRAZE / CZECH REPUBLIC  
BEN GURION UNIVERSITY OF THE NEGEV. / ISRAEL  
Medical Research Council / UNITED KINGDOM

## **11) Therapeutic and preventive impact of nutritional lipids on neuronal and cognitive performance in aging, alzheimer's disease and vascular dementia (LIPIDIET)**

Funded under 7th FWP (Seventh Framework Programme)

**Fields of research:** KBBE-2007-2-2-02 Impact of diet on ageing

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### **Organisation:**

UNIVERSITAET DES SAARLANDES

University Campus

GERMANY

### **Description of the project**

Major objective: It is our aim to develop a lipid based diet that is able to delay or prevent onset of Alzheimer s disease and related diseases and has a stabilizing effect on cognitive performance in aging. Multiple lines of evidence suggest that there is a large overlap between risk factor of these three diseases. Importantly, there is equally strong evidence that prevention and treatment of these diseases can be efficiently addresses - especially in their first and their priclinal stages - by closely related or identical bio-molecules.

Predominantly these molecules appear to belong to the class of lipids which are part of the human diet. However, very often they are consumed in far lesser than recommended amounts. Bearing in mind that all of these diseases have a long pre-clinical phase in which the disease remains undetected specifically designed nutrition may be required for effective prevention or for those who already progressed into the first clinical stage of the disease. Moreover, frequently the within the elderly population pathological changes by two or all of these diseases occur in combination thus targeting only one would be insufficient.

### **Details about the project**

**Acronym:** LIPIDIET

**Reference:** 211696

**Start date:** 2008-08-01

**Duration:** 60 months

**Cost:** 7.99 million euro

**Type of contract:** Large-scale integrating project

**End date:** 2013-07-31

**Status:** Execution  
**Funding:** 5.9 million euro

### **Participants**

KAROLINSKA INSTITUTET / SWEDEN  
GOETEBORGS UNIVERSITET / SWEDEN  
TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY / ISRAEL  
RHEINISCHE FRIEDRICH-WILHELMS-UNIVERSITAET BONN / GERMANY  
FYZIOLOGICKY USTAV AKADEMIE VED CESKE REPUBLIKY VEREJNA VYZKUMNA  
INSTITUTE (VVI) / CZECH REPUBLIC  
STICHTING KATHOLIEKE UNIVERSITEIT / NETHERLANDS  
EUROPEAN RESEARCH AND PROJECT OFFICE GMBH / GERMANY  
DANONE RESEARCH BV / NETHERLANDS  
VERENIGING VOOR CHRISTELIJK HOGER ONDERWIJS WETENSCHAPPELIJK ONDERZOEK  
EN PATIENTENZORG / NETHERLANDS  
SZEGEDI TUDOMANYEGYETEM / HUNGARY  
ITÄ-SUOMEN YLIOPISTO / FINLAND

## **12) Multi Purpose Mobile Robot for Ambient Assisted Living (FLORENCE)**

Funded under 7th FWP (Seventh Framework Programme)

**Fields of research:** ICT-2009.7.1 ICT & Ageing

### **Coordinator**

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### **Organisation:**

PHILIPS ELECTRONICS NEDERLAND B.V.  
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NETHERLANDS

### **Description of the project**

Due to increasing mobility and the ageing society the demand for care will increase significantly, leading to high costs and unrealistic manpower demands. Florence will alleviate this by keeping elderly independent much longer by providing care and coaching services, supported by robots. This will greatly improve the efficiency in care and reduce costs. The second problem addressed by Florence is the acceptance of robots by elderly. For this purpose the project adopts a user-centric approach, by starting with focus-group sessions, having lab-tests in the OFFIS IDEAAAL lab, and finally evaluating the services in the Granada AAL living labs.

The Florence consortium contains partners from the complete value chain: robot vendors, care providers, and consumer electronics vendors. The consortium positions the service robot as a consumer device, supporting various lifestyle services. In particular the following services will be evaluated in the project:

- \* Social Connectedness: provide access to the social networks, including web-2.0 and synchronous communication tools
- \* Coaching: give feedback on specific activities like physical exercises, and advise on activities of daily life
- \* Care support: log care-related activities at home that are shared among professional or volunteer caretakers.

\* Safety: use the robot as additional ears and eyes in comfort or safety situations, controlled by service providers or the elderly users.

In order to support this multitude of services, the Florence system is based on a service-oriented architecture that provides programmatic interfaces towards the (interaction) capabilities provided by the robot, the home, and remote service providers. Such integration will effectively turn the Florence system into a generic platform for home-services, integrating an autonomous robot with the smart home.

### **Details about the project**

**Acronym:** FLORENCE

**Reference:** 248730

**Start date:** 2010-02-01

**Duration:** 36 months

**Cost:** 5.64 million euro

**Type of contract:** Collaborative project (generic)

**End date:** 2013-01-31

**Status:** Execution

**Funding:** 3.55 million euro

### **Participants**

FUNDACION FATRONIK. / SPAIN

WANY SA / FRANCE

STICHTING NOVAY / NETHERLANDS

FUNDACION ANDALUZA DE SERVICIOS SOCIALES / SPAIN

TELEFONICA INVESTIGACION Y DESARROLLO SA / SPAIN

NEC EUROPE LTD / UNITED KINGDOM

OFFIS E.V. / GERMANY

## **13) ASSESSMENT OF HEARING IN THE ELDERLY: AGING AND DEGENERATION - INTEGRATION THROUGH IMMEDIATE INTERVENTION (AHEAD III)**

Funded under 7th FWP (Seventh Framework Programme)

**Fields of research:** HEALTH-2007-2.4.5-7 Hearing impairment and degeneration

### **Coordinator**

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### **Organisation:**

CONSIGLIO NAZIONALE DELLE RICERCHE

Piazzale Aldo Moro

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ITALY

### **Description of the project**

Hearing loss is one of the most common chronic health conditions in the elderly population with important implications for patient quality of life. The diminished ability to hear and to communicate is frustrating in and of itself, but the strong association of hearing loss with depression and functional decline adds further to the burden on individuals who are hearing impaired. Hearing loss can limit communications skills: not to hear means not to understand what is being said. Hence deafness does not produce compassion but do often produce a sense of irritation. Despite the prevalence and burden of hearing loss, hearing impairment is largely underdiagnosed in older persons and undertreated. The reason

for this is that one of the most conspicuous signs of a hearing loss is that it cannot be seen! Actually, this is the reason why deafness does not receive the necessary attention. Too often, the public and still too many health care professionals underestimate the dramatic effects of deafness. Novel strategies should be explored to make screening and early intervention a feasible part of routine care. Project AHEAD III has been specifically designed to: - Provide evidence of the effects of hearing impairment in adults and particularly in the elderly - Analyse costs associated with the implementation of integrated large scale programmes of hearing screening and intervention in the elderly - Provide quality standards and minimum requirements for screening methods and related diagnostic techniques - Develop guidelines and recommendations on how to implement successful screening programmes to be tuned to the local, social, and economical conditions of a country.

### **Details about the project**

**Acronym:** AHEAD III

**Reference:** 200835

**Start date:** 2008-05-01

**Duration:** 36 months

**Cost:** 1.11 million euro

**Type of contract:** Coordination (or networking) actions

**End date:** 2011-04-30

**Status:** Execution

**Funding:** 1.09 million euro

### **Participants**

KLINIKUM DER UNIVERSITAET ZU KOELN / GERMANY

KLINIKUM RECHTS DER ISAR / GERMANY

THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER / UNITED KINGDOM

AGENCIA VALENCIANA DE SALUD / SPAIN

VEREIN FUER BERUFGENOSSENSCHAFTLICHE HEILBEHANDLUNG BERLIN EV / GERMANY

UNIVERSYTET MEDYCZNY W LODZI. / POLAND

UNIVERSITAET ZUERICH / SWITZERLAND

PECSI TUDOMANYEGYETEM - UNIVERSITY OF PECS / HUNGARY

CENTRE HOSPITALIER ET UNIVERSITAIRE DE BORDEAUX / FRANCE

OEREBRO UNIVERSITET / SWEDEN

CH. & M. CYPRUS AUDIOLOGY CENTER -INTERACOUSTICS LIMITED / CYPRUS

ERASMUS UNIVERSITAIR MEDISCH CENTRUM ROTTERDAM / NETHERLANDS

ERASMUS MC UNIVERSITEIT ANTWERPEN / BELGIUM

INSTYTUT FIZIOLOGII I PATOLOGII SLUCHU / POLAND

MEDIZINISCHE UNIVERSITAET WIEN / AUSTRIA

VERENIGING VOOR CHRISTELIJK HOGER ONDERWIJS WETENSCHAPPELIJK ONDERZOEK EN PATIENTENZORG / NETHERLANDS

LINKOPINGS UNIVERSITET / SWEDEN

### **14) Knowledgable Service Robots for Aging (KSERA)**

Funded under 7th FWP (Seventh Framework Programme)

**Fields of research:** ICT-2009.7.1 ICT & Ageing

### **Coordinator**

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**Organisation:**

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NETHERLANDS

**Description of the project**

We propose research and development of a Knowledgeable Service Robot for Aging (KSERA) that will serve several related purposes for elderly persons in general and those with pulmonary disease in particular. Specifically KSERA provides (1) a mobile assistant to follow and monitor the health and behavior of a senior, (2) useful communication (video, internet) services including needed alerts to caregivers and emergency personnel, and (3) a robot integrated with smart household technology to monitor the environment and advise the senior or caregivers of anomalous or dangerous situations. KSERA aims at an adaptive technical aid that will provide needed and useful services in a pleasant, easy-to-use format via a robot that also acts as a companion and assistant. The problems to be addressed by the research and field trials include:

- (1) robot mobile behavior, i.e. machine navigation and following a target person through a variable and cluttered environment,
- (2) ubiquitous monitoring of physiological and behavioral data through direct measurements and interaction with household sensors, and
- (3) human-robot interaction including new developments in shared environmental processing, affective technology, and adaptable multimodal interfaces. A single robotic device hosting entertainment and communication aids, and at the same time providing an assistant that monitors the environment and the user's behavior, contributes to the user's health and quality of life (QoL).

It will be designed to use contextual information and adaptive decision making algorithms to continually update the monitoring and mobile behavior for improved interaction with its user and to provide information and support at the right time and place. Real user scenarios and participative design drive the research. Two prototypes will be developed and validated in real end-user environments by qualitative and quantitative validation metrics including measures of safety, user acceptance, care efficiency and QoL.

**Details about the project**

**Acronym:** KSERA

**Reference:** 248085

**Start date:** 2010-02-01

**Duration:** 36 months

**Cost:** 3.93 million euro

**Type of contract:** Collaborative project (generic)

**End date:** 2013-01-31

**Status:** Execution

**Funding:** 2.9 million euro

**Participants**

UNIVERSITAET HAMBURG / GERMANY  
CEIT RALTEC GEMEINNUETZIGE GMBH / AUSTRIA  
CONSFT SISTEMI S.P.A / ITALY

MACCABI HEALTHCARE SERVICES / ISRAEL  
ISTITUTO SUPERIORE MARIO BOELLA SULLE TECNOLOGIE DELL'INFORMAZIONE E  
DELLE TELECOMUNICAZIONI / ITALY  
TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITAET WIEN / AUSTRIA

## **15) An integrated intelligent home environment for the provision of health, nutrition and mobility services to the elderly (MOBISERV)**

Funded under 7th FWP (Seventh Framework Programme)

**Fields of research:** ICT-2009.7.1 ICT & Ageing

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GREECE

### **Description of the project**

Life expectancy increases, and the wish to prolong independent living remains strong. The objective of the MOBISERV project is to develop a proactive personal service robotics for supporting independent living. The project will develop a personalized system, orchestrating vital signs recording and analysis, warnings, and alerts to health and emergency assistance networks. Existing solutions are closed to external developers and address only few problems pertinent to the elderly. MOBISERV will deliver a robotic prototype of an open standard-based personal platform capable of sensing the user's personal environment and adapting to the user's patterns of behaviour.

By early detection of threatening environmental and/or emerging medical conditions, harmful consequences will be mitigated by issuing warnings and providing guidance; in case adverse events cannot be evaded, alarms will be issued. The platform will be an integration of innovative components delivered by the project and of existing standards-compliant technologies. Innovative wireless (bio-) sensor-actuators, localisation and communication technologies, smart textiles and clothing and a wearable solution hosting monitoring equipment will be integrated into an existing robotic platform capable of self-learning and able to support elderly in indoor contexts. Tele-alarm applications will be developed to enhance health and integrated care services. A user-centred participatory design process will be adopted, with iterative design and evaluation. The system will be evaluated under real life conditions.

### **Details about the project**

**Acronym:** MOBISERV

**Reference:** 248434

**Start date:** 2009-12-01

**Duration:** 36 months

**Cost:** 3.6 million euro

**Type of contract:** Collaborative project (generic)

**End date:** 2012-11-30

**Status:** Execution

**Funding:** 2.75 million euro

### **Participants**

SMARTEX S.R.L / ITALY

LAPPEENRANNAN TEKNILLINEN YLIOPISTO / FINLAND

STICHTING ST ANNA ZORGGROEP / NETHERLANDS

STICHTING SMART HOMES / NETHERLANDS

CSEM CENTRE SUISSE D'ELECTRONIQUE ET DE MICROTECHNIQUE SA - RECHERCHE ET DEVELOPPEMENT / SWITZERLAND  
UNIVERSITY OF THE WEST OF ENGLAND, BRISTOL / UNITED KINGDOM  
ARISTOTELIO PANEPISTIMIO THESSALONIKIS / GREECE  
ROBOSOFT SA / FRANCEs

## **16) Integrated cognitive assistive and domotic companion robotic systems for ability and security (COMPANIONABLE)**

Funded under 7th FWP (Seventh Framework Programme)

**Fields of research:** ICT-2007.7.1 ICT and ageing

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### **Organisation:**

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### **Description of the project**

CompanionAble addresses the issues of social inclusion and homecare of persons suffering from chronic cognitive disabilities prevalent among the elderly, a rapidly increasing population group. Those people need support of carers and are at risk of social exclusion, yet this problem not well addressed by ICT technology, but would lead to a social and economical pressure for staying at home as long as possible.

The main unique selling point of the Companionable project lies in the synergetic combination of the strengths of a mobile robotic companion with the advantages of a stationary smart home, since neither of those approaches alone can accomplish the demanding tasks to be solved. Positive effects of both individual solutions shall be combined to demonstrate how the synergies between a stationary smart home solution and an embodied mobile robot companion can make the care and the care person's interaction with her assistive system significantly better.

Starting with a profound requirements engineering for ICT-supported care and therapy management for the care persons, basic technologies for multimodal user observation and human-machine interaction will provide the fundamentals for the development of a stationary smart home assistive system and a mobile robot assistant, building the cornerstones of the overall system integrating the promising solutions of both parts. Substantial support comes from the research activities focusing on an architectural framework, allowing such a complex care scenario solution be achievable. After the realization of the respective scenarios, long lasting field experiments will be carried out to evaluate and test the system, and both scenarios can be evaluated to show their strength and weaknesses. This will initiate the development of an overall, integrated care scenario (smart home with embedded robot companion).

The realization of this integrated care concept is to be seen as the in-principal vision of Companionable.

### **Details about the project**

**Acronym:** COMPANIONABLE

**Reference:** 216487

**Start date:** 2008-01-01

**Duration:** 48 months

**Cost:** 10.91 million euro

**Type of contract:** Collaborative project (generic)

**End date:** 2011-12-31

**Status:** Execution

**Funding:** 7.8 million euro

### **Participants**

AUSTRIAN RESEARCH CENTERS GMBH - ARC / AUSTRIA

STICHTING SMART HOMES / NETHERLANDS

FUNDACION INSTITUTO GERONTOLOGICO MATIA - INGEMA / SPAIN

FUNDACION ROBOTIKER / SPAIN

BIOINGENIERIA ARAGONESA, S.L. / SPAIN

UNIVERSIDADE DA CORUNA / SPAIN

METRALABS GMBH NEUE TECHNOLOGIEN UND SYSTEMS / GERMANY

TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITAET ILMENAU / GERMANY

ASSISTANCE PUBLIQUE - HOPITAUX DE PARIS / FRANCE

UNIVERSITE D'EVRY-VAL D'ESSONNE / FRANCE

CHAMBRE DE COMMERCE ET D'INDUSTRIE DE PARIS / FRANCE

ASSOCIATION DE GESTION DE L'ECOLE SUPERIEURE D'INGENIEURS EN INFORMATIQUE  
ET GENIE DES TELECOMMUNICATIONS / FRANCE

LEGRAND FRANCE SA / FRANCE

GROUPE DES ECOLES DES TELECOMMUNICATIONS / FRANCE

INNOVATIECENTRUM VOOR HUISVESTING MET AANGEPASTE MIDDELEN / BELGIUM

CURE - CENTER FOR USABILITY RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING / AUSTRIA

AKG ACOUSTICS GMBH / AUSTRIA

### **17) Multi-Role Shadow Robotic System for Independent Living (SRS)**

Funded under 7th FWP (Seventh Framework Programme)

**Fields of research:** ICT-2009.7.1 ICT & Ageing

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### **Organisation:**

CARDIFF UNIVERSITY

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UNITED KINGDOM

### **Description of the project**

The project focuses on the development and prototyping of remotely-controlled, semi-autonomous robotic solutions in domestic environments to support elderly people. In particular, the SRS project will demonstrate an innovative, practical and efficient system called "shadow robot" for personalised home care. Most elderly people want to live in the familiar environment of their own residence for as long as possible. However, not many can live with their adult children and therefore, at some stage, often late in life, have to live alone. Studies show that some forms of home care are usually required as they advance in years.

SRS solutions are designed to enable a robot to act as a shadow of its controller. For example, elderly

parents can have a robot as a shadow of their children or carers. In this case, adult children or carers can help them remotely and physically with tasks such as getting up or going to bed, doing the laundry and setting up ICT equipment etc. as if the children or carers were resident in the house. This objective will be realised by the following SRS innovations:

- A new intent-based remote control mechanism to enable the robots to be tele-operated over a real-world communication network robustly.
- An adaptive automation mechanism to enable a highly efficient task execution for remotely controlled service robots.
- A new robotic self-learning mechanism to enable the robots to learn from their experience.
- A safety-oriented framework derived through extensive usability and user acceptance studies that enable service robots to be effectively deployed into home care applications.

The shadow robot prototypes created with EU support in the SRS project will be tested at the "S.Maria Nascente" Centre in Milano and the IZA Care Center in San Sebastian. The final solution will be further developed by Hewlett-Packard and other industrial partners of the consortium for a worldwide market with significant potential and volume.

### **Details about the project**

**Acronym:** SRS

**Reference:** 247772

**Start date:** 2010-02-01

**Duration:** 36 months

**Cost:** 4.66 million euro

**Type of contract:** Collaborative project (generic)

**End date:** 2013-01-31

**Status:** Execution

**Funding:** 3.3 million euro

### **Participants**

UNIVERSITY OF BEDFORDSHIRE / UNITED KINGDOM

FUNDACION INSTITUTO GERONTOLOGICO MATIA - INGEMA / SPAIN

FONDAZIONE DON CARLO GNOCCHI ONLUS / ITALY

HEWLETT PACKARD ITALIANA SRL / ITALY

HOCHSCHULE DER MEDIEN / GERMANY

CENTRAL LABORATORY OF MECHATRONICS AND INSTRUMENTATION OF THE  
BULGARIAN ACADEMY OF SCIENCES / BULGARIA

FRAUNHOFER-GESELLSCHAFT ZUR FOERDERUNG DER ANGEWANDTEN FORSCHUNG E.V  
/ GERMANY

PROFACTOR GMBH / AUSTRIA

ROBOTNIK AUTOMATION SLL / SPAIN

## **18) Open architecture for accessible services integration and standardisation (OASIS)**

Funded under 7th FWP (Seventh Framework Programme)

**Fields of research:** ICT-2007.7.1 ICT and ageing

### **Coordinator**

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### **Description of the project**

OASIS introduces an innovative, Ontology-driven, Open Reference Architecture and Platform, which will enable and facilitate interoperability, seamless connectivity and sharing of content between different services and ontologies in all application domains relevant to applications for the elderly and beyond.

The OASIS platform is open, modular, holistic, easy to use and standards abiding. It includes a set of novel tools for content/services connection and management, for user interfaces creation and adaptation and for service personalization and integration. Through this new Architecture, over 12 different types of services are connected with the OASIS Platform for the benefit of the elderly, covering user needs and wants in terms of Independent Living Applications (nutritional advisor, activity coach, brain and skills trainers, social communities platform, health monitoring and environmental control), Autonomous Mobility and Smart Workplaces Applications (elderly-friendly transport information services, elderly-friendly route guidance, personal mobility services, mobile devices, biometric authentication interface and multimodal dialogue mitigation and other smart workplace applications).

Applications are all integrated as a unified, dynamic service batch, managed by the OASIS Service Centre and supporting all types of mobile devices (tablet PC, PDA, smartphone, automotive device, ITV, infokiosk, ) and all types of environments (living labs, sheltered homes, private homes, two car demonstrators, public transport, DSRT, etc.) in 4 Pilot sites Europewide. As user friendliness and acceptability is a top priority for the project, a user-centred-design approach is followed along the service and application development.

Tested iteratively and thoroughly by hundreds of end users, their caregivers and other stakeholders, the OASIS platform and applications will be optimized and submitted for standardization by the purpose-established OASIS world-wide Industrial Forum.

### **Details about the project**

**Acronym:** OASIS

**Reference:** 215754

**Start date:** 2008-01-01

**Duration:** 48 months

**Cost:** 12.31 million euro

**Type of contract:** Collaborative project (generic)

**End date:** 2011-12-31

**Status:** Execution

**Funding:** 8.52 million euro

### **Participants**

DOMOLOGIC HOME AUTOMATION GMBH / GERMANY

UNIVERSITAET BREMEN / GERMANY

INTERNATIONALES INFORMATIONSZENTRUM FUR TERMINOLOGIE / AUSTRIA

UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE / UNITED KINGDOM

FUNDACION PARA LA PROMOCION DE LA INNOVACION, INVESTIGACION Y

DESARROLLO TECNOLOGICO EN LA INDUSTRIA DE AUTOMOCION DE GALICIA / SPAIN

BLUE POINT IT SOLUTIONS SRL / ROMANIA

SINGKIOULAR LOTZIK ANONYMOS ETAIRIA PLIROFORIAKON SYSTIMATON &

EFARMOGON / GREECE

ANONYMOS ETAIREIA ANTIPROSOPEION EMPORIOU KAI VIOMICHANIAS / GREECE

AGE - LA PLATEFORME EUROPEENNE DES PERSONNES AGEES ET RETRAITEES / BELGIUM  
CENTRO RICERCA FIAT SCPA / ITALY  
SIEMENS SA / SPAIN  
INSTITUTO DE APLICACIONES DE LAS TECNOLOGIAS DE LA INFORMACION Y DE LAS  
COMUNICACIONES AVANZADAS - ITACA / SPAIN  
ASOCIACION DE EMPRESAS TECNOLOGICAS INNOVALIA / SPAIN  
UNIVERSIDAD POLITECNICA DE MADRID / SPAIN  
INSTITUTO TECNOLOGICO Y DE ESTUDIOS SUPERIORES DE MONTERREY / MEXICO  
UNIVERSITA DI PISA / ITALY  
MIZAR AUTOMAZIONE SPA / ITALY  
VODAFONE OMNITEL N.V. / ITALY  
EWORX YPIRESIES ILEKTRONIKOU EPICHEIREIN ANONYMOS ETAIREIA / GREECE  
CENTRE FOR RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY HELLAS / GREECE  
EFARMOGES EXYPTNOU LOGISMIKOU KYKLOFORIAS & METAFORON AE / GREECE  
FOUNDATION FOR RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY HELLAS / GREECE  
ANONYMI EMPORIKI ETAIRIA ANAPTYXISKAI YPIRESION KAI PROIOTON SE TOMEIS  
YPSILIS TECHNOLOGIAS / GREECE  
FRAUNHOFER-GESELLSCHAFT ZUR FOERDERUNG DER ANGEWANDTEN FORSCHUNG E.V  
/ GERMANY  
WESTPFALZ-KLINIKUM GMBH / GERMANY  
PTV PLANUNG TRANSPORT VERKEHR AG. / GERMANY  
TSINGHUA UNIVERSITY / CHINA  
MARIE CURIE ASSOCIATION / BULGARIA  
MULTITEL ASBL / BELGIUM  
POLIS - PROMOTION OF OPERATIONAL LINKS WITH INTEGRATED SERVICES,  
ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE / BELGIUM  
ATAF SPA / ITALY

### **19) Resolve chronic inflammation and achieve healthy aging by understanding non-regenerative repair (RESOLVE)**

Funded under 7th FWP (Seventh Framework Programme)

**Fields of research:** HEALTH-2007-2.2.2-2 Termination of developmental processes and their reactivation in adult life

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#### **Description of the project**

RESOLVE has been outlined to better understand the regulatory networks that control the developmental processes in organ repair and to identify mechanisms which cause the termination of regular organ development leading to fibroproliferative wound healing. Fibroproliferative wound healing represents a major pathology in elderly people shifting regular organ development into progressive organ fibrosis with complete loss of organ function. Based on the identification of valued molecular targets of fibroproliferative repair, RESOLVE aims to create suitable treatment strategies to achieve healthy ageing

in the elderly. In doing so, RESOLVE will create a significant impact on life quality of elderly people. RESOLVE s outcomes will strengthen the competitiveness of European science and biotechnology industry and contribute to cost saving strategies in the health care sector. RESOLVE s structured scientific approach combines as yet fragmented fields of research using model organisms which represent (a) different forms of wound healing, (b) different human diseases and (c) different genetic backgrounds, guaranteeing social and scientific relevance, modularity of re-search and the integration of existing biological knowledge, technical expertise and medical experi-ence. In addition, sequential generation of data during improvement or worsening ensures clinical relevance and leads to a stringent exploitation strategy. The sustainable outcomes of RESOLVE s efforts will be: (A) the urgently needed diagnostic tool for fibroproliferative wound healing in various organs, (B) highly valuable transgenic animals offering test systems for fibroproliferative wound healing, and (C) a characterization of compounds capable of interfering with targets involved in fibroprolifera-tive repair.

### **Details about the project**

**Acronym:** RESOLVE

**Reference:** 202047

**Start date:** 2008-04-01

**Duration:** 60 months

**Cost:** 13.84 million euro

**Type of contract:** No contract type

**End date:** 2013-03-31

**Status:** Execution

**Funding:** 10.69 million euro

### **Participants**

PUNKT INTERNATIONAL GMBH / AUSTRIA

BRIGITTE ROHNER / AUSTRIA

AIT AUSTRIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY GMBH / AUSTRIA

AGENCIA ESTATAL CONSEJO SUPERIOR DE INVESTIGACIONES CIENTIFICAS / SPAIN

UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI VERONA / ITALY

INSTYTUT MEDYCYN Y WSI IM WITOLDA CHODZKI / POLAND

INTEGROMICS SL ITG / SPAIN

BIOTALENTUM TUDASFEJLESZTO KFT / HUNGARY

BEN GURION UNIVERSITY OF THE NEGEV. / ISRAEL

UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL / UNITED KINGDOM

CHRISTIAN-ALBRECHTS-UNIVERSITAET ZU KIEL. / GERMANY

POLITECNICO DI TORINO. / ITALY

UNIVERSITE CATHOLIQUE DE LOUVAIN / BELGIUM

## **20) Gentle User Interfaces for Disabled and Elderly Citizens (GUIDE)**

Funded under 7th FWP (Seventh Framework Programme)

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### **Organisation:**

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FRAUNHOFER HEADQUARTERS

Hansastrasse 27C Postfach 80686

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GERMANY



## **Description of the project**

GUIDE develops a toolbox of adaptive, multi-modal user interfaces (UIs) that target the accessibility requirements of elderly users in their home environment, making use of TV set-top boxes as processing and connectivity platform beside the common PC platform. With its software, hardware and documented knowledge, this toolbox will put developers of ICT applications in the position to easier implement truly accessible applications using the most recent user interface technologies with reduced development effort. For this purpose, the toolbox provides the technology of advanced multi-modal UI components as well as the adaptation mechanisms necessary to make UI components interoperable with legacy and novel applications, including the capability to self-adapt to user needs.

Following a user-centered approach, user studies investigate optimum combinations of UIs and their adaptation in selected ICT applications for all relevant individual accessibility requirements. The scope of disabilities covers a majority of the ageing population that suffer mild visual, auditory, speech and motor impairments. Because the project targets support tools for application development rather than a specific application, a user model is developed that represents the results of the user studies in a generalized way by virtual user profiles.

This user model forms the core of a smart adaptation layer (SAL). The SAL can adapt an ensemble of UI interfaces to a given ICT application and specific user needs at runtime, using the virtual user representation compiled from the user studies. By integrating an ICT application with the SAL, GUIDE UI components become reusable not only on a software level, but also regarding accessibility requirements. Moreover, a simulation engine included in the toolbox predicts both the perception and the interaction of virtual impaired users, raising ICT application developers awareness to the accessibility problems of their target users.

## **Details about the project**

**Acronym:** GUIDE

**Reference:** 248893

**Start date:** 2010-02-01

**Duration:** 36 months

**Cost:** 4.89 million euro

**Type of contract:** Collaborative project (generic)

**End date:** 2013-01-31

**Status:** Execution

**Funding:** 3.4 million euro

## **Participants**

FUNDACION INSTITUTO GERONTOLOGICO MATIA - INGEMA / SPAIN

FUNDACAO DA FACULDADE DE CIENCIAS DA UNIVERSIDADE DE LISBOA / PORTUGAL

VSONIX GMBH / GERMANY

THE CHANCELLOR, MASTERS AND SCHOLARS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE / UNITED KINGDOM

THOMSON R & D FRANCE SNC / FRANCE

ASSOCIAÇÃO CCG/ZGDV - CENTRO DE COMPUTAÇÃO GRÁFICA / PORTUGAL

## **21) Assistive technology cluster for quality of life (TECFORLIFE)**

Funded under 7th FWP (Seventh Framework Programme)

**Fields of research:** REGIONS-2008-2-02 Regional contributions to the reduction of CO2 emissions

## **Coordinator**

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**Organisation:**

FOMENTO DE SAN SEBASTIAN

CALLE CAMINO

DONOSTIA - SAN SEBASTIAN

SPAIN

**Description of the project**

European aging population has placed new demands on family units and raises pressing questions about the efficiency and management of care and support technologies and services for dependent people. Assistive technologies will play a key role in social inclusion, independency and autonomy of elderly people and disabled people, transforming the research activities in assistive technologies in the real solution to everyday life people in real conditions.

General objective: to set the basis for the creation a new research driven cluster on assistive technologies (AT) in San Sebastián to improve the coordination of the local stakeholders working in the field and maximise the efforts and existing infrastructures for improving socioeconomic development and strengthen the RTD and innovation capacity of the city, and also acting as facilitator and catalyst at regional level. The project is structured in 9 workpackages.

The mentoring of EU experts in AT along all the project duration has been envisaged in WP1, for ensuring that key documents developed in the project are relevant and consistent. Additionally, WP2 and WP3 will consider the framework in which assistive technology sector has developed for having an overall vision on the initiatives boosted from the public administrations and the evolution of AT technology market. Furthermore, the local economic and RTD potentiality of San Sebastián will be analysed in WP4. The focus of WP5 will be to mobilise the local stakeholders in order to extract jointly agreed, contrasted and validated the Cluster Research Agenda and Implementation Plan that will elaborated in parallel respectively in WP6 and WP7. Finally, WP8 will focus on the dissemination of the results achieved in the project and WP8 will ensure the correct management of the project and the monitoring of the progress.

The main expected result of the project will be the Implementation Plan that will be the roadmap for the final creation of the AT cluster.

**Details about the project**

**Acronym:** TECFORLIFE

**Reference:** 229792

**Start date:** 2009-01-01

**Duration:** 24 months

**Cost:** 246530.00 euro

**Type of contract:** Support actions

**End date:** 2010-12-31

**Status:** Execution

**Funding:** 200000.00 euro

**Participants**

FUNDACION INSTITUTO GERONTOLOGICO MATIA - INGEMA / SPAIN

ANGEL IGLESIAS S.A. - IKUSI / SPAIN

FUNDACION FATRONIK. / SPAIN

## **22) Regulation and function of the E3 ubiquitin ligases Muscle RING finger 1 and 3 in cardiac hypertrophy (MURF AND HYPERTROPHY)**

Funded under 7th FWP (Seventh Framework Programme)

**Fields of research:** PEOPLE-2007-4-3.IRG Marie Curie Action: "International Reintegration Grants"

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### **Organisation:**

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### **Description of the project**

Heart failure caused by cardiac hypertrophy is a growing epidemic and remains the most frequent cause of hospitalization in elderly patients in the European Union. However, molecular mechanisms leading to cardiac hypertrophy and its transition into heart failure are poorly understood. Maintenance of cardiac structure and function requires a precise control of protein synthesis and degradation; abnormalities in these processes can give rise to myopathies. The protein degrading ubiquitin proteasome system (UPS) and its muscle specific key enzymes Muscle RING finger (MuRF) 1 and 3 are activated during cardiac hypertrophy and heart failure. MuRF1 and 3 are essential for the degradation of structural proteins, such as myosin heavy chain (MHC), leading to a decrease in cardiac function and heart failure. MuRF inhibitors are therefore expected to prevent transition of cardiac hypertrophy into failure.

This proposal aims to investigate the function and regulation of MuRF1 and 3 during cardiac hypertrophy. More specifically, the major hypothesis that the function of MuRF1 is mainly mediated through its E3 ubiquitin ligase activity will be investigated. First, the specific cysteine residue within the RING-finger of MuRF1 responsible for its E3 ubiquitin ligase activity will be identified. This residue will then be germ-line mutated and the hypertrophic response of mice lacking MuRF1's E3 ligase activity will be analyzed following aortic banding. Secondly, the domains within MuRF proteins mediating MuRF binding to their MHC target proteins will be investigated. Additionally, we aim to analyze if hypertrophic stimuli can regulate binding between MuRF1 and 3 and their target proteins. Finally, a cDNA expression screen will be employed to discover novel transcription factors and signal transduction pathways regulating MuRF1 expression during hypertrophy.

### **Details about the project**

**Acronym:** MURF AND HYPERTROPHY

**Reference:** 231014

**Start date:** 2010-01-01

**Duration:** 48 months

**Cost:** 100000.00 euro

**Type of contract:** International Re-integration Grants (IRG)

**End date:** 2013-12-31

**Status:** Execution

**Funding:** 100000.00 euro

## **23) New e-services for a dietary approach to the elderly (RISTOMED)**

Funded under 7th FWP (Seventh Framework Programme)

## **Fields of research:** SME-1 Research for SMEs

### **Coordinator**

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### **Organisation:**

VOX NET SOCIETA COOPERATIVA

VIA GIOVANNI PAISIELLO

ROMA

ITALY

### **Description of the project**

Most nutraceutical SMEs have a limited access to the information needed for identifying the impact of their product at nutritional level. Also, the need of more personalized diets is an urgent requirement of EU healthcare systems, particularly for ageing and elderly people (EP). Nutraceuticals have different constraints not homogeneously defined in the EU Member States (MS) and their efficacy is always subordinate to the quality of the usual diet in different cultural scenarios. As a result, nutraceuticals are difficult to customize upon the needs of a specific market user, such as the EP, and their market is quite slow and fragmented.

In response to these challenges, the goal of RISTOMED is to develop a new e-Health service for EP that will enable participant SMEs to penetrate the EP consumers market with the production of an innovative diet model. Biotech nutraceuticals, specifically designed and efficaciously delivered to the EP, will be integrated in biotech/ICT strategies coping with the complexity of nutritional specific requirements. RISTOMED brings together 8 partners distributed in 5 countries with a good balance between SMEs and RTDPs. In RISTOMED 3 biotech SMEs will collaborate with 4 RTDPs to solve the common problem of delivering innovative nutraceuticals for the control and prevention of the age-related diseases throughout new E-Health services.

These services consist in the delivery of recipes and procedures containing nutraceuticals and probiotics specifically designed for EP and institutions dealing with EP throughout a new IT RISTOMED web platform (RWP). RWP will be developed by the ICT SME leading the consortium. The project result is expected to have a significant impact on the competitiveness of SME participants that will be able to expand their business by proposing to the market not only nutraceuticals but an integrated solution to better manage the diet and nutritional needs of EP to contrast inflammation, oxidative stress and gut microbiota alteration.

### **Details about the project**

**Acronym:** RISTOMED

**Reference:** 222230

**Start date:** 2008-11-01

**Duration:** 24 months

**Cost:** 1.3 million euro

**Type of contract:** Research for SMEs

**End date:** 2010-10-31

**Status:** Execution

**Funding:** 969406.00 euro

### **Participants**

LA MAISON DE L 'ARGAN / FRANCE

ACTIAL-FARMACEUTICA LDA / PORTUGAL

AISA THERAPEUTICS / FRANCE

CENTRE HOSPITALIER ET UNIVERSITAIRE DE BORDEAUX / FRANCE  
UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI ROMA LA SAPIENZA / ITALY  
ALMA MATER STUDIORUM-UNIVERSITA DI BOLOGNA / ITALY  
CHARITE - UNIVERSITAETSMEDIZIN BERLIN / GERMANY

## **24) Can immune system rejuvenation restore age-related memory loss? (IMMUNE/MEMORY AGING)**

Funded under 7th FWP (Seventh Framework Programme)

**Fields of research:** ERC-AG-LS5 ERC Advanced Grant - Neurosciences and neural disorders

### **Main researcher**

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### **Host institution**

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### **Description of the project**

With increased life expectancy, there has been a critical growth in the portion of the population that suffers from age-related cognitive decline and dementia. Attempts are therefore being made to find ways to slow brain-aging processes; successful therapies would have a significant impact on the quality of life of individuals, and decrease healthcare expenditures. Aging of the immune system has never been suggested as a factor in memory loss. My group formulated the concept of protective autoimmunity, suggesting a linkage between immunity and self-maintenance in the context of the brain in health and disease. Recently, we showed that T lymphocytes recognizing brain-self antigens have a pivotal role in maintaining hippocampal plasticity, as manifested by reduced neurogenesis and impaired cognitive abilities in T-cell deficient mice. Taken together, our novel observations that T cell immunity contributes to hippocampal plasticity, and the fact that T cell immunity decreases with progressive aging create the basis for the present proposal. We will focus on the following questions: (a) Which aspects of cognition are supported by the immune system- learning, memory or both; (b) whether aging of the immune system is sufficient to induce aging of the brain; (c) whether activation of the immune system is sufficient to reverse age-related cognitive decline; (d) the mechanism underlying the effect of peripheral immunity on brain cognition; and (e) potential therapeutic implications of our findings. Our preliminary results demonstrate that the immune system contributes to spatial memory, and that imposing an immune deficiency is sufficient to cause a reversible memory deficit. These findings give strong reason for optimism that memory loss in the elderly is preventable and perhaps reversible by immune-based therapies; we hope that, in the not too distant future, our studies will enable development of a vaccine to prevent CNS aging and cognitive loss in elderly.

### **Details about the project**

**Acronym:** IMMUNE/MEMORY AGING

**Reference:** 232835

**Start date:** 2009-01-01

**Duration:** 48 months

**Cost:** 1.65 million euro

**Type of contract:** ERC Advanced Grant

**End date:** 2012-12-31

**Status:** Execution

**Funding:** 1.65 million euro

**To know more**

<http://erc.europa.eu>

**Beneficiaries**

WEIZMANN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE / ISRAEL

**25) Assessing needs of care in European Nations (ANCIEN)**

Funded under 7th FWP (Seventh Framework Programme)

**Fields of research:** HEALTH-2007-3.2-2 Health systems and long term care of the elderly

**Coordinator**

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**Organisation:** CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES

Place du Congres

BRUXELLES

BELGIUM

**Description of the project**

The large post-war baby boom is now turning into a grandparent boom, putting a triple stress on long-term care (LTC) provisions: increased numbers of elderly, increased survival of these elderly and increased survival of frail, disabled elderly through improved care and health care. Increasing body weights, through increasing disability and care dependence among the obese, further add to numbers of disabled elderly.

The supply of labour is affected by the ageing of the EU population. Consequently, increasing emphasis has been put on the future development of long-term care needs, supply and use, and the functioning of LTC systems. The objectives of ANCIEN (Assessing Needs for Care In European Nations) are to review the LTC systems in EU member states, to assess the actual and future numbers of elderly care-dependent people in selected countries and to develop a methodology for comprehensive analysis of actual and future LTC needs and provisions across European countries, including the potential role of technology and policies on maintaining and improving quality. Performance indicators will be identified and relative performances of the different types of LTC systems assessed. Databases of EU countries are constructed, containing available data on LTC needs and use of the elderly.

Participating partners from different countries cover the majority of the EU member states. State of the art demographic, epidemiologic and econometric models are used to project future needs and use of long-term care in representative member states with different LTC systems. Deliverables contain databases, dynamic models calculating long-term care needs, reports on future needs and use of LTC in representative member states, and country-specific and general reports on LTC systems and their performance.

**Details about the project**

**Acronym:** ANCIEN

**Reference:** 223483

**Start date:** 2009-01-01

**Duration:** 44 months

**Cost:** 3.52 million euro

**Type of contract:** Small or medium-scale focused research project

**End date:** 2012-08-31

**Status:** Execution

**Funding:** 2.71 million euro

### **Participants**

INSTITUT FUER HOEHERE STUDIEN UND WISSENSCHAFTLICHE FORSCHUNG / AUSTRIA

DEUTSCHES INSTITUT FUER WIRTSCHAFTSFORSCHUNG E.V. / GERMANY

FUNDACION DE ESTUDIOS DE ECONOMIA APLICADA / SPAIN

KONINKLIJKE NEDERLANDSE AKADEMIE VAN WETENSCHAPPEN - KNAW /  
NETHERLANDS

EKONOMICKY USTAV SLOVENSKEJ AKADEMIE VIED / SLOVAKIA

CENTRAAL PLANBUREAU / NETHERLANDS

UNIVERSITE PARIS-DAUPHINE / FRANCE

TARKI TARSADALOMKUTATASI INTEZET ZRT / HUNGARY

CASE - CENTRUM ANALIZ SPOLECZNO- EKONOMICZNYCH- FUNDACJA NAUKOWA /  
POLAND

ISTITUTO DI STUDI E ANALISI ECONOMICA / ITALY

INSTITUT ZA EKONOMSKA RAZISKOVANJA / SLOVENIA

SIHTASUTUS POLIITIKAUURINGUTE KESKUS PRAXIS / ESTONIA

FEDERAAL PLANBUREAU / BELGIUM

LUISS LIBERA UNIVERSITA INTERNAZIONALE DEGLI STUDI SOCIALI GUIDO CARLI /  
ITALY

ELINKEINOELAEMAEN TUTKIMUSLAITOKSEN KANNATUSYHDISTYS R.Y. / FINLAND

STOCKHOLMS UNIVERSITET / SWEDEN

CONSIGLIO NAZIONALE DELLE RICERCHE / ITALY

KAROLINSKA INSTITUTET / SWEDEN

LONDON SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS AND POLITICAL SCIENCE / UNITED KINGDOM

### **26) Age, Inequality and Social Justice. Britain and Germany since 1945 (AISJ)**

Funded under 7th FWP (Seventh Framework Programme)

**Fields of research:** FP7-PEOPLE-IEF-2008 Marie Curie Action: "Intra-European Fellowships for Career Development"

### **Coordinator**

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### **Organisation:**

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SAN DOMENICO DI FIESOLE (FIRENZE)

ITALY

### **Description of the project**

The research project seeks to explore the relationship between structures of inequality and perceptions of social justice in the modern welfare state across two periods: the three decades of its Golden Age after World War II, and the still ongoing period of welfare state retrenchment since the 1970s. It focuses on the social and living conditions of old people. Despite their steadily growing number and importance the

elderly still constitute a neglected group in social history. Since their fate lies at the heart of social policy, a considerable part of the debates about inequality and social justice in the last sixty years has centered around old people. At the same time these discussions formed the central place where general questions of distributive justice have been closely connected with problems of generational and gender justice. As an exercise in cross-national comparative history, the project compares the historical developments in Great Britain and the Federal Republic of Germany. Both countries are highly industrialized western democracies, and both faced similar challenges; but they diverged notably in their acceptance of inequality, in their modes of societal self-description, and in the model of the welfare state to which they subscribed.

The research project has two major analytical dimensions. On the one hand, it sets out to explore the social history of older people in Britain and Germany since 1945. On the other, it asks how the analysed structures of inequality have been perceived and articulated in terms of justice. Scrutinizing the relationship between both spheres simultaneously makes the institutional setting of the welfare state a focal point of attention not only because questions of distributive justice are at the very core of its normative foundation but also because the welfare state is the central institution through which politically influential concepts of redistributive social justice directly affect societal structures.

### **Details about the project**

**Acronym:** AISJ

**Reference:** 235363

**Start date:** 2009-09-01

**Duration:** 24 months

**Cost:** .00 euro

**Type of contract:** Intra-European Fellowships (IEF)

**End date:** 2011-08-31

**Status:** Execution

**Funding:** 226974.00 euro

### **27) Understanding and combating human age-related muscle weakness (MYOAGE)**

Funded under 7th FWP (Seventh Framework Programme)

**Fields of research:** HEALTH-2007-2.4.5-10 Understanding and combating age-related muscle weakness

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### **Description of the project**

Ageing of skeletal muscle results in a progressive loss of mobility that decreases the quality of life and has major economic and social consequences for society at large. Increasing muscle weakness is a major component of muscle ageing. In the elderly muscles become atrophic (loss in muscle mass) and weaker (loss in muscle force), more susceptible to damage and consequently regenerate and recover more slowly than was the case in their youth.

The challenge for FP7 is to identify the relative importance of sarcopaenia, thus proposing standards to define healthy ageing in order to identify age-related muscle weakness; secondly to identify molecular



pathways which may be targeted to combat normal age related muscle weakness, and thirdly to identify therapeutic strategies to prevent muscle loss and weakness and enhance recovery following injury or immobilisation.

The approaches which we will take to understand and combat muscle weakness in the aged population and improve healthspan can be defined in several steps: the collection and collation of data and samples, the assessment of physiological and functional parameters, the understanding of the various biological mechanisms involved, leading through integration to the development of strategies and their translation for the general European population.

In order to develop and propose the general public with efficient countermeasures, the consortium will integrate data from genetics and epidemiology, molecular and cellular biology, physiology, biomechanics, as well as clinical and public health aspects, to ensure optimal scientific synergy from the leading European specialists and companies.

### **Details about the project**

**Acronym:** MYOAGE

**Reference:** 223576

**Start date:** 2009-01-01

**Duration:** 48 months

**Cost:** 14.82 million euro

**Type of contract:** Large-scale integrating project

**End date:** 2012-12-31

**Status:** Execution

**Funding:** 11.2 million euro

### **Participants**

REGION HOVEDSTADEN / DENMARK

FONDAZIONE PER LA RICERCA BIOMEDICA AVANZATA ONLUS / ITALY

TARTU ULIKOOL / ESTONIA

REGION HOVEDSTADEN / DENMARK

KAYSER ITALIA SRL / ITALY

UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI ROMA LA SAPIENZA / ITALY

UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI PAVIA / ITALY

INSERM - TRANSFERT SA / FRANCE

UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI PADOVA / ITALY

JYVASKYLAN YLIOPISTO / FINLAND

ACADEMISCH ZIEKENHUIS LEIDEN - LEIDS UNIVERSITAIR MEDISCH CENTRUM /  
NETHERLANDS

UNIVERSITE PIERRE ET MARIE CURIE - PARIS 6 / FRANCE

UNILEVER UK CENTRAL RESOURCES LIMITED / UNITED KINGDOM

ALMA MATER STUDIORUM-UNIVERSITA DI BOLOGNA / ITALY

UPPSALA UNIVERSITET / SWEDEN

THE MANCHESTER METROPOLITAN UNIVERSITY / UNITED KINGDOM

UNIVERSITAT POMPEU FABRA / SPAIN

FACULTES UNIVERSITAIRES NOTRE-DAME DE LA PAIX DE NAMUR / BELGIUM

### **28) Personal intelligent city accessible vehicle system (PICA V)**

Funded under 7th FWP (Seventh Framework Programme)

**Fields of research:** SST.2008.3.1.1. New mobility concepts for passengers ensuring accessibility for all

### **Coordinator**

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**Organisation:**

UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI GENOVA

Via Balbi

GENOVA

ITALY

**Description of the project**

The proposal presents a new mobility concept for passengers ensuring accessibility for all in urban pedestrian environments. The concept addresses a new Personal Intelligent City Accessible Vehicle (PICAV) and a new transport system that integrates a fleet of PICAV units. The transport system will ensure accessibility for everybody and some of its features are specifically designed for people whose mobility is restricted for different reasons, particularly (but not only) elderly and disabled people.

Ergonomics, comfort, stability, assisted driving, eco-sustainability, parking and mobility dexterity as well as vehicle/infrastructures intelligent networking are the main drivers of PICAV design.

The innovative electrical vehicle will present new frame-suspension structure, new seating sub-assembly, new efficient power supply module. The PICAV transport system will provide an efficient and rational service to citizen within urban traffic restricted areas: the application fields of PICAV are outdoor pedestrian environments where usual public transport services cannot operate because of the width and slope of the infrastructures, uneven pavements and the interactions with high pedestrian flows.

This transport system is on-demand and it is based on the car-sharing concept.

To overcome the barriers of traditional car-sharing systems, the following specific services will be provided:

- \* instant access
- \* open-ended reservation
- \* one-way trips.

The single units are networked and can communicate each other, with city infrastructure, public transport on the surrounding area and emergency services allowing high level of intermodal integration.

**Details about the project**

**Acronym:** PICAV

**Reference:** 233776

**Start date:** 2009-08-01

**Duration:** 36 months

**Cost:** 3.94 million euro

**Type of contract:** Small or medium-scale focused research project

**End date:** 2012-07-31

**Status:** Execution

**Funding:** 2.8 million euro

**Participants**

MAZEL INGENIEROS, SOCIEDAD ANONIMA / SPAIN

ZTS VYSKUMNO-VYVOJOVY USTAV KOSICE AS / SLOVAKIA

TRANSPORTES COLECTIVOS DO BARREIRO / PORTUGAL

UNIVERSITA DI PISA / ITALY

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON / UNITED KINGDOM

**29) Mobility schemes ensuring accessibility of public transport for all users (ACCESS 2 ALL)**

Funded under 7th FWP (Seventh Framework Programme)

**Fields of research:** SST-2007-3.1-01 New mobility concepts for passengers ensuring accessibility for all

**Coordinator**

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**Organisation:**EUROPE RECHERCHE TRANSPORT

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**Description of the project**

The main aim of proposing the ACCESS 2 ALL coordination action is to encourage Public Transport operators belonging to the project target group to adopt innovative technological concepts and mobility schemes that enable high quality mobility and transportation services for all, as well as to provide their personnel with the necessary knowledge on the particularities of specific user groups, such as the elderly and disabled, ICT-illiterate, dyslexic and illiterate people, etc. ACCESS 2 ALL aims at defining concrete mobility schemes, guidelines and policy recommendations, ensuring accessibility of Public Transport to ALL users, through the coordination of current research efforts, the production of common research roadmaps, the identification of best practice models and the appropriate use of ICT aids and networks. The achievement of all above stated objectives will be measured and verified through well specified milestones and specific success assessment criteria.

**Details about the project**

**Acronym:** ACCESS 2 ALL

**Reference:** 218462

**Start date:** 2008-12-01

**Duration:** 24 months

**Cost:** 797422.00 euro

**Type of contract:** Coordination (or networking) actions

**End date:** 2010-11-30

**Status:** Execution

**Funding:** 797422.00 euro

**Participants**

IAS - INSTITUT FUER ARBEITS- UND SOZIALHYGIENE STIFTUNG / GERMANY

BLUE POINT IT SOLUTIONS SRL / ROMANIA

UNIVERSITAS, COOPERATIVA DE ENSINO SUPERIOR E INVESTIGAÇÃO CIENTÍFICA, C.R.L.  
/ PORTUGAL

CENTRE FOR RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY HELLAS / GREECE

INSTITUT NATIONAL DE RECHERCHE SUR LES TRANSPORTS ET LEUR SECURITE. /  
FRANCE

UNIVERSITAET STUTTGART / GERMANY

LUNDS UNIVERSITET / SWEDEN

### **30) The BIOTELEKINESY home-care service : a communication platform for the tele-monitoring and the tele-management of the elderly to detect locomotion disabilities and prevent fall (BIOTELEKINESY)**

Funded under 7th FWP (Seventh Framework Programme)

**Fields of research:** FP7-PEOPLE-IEF-2008 Marie Curie Action: "Intra-European Fellowships for Career Development"

#### **Coordinator**

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#### **Organisation:**

NATIONAL TECHNICAL UNIVERSITY OF ATHENS

Heroon Polytechniou

ATHENS

GREECE

#### **Description of the project**

The context of our ageing population and the expenses explosion linked up with healthcare request for the elderly, innovative solutions strongly related to prevention, to an improvement of the quality of life and to an upholding of an independent life as long as possible. Therefore, the core of the BIOTELEKINESY project is to provide an innovative ICT based interface with a holistic approach to detect and prevent as earlier as possible in the daily environment of the elderly person, motion disabilities and as a consequence fall risks.

It will consist of a monitoring and assessing devices, to gather biomechanics data that can be indicators of locomotion impairments, related to a secure interoperability system that connect the elderly, the healthcare providers and the family to early implement appropriate rehabilitation therapies. The method will deal with three main goals such as : firstly, the creation of a kinematic database through a clinical gait analysis to highlight and identify the biomechanics predictors of locomotion deficits ; secondly, the implementation of a real time motion recognition system for an accurate classification of elderly actions in different levels of locomotion deficits and thus the development of a threshold algorithm for the elderly activity classification ; thirdly, the development of a secure and friendly-user interface.

This home-care service promise to improve healthcare management procedures with benefits both for seniors, healthcare providers and healthcare systems. In particular, it will enable to prevent fall in an effective manner in term of quality and cost by an accurate and personalized follow-up of the seniors motion capacity; a more personal and efficient interaction between them and the medical staff to implement in real time relevant rehabilitation therapy ; an improvement of the elderly compliance with the provide therapy. According to that, this project will have clear benefits for Greece and the European community.

#### **Details about the project**

**Acronym:** BIOTELEKINESY

**Reference:** 237087

**Start date:** 2009-06-01

**Duration:** 24 months

**Cost:** .00 euro

**Type of contract:** Intra-European Fellowships (IEF)

**End date:** 2011-05-31

**Status:** Execution  
**Funding:** 146876.00 euro

### **31) Detection of brain abnormality (DEBRA)**

Funded under 7th FWP (Seventh Framework Programme)

**Fields of research:** PEOPLE-2007-4-3.IRG Marie Curie Action: "International Reintegration Grants"

#### **Coordinator**

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#### **Organisation:**

UNIVERSITY OF PATRAS

University Campus- Rio

PATRAS

GREECE

#### **Description of the project**

Cerebrovascular disease (CVD) is a very significant health problem, especially in view of the increasing aging population. It is highly prevalent in diabetic populations and is also a major cause of dementia, individually or as an additive factor to other pathologies, such as Alzheimer's. Therefore measuring disease burden, progression, and response to treatments is very important for patient management. MRI is currently the most widely used way to characterize in vivo the type and extent of brain lesions in CVD and has been used in several large neuroimaging studies.

However, characterization of CVD has largely relied on qualitative, subjective, and not easily reproducible methods of human expert-based interpretation. Computer-based methods for measuring CVD offer great potential, since they are quantitative; reproducible, and particularly suitable for longitudinal studies monitoring disease progression and response to candidate treatments. Most methods have focused on the segmentation of Multiple Sclerosis lesions, whereas less attention has been given to brain lesion segmentation in elderly individuals and Alzheimer's disease or diabetic patients.

The project DeBrA (Detection of Brain Abnormality) includes the development and implementation of medical imaging techniques for measuring CVD and its change over time, from multi-parametric MR images by employing advanced 4-dimensional (space X time) segmentation methods based on pattern classification and statistical modeling. The goal is to determine whether the new methodology will provide more stable measurements of longitudinal change in CVD, compared to relatively more conventional methods and therefore increase the sensitivity of detecting subtle effects. Moreover, while the tools will be initially developed for measuring CVD, they will be made suitable to hold widespread potential for applications in other neuroimaging studies involving abnormality detection.

#### **Details about the project**

**Acronym:** DEBRA

**Reference:** 239247

**Start date:** 2009-04-01

**Duration:** 36 months

**Cost:** 75000.00 euro

**Type of contract:** International Re-integration Grants (IRG)

**End date:** 2012-03-31

**Status:** Execution

**Funding:** 75000.00 euro

### **32) Neurorehabilitation using brain-computer interface (REHABCI)**

Funded under 7th FWP (Seventh Framework Programme)

**Fields of research:** PEOPLE-2007-2-2.ERG Marie Curie Action: "European Reintegration Grants"

#### **Coordinator**

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#### **Organisation:**

UNIVERSITAET BREMEN

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#### **Description of the project**

Cerebrovascular accident (stroke) is one of the most common causes of movement disability, and is likely to become an even greater problem as EU citizens become *elderly*. Most patients never regain effective control of upper limbs damaged by stroke. Brain computer interface (BCI) systems allow severely disabled users to convey information via brain activity alone. Despite major developments in BCI work, little attention has been paid to movement rehabilitation since BCI research focuses almost exclusively on restoring communication. Recent work has shown that some BCI approaches may produce significant and otherwise impossible reorganisation of cortical movement areas.

Training with BCI methodologies that have been shown to affect motor areas, combined with emerging tools for rehabilitation such as functional electrical stimulation, rehabilitation robots, and movement therapy, may provide a new opportunity for retraining stroke victims to regain some control over damaged limbs. This proposal aims to analyse the possibilities of using different non-invasive BCI approaches that have been extensively validated for movement rehabilitation at patients with severe motor disabilities. This will be done through existing collaborations of Institute of Automation (IAT) with academic and industry partners across several disciplines which allow a supra-disciplinary research. These efforts may also foster progress in related disciplines, including neurophysiology, BCIs for communication, robotics, and recovery from other disorders such as aphasia or motor disability produced by injury or disease.

#### **Details about the project**

**Acronym:** REHABCI

**Reference:** 224753

**Start date:** 2008-03-01

**Duration:** 36 months

**Cost:** 45000.00 euro

**Type of contract:** European Re-integration Grants (ERG)

**End date:** 2011-02-28

**Status:** Execution

**Funding:** 45000.00 euro

### **33) A pharmacogenomic study of statins in the elderly at risk for cardiovascular disease (PHASE)**

Funded under 7th FWP (Seventh Framework Programme)

**Fields of research:** HEALTH-2007-2.4.2-7 Integrating pharmacogenomic approaches into the treatment of CVD

## **Coordinator**

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**Organisation:** ACADEMISCH ZIEKENHUIS LEIDEN - LEIDS UNIVERSITAIR MEDISCH CENTRUM

Albinusdreef

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## **Description of the project**

Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death in industrialized countries. The prevention of cardiovascular disease is critically dependent on lipid lowering therapy, which includes the 3-hydroxymethyl-3-methylglutaryl coenzyme A (HMG-CoA) reductase inhibitors (statins). Although statins are the most prescribed class of drugs worldwide, and therapy is generally associated with a reduction in risk for cardiovascular events by 20-30%, clinical response can be highly variable and adverse effects occur in a minority of patients.

Recent research has provided evidence that in many cases, genetic variation contributes to this variable drug response. Research efforts should be made in analyzing the differences in genetic background to identify which genetic variation accounts for the variability in clinical response. Here we present a study that will establish in a large prospective randomized clinical trial with statin allocation which genetic variation is responsible for the variation in drug response. In 5804 participants of the PROspective Study of Pravastatin in the *Elderly* at risk (PROSPER) we will perform a genome-wide scan to assess the genetic variation responsible for variation in lowering low-density lipoprotein levels, in clinical outcome and for the occurrence of adverse effects.

The unique character of the PROSPER study is that the study is randomized in three European countries, therefore all associations can be replicated in these countries. Positive associations will be confirmed in two comparable large clinical trials, the WOSCOPS and the CARE study. Cardiovascular pharmacogenomics will lead to improvements in the use of personalized therapy based on an individual's genetic make-up. Non-responders or subjects who experience adverse effects will not be indicated for statin treatment when they are identified.

## **Details about the project**

**Acronym:** PHASE

**Reference:** 223004

**Start date:** 2009-01-01

**Duration:** 36 months

**Cost:** 3.77 million euro

**Type of contract:** Small or medium-scale focused research project

**End date:** 2011-12-31

**Status:** Execution

**Funding:** 2.86 million euro

## **Participants**

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE CORK, NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND, CORK / IRELAND

UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW / UNITED KINGDOM

**34) Prevalence, 1-year incidence and symptom severity of mental disorders in the elderly: relationship to impairment, functioning (ICF) and service utilisation (MENTDIS\_ICF65+)**

Funded under 7th FWP (Seventh Framework Programme)

**Fields of research:** HEALTH-2007-3.2-6 Health outcome measures and population ageing

**Coordinator**

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**Organisation:**

UNIVERSITAETSKLINIKUM HAMBURG-EPPENDORF

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**Description of the project**

Reliable data on the prevalence and incidence of the spectrum of mental disorders in older people are currently lacking for the EU. Despite the availability of some national and a few cross-national cross-sectional studies with quite variable results, the size and burden of mental disorders in the *elderly* remains unclear. This has been attributed to a number of methodological factors (e.g. lack of appropriate diagnostic instruments).

In addition patterns of incidence and of the natural course and prognosis of mental and physical disorders in people above 65 years are lacking nationally and cross-nationally in the EU, with only a few notable exceptions. Furthermore, there are no cross-national studies investigating the interaction of mental disorders and the utilisation of treatment under specific consideration of the severity and the impairment of activities and participation, in terms of ICF-categories, of older people in different European countries. Therefore, the objective of the proposed study is to

- develop, respectively to adapt existing instruments and
- to collect data on the prevalence, the incidence and on the natural course and prognosis of mental disorders, and to do this in sufficiently powered representative samples of older people living in the community across different European countries.

This includes assessing health service needs, investigating to what extent existing services are used by older people and which specific barriers to utilisation may exist. Thereby, the implementation of the study will enable the further development and improvement of harmonised instruments for the assessment of impairments of activities and participation in older adults, to adapt already existing instruments, and to facilitate results that are comparable across cultures. Results will help to change health care in direct contact with people, and beyond this, they offer starting points for structural changes initiated on the level of health politics.

**Details about the project**

**Acronym:** MENTDIS\_ICF65+

**Reference:** 223105

**Start date:** 2008-10-01

**Duration:** 48 months

**Cost:** 3.92 million euro

**Type of contract:** Small or medium-scale focused research project

**End date:** 2012-09-30

**Status:** Execution

**Funding:** 3 million euro

**Participants**

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PSYCHIATRISTS / UNITED KINGDOM



LES HOPITAUX UNIVERSITAIRES DE GENEVE / SWITZERLAND  
UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI FERRARA / ITALY  
HADASSAH MEDICAL ORGANIZATION / ISRAEL  
TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITAET DRESDEN / GERMANY  
UNIVERSIDAD COMPLUTENSE DE MADRID / SPAIN

### **35) European robotic pedestrian assistant (EUROPA)**

Funded under 7th FWP (Seventh Framework Programme)

**Fields of research:** ICT-2007.2.2 Cognitive systems, interaction, robotics (ICT-2007.2.2)

#### **Coordinator**

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#### **Organisation:**

ALBERT-LUDWIGS-UNIVERSITAET FREIBURG

FAHNENBERGPLATZ

FREIBURG

GERMANY

#### **Description of the project**

In the field of robotics, there has recently been a tremendous progress in the development of autonomous robots that offer various services to their users. Typical services include support of *elderly* people, cleaning, transportation, and delivery tasks, exploration of inaccessible hazardous environments, or surveillance. Most of the systems developed so far, however, are restricted to indoor scenarios, non-urban outdoor environments, or road usage with cars.

The goal of the EUROPA project is to bridge this gap and to develop the foundations for service robots designed to autonomously navigate in urban environments outdoors as well as in shopping malls and shops to provide various services to users including guidance, delivery, and transportation. EUROPA will develop and apply sophisticated probabilistic scene interpretation techniques to deal with the unpredictable and changing environments. Based on data gathered with its sensors, the robot will acquire a detailed model of the environment, detect and track moving objects in the environment, adapt its navigation behaviour according to the current situation and communicate with its users in a natural way, even remotely. EUROPA is targeted at developing novel technologies that will open new perspectives for commercial applications of service robots in the future.

#### **Details about the project**

**Acronym:** EUROPA

**Reference:** 231888

**Start date:** 2009-03-02

**Duration:** 36 months

**Cost:** 3.84 million euro

**Type of contract:** Collaborative project (generic)

**End date:** 2012-03-01

**Status:** Execution

**Funding:** 2.94 million euro

#### **Participants**

THE CHANCELLOR, MASTERS AND SCHOLARS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD UNITED KINGDOM

EIDGENOSSISCHE TECHNISCHE HOCHSCHULE ZURICH SWITZERLAND  
BLUEBOTICS SA SWITZERLAND  
RHEINISCH-WESTFAELISCHE TECHNISCHE HOCHSCHULE AACHEN GERMANY  
KATHOLIEKE UNIVERSITEIT LEUVEN BELGIUM

### **36) Evolving morphologies for human-Robot symbiotic interaction (EVERYON)**

Funded under 7th FWP (Seventh Framework Programme)

**Fields of research:** ICT-2007.8.5 Embodied intelligence

#### **Coordinator**

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#### **Description of the project**

The goal of the EVERYON project is to develop a novel approach for the design of Wearable Robots (WRs), e.g. exoskeletons, prostheses and other wearable mechatronic devices that can be used for a variety of applications, such as rehabilitation, personal assistance, human augmentation and more. Ideal solutions for such systems should aim at the optimal trade-off between performance, i.e. the level of assistance to be provided to the end-user, and some critical requirements, such as minimal weight and dimensions, low energy consumption and several other factors that can significantly affect the effectiveness and efficiency of WRs.

The basic idea behind the EVERYON project is that better WRs can be developed if the potentialities of embodied intelligence, and particularly of structural intelligence, are properly harvested and exploited. EVERYON will develop an open-ended design process where both robot morphology and control are co-evolved and optimized in a simulation environment, where also the dynamical properties of the human body are taken into account. This approach is related to previous findings in the study of the emergence of structural intelligence in animals and artificial systems without any feedback control, such as reflexes in insects and emerging dynamic behaviours in passive walkers.

The EVERYON design methodology will originate a set of advanced tools for assisted mechatronic design that will be validated by developing a novel prototype of a WR, i.e. an active orthosis for the lower limbs. The EVERYON WR will integrate the kinematic, dynamic and control optimal solutions produced by the co-evolution process with additional variable impedance modules, which will allow the system to properly respond and adapt to the impedance patterns of human walking. The WR prototype will be tested on a group of elderly subjects with age-related locomotion disabilities so to assess its acceptability and its ability to restore proper walking and increase personal autonomy.

#### **Details about the project**

**Acronym:** EVERYON

**Reference:** 231451

**Start date:** 2009-02-01

**Duration:** 36 months

**Cost:** 2.74 million euro

**Type of contract:** Collaborative project (generic)

**End date:** 2012-01-31  
**Status:** Execution  
**Funding:** 2 million euro

**Participants**

ECOLE POLYTECHNIQUE FEDERALE DE LAUSANNE / SWITZERLAND  
TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITEIT DELFT / NETHERLANDS  
SCUOLA SUPERIORE DI STUDI UNIVERSITARI E DI PERFEZIONAMENTO SANT'ANNA / ITALY  
UNIVERSITEIT TWENTE / NETHERLANDS

**37) Health systems and long-term care for older people in Europe modelling the interfaces and links between prevention, rehabilitation, quality of services and informal care (INTERLINKS)**

Funded under 7th FWP (Seventh Framework Programme)

**Fields of research:** HEALTH-2007-3.2-2 Health systems and long term care of the *elderly*

**Coordinator**

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**Organisation:**

EUROPAISCHES ZENTRUM FUR WOHLFAHRTSPOLITIK UND SOZIALFORSCHUNG  
BERGGASSE  
WIEN  
AUSTRIA

**Description of the project**

The objective of this 3-year project is to construct and validate a general model to describe and analyse long-term care (LTC) systems for older people from a European perspective. The particular aspects of the different emerging national models that currently address long-term care needs in Europe will be used to show how the links to health care services, the quality of LTC services, the incentives for prevention and rehabilitation, and the support for informal carers can be governed and financed to enhance structures, processes and outcomes of LTC systems. Based on the assumption that LTC systems in Europe have only started to develop at the boundaries of health and social care, the project will focus on the elaboration of concepts, indicators and models for policies and practice at the interfaces and links between health systems and LTC. Good practice determinants will be identified and validated across countries. A European state of the art model for describing and analysing long-term care provision will thus be constructed as an analytical toolbox that takes into account pathways of reform policies at any stage of a national LTC system s development. The project outcome will guide policy analysis and design, permit comparison and will substantially broaden the scientific base that supports the Member States to better organise their health and LTC systems. It will also integrate the professional and the non-professional domain with inputs from a wide range of stakeholders by means of National Expert Panels and European-level Sounding Board Conferences. The project will be carried out by a consortium of 17 partners from universities, national and international research institutes with international and interdisciplinary expertise, also in cross-national research. The consortium represents 14 Member States covering different welfare regimes and geographical domains to allow for the regional and developmental, path-dependent differences to be addressed.

**Details about the project**

**Acronym:** INTERLINKS

**Reference:** 223037

**Start date:** 2008-11-01

**Duration:** 36 months

**Cost:** 3.87 million euro

**Type of contract:** Small or medium-scale focused research project

**End date:** 2011-10-31

**Status:** Execution

**Funding:** 2.99 million euro

### **Participants**

STOCKHOLMS LAENS LANDSTING / SWEDEN

HAUTE ECOLE SPECIALISEE DE SUISSE OCCIDENTALE / SWITZERLAND

INSTITUT PRE VYSKUM PRACE A RODINY / SLOVAKIA

WISSENSCHAFTSZENTRUM BERLIN FUR SOZIALFORSCHUNG / GERMANY

INSTITUT ZA VAROVANJE ZDRAVJA REPUBLIKE SLOVENIJE / SLOVENIA

INSTITUT FUER SOZIALE INFRASTRUKTUR GBR / GERMANY

STUDIO COME SRL / ITALY

CMT PROOPTIKI CONSULTING MANAGEMENT TRAINING / GREECE

SOSIAALI- JA TERVEYSALAN TUTKIMUS JA KEHITTAEMISKESKUS / FINLAND

STICHTING VILANS / NETHERLANDS

INSTITUT DE RECHERCHE ET DOCUMENTATION EN ECONOMIE DE LA SANTE

ASSOCIATION / FRANCE

THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM / UNITED KINGDOM

UNIVERSITY OF KENT AT CANTERBURY / UNITED KINGDOM

UNIVERSITAT DE VALENCIA / SPAIN

SYDDANSK UNIVERSITET / DENMARK

### **38) Ubiquitous care system to support independent living (CONFIDENCE)**

Funded under 7th FWP (Seventh Framework Programme)

**Fields of research:** ICT-2007.7.1 ICT and ageing

### **Coordinator**

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### **Organisation:**

CENTRO DE ESTUDIOS E INVESTIGACIONES TECNICAS DE GUIPUZCOA

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SPAIN

### **Description of the project**

The main objective of this proposal is the development and integration of innovative technologies for the detection of abnormal events (such as falls) or unexpected behaviours that may be related to a health problem in elderly people.

With the proposed approach, the elderly will gain confidence and independence. CONFIDENCE will be a cost effective, non-intrusive and reliable system that will increase the quality of life and security of the elderly and, thus, prolong their personal autonomy and participation in society. Hence, CONFIDENCE directly addresses the objective ICT-2007.7.1. ICT and Ageing. Not only will the elderly profit from the system, but also their families and caregivers, since the burden on them will be substantially reduced. CONFIDENCE will decrease the need of institutionalisation of the elderly and, thus, there will be a

significant cut down in healthcare expenditure.

The fear or result of fall accounts for 40% of the nursing home admissions. Moreover, the fear of falling decreases quality of life and increases the decline in the ability to perform daily activities. These effects are measured using the Fall Efficacy Scale (FES). The project aims to achieve a value above 50 in the FES, which represents a fair confidence level in daily activities.

CONFIDENCE will work both outdoors and indoors. The user will wear a few tags, whose positions are determined using radio technology. The tags' coordinates will be used to reconstruct the user's posture. This information, together with some environment information, will be analysed to decide whether to trigger an alarm. The system will be easy to setup and to use and will not constrain the user's daily life.

The result of this multidisciplinary research will be a working prototype. The end-user will be involved in the RTD activities by co-defining the specifications, monitoring and testing the project. Psychological, ethical and legal surveillance activities will be carried out throughout the project.

### **Details about the project**

**Acronym:** CONFIDENCE

**Reference:** 214986

**Start date:** 2008-02-01

**Duration:** 36 months

**Cost:** 4.66 million euro

**Type of contract:** Collaborative project (generic)

**End date:** 2011-01-31

**Status:** Execution

**Funding:** 3.5 million euro

### **Participants**

UMEA KOMMUN / SWEDEN

EDEVICE SA / FRANCE

COOPERATIVA SOCIALE COOSS MARCHE ONLUS SOCIETA COOPERATIVA PER AZIONI / ITALY

CUP 2000 SPA / ITALY

ZENON S.A. ROBOTICS AND INFORMATICS / GREECE

IKERLAN S. COOP / SPAIN

JYVAESKYLAEN YLIOPISTO / FINLAND

JOZEF STEFAN INSTITUTE / SLOVENIA

FRAUNHOFER-GESELLSCHAFT ZUR FOERDERUNG DER ANGEWANDTEN FORSCHUNG E.V / GERMANY

### **39) Longitudinal enhancement and access improvement of the share infrastructure (SHARE\_LEAP)**

Funded under 7th FWP (Seventh Framework Programme)

**Fields of research:** INFRA-2008-1.1.1 Bottom-up approach: Integrating Activities in all scientific and technological fields

### **Coordinator**

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**Organisation:**

UNIVERSITÄT MANNHEIM  
Schloss  
MANNHEIM  
GERMANY

### **Description of the project**

Population ageing is among the most pressing challenges of the 21st century in Europe. Addressing this challenge scientifically demands an infrastructure of micro data of the changing health, economic and social living conditions of individuals as they go through the ageing process.

SHARE, the Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe, is an infrastructure of multidisciplinary, longitudinal, and cross-nationally harmonized micro data that has been created in response to these demands. Currently, SHARE contains two waves of data for about 32,000 respondents aged 50+ in 17 European countries. SHARE became a great success: More than 2300 researchers are working with the data, and SHARE has been elected to be one of the future ESFRI infrastructures. This project is the essential device to enhance the longitudinal stability of the SHARE panel and to improve access and consulting services to users in the years 2009 and 2010.

It will:

- enhance the longitudinal stability of the panel by keeping in touch with the panel members, monitoring moves, re-interviewing lost panel members, and ascertaining last year of life events of deceased panel members. The scientific value of SHARE critically depends on continuous panel care.
- improve the research potential from the SHARE infrastructure by adding imputed values for missing variables, calibrated weights, geo-coded and environmental variables, and meta/para-statistics derived from IT-driven survey methods.
- enhance the SHARE survey instrument in response to user feedback, to changes in the institutional environment, and to new survey technologies recently developed, making the interview more effective and less burdensome for the respondents.

Such enhancements need to be implemented in 2009/early 2010 to be in time for the ESFRI-financed fourth wave of data collection. -improve and maintain the much applauded user-friendly access for SHARE data users through services provided by central and national support points.

### **Details about the project**

**Acronym:** SHARE\_LEAP

**Reference:** 227822

**Start date:** 2009-01-01

**Duration:** 24 months

**Cost:** 4.14 million euro

**Type of contract:** Integrating activities / e-infrastructures / preparatory phase

**End date** 2010-12-31

**Status:** Execution

**Funding:** 3 million euro

### **Participants**

NATIONAL CENTRE FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH / UNITED KINGDOM

INSTITUT DE RECHERCHE ET DOCUMENTATION EN ECONOMIE DE LA SANTE

ASSOCIATION / FRANCE

SYDDANSK UNIVERSITET / DENMARK

UNIVERSITA CA' FOSCARI DI VENEZIA / ITALY

FUNDACION CENTRO DE ESTUDIOS MONETARIOS Y FINANCIEROS / SPAIN

UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI PADOVA / ITALY

UNIVERSITE DE LIEGE / BELGIUM

INSTITUT ZA EKONOMSKA RAZISKOVANJA / SLOVENIA

UNIwersytet Warszawski / POLAND  
NARODOHOSPODARSKY USTAV AKADEMIE VED CESKE REPUBLIKY VEREJNA  
VYZKUMNA INSTITUCE / CZECH REPUBLIC  
STICHTING KATHOLIEKE UNIVERSITEIT BRABANT UNIVERSITEIT VAN TILBURG /  
NETHERLANDS  
STOCKHOLMS UNIVERSITET / SWEDEN  
PANTEION UNIVERSITY OF SOCIAL AND POLITICAL SCIENCES- / GREECE  
UNIVERSITE DE LAUSANNE / SWITZERLAND  
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE DUBLIN, NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND, DUBLIN / IRELAND  
THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM. / ISRAEL  
UNIVERSITAET LINZ / AUSTRIA

#### **40) How demographic changes shape intergenerational solidarity, well-being, and social integration: a multilinks framework (MULTILINKS)**

Funded under 7th FWP (Seventh Framework Programme)

**Fields of research:** SSH-2007-3.1-01 The impact of European demographic changes in Europe

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KONINKLIJKE NEDERLANDSE AKADEMIE VAN WETENSCHAPPEN - KNAW

Kloveniersburgwal 29, Het Trippenhuis

AMSTERDAM

NETHERLANDS

#### **Description of the project**

The objective of this project is to investigate how changing social contexts, from macro-societal to micro-interpersonal, affect social integration, well-being and intergenerational solidarity across different European nations. Debates on ageing societies predominantly focus on the circumstances of the old. Our approach builds from three key premises. First, ageing affects all age groups: the young, the middle-aged, and the old. Second, there are critical interdependencies between family generations and between men and women. Third, we must recognize and distinguish analytical levels: the individual, dyad (parent-child, partners), family, region, historical generation, and country.

Building from these premises, we examine:

- multiple linkages in families (e.g. transfers up and down family lineages, interdependencies between older and younger family members);
- multiple linkages across time (measures at different points in time, at different points in the individual and family life course);
- multiple linkages between, on the one hand, national and regional contexts (e.g. policy regimes, economic circumstances, normative climate, religiosity), and, on the other hand, individual behaviour, well-being and values.

Throughout the project we will test, develop, and use methodological strategies that enable sound policy making. By identifying intergenerational care regimes (that is, combinations of child care provisions and provisions for the frail old) and their shortcomings, we will contribute to the substantive understanding of the risks of becoming socially isolated and/or lacking necessary supports. A consortium of eight partners organized in six teams will carry out the project. All partners are involved in the Gender and Generations Program, a system of nationally comparative surveys and contextual databases, which aims at improving

the knowledge base for policy-making in UNECE countries. Currently, data are available from 12 countries.

### **Details about the project**

**Acronym:** MULTILINKS

**Reference:** 217523

**Start date:** 2008-03-01

**Duration:** 36 months

**Cost:** 1.98 million euro

**Type of contract:** Small or medium-scale focused research project

**End date:** 2011-02-28

**Status:** Execution

**Funding:** 1.5 million euro

### **Participants**

UNIVERSITA COMMERCIALE 'LUIGI BOCCONI'. / ITALY

NORSK INSTITUTT FOR FORSKNING OM OP PVEKST VELFERD OG ALDRING / NORWAY

ESTONIAN INTERUNIVERSITY POPULATION RESEARCH CENTRE / ESTONIA

UNIVERSITEIT ANTWERPEN / BELGIUM

UNIVERSITEIT UTRECHT / NETHERLANDS

SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH CENTER BERLIN / GERMANY

VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT BRUSSEL / BELGIUM

### **41) Courage in Europe - collaborative research on ageing in Europe (COURAGE IN EUROPE)**

Funded under 7th FWP (Seventh Framework Programme)

**Fields of research:** HEALTH-2007-3.2-6 Health outcome measures and population *ageing*

### **Coordinator**

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ITALY

### **Description of the project**

The European Commission has identified the challenge of population *ageing* as the most pressing policy issue in the 21st century. As Europeans live longer and disabilities in this population increase, valid and comparable longitudinal data on their health is essential for evidence based policy making. Valid data requires better measurement instruments and methodologies for longitudinal and cross-population comparative analyses. After an in-depth critique of existing *ageing* studies, COURAGE in Europe will develop, and validate in three countries, measures of health and health-related outcomes for an *ageing* population.

These measures will be grounded in the WHO's International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF). The ICF offers the only scientifically valid framework for evidence-based measurement of non-fatal health outcomes. We also propose to disentangle the confusion found in current *ageing* studies between objective states of health and subjective conditions of quality of life and well-being. These elements must be measured independently and against the background of the clear conceptual



framework of health. COURAGE in Europe will enhance the scientific study of ageing by developing a tool to demonstrate the relevance to the ageing population of two environmental factors: the built environment and social networks.

In sum, COURAGE in Europe is not proposing another ageing study, but the development of a tool to measure of health and health-related outcomes, for an ageing population, that offers objective and evidence-based prevalence trends, and which relates these to both quality of life and well-being outcomes as well as to the role of health determinants such as the built environment and social networks. Understanding ageing and its determinants will have a considerable impact on public health policies by identifying strategies for intervention.

### **Details about the project**

**Acronym:** COURAGE IN EUROPE

**Reference:** 223071

**Start date:** 2009-05-01

**Duration:** 36 months

**Cost:** 3.9 million euro

**Type of contract:** Small or medium-scale focused research project

**End date:** 2012-04-30

**Status:** Execution

**Funding:** 3 million euro

### **Participants**

UNIWERSYTET JAGIELLONSKI COLLEGIUM MEDICUM / POLAND

IRCCS - ASSOCIAZIONE LA NOSTRA FAMIGLIA 'ISTITUTO SCIENTIFICO EUGENIO MODEA'  
/ ITALY

AGENZIA REGIONALE DELLA SANITA / ITALY

PROVINCIA LOMBARDO VENETA ORDINE OSPEDALIERO DI SAN GIOVANNI DI DIO -  
FATEBENEFRATELLI / ITALY

SANT JOAN DE DEU SERVEIS DE SALUT MENTAL / SPAIN

TERVEYDEN JA HYVINVOINNIN LAITOS / FINLAND

IPSOS OPERACIONES / SPAIN

PBS DGA SPOLKA Z O.O. / POLAND

CF CONSULTING FINANZIAMENTI UNIONE EUROPEA SRL / ITALY

WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION. / SWITZERLAND

UNIVERSIDAD AUTONOMA DE MADRID / SPAIN

### **42) Pre-receptor cortisol metabolism and human ageing (PRECORT)**

Funded under 7th FWP (Seventh Framework Programme)

**Fields of research:** ERC-AG-LS4 ERC Advanced Grant - Physiology, Pathophysiology and Endocrinology

### **Main researcher**

Name: Paul Michael Stewart

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### **Host institution**

THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

BIRMINGHAM

UNITED KINGDOM

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### **Description of the project**

The number of people over the age of 80 years in the 25 EU member states is currently 18.2 million or 4% of the total population; by 2020, 20% of the EU population will be >65 years old which will place considerable burden upon limited health care resources. 70% of older adults report at least one chronic disease that contributes to a reduction in healthspan or the number of extra years spent in good health. The European Commission is committed to identify rational and evidence based approaches to improve health in old age and as such has identified Ageing research as a priority. The most prevalent conditions that contribute to the ageing phenotype are sarcopaenia, hypertension and cardiovascular disease, central adiposity and type 2 diabetes mellitus and osteoporosis. Here there are remarkable similarities to patients with Cushing s syndrome caused by excessive secretion of glucocorticoids such as cortisol.

PRECORT Prereceptor Cortisol metabolism and human Ageing will test the hypothesis that age-related changes in body composition (central adiposity, reduced bone and muscle mass, skin thinning) and resulting chronic disease (diabetes, osteoporosis, sarcopaenia, hypertension, cardiovascular disease) are caused by excessive glucocorticoids as a result of age-related activation of the pituitary-adrenal axis and/or increased 11b-hydroxysteroid dehydrogenase type 1 (11b-HSD1), an enzyme that can generate cortisol locally within fat, bone, muscle and skin.

The proposal will complete the full cycle of translational research and will potentially offer a new therapeutic approach through selective 11b-HSD1 inhibitors to modulate the ageing phenotype thereby improving the healthspan of the Ageing EU community.

### **Details about the project**

**Acronym:** PRECORT  
**Reference:** 250271  
**Start date:** 2010-05-01  
**Duration:** 60 months  
**Cost:** 2.5 million euro  
**Type of contract:** ERC Advanced Grant  
**End date:** 2015-04-30  
**Status:** Execution  
**Funding:** 2.5 million euro

### **To know more**

<http://erc.europa.eu>

### **Beneficiaries**

THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM / UNITED KINGDOM

### **43) UNIVERSal open platform and reference Specification for Ambient Assisted Living (UNIVERSAAL)**

Funded under 7th FWP (Seventh Framework Programme)

### **Coordinator**

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**Organisation:**

STIFTELSEN SINTEF

ICT

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NORWAY

**Description of the project**

As the European population ages, more support is needed with fewer hands to cater for their needs. There is a huge market potential for Ambient Assisted Living (AAL) solutions, but adoption is limited because they require significant resources for implementation. To address this, universAAL will produce an open platform that provides a standardized approach making it technically feasible and economically viable to develop AAL solutions. The platform will be produced by a mixture of new development and consolidation of state-of-the-art results from existing initiatives. We recognize that this not only poses technical challenges but also raises issues of adoption and uptake. So work on establishing and running a sustainable community will achieve attention right from the start, with promotion of existing results gradually evolving into promotion of the universAAL platform, as it develops into one consolidated, validated and standardized European open AAL platform.

The platform will provide runtime support for the execution of AAL applications in accordance with a reference architecture, development support through core AAL services and an online developer depot of various development resources. It will provide community support, including an online uStore providing a one-stop-shop for AAL services and other resources. The general public will browse the uStore to find what they need; developers will use it as the one marketplace where they make their services available. The consortium is built of major industrial and research players in the field, including key participants from earlier projects. universAAL results will be standardized in European (CEN) and international (OMG, Continua) standardization bodies. We will work to build a community of European industry interested in keeping the universAAL platform alive after project completion. The project duration will be 48 months with an overall budget of 13.9 M euro and a requested grant of 10.5 M euro.

**Details about the project****Acronym:** UNIVERSAAL**Reference:** 247950**Start date:** 2010-02-01**Duration:** 48 months**Cost:** 13.98 million euro**Type of contract:** Collaborative project (generic)**End date:** 2014-01-31**Status:** Execution**Funding:** 10.5 million euro**Participants**

TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITAET WIEN / AUSTRIA

IMPLEMENTAL SYSTEMS SL / SPAIN

SOLUCIONES TECNOLÓGICAS PARA LA SALUD Y EL BIENESTAR SA / SPAIN

UNIVERSIDAD POLITECNICA DE VALENCIA / SPAIN

ERICSSON NIKOLA TESLA D.D. / CROATIA

CONSIGLIO NAZIONALE DELLE RICERCHE / ITALY

IBM ISRAEL - SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY LTD / ISRAEL

CENTRE FOR RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY HELLAS / GREECE

PROSYST SOFTWARE GMBH / GERMANY

FORSCHUNGSZENTRUM INFORMATIK AN DER UNIVERSITAET KARLSRUHE / GERMANY

VDE VERBAND DER ELEKTROTECHNIK ELEKTRONIK INFORMATIONSTECHNIK EV /

GERMANY

FRAUNHOFER-GESELLSCHAFT ZUR FOERDERUNG DER ANGEWANDTEN FORSCHUNG E.V  
/ GERMANY  
REGION SYDDANMARK / DENMARK  
AIT AUSTRIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY GMBH / AUSTRIA  
PHILIPS ELECTRONICS NEDERLAND B.V. / NETHERLANDS  
UNIVERSIDAD POLITECNICA DE MADRID / SPAIN

#### **44) Bridging research in Ageing and ICT Development (BRAID)**

Funded under 7th FWP (Seventh Framework Programme)

**Fields of research:** ICT-2009.7.1 ICT & Ageing

##### **Coordinator**

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##### **Organisation:**

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST

FINANCE DEPARTMENT (RESEARCH SUPPORT OFFICE)

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BELFAST

UNITED KINGDOM

##### **Description of the project**

Bridging Research in Ageing and ICT Development (BRAID) will develop a comprehensive RTD roadmap for active ageing by consolidating existing roadmaps and by describing and launching a stakeholder co-ordination and consultation mechanism. It will characterise key research challenges and produce a vision for a comprehensive approach in supporting the well-being and socio-economic integration of increasing numbers of senior citizens in Europe. BRAID responds to the apparent need to consolidate the various existing perspectives, plans, roadmaps and research and to coordinate effectively the stakeholders in ICT and Ageing.

It will utilise knowledge repositories and stakeholder networks to create a self-sustaining, dynamic strategic mechanism for overcoming the fragmentation that has plagued e-inclusion and for improving co-ordination and collaboration among stakeholders. BRAID has three main objectives, to: Create a dynamic ICT and Ageing roadmap that addresses older people's needs not otherwise well met, that identifies and benefits from best practices in the EU and elsewhere and that analyses current and potential gaps in knowledge and execution; Instantiate a strategic research agenda that tracks and builds upon existing, emerging and disruptive technologies and that responds to the changing socio-economic conditions of stakeholders; Expand the BRAID networks of contacts to build a self-sustaining co-ordination mechanism which is viral and ubiquitous and reaches out across the heterogeneity of stakeholders.

BRAID will build upon the experience and knowledge developed in previous projects while taking account of e-inclusion efforts in the EU27 as well as Australia, Canada, Japan and the US. The team is a unique group made up by representatives of the four FP7 ICT and Ageing roadmap consortia (AALIANCE, CAPSIL, ePAL, SENIOR) and gathers together EU excellence in the field of ICT and Ageing from the main, relevant perspectives.

##### **Details about the project**

**Acronym:** BRAID

**Reference:** 248485

**Start date:** 2010-03-01

**Duration:** 24 months  
**Cost:** 1.2 million euro  
**Type of contract:** No contract type  
**End date:** 2012-02-29  
**Status:** Execution  
**Fundings:** 999287.00 euro

### **Participants**

UNIVERSITY OF TASMANIA / AUSTRALIA  
TRILATERAL RESEARCH & CONSULTING LLP / UNITED KINGDOM  
UNINOVA - INSTITUTO DE DESENVOLVIMENTO DE NOVAS TECNOLOGIAS / PORTUGAL  
UNIVERSITEIT VAN AMSTERDAM / NETHERLANDS  
CENTRE FOR SCIENCE, SOCIETY AND CITIZENSHIP / ITALY  
DUNDALK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY / IRELAND  
GLOBAL SECURITY INTELLIGENCE LIMITED / UNITED KINGDOM  
VDI/VDE INNOVATION + TECHNIK GMBH / GERMANY

### **45) Ethical frameworks for telecare technologies for older people at home (EFORTT)**

Funded under 7th FWP (Seventh Framework Programme)

**Fields of research:** SiS-2007-1.1.2.2 Research underpinning policy related to ethics, precaution and sustainable development, SiS-2007-1.1.2.1 Ethical frameworks of new technologies

### **Coordinator**

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### **Organisation:**

LANCASTER UNIVERSITY  
BAILRIGG  
LANCASTER  
UNITED KINGDOM

### **Description of the project**

This research is concerned with the normative implications of the introduction of remote care technologies for frail older people, for different stakeholders, and for gender divisions in particular. The project addresses an ethical and democratic deficit in this area which has arisen due to a proliferation in EU research and development of advanced care technologies yet one which has not been accompanied by sufficient consideration of their sociality and normativities. The research will deepen the understanding of ethical issues raised by the development of new technologies of remote care worn, installed or embedded in the homes of older citizens. It will develop qualitative approaches to understand the making of practice around remote care, in both preventive and responsive technological modes, using detailed ethnographic methods.

### **Details about the project**

**Acronym:** EFORTT

**Reference:** 217787

**Start date:** 2008-03-01

**Duration:** 36 months

**Cost:** 1.02 million euro

**Type of contract:** No contract type

**End date:** 2011-02-28

**Status:** Execution  
**Funding:** 783084.00 euro

### **Participants**

ACADEMISCH MEDISCH CENTRUM BIJ DE UNIVERSITEIT VAN AMSTERDAM /  
NETHERLANDS

DIAKONHJEMMETS HOGSKOLE / NORWAY

UNIVERSITAT AUTONOMA DE BARCELONA / SPAIN

### **46) New e-services for a dietary approach to the elderly (RISTOMED)**

Funded under 7th FWP (Seventh Framework Programme)

**Fields of research:** SME-1 Research for SMEs

### **Coordinator**

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**Organisation:** VOX NET SOCIETA COOPERATIVA

VIA GIOVANNI PAISIELLO

ROMA

ITALY

### **Description of the project**

Most nutraceutical SMEs have a limited access to the information needed for identifying the impact of their product at nutritional level. Also, the need of more personalized diets is an urgent requirement of EU healthcare systems, particularly for ageing and elderly people (EP). Nutraceuticals have different constraints not homogeneously defined in the EU Member States (MS) and their efficacy is always subordinate to the quality of the usual diet in different cultural scenarios. As a result, nutraceuticals are difficult to customize upon the needs of a specific market user, such as the EP, and their market is quite slow and fragmented.

In response to these challenges, the goal of RISTOMED is to develop a new e-Health service for EP that will enable participant SMEs to penetrate the EP consumers market with the production of an innovative diet model. Biotech nutraceuticals, specifically designed and efficaciously delivered to the EP, will be integrated in biotech/ICT strategies coping with the complexity of nutritional specific requirements. RISTOMED brings together 8 partners distributed in 5 countries with a good balance between SMEs and RTDPs. In RISTOMED 3 biotech SMEs will collaborate with 4 RTDPs to solve the common problem of delivering innovative nutraceuticals for the control and prevention of the age-related diseases throughout new E-Health services.

These services consist in the delivery of recipes and procedures containing nutraceuticals and probiotics specifically designed for EP and institutions dealing with EP throughout a new IT RISTOMED web platform (RWP). RWP will be developed by the ICT SME leading the consortium. The project result is expected to have a significant impact on the competitiveness of SME participants that will be able to expand their business by proposing to the market not only nutraceuticals but an integrated solution to better manage the diet and nutritional needs of EP to contrast inflammation, oxidative stress and gut microbiota alteration.

### **Details about the project**

**Acronym:** RISTOMED

**Reference:** 222230

**Start date:** 2008-11-01  
**Duration:** 24 months  
**Cost:** 1.3 million euro  
**Type of contract:** Research for SMEs  
**End date:** 2010-10-31  
**Status:** Execution  
**Funding:** 969406.00 euro

### **Participants**

LA MAISON DE L 'ARGAN / FRANCE  
ACTIAL-FARMACEUTICA LDA / PORTUGAL  
AISA THERAPEUTICS / FRANCE  
CENTRE HOSPITALIER ET UNIVERSITAIRE DE BORDEAUX / FRANCE  
UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI ROMA LA SAPIENZA / ITALY  
ALMA MATER STUDIORUM-UNIVERSITA DI BOLOGNA / ITALY  
CHARITE - UNIVERSITAETSMEDIZIN BERLIN / GERMANY

### **47) Neuroendocrine immune networks in ageing (NINA)**

Funded under 7th FWP (Seventh Framework Programme)

**Fields of research:** FP7-PEOPLE-ITN-2008 Marie Curie Action: "Networks for Initial Training"

### **Coordinator**

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### **Organisation:**

THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM  
Edgbaston  
BIRMINGHAM  
UNITED KINGDOM

### **Description of the project**

Current demographic trends indicate that by the year 2020 almost 1 in 5 of the European population will be aged over 65. However, although life expectancy is increasing in the developed world, the period of good health enjoyed by its people is not keeping pace. The *ageing* population is thus a major health and economic issue for Europe. Although *ageing* is a complex process, we know much about its actions at the cellular and tissue level. In contrast, our understanding of how the various age-related changes interact to result in frailty and disease is incomplete.

There is therefore a pressing need to carry out multidisciplinary research to identify factors contributing to age-related frailty and to develop interventions to promote healthy *ageing*. While Europe has many excellent research teams working on age-related diseases, such as neurodegeneration, there is little attempt to pool resources and identify underlying common age-related processes that predispose to pathology and represent rational targets for intervention. In addition, there is a lack of scientists trained in multidisciplinary *ageing* research and the challenge of an *ageing* population will not be met unless we increase research capacity in this area. NINA is a multi-site ITN that will make a significant impact upon research capacity by training 12 early stage researchers and 2 experienced researchers, integrating research and training at 10 world class European institutes.

Fellows will benefit from the expertise of academic partners and training will be enhanced by the intersectoral experience provided by two industrial partners and a non-governmental organisation. NINA

will tackle crucial health research challenges by directing the multidisciplinary programme at the identification of key factors driving the *ageing* process. NINA will focus on the age-related changes influencing the interactions of the brain, immune and endocrine systems to understand how these changes impact upon health.

### **Details about the project**

**Acronym:** NINA

**Reference:** 238665

**Start date:** 2009-12-01

**Duration:** 48 months

**Cost:** 3.03 million euro

**Type of contract:** Networks for Initial Training (ITN)

**End date:** 2013-11-30

**Status:** Execution

**Funding:** 3.03 million euro

### **Participants**

WATCHFROG / FRANCE

UNIVERSITE DE LAUSANNE / SWITZERLAND

MAX PLANCK GESELLSCHAFT ZUR FOERDERUNG DER WISSENSCHAFTEN E.V. / GERMANY

UNILEVER UK CENTRAL RESOURCES LIMITED / UNITED KINGDOM

KONINKLIJKE NEDERLANDSE AKADEMIE VAN WETENSCHAPPEN - KNAW / NETHERLANDS

UNIVERSITETET FOR MILJO OG BIOVITENSKAP / NORWAY

CENTRE NATIONAL DE LA RECHERCHE SCIENTIFIQUE / FRANCE

UNIVERSIDADE DO MINHO / PORTUGAL

### **48) Upgrading the survey of health, ageing and retirement in Europe preparatory phase (SHARE-PREP)**

Funded under 7th FWP (Seventh Framework Programme)

**Fields of research:** INFRA-2007-2.2-01 Preparatory phase for the projects in the 2006 ESFRI Roadmap

### **Coordinator**

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### **Organisation:**

UNIVERSITÄT MANNHEIM

Schloss

MANNHEIM

GERMANY

### **Description of the project**

The Survey of Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) has been selected by the ESFRI roadmap process as one of the 35 crucial pillars of the European Research Area. This project will prepare a major upgrade of SHARE for all 27 EU members plus associated Switzerland and Israel during the decade 2010-2020. SHARE builds an infrastructure of micro data necessary to understand individual and societal ageing as a process in time that is strongly influenced by pension, health care and labour market regimes and their reforms. It is designed by researchers for researchers and integrates economics, medicine, and social sciences. Research based on this infrastructure will also serve as a feedback



mechanism to support fact-based EU policies, such as the open method of coordination and the Lisbon agenda, to help meeting the challenges of population ageing in all countries of the EU.

### **Details about the project**

**Acronym:** SHARE-PREP

**Reference:** 211909

**Start date:** 2008-01-01

**Duration:** 24 months

**Cost:** 3.74 million euro

**Type of contract:** No contract type

**End date:** 2009-12-31

**Status:** Completed

**Funding:** 2.5 million euro

### **Participants**

NARODOHOSPODARSKY USTAV AKADEMIE VED CESKE REPUBLIKY VEREJNA  
VYZKUMNA INSTITUCE / CZECH REPUBLIC

SYDDANSK UNIVERSITET / DENMARK

UNIVERSITA CA' FOSCARI DI VENEZIA / ITALY

FUNDACION CENTRO DE ESTUDIOS MONETARIOS Y FINANCIEROS / SPAIN

UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI PADOVA / ITALY

INSTITUT ZA EKONOMSKA RAZISKOVANJA / SLOVENIA

UNIWERSYTET WARSZAWSKI / POLAND

STICHTING KATHOLIEKE UNIVERSITEIT BRABANT UNIVERSITEIT VAN TILBURG /  
NETHERLANDS

INSTITUT DE RECHERCHE ET DOCUMENTATION EN ECONOMIE DE LA SANTE

ASSOCIATION / FRANCE

PANTEION UNIVERSITY OF SOCIAL AND POLITICAL SCIENCES- / GREECE

UNIVERSITEIT ANTWERPEN / BELGIUM

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE DUBLIN, NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND, DUBLIN / IRELAND

UNIVERSITE DE LAUSANNE / SWITZERLAND

THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM. / ISRAEL

UNIVERSITAET LINZ / AUSTRIA

### **49) Optimal pension design when individuals have different longevities (ECOPUB)**

Funded under 7th FWP (Seventh Framework Programme)

**Fields of research:** FP7-PEOPLE-IEF-2008 Marie Curie Action: "Intra-European Fellowships for Career Development"

**Coordinator Contact:** Name: MANIQUET, François (Mr)

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### **Organisation:**

UNIVERSITE CATHOLIQUE DE LOUVAIN

Place De L'Universite

LOUVAIN-LA-NEUVE

BELGIUM

### **Description of the project**

Following population *ageing* and some recently engaged reforms of pensions systems in several European countries, the question of how to link systems to longevity has become a topic of major interest. Not only longevity is a crucial aspect to take into account in pension reforms but also differential mortality has to be considered. Besides, pension systems have two main objectives; the first one being to provide resources to individuals in their old age, once they are not able to work anymore and the second one being a redistributive concern. Indeed, in the latter case, many European Social

Security systems are used by governments as an instrument to smooth inequalities so that low-wage individuals obtain higher replacement rates than high-wage individuals. Yet, recent studies proved that part of this income redistribution is neutralized because, precisely, of differences in life expectancy. To be more explicit, individuals with lower wage get higher replacement rates but also have, on average, a lower life expectancy so that they do not benefit from this redistribution as much as they ought to. Thus, when talking about the link between life expectancy and pension design, several issues have to be considered. On the one hand, one has to consider that increased life expectancy makes more urgent the reform of our systems, since financial viability is at stake but, on the other hand, differential mortality has also to be taken into account in the design of Social Security schemes.

Our project will then mainly focus on the issue of the optimal design of Social Security when individuals have different life expectancies and try to answer the following questions: how should differential mortality be included in pension systems? How should contributions and benefits be linked to life duration? This project then lies at the frontier of public economics, health economics, behavioral economics and the economics of ageing.

### **Details about the project**

**Acronym:** ECOPUB

**Reference:** 234867

**Start date:** 2009-05-01

**Duration:** 24 months

**Cost:** .00 euro

**Type of contract:** Intra-European Fellowships (IEF)

**End date:** 2011-04-30

**Status:** Execution

**Funding:** 150257.00 euro

### **50) Demographic change and housing wealth (DEMHOW)**

Funded under 7th FWP (Seventh Framework Programme)

**Fields of research:** SSH-2007-3.1-01 The impact of European demographic changes in Europe

### **Coordinator**

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### **Organisation:**

THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM

Edgbaston

BIRMINGHAM

UNITED KINGDOM

### **Description of the project**

DEMHOW will investigate links between demographic change and housing wealth. Whereas those who rent their homes may have no housing wealth at all, for many older Europeans - perhaps 75% of the total -

housing is their single largest item of wealth. But, increasing numbers do not have children to whom their wealth might be bequeathed. The potential of housing assets is that they offer: older households a way of increasing their consumption; governments a way to respond to the pension crisis; and financial institutions a way to increase business. DEMHOW will investigate the ways in which, across member states, ageing populations and housing wealth are linked, how housing wealth has been used in the past and how attitudes to its use in old age are changing. In addition, it will investigate developments in policy and in financial markets that may encourage its use as a form of pension, and assess the characteristics of housing assets as a form of pension.

### **Details about the project**

**Acronym:** DEMHOW

**Reference:** 216865

**Start date:** 2008-03-01

**Duration:** 33 months

**Cost:** 1.65 million euro

**Type of contract:** Small or medium-scale focused research project

**End date:** 2010-11-30

**Status:** Execution

**Funding:** 1.26 million euro

### **Participants**

CENTRO DE ESTUDOS PARA A INTERVECAO SOCIAL / PORTUGAL

VAROSKUTATAS (METROPOLITAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE) KTF / HUNGARY

HOGESCHOOL GENT / BELGIUM

ASSOCIATION NATIONALE POUR L'INFORMATION SUR LE LOGEMENT / FRANCE

AGE - LA PLATEFORME EUROPEENNE DES PERSONNES AGEES ET RETRAITEES / BELGIUM

TECHNISCHE UNIVERSITEIT DELFT / NETHERLANDS

SYDDANSK UNIVERSITET. / DENMARK

TURUN YLIOPISTO / FINLAND

UNIVERSITAET BREMEN / GERMANY

HUMBOLDT-UNIVERSITAT ZU BERLIN / GERMANY

UNIVERZA V LJUBLJANI / SLOVENIA

University of York UNITED / KINGDOM

### **51) Long-run economic perspectives of an ageing society (LEPAS)**

Funded under 7th FWP (Seventh Framework Programme)

**Fields of research:** SSH-2007-3.1-01 The impact of European demographic changes in Europe

### **Coordinator**

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### **Organisation:**

GOTTFRIED WILHELM LEIBNIZ UNIVERSITAET HANNOVER

Welfengarten

HANNOVER

GERMANY

### **Description of the project**

This project integrates into modern dynamic macroeconomics a biologically founded process of individual ageing, i.e. ageing understood as the gradual deterioration of the functioning of body and mind.

The EU member countries will be increasingly populated by older people. Our project investigates theoretically and quantitatively how ageing affects their health and productivity. Using models of endogenous economic growth we assess how the feedback effects of ageing on investment and education affect long-run economic growth, competitiveness, and welfare of the EU member countries.

With multi-country models we analyze how ageing influences human capital formation and migration flows in Europe. Using models of optimal retirement decisions we investigate how ageing impacts on the contribution and employability of older workers and how this feeds back to issues of intergenerational solidarity. With models of endogenous R&D we explore how ageing interacts with technological progress and assess how ageing will affect the EU's capacity to innovate and to develop. We investigate how ageing interacts with health demand and supply and how this feeds back to the macroeconomy. We assess whether the EU's market economies and public sectors provide too much or too little health care.

### **Details about the project**

**Acronym:** LEPAS

**Reference:** 217275

**Start date:** 2009-04-01

**Duration:** 36 months

**Cost:** 1.26 million euro

**Type of contract:** Small or medium-scale focused research project

**End date:** 2012-03-31

**Status:** Execution

**Funding:** 974601.00 euro

### **Participants**

OESTERREICHISCHE AKADEMIE DER WISSENSCHAFTEN / AUSTRIA

KØBENHAVNS UNIVERSITET / DENMARK

UNIVERSIDAD DE ALICANTE / SPAIN

## **52) Activating senior potential in ageing Europe (ASPA)**

Funded under 7th FWP (Seventh Framework Programme)

**Fields of research:** SSH-2007-3.1-01 The impact of European demographic changes in Europe

### **Coordinator**

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### **Organisation:**

UNIVERSITEIT UTRECHT

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UTRECHT

NETHERLANDS

### **Description of the project**

The rejuvenation and ageing of Europe's population puts society for some major challenges. The development towards a knowledge-based society requires continues investment in new knowledge and skills. Given the ageing of the population and low fertility rates it also requires high(er) participation rates of females and people over fifty. So far, employers and governments policies have focused on human capital investments for the younger age categories and have stimulated older workers to retire at a relatively early age, in stead of investing in sustainable workers throughout the life course.

This proposal aims for an ambitious, exhaustive examination of the forces and mechanisms behind employers and governments behaviour and the resulting societal arrangements. To that aim it will use large-scale surveys for the analyses of employers behaviour and desk research and interviews to map government behaviour. Statistical and focus group analyses will be used to get insight in the participation and activity rates of people between 50 to 70. Next, the project tries to identify good practices at the company level and at the level of (national or local) government policies that contribute to continuous investment in knowledge and skills throughout the life course.

### **Details about the project**

**Acronym:** ASPA

**Reference:** 216289

**Start date:** 2008-02-01

**Duration:** 36 months

**Cost:** 1.98 million euro

**Type of contract:** Small or medium-scale focused research project

**End date:** 2011-01-31

**Status:** Execution

**Funding:** 1.49 million euro

### **Participants**

ECOLE DES HAUTES ETUDES EN SCIENCES SOCIALES / FRANCE

UNIVERSITY OF VECHTA - HOCHSCHULE VECHTA / GERMANY

VAXJO UNIVERSITY / SWEDEN

AALBORG UNIVERSITET / DENMARK

ISTITUTO NAZIONALE DI RIPOSO E CURA PER ANZIANI INRCA / ITALY

UNIWERSYTET JAGIELLONSKI. / POLAND

THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK / UNITED KINGDOM

KONINKLIJKE NEDERLANDSE AKADEMIE VAN WETENSCHAPPEN - KNAW /  
NETHERLANDS

### **53) International support of a common awareness and knowledge platform for studying and enabling independent living (CAPSIL)**

Funded under 7th FWP (Seventh Framework Programme)

**Fields of research:** ICT-2007.7.1 ICT and ageing

### **Coordinator**

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### **Organisation:**

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE DUBLIN, NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF IRELAND, DUBLIN

BELFIELD

DUBLIN 4

IRELAND

### **Description of the project**

The aging of society is the single most important aspect of health care in the 21st century. Many intriguing ICT solutions are being developed within the EU, USA, and Japan for helping older people remain independent longer. However, these solutions tend to be fragmented and heterogeneous. The CAPSIL CSA team is a coalition of University and Industrial partners that already have extensive teams developing hardware/software/knowledge solutions to independent living based on established clinical requirements. All partners of CAPSIL are already members of regional and national centres on aging

engaged in the process of helping to establish public policy and international standards.

This support action is to launch initiatives, coordinated and disseminated by a series of workshops in the US, EU, and Japan (two per year for two years), with two fundamental goals:

1. to develop a detailed CAPSIL Roadmap for EU research to achieve effective and sustainable solutions to independent living based on an in-depth analysis of clinical requirements and the ICT scenarios developed or under development in the EU, as well as the US and Japan (societies where the aging of the population are currently on par or exceeding the challenges that will be found within the EU).
2. to support aging research by proposing procedures to incorporate all of these diverse solutions into WiKi entries (CAPSIL WiKi) which describe interoperable ICT solutions to clinical requirements for independent living that can then be deployed throughout the EU, US, and Japan for verification and testing.

These CAPSILs will enable clinicians and other care-givers to get the information they need to quickly and easily test solutions for prolonging independent living within the many and various heterogeneous communities. Only with this knowledge will the relevance and efficacy of technological solutions be maintained and be empowered with the capability to be adapted for various cultures.

### **Details about the project**

**Acronym:** CAPSIL

**Reference:** 215639

**Start date:** 2008-01-07

**Duration:** 24 months

**Cost:** 786618.00 euro

**Type of contract:** Coordination and support actions

**End date:** 2010-01-06

**Status:** Completed

**Funding:** 587150.00 euro

### **Participants**

WASEDA UNIVERSITY / JAPAN

SPAULDING REHABILITATION HOSPITAL CORPORATION / UNITED STATES

OREGON HEALTH AND SCIENCE UNIVERSITY / UNITED STATES

INTEL PERFORMANCE LEARNING SOLUTIONS LIMITED / IRELAND

IMPERIAL COLLEGE OF SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND MEDICINE / UNITED KINGDOM

THE QUEENS UNIVERSITY OF BELFAST / UNITED KINGDOM

UNIVERSITA DEGLI STUDI DI GENOVA / ITALY

### **54) European ambient assisted living innovation alliance (AALLIANCE)**

Funded under 7th FWP (Seventh Framework Programme)

**Fields of research:** ICT-2007.7.1 ICT and ageing

### **Coordinator**

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**Organisation:** VDI/VDE INNOVATION + TECHNIK GMBH

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GERMANY

## **Description of the project**

Subject of the Coordination Action AALIANCE will be Ambient Assisted Living (AAL) solutions based on advanced ICT technologies for the areas of aging at work, aging at home and aging in the society. AALIANCE will:

- provide a framework for stakeholders, led by industry, to define research and development priorities, timeframes and action plans on strategically important issues in the field of Ambient Assisted Living
- play a key role in ensuring an adequate focus of research funding for AAL, in fostering effective public-private partnerships and in developing a European research policy, in particular in focusing on FP7 and on current activities launched by EU member states (AAL 169).

Therefore the immediate objectives of AALIANCE consist of:

- setting-up a sustainable network - starting with 14 partners to be extended to approx. 35 - involving companies as technology providers and systems integrators, service providers, research organisations and user associations
- coordinating the various activities of European industry and research institutions in the field of Ambient Assisted Living,
- defining standardisation requirements
- providing recommendations for a European RTD policy on Ambient Assisted Living, and
- supporting European and national entities to increase political awareness and intensify activities for the enhancement of new AAL technologies.

From these activities it is expected to strengthen the Ambient Assisted Living value chain in Europe, to reinforce the position of providers of Ambient Assisted Living solutions in Europe and address one of the most promising markets of industrialised countries.

## **Details about the project**

**Acronym:** AALIANCE

**Reference:** 217050

**Start date:** 2008-01-01

**Duration:** 24 months

**Cost:** 1.65 million euro

**Type of contract:** Coordination and support actions

**End date:** 2009-12-31

**Status:** Completed

**Funding:** 1.07 million euro

## **Participants**

ELA MEDICAL SAS / FRANCE

VERMON SA / FRANCE

VTI TECHNOLOGIES OY / FINLAND

LULEA TEKNISKA UNIVERSITET / SWEDEN

FUNDACION VODAFONE ESPANA / SPAIN

CONSIGLIO NAZIONALE DELLE RICERCHE / ITALY

ROBERT BOSCH GMBH / GERMANY

NOKIA OYJ / FINLAND

AGE -THE EUROPEAN OLDER PEOPLE'S PLATFORM / BELGIUM

SCUOLA SUPERIORE DI STUDI UNIVERSITARI E DI PERFEZIONAMENTO SANT'ANNA / ITALY

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE / UNITED KINGDOM

PHILIPS ELECTRONICS NEDERLAND B.V. / NETHERLANDS

FRAUNHOFER-GESELLSCHAFT ZUR FOERDERUNG DER ANGEWANDTEN FORSCHUNG E.V / GERMANY

**55) HERMES - Cognitive care and guidance for active aging (HERMES)**

Funded under 7th FWP (Seventh Framework Programme)

**Fields of research:** ICT-2007.7.1 ICT and ageing

**Coordinator**

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**Description of the project**

HERMES provides an innovative integrated approach to cognitive care covering the domain of cognitive support and training. This is achieved through an advanced, integrated, assistive technology that combines the functional skills of the older person to reduce age-related decline of cognitive capabilities and assist the user where necessary. Based on intelligent audio and visual processing and reasoning, the project results in a combination of a home-based and mobile device to support the user's cognitive state and prevent cognitive decline.

HERMES assesses the following five core objectives associated with the five main areas of cognitive support, care and well being:

OBJ 1. Advanced activity reminding to assist the user in performing everyday tasks and to support independent living. Modelled after human associative memory, activities are automatically deduced from the captured information using advanced speech recognition and processing algorithms.

OBJ 2. Facilitation of episodic memory through the capture of content in audio and image including when, where, who, and what of a moment, including additional contextual information.

OBJ 3. Cognitive training through games with important moments.

OBJ 4. Conversation support on the grounds of interactive reminiscence based on the recordings of important moments.

OBJ 5. Mobility support to address the needs of the user outside of the house with cognitive support when and where needed.

HERMES aims specifically at supporting the decline in (declarative and prospective memory) capabilities by using other functional cognitive skills and training these, thereby reducing the need for active care and support and substantially increasing the ability to cope with everyday life and to live independently.

**Details about the project**

**Acronym:** HERMES

**Reference:** 216709

**Start date:** 2008-01-01

**Duration:** 36 months

**Cost:** 4.19 million euro

**Type of contract:** Collaborative project (generic)

**End date:** 2010-12-31

**Status:** Execution

**Funding:** 2.82 million euro

**Participants**

RESEARCH AND EDUCATION LABORATORY IN INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES / GREECE



FUNDACION INSTITUTO GERONTOLOGICO MATIA - INGEMA / SPAIN  
IBM ISRAEL - SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY LTD / ISRAEL  
TXT E-SOLUTIONS SPA / ITALY  
UNIVERSITY OF BRADFORD / UNITED KINGDOM

## **56) Social ethical and privacy needs in ICT for older people: A dialogue roadmap (SENIOR)**

Funded under 7th FWP (Seventh Framework Programme)

**Fields of research:** ICT-2007.7.1 ICT and ageing

### **Coordinator**

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### **Description of the project**

SOCIAL ETHICAL AND PRIVACY NEEDS IN ICT FOR OLDER PEOPLE: A DIALOGUE ROADMAP (SENIOR) is a 24 month support action which aims to provide a systematic assessment of the social, ethical, and privacy issues involved in ICT and Ageing, to understand what lessons should be learned from current technological trends, and to plan strategies for governing future trends

There are three main ideas that led the consortium to propose the SENIOR project:

1. INCLUSION IS THE GOAL
2. DIALOGUE IS THE INSTRUMENT
3. DESIGN IS THE TARGET

These ideas generated four strategic SandT objectives:

1. DEFINITION
2. DIRECTION
3. ROADMAP
4. ACTION PLAN

Each of these strategic objectives has been encapsulated into specific workpackages and tasks.

### **Details about the project**

**Acronym:** SENIOR

**Reference:** 216820

**Start date:** 2008-01-01

**Duration:** 24 months

**Cost:** 1.33 million euro

**Type of contract:** Coordination and support actions

**End date:** 2009-12-31

**Status:** Completed

**Funding:** 950000.00 euro

### **Participants**

INTERNATIONAL FORUM FOR BIOPHILOSOPHY / BELGIUM

INCLUSION ALLIANCE FOR EUROPE GEIE / ROMANIA  
TRILATERAL RESEARCH & CONSULTING LLP / UNITED KINGDOM  
IN-JET APS / DENMARK  
EBA - EUROPEAN BUSINESS ASSOCIATES SRL / ITALY  
GLOBAL SECURITY INTELLIGENCE LIMITED / UNITED KINGDOM  
VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT BRUSSEL / BELGIUM

# INTERREG

## INTERREG IV A

### 2 Seas

Priority 3 : Improving quality of life

This priority seeks to create a better living environment and quality of life for the inhabitants of the programming area by addressing health, security, cultural exchange and equal opportunities.

Example of project under this priority: cross border cooperation in order to facilitate an active ageing and a non dependent life.

#### 1) Project PI-102-UK

##### Name and date of the project

Care Choirs - 10-06-2010

##### Programme priority

3. Improving quality of life

##### Objective

a. To promote and enable social inclusion and well being of different groups belonging to the society

##### General aim of the project

To promote, support and facilitate social inclusion and well-being of older people in partner areas with an ageing population, through the development of Care Choirs comprising carers (professional and voluntary) and older people. Creating a sense of identity and local belonging through the universal medium of music, promoting intergenerational and cultural exchange through rehearsal, performance and valued engagement in the community. As the county with the highest proportion of older people in the UK, Dorset is a predominantly rural area. There is a real danger that these two factors are leading to older people becoming increasingly marginalised, particularly those people with mobility problems and specific social care needs. This growing sector of the community leads to increased demands for adequate social care and health provision. Recruitment to professional services delivering care is notoriously difficult and in part is a product of the poor image of care work. Age groups are increasingly becoming polarised, with reduced opportunities for the young and the old in the population to share meaningful contact. This project addresses these issues using the medium of music across cultural and national boundaries, irrespective of differences in language and models of care provision.

##### Specific aims of the project

Older people, particularly those resident in rural areas, will actively participate in a Care Choir together with adult social care. Support the workers, and carers from the voluntary sector. This activity will: social inclusion of often isolated older people, living in residential care homes, in receipt of care services or voluntary care in their own homes. Address health issues and social participation of older people suffering from varying degrees of dementia and their carers, utilising the medium of music, acknowledged as an effective method of engagement for dementia sufferers who may otherwise be hard to reach. Promote intergenerational and cultural engagement and exchange, older people performing and rehearsing with both young and old carers. Performances taken into schools, colleges, and other community groups to demonstrate the effective and unique relationships between carers and older people, dispelling the myths often associated with working in adult social care and re-introducing the two increasingly distinct groups to each other. Supporting the ethos and agenda of lifelong learning, in developing music, singing and language skills, of carers and service users/older people. Providing equal opportunities for cultural activity, whilst directly addressing Establishing sustainable health and mobility

issues for the older population. cultural cross-border partnerships. Cross-border creative clusters working within an established framework of joint rehearsal schedules and partnership performances, providing enhanced active leisure opportunities for older people Cross-border networks and facilitating social tourism, through planned tours. further developed supporting informal social tourism

### **Common actions planned**

Joint artistic direction and These would include: planning, with cross-border links to music/singing educationalists/trainers and The establishment of a joint directors. framework to produce shared rehearsal Shared best practice Joint performances and cross-border tourism. schedules. in Care sector specific recruitment and retention activity

### **Concrete expected outputs**

A sustainable cross-border, cultural network maintaining and developing a 2 Seas Care Choir, improving the quality of life of older people and carers.

### **Transnational added value**

Direct links maximising the universal creative medium of music as a method of communication, to overcome language barriers. Bringing together groups of the population, working in partnership and recognising the commonality of significant quality of life issues for older people, which may result in social exclusion and which may be overcome through the programme across borders.

### **How will partners benefit from it ?**

Active involvement, shared learning and mutually beneficial planning and cooperation models which could be taken forward and mapped on to further creative activity. Resulting links between professional care service providers.

### **Estimated total cost (in euros)**

#### **FEDER cofinancing asked**

0.00

0.00

#### **Partners at this stage**

#### **Do they have experience in INTERREG projects or other projects ?**

#### **What kind of partners are you looking for ?**

Yes

## **CONTACT**

### **Lead partner organisation**

Partners in Care

### **Activity of the contact person**

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## 2) Project PI-7-BE

### **Name and date of the project**

Creative and Innovative Ways in dealing with threats and opportunities of demographic changes - 12-10-2009

### **Programme priority**

3. Improving quality of life

### **Objective**

a. To promote and enable social inclusion and well being of different groups belonging to the society

### **General aim of the project**

The demographic changes are a big challenge for Europe. In Flanders the same challenge exists. In West-Flanders (the maritime province of Flanders) the demographic change is more extreme. In cooperation with the province West-Flanders and the University of Brussels the City of Roeselare conducted a scientific and participative study to know the needs of seniors. Based upon the study the City developed a strategic local social policy plan 2008-2013, a concretisation of the strategic plan for the city 2007-2012. The central themes are: living and care, health (e-care), security, information/ new media, participation, activation (employment and voluntary work), free time, poverty and loneliness, mobility and accessibility. An European project could enhance creative and innovative ways in dealing with threats and opportunities of demographic changes. We want to exchange expertise and set up concrete pilot actions.

### **Specific aims of the project**

-learning network in the Maritime region (knowledge management: absorption, diffusion, development, exploitation) -development and strengthen partnerships for innovation (triple Helix: companies, public authorities, knowledge centres) -empowerment and participation of seniors -concrete pilot projects to strengthen the expertise and knowledge (livelong living, living and care area, new media, poverty and loneliness, ...)

### **Common actions planned**

Roeselare: a warm and innovating city with and for seniors 1) Senior Living - 1A: Senior House of the Future Development and implementation of an innovative, affordable and senior-friendly housing concept: 'Senior House of the Future'. Roeselare wants to develop a global and innovating approach with regard to senior living. The idea is to develop a global concept of 'senior house of the future' that involves the realisation of a pilot project home or flat, including specific adaptations and innovative elements, specifically aimed at improving the living conditions of senior citizens (energy-use, lighting systems, used materials, furniture, kitchen cabinets, doors (handles etc), bathroom accommodations..). The realisation of the pilot project will admire in several buildings: a clear evolution will be noticeable from an adapted house that satisfies to the basic needs of the seniors to an intermediate house where a lot of adaptations have been done such as adapted furniture, especially arranged living room,... The last building that everyone can visit will be a full technical adapted building with attention for design, special lighting systems,... This part of the project would be realised with the cooperation of a local social housing society, senior associations (direct input of seniors !), light and furniture designers, architects etc. Some companies that are on the leading edge of innovation (e.g. lighting) have already acknowledged their cooperation and support for such a project. Complementary to the actual construction of such a house or flat, a wide promotion campaign would be implemented, together with RESOC Mid-West-Flanders, promoting the innovative approach of this project, in a wider region. This campaign is aiming to promote the adaptation of individual homes in the area. - 1B: Living and care area Development of a living and care area. The city will be examined: screening, analyzing, creating new uses and adapting style of living- & care areas. In addition, extensive field research will be done on how to create a living

and care area. The city will be subdivided in areas and analysed on area of livability. The security, mobility, social living, number of supplies such as a baker, a supermarket,... will be examined. It's the intention to reinforce the area where necessary so that the seniors can continue live for life. 2) Innovating ways dealing with loneliness and hidden poverty Reinforcing and creating networks in neighbourhoods: lot of seniors live in poverty or loneliness. Generally no-one noticed poverty in the street, but it is really present. Seniors are faced even most. The social network of the solitary senior person will be reinforced. A methodology will be developed to detect the solitary or poor persons. In order to stimulate the interaction between senior citizens themselves as well as with other inhabitants (networking), an action plan will be developed to improve the set up and activation of senior citizen networks within a number of neighbourhoods in Roeselare. (designated 'living and care zones') Creating and stimulating the development of innovative services for seniors (in specific neighbourhoods) such as a message service, a service warm meals, a job service, a transport service,... It's the intention to develop a city-wide action plan to stimulate the voluntary work and employment and the availability and use of new and/or special services for senior citizens Long-term unemployed persons and young seniors can be integrated in this project. 3) Information - 3: Stimulating new media for seniors Starting up an open learning media & communication-centre for seniors (part of a larger city-project: "city media centre for knowledge and information"), especially aimed at senior citizens, in order to familiarize them with new communication tools (internet, digital services, interactive TV, mobile phones, e-literature, e-care etc) and new media products or services. Lot of seniors have mobility problems or healthy problems. They are isolated and need lot of assistance. E-Home Care (Video-communication) can give a solution. It gives a feeling of safety, even more social contacts are possible,...

### **Concrete expected outputs**

Objectives 1A: - pilot project : showroom case of 'Senior House of the Future' - premium for life long living: dissemination of information and increased use thereof - increasing the number of innovation and renovation housing projects - improve the state and value of (older) houses and flats Objectives 1B: - global spatial vision within the city of Roeselare, with regard to living and care areas, spatial planning, regeneration... - increasing the timeframe within which seniors can remain in their own living environment - develop a city wide vision on senior services implement this vision in one designated area, as a test case and an example Objectives 2: - improve social situation of the senior citizens - reinforce and create a new network, with other groups of citizens - stimulate social voluntary work within the city and the neighbourhood - inform and giving advice about all the services for seniors - stimulate voluntary work and employment (also for young seniors and in their own neighbourhood preferably) - develop more and additional services, in order to stimulate and extend living in ones own homes, for as long as possible (target group: seniors still living at home) Objectives 3: - examine the use of new media for seniors or the problems they have when they use new media - stimulate the use of new technologies within ICT for the target group of senior citizens - increase the use of ICT within home care develop a place where they can experiment with new technologies

### **Transnational added value**

-expertise -innovation -inclusive policy, dealing with demographic changes -networks

### **How will partners benefit from it ?**

N/A

### **Estimated total cost (in euros)**

#### **FEDER cofinancing asked**

0.00

0.00

### **Partners at this stage**

We aim a diversity of partners: public authorities, seniors, public and private companies, innovation centre, education centre, ... -RESOC Mid-West-Flanders: Regional Social-Economic Committee (Social partners, local communities) -De Mandel: Public Social Housing Companies -OCMW: Public Centre for

Well Being -In-Ham: Innovation Centre for adapted living -Senior associations (seniors) -Home Care Services -Companies Potential partners: -Province West-Flanders -Flemish Government -High School/ university

**Do they have experience in INTERREG projects or other projects ?**

-Interreg III (Euregio Scheldemond) -ESF -...

What kind of partners are you looking for ?public and other partners in the Netherlands, United Kingdom, France

**CONTACT**

**Lead partner organisation**

City of Roeselare

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**3) Project PI-41-NL**

**Name and date of the project**

CURA-B (aCURAte Business) - 28-10-2009

**Programme priority**

1. Creation of an accessible, attractive and competitive area from an economic point of view

**Objective**

c. To rely on innovation, research and cooperation between universities, training centres and enterprises

**General aim of the project**

With ageing populations in Europe and a shrinking work force, it's a challenge for the society to provide high quality care and optimal living conditions for elderly people, at affordable cost. The introduction of both innovative products and services and new organization concepts in the healthcare sector will be crucial to meet this goal. This is an important trend and business opportunity, which has been recognized by many companies. Partners in the regions of Zeeland and West-Flanders realize that many innovative products, services and concepts have been developed in their respective regions, but few of these new inventions found their way to the (care and cure) market, and still the majority did not land. Just a few market strategies actually worked. A new market approach is necessary in order to let everybody win in the business chain, from inventor to end-user. Another challenge is to find a way to match the national healthcare regulation and administration. Because each member state faces another constellation, tailor-made strategies have to be developed. The following goal is to be met: Develop and test new business

models, communicative interactions and strategies for a smooth and win-win implementation of innovative products and services on the home care market.

### **Specific aims of the project**

\* Empower entrepreneurs by developing new ways of approaching the home care market. \* Assisting home care organisations in actively participating in the process of innovation. \* Develop new business models of innovative technology in the home care market.

### **Common actions planned**

\* field research \* exchange best-practices in seminars \* facilitate stakeholdermeetings (for entrepreneurs, healthcare organisations, governments and insurance companies) \* develop new business models \* transnational workshops for intervision and the exchange of knowledge and experience \* test business models \* spread the gained knowledge through transnational seminars

### **Concrete expected outputs**

Our specific objectives are: - to deliver an inventory of the parameters affecting innovation and implementation of assistive technology in the homecare market in the participating regions. - new business models and implementation strategies - pilot tests of the new models and strategies - a manual containing a set of methods.

### **Transnational added value**

In most regions healthcare is strongly dependent upon national regulations and financial restrictions. However, in all participating regions face the same challenge: how to bring SME's and healthcare organisations closer to eachother? Therefore a joint effort will enable us to learn from eachother. Together we can be able to do accurate business.

### **How will partners benefit from it ?**

It will help SME-entrepreneurs to get into the healthcare market in all participating regions. It will help healthcare organisations to play a vital role in the process of innovation, and receive better solutions to common problems.

### **Estimated total cost (in euros)**

#### **FEDER cofinancing asked**

0.00

0.00

### **Partners at this stage**

Economische Impuls Zeeland POM West-Vlaanderen RESOC ZorgSaam Zeeuws-Vlaanderen Hogeschool Zeeland KaTho Suffolk County Council Suffolk Chamber of Commerce

### **Do they have experience in INTERREG projects or other projects ?**

POM West-Flanders and IN-HAM have been participating in several INTERREG-projects.

### **What kind of partners are you looking for ?**

#### **CONTACT**

#### **Lead partner organisation**

Economische Impuls Zeeland

#### **Contact surname and first name**

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<http://www.impulszeeland.nl>**Greater Region**

One of the challenges of this programme deals with the social field. Projects have to respond to the needs of an ageing population by organising an adapted offer of services and facilities at a cross border level.

**1) Care service for dependent people**

The project is presented as an observatory process and a cognitive reasoning between home care services stakeholders towards dependent people. There are two main objectives in this project, it first aims at structuring the network of stakeholders and partners in this field and then at isolating the obstacles linked to the transnational context in order to continually reduce the negative effects of the border.

**Partners of the project:**

1. A.D.E.F. (Association de Développement des Emplois familiaux (Lo)
2. Province de Luxembourg (W)
3. IRIS (Institut Régional d'ingénierie Sociale) (Lo)
4. Institut national de formation et d'application (Lo)
5. Institut d'Enseignement de promotion sociale de la Communauté française Arlon-Musson-Athus-Virton (W)
6. Agences d'Urbanisme Lorraine Nord (AGAPE) (Lo)

<b>TOTAL COST</b>	<b>€ 325 691.96</b>
<b>ERDF</b>	<b>€ 162 845.98</b>

**INTERREG IV B****NWE (North West Europe)**

Priority 4: Promoting strong and prosperous communities at transnational level

Objective 4.3: to promote transnational responses to the impacts of demographic change and migration on the NWE territory

Example of possible action: transnational pilots and actions to improve the accessibility of, and access to, services, including ICT, for areas affected by ageing and depopulation

**1) 033B - CIB - Cities in Balance. Promoting Senior Economy in Europe****General Information**

**Project priority:** Strong and prosperous communities

**Strategic Initiatives:** unspecified

**Start date:** 01-03-2008

**End date:** 01-10-2011

**Website:** [www.hagen.de](http://www.hagen.de)

**ERDF Grant:** 2,750,390.40

**Total eligible cost:** 5,500,780.79

### **Lead Partner contact person**

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### **Project partners**

1. Stadt Hagen [DE]
2. Stad Brugge [BE]
3. Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce [UK]
4. OCMW Genk (Openbaar Centrum voor Maatschappelijk Welzijn) [BE]
5. Stadtverwaltung Kaiserslautern [DE]
6. Leeds City Council [UK]
7. Stadt Leverkusen [DE]
8. Southampton City Council [UK]
9. Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council [UK]
10. Gemeente Vlaardingen [NL]
11. FernUniversität in Hagen [DE]

### **Summary description**

CIB is built on improving mainstream opportunities for seniors, with an aim of moving away from the traditional health & social care approach of intervention & treatment. This project is built on the premise that the more successful at encouraging mainstreaming of broader wellbeing issues for older people, the more the need to rely on the health & social care services will be reduced. This project focuses on services that improve the quality of life of seniors & help to enable them to live independently longer. A key activity of this project is to define & explore innovative strategies how to deal with the topic of ageing in order to empower seniors to remain/become included in their community & working life. Broadly speaking this will entail: Empowering seniors to ensure active participation in social & economic community life; Providing information & communication opportunities; Securing social, financial & technical inclusion; Providing post-retirement employment opportunities

The involvement of seniors is crucial to the success of the project and will facilitate future learning. This will ensure older people have a voice in the way developments are pursued & will provide opportunities for seniors to bring their expertise & skills to the individual pilot projects. In addition the project strives to embed intergenerational opportunities in its work as these can: foster real understanding between people of different ages & backgrounds, whilst encouraging community involvement, joint learning & the exchange of experience, skills & knowledge between generations. With this aim the promotion of social inclusion, equality & mutual respect can be advanced. Similarly, there will be a particular emphasis on fostering senior citizens' involvement in self-determined civic participation & intergenerational contact, the project has thus potential to make a significant & sustained contribution to the goal of enhancing the life of quality of senior citizens in urban environments

### **Detailed description**

The WPs will be the defined structure for the initiation of mutual learning process, for the exchange of

experiences and for the development of one of the four training modules for the transnational training programme. The partner cities and also other NWE cities can sustainably work with this programme. The WPs will have 4 workshop meetings additional to thematic conferences. The workshops shall be used for internal coordination and exchange; they are internal working meetings. The 4 workshops will deal with the following aspects: identify and agree to pilot action plans, common approaches, methods of working and the mutual learning strategy; prepare the thematic conference; exchange experiences and know-how in implementing exemplary pilots and involve external expertise; work on specific items of the training module for the training programme, identify elements of the awareness-raising-campaign. Each WP will have one thematic conference on the issues it's dealing with.

The conference will provide external expertise and knowledge in the format of keynote speeches from external experts for external input, advice and assessment and will give the partners the opportunity to disseminate their project results.

The thematically specific training modules of the WPs will be integrated into one coherent training programme "How Cities in Balance can adapt best to ageing". Because of the trans-sectoral structure of the training programme the target groups of this training programme are: public authorities, healthcare sector, social and charity associations, enterprises and business start-ups. The training programme offers the participants:

- integrated view on how to deal with ageing
- better understanding of the chances and potentials of an ageing society
- intersectoral approaches for making use of these potentials
- clearly defined options of actions
- evaluated and tested best-practices
- field trips to the tested best practice examples

### **Objectives description**

The aim of the project is to define and explore innovative strategies how to deal with the topic of an ageing society in the best way to empower seniors to remain or become included in community and working life. This is targeted to improve the quality of life of seniors, to secure a balanced community and to create economic growth in NWE in a sustainable way.

Obj. 1: To develop a manual for all cities in NWE how to develop and implement a for the NWE cities' specific conditions best form of a Silver Hub (see WP 1).

Obj 2: To develop a universal toolbox for institutions in charge in NWE, consisting of transferable best-practice pilots for improving seniors' inclusion in the field of technology and economy and also for different organisational forms how to organise inclusion in community life (see WP 2)

Obj 3: To develop a best-practice-basket of qualification strategies which can be used for generating employment and growth effects for the regional economy and therefore for NWE (see WP 3)

The second aim of CiB is to raise awareness for the topic of ageing and to show the cities in NWE innovative ways how to face and handle the individual, communal and economic changes.

Obj 4: To develop and implement a coherent transnational training programme for stakeholders in NWE dealing with senior-related issues and seniors themselves as well as to develop and implement a transnational awareness-raising campaign for the challenges and opportunities of demographic changes (see WP 4)

Key to ensuring the success of this project and to facilitate future learning the involvement and engagement of seniors is crucial. This is vital in ensuring that older people have a voice in the way developments are pursued and equally important is the expertise and skills they can bring to the individual pilot projects.

### **Activities description**

CIB will develop a coherent transnational Training program "How Cities in Balance can adapt best to ageing" that enables participants to develop individual strategies for their enterprises/ organisations that recognizes & successfully reacts to the potentials & needs of older people. The program will at its heart strive to provide a shift in attitudes; leading to "barrier free open minds" with changed perceptions towards ageing in all professional spheres of actions. The added value of this program will improve the

skills of trained employees & entrepreneurs & widen options for actions through raised awareness in better skilled work force. It is envisaged that a first training program starting in the last phase of the overall CIB-project can be used for a number of years following project closure. Additionally, CIB will develop a scheme for future continuation in cooperation with the FernUniversität in Hagen & their European networks.

CIB will deliver a range of evaluated test cases in the fields of WP 1 — Silver Hubs; WP 2 — Silver Inclusion & WP 3 — Silver Economy. I.e. the networks of senior volunteering, the set-ups of senior start-ups, the concept for senior information hubs, & other evaluated test cases of the pilot actions will have a long-lasting effect in the partner cities. Furthermore the evaluated transferable aspects & results will stimulate other NWE cities to set up similar activities for meeting the objective of achieving balanced cities.

As a final outcome focused action basic support & backing for the transfer of the CIB outputs into other NWE cities; an awareness-raising campaign “Active & enjoyable Ageing” will be used for promoting the positive aspects of ageing & the benefits for society during and after project closure. CIB will develop a roadmap how the exhibition can tour through the countries taking into account the CIB networks.

### **Innovation**

In contrast to classical social welfare work for seniors the CIB project will take a step forward by dealing with the opportunities presented by ageing of society and so turn a perceived threat for NWE's cities into an opportunity and strength in the long run. Dealing with the ageing of society is no longer a question of helping the old and frail to cope with daily life. It is increasingly about enhancing senior citizens' quality of life by empowering them to take part in a full range of social, economic and cultural activities in different spheres. Central to CIB is a commitment to diversity in the context of meaningful involvement of older people in the pilots. The success of CIB will be judged on the extent to which older people are involved at all levels of development and implementation. The different models for involving seniors in the partner cities will be intensively analyzed and evaluated in the transnational workshops. The scientific partner (FernUniversität in Hagen) will

offer extensive consultations for the project partners as well as the cooperating community leaders or volunteer organizations, initiatives or networks in order to successfully implement participation measures in the design and conduct of the relevant pilot actions aiming to promote inclusion and empowerment of senior citizens. By defining intergenerational aspects as second essential cross-cutting theme in the CIB-project CIB will save the values, expertise and other experiences of seniors and keep them available in community and social life. This dimension will seek to promote positive relationships between different generations and challenge any stigma or negative assumptions affecting older people. By focussing on social and economic participation, knowledge transfer, and inter-generational activity, the Cities in Balance Project draws on the capacity of the senior population and increases its influence on key issues such as sustainability, and social cohesion

### **Project specifics**

Europeans are becoming older, fewer & more heterogeneous. Demographic change is apparent in all European countries & is a major challenge for spatial development in the EU. The trend is ageing, due to a fall in fertility rates & mortality rates, & increase in longevity. The EU population over 60 will increase from 21 % in 2000 to 30 % by 2015 and by 2025 this will represent a growth of 28 - 34 %. The spatial & economic effects of an increasing ageing of population is a threat for the NWE territory. Seniors will be more active & in better health if current trends continue. They will also be better off, having built up a full pension & savings. They are consuming more new goods & services & want to participate actively in social life, in particular in the voluntary sector. They may wish to continue working full or part-time. The employment rate of 65-74 year olds in the EU was 5.6% in 2003 & 18.5% in the USA. The current political debate on ageing focuses more on the costs of ageing than

on its social & economic potential. A key challenge will be to balance sufficiently the needs of more seniors whilst being mindful of the potential negative affects on the competitiveness of firms & younger people through increasing welfare contributions & tax burdens. What is required is a shift of focus & approach & the need to also view the ageing of our society not as a threat but rather as a challenge & an

opportunity for economic growth & for improving Europe's competitiveness. Demographic change opens up new markets for new products & services, economic co-operations & networks from which European regions can benefit. Clearly there is healthier, more mobile & qualified seniors with greater purchasing power. This can lead to an increasing demand for new products & services as well as new opportunities for qualified jobs. The commitment to the development & stimulation of such a Silver Economy will have a positive impact on economic growth, jobs, employment & competitiveness in Europe.

## **2) 004A - HDC - Health and Demographic Change**

### **General Information**

**Project priority:** Strong and prosperous communities

**Strategic Initiatives:** unspecified

**Start date:** 01-01-2007

**End date:** 31-12-2012

**Website:** [www.chru-strasbourg-fr](http://www.chru-strasbourg-fr)

**ERDF Grant:** 2,030,086.46

**Total eligible cost:** 4,454,347.92

### **Lead Partner contact person**

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**Country:** France

### **Project partners**

1. Hôpitaux Universitaires de Strasbourg [FR]
2. Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de Liège [BE]
3. Centre Hospitalier de Luxembourg [LU]
4. Centre Hospitalier Régional de Metz-Thionville [FR]
5. Faculté de Psychologie et des Sciences de l'Éducation de l'Université de Genève [CH]
6. Zentrlnstitut für Seelische Gesundheit [DE]
7. Department of Psychiatry and Neuropsychology Maastricht University [NL]
8. Conseil Général du Bas-Rhin [FR]

### **Summary description**

The goal of the project « HEALTH and DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES » is to create a transnational centre of excellence in North-West Europe which, in the health field, responds to demographic change due to the ageing of the population.

### **Objectives description**

The purpose of this project is to respond to the effects brought about by demographic change, in the health field, and to create a centre of excellence and reference within North-West Europe

The partners in cooperation share two objectives, in order to tackle, in an innovative way, with pragmatic considerations in mind, this territorial challenge.

« Transnational health care for an ageing population in the 7 regions of NWE »

The partners involved in this project are: the HUS, the CHU de Liège, the CH de Luxembourg, the CHR de Metz-Thionville, the Central Institute of Mental Health of Mannheim, the Faculté de Psychologie et des sciences de l'Éducation de Genève, the University of Maastricht and the Conseil Général du Bas-Rhin.

The 4 hospitals will contribute their medical skills to the problem, the 3 universities in-depth reflection and the Conseil Général du Bas-Rhin its experience as a local authority responsible for the medical and social care of the dependent elderly.

## WP 1

Demographic study of people over 65 in the 7 regions, and projection of these studies 5 and 10 years hence. Evaluation of the over 65s who are ill and disabled. Following on these studies, transnational reflection and work to look for, find and implement anticipatory, appropriate and experimental responses to the different problems.

## WP 2

Collect and compare the definitions and practices involving care of the elderly who are ill and disabled. Find bridges to build equivalence and, after transnational reflection, propose joint answers which are pragmatic and innovative.

In each region list the professions and training centres involved in the care of the elderly, evaluate them and, after pooling the results, propose transnational innovative training schemes.

WP3 Evaluate what domotics could be of use in caring for elderly people who are sick and disabled, conceptualise and provide for their implementation.

## **Activities description**

Cooperation between the partners will be carried out by transnational multidisciplinary teams made up of doctors, nursing managers, neuropsychologists, health managers, trainers, teachers, university lecturers, designers, public relations and communication officers, administration and finance managers, all of whom will make their own specific professional, specialist and social contribution towards preparing the action to be carried out.

The different participants in this cooperation, after evaluating and comparing their experience and consultations, will propose medium and long-term solutions to respond to crucial, human, medical and social problems and their economic impact on territorial development, arising from the ageing of the population.

Cooperation will make it possible to :

- Grasp the problems, in health terms, due to the ageing of the population and all the consequences thereof, using each partner's knowledge and practice, in order to create a centre of excellence and propose new, experimental, forward-looking solutions, in order to solve these major joint transnational problems.
- Promote inter-changeability and transfer of competence and technologies of the different partners in the health treatment of the elderly.
- Use the information and communication technology applications created by « HOSPITAL » cooperation as part of the INTERREG IIIB programme, develop and diversify them and create new tools for use in this project in the INTERREG IVB programme.

## **Innovation**

The innovative aspects of this cooperation will be reflected in different areas and at different levels. For the first time, transnational cooperation will enable people working in the health field to meet in order to work together and have a common objective, in order to create a centre for reflection, experimentation and skills, concerning health treatment for the ageing population. On the basis of actual situations, comparison of professional acquis and experience can be used to the full, in order to create new tools which will enable the different regions to react together and anticipate the impact of demographic change. The transnational centre of excellence should be on constant alert, in order to react as quickly as possible. In the medium and long term better treatment techniques will be introduced, new forms of training and new jobs, the development of new IT techniques for the elderly, in order to manage innovatively this phenomenon of ageing in our regions.

Emulation created by the introduction of the different forms of action quoted in the paragraphs above will enable transnational innovative management of these problems within the regions of Limbourg, Wallonia, Luxembourg, Baden Wurtemberg, Lorraine, Alsace and the Canton of Genève, and will be of benefit to more than 26 millions citizens.

## **Project specifics**

Cooperation between the Hôpitaux Universitaires de Strasbourg, the Centre Hospitalier Régional de Metz-Thionville, the Centre Hospitalier Universitaire de Liège, the Centre Hospitalier de Luxembourg, the Central Institute of Mental Health of Mannheim, the Faculté de Psychologie et des Sciences de

l'Education of the Université de Genève, the University of Maastricht, and the Conseil Général du Bas Rhin will make it possible to create a centre of excellence to experiment with and introduce, innovative and forward-looking treatment, in order to respond to the effects of demographic change. The different local, regional and national authorities are fully involved in the project and the Conseil Régional d 'Alsace and the Communauté Urbaine de Strasbourg participate financially. The partners wish, in the health field, to work out together transnationally, solutions for the repercussions, in the medium and long term, on territorial development, of the ageing of the population.

### **3) 141E - Senior Enterprise - Senior Enterprise**

#### **General Information**

**Project priority:** Strong and prosperous communities

**Strategic Initiatives:** unspecified

**Start date:** 08-10-2008

**End date:** 30-06-2014

**Website:** [www.mera.ie](http://www.mera.ie)

**ERDF Grant:** 916,085.56

**Total eligible cost:** 1,832,171.12

#### **Lead Partner contact person**

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**Country:** Ireland

#### **Project partners**

1. Mid-East Regional Authority [IE]
2. The PRIME Initiative Ltd. [UK]
3. inno TSD / Cap Entreprises [FR]

#### **Summary description**

APPLYING FOR SI 4: DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE Support for enterprise creation or other forms of entrepreneurial activity among older people

The objective of Senior Enterprise is an increase in the economic contribution of older people to their local communities through a variety of means: starting new businesses alone or with others, investing in or acquiring businesses started by others, or by advising or supporting innovation in SMEs. This project's ambition reflects a refreshingly positive approach which sees people aged 50+ as a resource to be empowered rather than as a burden

Through an orchestrated awareness campaign, the strategic impact of this initiative will be wider than the number of persons directly engaged and will go beyond the locality. At the end of the pilot, the fully tested initiative will be ready to attract further funding, as the best practice model will be transferable and will be of interest to policy makers responsible for enterprise and demographic change

The current economic downturn sees pressure on employment and pensions for older people. Entrepreneurship and engagement with enterprise provides a means for these individuals to continue to be gainfully employed while providing a range of other economic and personal benefits. The initiative will develop and test, in a number of transnational contexts, suitable means of tapping into the knowledge, skills and resource base that exist among older age groups (50+) in order to increase the number of new enterprises being started and as a means of strengthening new and existing SMEs. The activity directly links to the Lisbon and Gothenberg agendas and is expected to have long term impact.

As a result of the initiative, older citizens will be encouraged to remain active, contribute to the

development of vibrant communities and engage across the generations. A real contribution will be made to strengthening growth, competitiveness and innovation across the NWE area.

### **Detailed description**

Senior Enterprise has been almost 18 months in development. During this time the partners and observers have established a very good working relationship. Already it is clear that each has expertise and insights that are valued by the others and all welcome the opportunity to learn from each other and share ideas.

The process of developing the Senior Enterprise initiative from a general concept to detailed, fully costed plans for activities across four work packages, with defined outcomes and timescales for each partner, has demonstrated the commitment of the group and its ability to work well together as a very effective transnational team. The planning of Senior Enterprise is developed to the point of the initiative being ready to be implemented as soon as approval is obtained.

The partners have worked well to date under the leadership of the Mid East. Thematic Leaders, who have particular interest and expertise in the relevant area, have been appointed to each of the WPs. The partners will sign a partnership agreement based on the template supplied by INTERREG in which the role and responsibilities of all the parties will be clearly set out.

Building on the plans submitted by the individual partners an overall project management timetable is being prepared. This will be formally reviewed with the partners every quarter. The Thematic Leaders will be responsible for the successful implementation of their WP. Specific timetables will be agreed within which work packages will be delivered & progress will be continually monitored towards meeting these deadlines-See Section 3.

The partners will meet in person twice a year to share experience and learning. These meetings will be timed if possible to coincide with events associated with the project e.g. conferences, workshops etc. The Lead Partner will visit individual partners more regularly. Personal meetings will be supplemented by regular contact through email, telephone/Skype and videoconferencing.

### **Objectives description**

Senior Enterprise is an integrated initiative, which is presented in four Work Packages: WPI RAISING AWARENESS OF SENIOR ENTERPRISE; WP2 STARTING & PARTNERING; WP3 INVESTING & ACQUIRING; WP4 ADVISING & SUPPORTING INNOVATION. Through implementation of these work packages, it is intended that Senior Enterprise will offer support for enterprise creation and other forms of enterprise activity among older people as a means of retaining them as economically active citizens while providing a range of personal and economic benefits to them and their local communities. The AIMS of Senior Enterprise are as follows:

- (i) Raising awareness among the over 50s of the merits of entrepreneurship and engagement with enterprise
- (ii) The creation of a more positive view among policy makers of the potential of this group
- (iii) An increase in the proportion of those aged 50+ who become entrepreneurs, alone or with others
- (iv) An increase in the number of older people investing in new or existing businesses, or acquiring enterprises from owner managers wishing to retire
- (v) An increase in the number of knowledgeable and experienced seniors that are available as mentors, coaches or as part of advisory boards to new and established entrepreneurs to support development, growth and innovation within their businesses
- (vi) An increase in the number of experienced mentors specially trained to support older entrepreneurs
- (vi) The establishment of a EUROPEAN SENIOR ENTERPRISE ASSOCIATION, which will remain in place after the end of the project
- (vii) At the end of the pilot, the fully tested initiative will have demonstrated its merits and should be ready to be mainstreamed and attract further funding as project outcomes will be transferable.



## **Activities description**

1. The development and testing through action of SUPPORT PROGRAMMES and INSTRUMENTS suitable to meet the needs of those aged 50+ who wish to engage with enterprise, together with recommendations as to the tailoring required for specific regional circumstances. These will be designed to encourage a greater engagement by older people with starting, partnering, acquiring, investing, advising and supporting innovation in new and existing businesses
2. A published collection of ROLE MODEL PROFILES across various economic sectors that will demonstrate through example the manner in which older individuals have successfully engaged with enterprise across the partner regions, e.g. Cuisine de France: Pat Loughery 50+ partnered with Ronan McNamee in starting this venture, since acquired by IAWS
3. By the end of the pilot a fully tested BEST PRACTICE MODEL will be available so that Senior Enterprise may be implemented more widely within the NWE area and more broadly across Europe. The 9 observers have indicated their strong interest in the project through formal letters. They are particularly well positioned to facilitate the dissemination of Senior Enterprise.
4. The development of a fully interactive and well promoted WEBSITE will assist
  - Those in the older age groups who wish to investigate the various means available to them to engage with enterprise
  - Communication between participants and between member partners/observers
  - Other agencies/organisations across EU that wish to implement Senior Enterprise within their regions/countries
5. EUROPEAN SENIOR ENTERPRISE ASSOCIATION will be set-up with the involvement of a wide range of stakeholders, and will continue in existence long after the life of the project. The LP and several of the observers are involved in Sen@er Network. Insights from this Network will add value to the new Association.

## **Innovation**

Senior Enterprise is highly innovative as it addresses both the demographic change challenge facing the NWE (SI 4 related to Priority 4) while being related in many respects to Priority 1 Innovation. The Green Paper on Entrepreneurship 2003 and Small Business Act 2008 look to untapped segments of the population i.e. women and immigrants as having greater entrepreneurial and enterprise potential than is currently apparent. Senior Enterprise adopts an innovative approach in viewing older people as similarly having untapped entrepreneurship and enterprise potential. The proposed approach seeks to leverage the accumulated resources, expertise & experience of older individuals in order to address the challenge to increase entrepreneurial activity, strengthen the enterprise base and improve innovation. It is designed with an understanding of what enterprise needs and an understanding of barriers faced by this age group and what they can offer in terms of their accumulated resources. Senior Enterprise takes what is most frequently seen as a negative — demographic change, in particular an ageing population — and turns this into a resource for new and existing businesses with knock on positive effects on growth, entrepreneurship and innovation within vibrant communities. The approach of Senior Enterprise is to apply the skills and talents of the one to the needs of the other. The result should bring about a much needed increase in the number of entrepreneurs, business partnerships across the generations, investors, innovators and advisers/mentors. The project proposal has a direct fit with regional, national and policy imperatives, is expected to have outcomes that will have long term benefit, and focuses on resolving challenges through new action led solutions. Senior Enterprise presents a totally new, integrated solution to address the challenges posed for Europe by ageing, declining communities, and an enterprise deficit.

## **North Sea Region**

Priority 4: Promoting sustainable and competitive communities creating attractive places to live and work in.

Objective 1: To secure solutions to the needs of areas in decline to ensure that they contribute to the economic and social wealth of the North Sea Region.

Therefore projects have to tackle the needs of areas in decline in terms of economy and population because of out migration of young people and effects of demographic changes such as an ageing population.

## **1) DC NOISE Demographic Change: New Opportunities in Shrinking Europe**

### **Summary**

DC NOISE aims to deal with demographic change related issues, namely labour market, service provision and housing issues by developing transferable action strategies in the North Sea Region.

The project activities include the creation of a transnational housing atlas which contributes to the implementation of transferable and innovative housing approaches and a regional level statistical monitoring system including demographic data and indicators, as well as themes such as 'DC and the impact on the labour market for higher educated', the introduction of a 'housing ambassador' approach and researching and communicating 'day to day Information & Communication Technology for people with a mobility handicap'.

All activities contribute to finding mechanisms to reduce job, service and population loss and to promote attractive regions supported by concrete measures to raise the awareness of demographic change in the North Sea Region.

Duration	ERDF Grant
01/06/2008 - 30/06/2011	2,549,456.00 €
Priority	ERDF Equivalent
4 - Promoting Sustainable and Competitive Communities	517,544.00 €
Area of Intervention	Total Eligible Budget
4.1 Tackling the needs of areas in decline	6,134,000.00 €

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### **Lead Beneficiary**

Region of Twente, The Netherlands  
Roos Galjaard and Linda van Asselt  
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Project Homepage  
**[www.dcnoise.eu](http://www.dcnoise.eu)**

### **Beneficiaries per Country**

#### **The Netherlands**

Region of Twente  
Province of Zeeland  
Province of Groningen

#### **Belgium**

Province of West-Flanders  
Province of East-Flanders  
ERSV Oost-Vlaanderen  
ERSV West- Vlaanderen

#### **Norway**

Knutepunkt Sørlandet

## **Germany**

Freie und Hansestadt Hamburg  
Kommunalverbund Niedersachsen/ Bremen  
Senator für Umwelt, Bau, Verkehr und Europa Bremen  
PlusPunkt GmbH  
Johann Daniel Lawaetz-Foundation

## **United Kingdom**

University of Abertay Dundee

## **Background and Aim**

### Aim

The central aim of the project is to make the North Sea Region ready to cope with its demographic future. That means both dealing with the negative effects of demographic change and at the same time taking advantage of the economic and social opportunities offered by this process.

Within DC NOISE transnational actions will aim to:

- Develop and implement pilot actions tackling issues related to new approaches to service delivery,
- Develop actions revitalising declining towns and cities in response to demographic trends,
- Develop and implement pilot actions tackling opportunities and challenges for economic restructuring, particularly in the fields of health, care and leisure/tourism or social and labour market stabilisation.

Activities and objectives are aimed at raising awareness, finding possible solutions and, in co-operation with stakeholders, strategies and actions to deal with the consequences of demographic change.

### Background

Demographic change is now recognised as one of the three most significant challenges facing Europe and its regions. The urgency of the situation is highlighted in the Green Paper on Demographic Change (2005) which forecasts an increase in the number of people aged 65+ of more than 50% by 2030 with a reduction in natural population growth across nearly all EU regions.

Demographic change is a particular issue in the North Sea Region, and the implications of this are already becoming apparent. Demographic change consists of different trends: total population decline, diminishing number of young people, shrinking labour force, ageing society, changing ethnic composition of population owing to differential migration, changing household composition.

Facing the demographic challenge through means such as increasing employment rates, integrating legal migrants and shaping infrastructures and services in response to ageing are now widely stated, but have yet to be consistently put into practice.

Together the partners of DC NOISE are facing the challenge and are seeking to develop new approaches in practice and to share the lessons they learn throughout the North Sea Region. The actions that we take will impact on employment opportunities in the region, the competitiveness of the region and on social wellbeing, cohesion and quality of life for individual residents. Together they will truly support the development of sustainable and competitive communities.

Transnational cooperation will be the start of mutual European adjustment in policy answers to demographic change. It helps to bring the subject on the agenda of national and regional authorities and gives financial support, thereby creating the necessary conditions for experiment, finding creative solutions and new strategies, and be ready for the future.

## **Expected Outcomes**

- Transnational housing atlas, new housing concepts for elderly,
- Monitoring system on demographic change (DC). Regional level statistical monitoring system including demographic data and indicators,
- Improved infrastructure for elderly, ICT solutions for service provision for handling and analysing data in relation to monitoring the consequences of demographic change,
- An integrated monitoring system on demographic change,
- Analysis of the consequences of demographic change. A transnational scenario-logbook,
- New strategies to cope with demographic change, such as integration methods for elderly (50+), higher integration- and employment rates, re-education and recruitment of economically vulnerable employees, including youngsters and immigrants,
- Strategic document with best practices and advice to influence EU labour market policies.

## Central Europe

Priority 4.2: Addressing the territorial effects of demographic and social change on urban and regional development.

Projects have to reduce negative effects of the demographic and social change by:

- putting innovative solutions for service-provision and for the adaptation and provision of key services and infrastructures into practice
- promoting actions for adapting cities and regions to the needs of specific groups of population like elderly people
- implementing transnational strategies to counter-balance social and spatial segregation and to integrate aspects of citizens' participation at an early stage of planning
- promoting actions for the provisions of public services in the proximity of residential quarters
- developing and applying innovative solutions for addressing bottlenecks in urban development
- using next urban technologies to bring innovative and effective solutions to public services
- applying cross-sectoral actions to adapt the housing stock to current needs and to integrate housing into urban and regional development policies.

### 1) Health and Social Services Project

Created 08 April 2010

Last update 08 April 2010

#### Project idea owner

##### **Institution**

##### **Country**

Alessia Zanuso

Esfera S.r.l.

Italy

#### General aim of the Project

The increase in the number of very old dependent persons also raises new problems of an economic, social or even ethical nature. The objective of Project idea is to set health and social services in cooperation area by developing and transferring a care model for people with special needs. At the same time, the project foresees the exploitation of natural resources, in particular geothermal heat with a curative and energetic purpose. The types of project activities that will be undertaken are: a. Developing studies on territorial needs and welfare features; b. Setting up an operational model: key features of human resources, training and services delivered; c. Setting up a modular facilities for health care with sustainable exploitation of natural resources; d. Pilot project aiming to develop facilities providing health and social services; e. Developing feasibility studies for providing health and social services in the project areas.

**Expected results** (either quantifiable or tangible)

According to decennial experiences of some health operators, the objective is to carry out facilities able to receive potential users. These facilities should be located in areas with geothermal sources for therapeutic and energy exploitation.

**Estimated total cost** (€ if known)

3.000.000€

**Estimated project duration** (in months)

36

**Partners involved at this stage**

Italy, Slovakia, Czech Republic

**Further partners requested**

Poland, Germany, Austria

**Partners' benefits**

Central Europe Regions face similar issues

**What is innovative**

Project will offer a innovative, eco-friendly and repeatable model across the regions to address challenges coming from demographic ageing.

**Follow-up project of**

no

**Other funding Programme**

**2) 'Central European Knowledge Platform for an Ageing Society'**

Created 24 November 2008

Last update 24 February 2010

**Project idea owner**

**Institution**

**Country**

Anette Scoppetta

ZSI

Austria

**General aim of the Project**

- to contribute to minimise negative effects and impacts of demographic trends on an ageing society & economy and to improve framework conditions (e.g. programmes, regulations) by adapting policies, governance processes and mechanisms to demographic change;
- to reduce regional disparities as well as spatial segregation of target groups by providing a platform for exchanging knowledge on practices between urban and rural areas, between national and regional levels as well as at the transnational level;
- to make better use of the existing endogenous potentials of an increasingly diverse and aging workforce by raising awareness on demographic change, developing ageing strategies as well as state-of-the-art training concepts;
- as well as to promote new service designs and up-grade skills and knowledge of the target group to meet the demands of SME's as well as to contribute to sustainable change by establishing a joint strategy.

### **Expected results** (either quantifiable or tangible)

- Joint 'Forum on Ageing in Central Europe' as well as development of an 'CENTRAL EUROPE AGE-Strategy';
- Establishment of Regional Ageing Platforms; as well as
- Implementation of innovative measures/services for SME's in the area of diversity management, life-long learning, work-life-balance and health
- 

### **Estimated total cost** (€ if known)

€ 2.500.000.

### **Estimated project duration** (in months)

36 months

### **Partners involved at this stage**

The core partnership comprises 2 partners per country (delegates from the national level as well as representatives from local/regional partnerships). Partners of the following core countries will participate: AT, CZ, DE, HU, IT, PL, SI as well as SK. In addition, experts (e.g. from Scandinavia) are actively involved in project implementation. The lead partner of the ageing platform will be the Chamber of Labour Upper Austria.

### **Further partners requested**

Experts in the field of demographic change and ageing society (e.g. local and regional partnerships) will act as strategic partners (eg. partners from Ukraine).

### **Partners' benefits**

- Building up a knowledge platform for an ageing society, promotion of cooperation, knowledge transfer, implementation of a joint strategy in CE, reduction of regional and transnational disparities;
- Discussing framework conditions for knowledge development of human capital on the transnational, national as well as regional/local levels and developing transnational cooperation & networks between economic drivers, training institutions and labour market institutions;
- Raising awareness of an ageing society and demographic changes as well as the role of human capital (LLL, HRD policies, social inclusion, health, etc.);
- Exchanging and learning on innovative approaches taken in the countries (filter, benchmark and highlight best practices as well as results achieved)and promoting new service designs;
- as well as Improving the quality of already established services for specific groups, adapting services to demographic change and fostering social inclusion.

### **What is innovative**

Innovation in our sense comprises the acceptance and implementation of new concepts, practices and processes to overcome obstacles. By stimulating and ensuring learning between partners the innovation capacities of participating institutions will increase. Furthermore, the partners will promote innovation as integral part of their Operational Programmes, policies and actions (context-oriented innovation). On top of that the project itself will implement innovative approaches and will set a good example: First of all, a holistic approach is practiced by developing the CE-Strategy which is brand-new in respect of the topic demographic change implemented at transnational level for all 8 countries in CE (process- and goal-oriented innovation). Secondly, the pilots contain innovative designs, set new methods into practice, target the governance systems of the regions and use individual innovative target approaches. Last but not least, the innovative elements implemented by the project will be mainstreamed so that lessons learnt by the project will be made available and used in future.

### **Follow-up project of**

The project builds on the cooperation/network of partnerships on the local/regional level of the countries as well as on the believe to jointly work together in respect to the demographic change. The Austrian TEPs cooperate intensively on ageing and developed a green paper for elderly in 2006. The partnerships are already cooperating with their counterparts in the neighbouring countries, such as the TEPs in Germany, partnerships in Hungary, etc. via the 'Cross-border cooperation Euregio Burgenland – West Nyugat Pannonia', Trilateral Conferences Hungary-Austria-Slovenia, CENTROPE Cooperation of Vienna, Upper Austria, etc.). The Centre for Social Innovation (ZSI) will act as assisting body for project implementation within the CE Ageing platform and coordinates the OECD LEED Forum on Partnerships and Local Governance, the National Coordination Unit of TEPs and the Community of Practice on Partnership in the ESF. We build on our intense knowledge and trust between the institutions. We put new ideas into practice to bring innovative and effective solutions to public services.

### **Other funding Programme**

None

### **3) JAHA**

Created 18 December 2007

Last update 25 March 2008

### **Project idea owner**

#### **Institution**

#### **Country**

Wolf Stein

AWOSA gGmbH

Germany

### **General aim of the Project**

Everywhere in Europe, the structure of different generations living together is more and more losing its balance. In addition, the INTERREG Area Central Europe is affected by the enormous shrinking of the population of its nations. This process is leading to depopulation in rural regions and increasing centres of population. The demographic development, characterized by the progressive ageing of the population, has an increasing effect on the existing social infrastructure. The existing structure of social consensus is no longer suitable. The structures of regulation and action have to be revised. The basis cohesion needs to be defined all over again and adapted to the current development. These facts of which the dimension has so far been considered of little importance by the public opinion require a reorientation of the urban and rural structures. The aim is to support together with the national and transnational partners the structures which allow a connection to innovations that be developed in practise. The tools and methods have to maintain and strengthen the social cohesion. Especially services and a range of infrastructure needs to be developed which allow active ageing with self-determination, autonomy and participation. The networking system of health authorities, social administration, providers of health services, residential housing companies and craftsmanship needs to be optimized. By the German possible solution called "Young elderly Help Old Elderly – Senior Citi-zens` Partnerships" a tool will be developed and realized which, within the framework of transnational partnership, will generate an added value. This will be achieved by the means of self-help networks and the development of personal economic services like those of a concierge for instance.

### **Expected results** (either quantifiable or tangible)

The objective is the creation of a common multilingual guideline (reader) accompanied by public relations work which deals with the existing issues, describes experience and results and recommends how zu act. This is where in a transnational context die experience made in discussions about the concept of the self-help groups can be presented. The European added value will be acquired in the course of the project by dealing with the different national contexts. Simultaneously to the course of the project, the possible solutions of the partner countries and published by conferences, workshops or internet

presentations. This is how, on a transnational basis, the common identification with the possible solutions is strengthened.

**Estimated total cost** (€ if known)

€ 3,2 million totaly

**Estimated project duration** (in months)

36 months

**Partners involved at this stage**

Partners national / regional Stadtverwaltung Teltow Geronto-Zentrum Teltow MB media gGmbH  
Wohnbaugesellschaft Teltow mbH Teltower Wohnbaugenossenschaft e.G.

**Further partners requested**

At first: City council or NGO Poland City council or NGO Italy City council or NGO Hungary

**Partners' benefits**

The results serves as a benefit in the cooperation partners regions and create synergies for other INTERREG areas

**What is innovative**

The aim is to create tools and methods to maintain and strengthen the social cohesion. Especially services and a range of infrastructure needs to be developed which allow active ageing with self-determination, autonomy and participation. The networking system of health authorities, social administration, providers of health services, residential housing companies and craftsmanship needs to be optimized.

**Follow-up project of**

No

**Other funding Programme**

No

**4) Seniors' Urban (living) Space**

Created 15 March 2010

Last update 16 March 2010

**Project idea owner**

**Institution**

**Country**

Monika Tomczyk

University of Szczecin

Poland

**General aim of the Project**

The European countries faces a potential future dominated by an ever-increasing population of retired citizens and that the average age of European society will grow ever higher. It needs not only the economical strategies, but the whole structural program how to deal and live with Seniors. Project Seniors Urban ( living) space aims to minimize the isolation of the elderly, activation of seniors through artistic expression and sports (for example European Festival of Seniors art, Nordic Walking ) -stimulation and promotion of the passion of the elderly -providing the possibility of self-fulfillment to raise self-esteem and sense of social usefulness – workshops, meetings, festivals, etc. - Application of new technologies to enhance the safety of older people in urban space and beyond - give the international rank to the cultural and sport's events - to show the value of older people and popularizing proactive of Seniors, - establish a network of senior citizens in the maintenance of information and advice about the possibilities of support



and activities for local and European forms of support -Benchmarking-developing and implementing a knowledge exchange, study visits, internships, implement good practices for social services, ADMIN local government institutions, NGOs, social welfare homes - develop and implement a public campaign aimed at changing the perception of the elderly in society and their own activation through the project (website, newsletter, bulletin, I define the area of senior-architectural barriers, the development of new solutions to enhance quality of life for seniors, and lobbying in the local government and architects in order to promote these solutions - development of concepts and possibly implementation the best senior relaxing spaces -separated easily accessible space in the city adjusted to the possibility of locomotors activity of the elderly. The program in this area, and foresee the development of youth training program to coordinate motor activity seniors.

**Expected results** (either quantifiable or tangible)

- Reducing stereotypical perceptions of older people in society as a socially less useful
- Increased activity to improve the quality of life
- popularization of new GPS technology to enhance the safety of the elderly
- use of information technology to build ties between generations and social and dissemination activities and offerings for the elderly
- organization of international cultural and sports activities for seniors
- create a catalogue of architectural barriers that hinder elderly life in contemporary urban space
- create a catalogue of needs and architectural solutions for improving the quality of life for older people
- organization of a conference in the environment of local governments, universities and institutions. NGOs, local governments for the popularization and implementation of new attitudes of the elderly

**Estimated total cost** (€ if known)

2 mln

**Estimated project duration** (in months)

30 months

**Partners involved at this stage**

not establish yet

**Further partners requested**

Germany, Italy – Universities, NGOs, local government

**Partners' benefits**

- offer even more attractive partner cities in the sphere of activities for seniors
- establishing / give fresh impetus to cooperation between the institutions of culture, sport, assist the elderly, local government
- exchange of knowledge and experience - popularizing offers partners in the platform senior.eu
- participation of specialists in the various studies and implementations of the project
- use of developed solutions
- called a friendly city for the elderly

**What is innovative**

The elderlyliving trend that has touched Europe is very well seen and analysis. Innovative is treating this representatives of Central Europe as a big market which need to adapts to surviving in big cities. Urban elderly living is a sphere where people will live theirs everyday live. This project will show how to addpat urban living to the elderly living space and will build a one compatible and comprehensive place.

**Follow-up project of**

No

### **Other funding Programme**

no

## **5) InHealth**

Created 17 March 2010

Last update 17 March 2010

### **Project idea owner**

#### **Institution**

#### **Country**

Silvana Rückert

Aufbauwerk Region Leipzig GmbH

Germany

### **General aim of the Project**

The aging of the society takes place throughout Europe. The number of elderly people increases while the number of the younger generation decreases. The longevity of the society leads to a modified patient structure and thus to a modified need of care. The number of long term care and dementia patients is constantly growing. Especially the improvement of the geriatric care is a crucial element in cushioning the demographic change. The aim of an (ambulant) geriatric care is the amendment of the life quality and autonomy of elderly people. In order to reach this goal and to ensure the independency of elderly people as long as possible, a local care system is required. The health place 'household' becomes more important and must be improved through local care services, offers and products. An 'all around care package' for geriatric patients helps to optimise the care of patients, more life quality in age and to an increased satisfaction of all relevant actors (e. g. relatives, nursing service, medical care). This can be realised through a cooperative medical care and a close sector comprehensive cooperation of different health care providers to ensure local care services.

### **Expected results**

(either quantifiable or tangible)

The projects overall aim is the improvement of the life quality and autonomy of elderly people through an innovative care system. In order to reach this goal, the coordination of the political, economical as well as the scientific sector are essential and necessary. This 'triangle' principle allows a goal-oriented interaction (think tank) to find new approaches and ideas in order to meet the social changes with the necessary responsibility. As the geriatric care becomes a more important medical key discipline in the common years, an innovative, patient-oriented care system to serve the needs of elderly people must be build and developed. Therefore, a network cluster of medical-economical institutions (e. g. hospitals, ambulant care), scientific institutions (e.g. research institutes, educational institutions) and political institutions (e. g. different authorities) will be established as contact point | service pool for elderly people. Services for elderly people will be optimised (e. g. living facilities) and adequately adapted to their need. Furthermore, new financial strategies how to better involve relatives in the care system will be developed and partly tested.

### **Estimated total cost** (€ if known)

2.000.000

### **Estimated project duration** (in months)

36 months

### **Partners involved at this stage**

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### **Further partners requested**

per region one local authority and one medical institution (hospital)

### **Partners' benefits**

transnational health-economical development concept for all around care package

### **What is innovative**

new markets for services will be developed

### **Follow-up project of**

no

### **Other funding Programme**

No

## **INTERREG IV C**

Priority 1: innovation and the knowledge economy

### **1) Innovation for societal change: PEOPLE**

Sub theme : Employment, human capital and education

Acronym: PEOPLE

Lead Partner: Government of Andalusia. Ministry for the Equality and Social Welfare

Mail address: miguel.presencio@juntadeandalucia.es

Contact person: Miguel Presencio Fernández

Type of intervention: 1: Regional Initiative Project

ERDF requested: EUR 2 942 936,00

Total budget requested : EUR 3 856 320,00

### **Summary:**

This mini-programme's overall objective is to improve policy responses to demographic and societal change, such as ageing population, new family structures, immigration and emergence of new and vulnerable social groups. The project involves 7 regions from 7 different EU member states.

### **2) Capitalising Innovative Approaches towards Demographic Change: ESF6 CIA**

Sub theme: Employment, human capital and education

Acronym: ESF6 CIA

Lead Partner: Aufbauwerk Region Leipzig GmbH

Mail address: rueckert@aufbauwerk-leipzig.com

Contact person : Silvana Rückert

Type of intervention: 2: Capitalisation Project

ERDF requested : EUR 1 124 016,00

Total budget requested : EUR 1 445 248,00

### **Summary :**

Best practices on tackling demographic change – notably a falling birth rate and increasing life span – are the subject of this project, capitalising on experiences gained under the Innovative Actions programme (article 6 – demographic change). The eleven partners, representing eight countries, will benefit from the various experiences of each partner. This project will benefit from Fast Track assistance from the EC.

### **3) Declining, Ageing and Regional Transformation: DART**

Sub theme: Employment, human capital and education

Acronym: DART

Lead Partner: InvestitionsBank des Landes Brandenburg

Mail address: pertti.hermannek@ilb.de

Contact person: Pertti Hermannek

Type of intervention: 1: Regional Initiative Project

ERDF requested: 1 579 941,50 €

Total budget requested: 2 050 098,00 €

#### **Summary :**

Declining, Ageing and Regional Transformation (DART), demographic and economic change is a great challenge for about 30% of EU regions and this amount will increase up to 50% in 2030. Within the DART regions there are several projects dealing with special fields of policy. But most of them focus on sector-specific and are only insular solutions. The purpose of DART is to achieve an adjustment of policies relating to demographic change.

### **4) RURALAND: Rural development players**

Sub theme: Entrepreneurship and SMEs

Acronym: RURALAND

Lead Partner: Regional ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture of Andalusia (ES)

Mail address: herminia.martinez@juntadeandalucia.es

Contact person: Herminia Martinez

Type of intervention: 1: Regional Initiative Project

ERDF requested: 2286191,25 €

Total budget requested: 2994143 €

#### **Summary:**

Rural areas in Europe are affected by various problems encompassing depopulation, ageing population, a lack of non-agricultural employment, and a less competitive production sector than in the urban areas. With the RURALAND project, 10 partners coming from 9 EU countries expressed their wish to promote innovative and competitive rural development policies. RURALAND is thus encouraging territorial competitiveness and supporting the economic diversification of rural areas by exchanging knowledge and identifying good practices.

## Networks

### URBACT

Projects that may deal with ageing population are classified under the active inclusion theme.

#### 1) Active A.G.E

**ACTIVEAGE is a thematic network focused on the demographic ageing that is a characteristic of all EU member states. This project seeks to develop an exchange of experience between 9 cities facing an ageing population - in order to develop greater professional capacity and thus identify and develop good practices - and help them to put in place an integrated approach to dealing with these issues.**

In the EU25 the proportion of elderly people (aged 65 and more) will increase from 16.4% in 2004 to 29.9% in 2050 or from 75.3 million in 2004 to 134.5 million in 2050. The highest proportions of elderly people in 2050 are expected in Spain (35.6%), Italy (35.3%), and Greece (32.5%). As far as the elderly dependency ratio is concerned (population aged 65 and more as a percentage of population aged between 15 and 64), this means that, whereas in 2004 there was one inactive person (young or elderly) for every two persons of working age, **in 2050 there would be three inactive persons for every four of working age.**

Even if the impact of demographic ageing differs from city to city and from region to region, it will influence nearly every sphere of life: labour markets, housing, social security systems, infrastructures, urban/spatial planning, education, budgets and finances.

The partners in this network have highlighted the following common sub-themes that will form the basis of the transnational exchange:

- **Ageing and economy** (enterprise and the “silver” economy).
- **Impact on care systems/arrangements.**
- **Ageing and insecurity.**

The main issue of the project is to produce **9 action plans** in order to implement concrete actions for an integrated approach to labour market and social policies for older people.

#### Challenges

All European countries are facing challenges from demographic change. Due to the drop in fertility rates and the generalized increase of life expectancy, Europeans are gradually becoming older, fewer and more heterogeneous, bringing about complex consequences for local and regional authorities.

The impact of demographic ageing appears particularly severe in the field of labour market and social inclusion policies. In spite of the commitment made by the Lisbon strategy, employment and activity rates of elderly workers are still low in many European countries. Moreover, the risk of social exclusion for people losing their job in advanced age is high, due to difficult employability and skills obsolescence. On the other hand, population ageing poses obvious challenges for the provision of social services, and in particular of elderly care facilities. In this context, the quality of health and care institutions needs to be improved, along with their capacity.

Local authorities are particularly affected by these developments: they bear responsibility for providing public services (including, in many cases, employment and social services) and are the locus of civil society engagement. Each of the partners faces similar problems and challenges. All have ageing populations. The city of Rome has developed a strategy for the retention of older workers in the labour market. Prague and Thessaloniki are facing issues in relation to employment, care and social services.

Edinburgh, the second largest city in Scotland, copes with ageing and deprivation areas in need of regeneration as major issues and large migrant population, while Maribor faces an early leave from labour market due to health problems concerning old people. All the partners have a need to develop a more integrated approach and one that seeks to promote active ageing, along with inclusive and mixed inter-generational communities.

### **Key point of focus**

On the basis of the baseline analysis, the Active A.G.E. working group has singled out three policy areas as the most compelling in the specific local realities, namely:

- *Age and the economy*, addressing constraints and opportunities more directly related to the labour market. It will focus on the factors affecting both the supply and the demand side of the labour market, with specific reference to the older workers' participation: the older workers' job retention and quality; employability, adaptability and re-entry; enterprise development.
- *Age and care services*, covering new demands for long-term care and home-based care services, as well as innovative ways of financing independent living.
- *Age and insecurity*, embracing an integrated approach to demographic ageing and social inclusion concerns such as older people in conditions of poverty, housing, the social life of the elderly and active citizenship.

Developing and implementing exchange and learning activities on sustainable urban policies, with the focus on these topics, is considered by the Active A.G.E. working group an important step towards the achievement of active ageing.

Among the experiences and the expectations which have been signalled by partners as important are more methodological issues that concern the design and implementation of tools and methodologies to better assess the impact of demographic ageing in urban landscapes, the set up of detailed databases of the main features of target groups in order improve the municipalities' capacity to analyze and assess elderly people's needs, define tailored policies and mobilize stakeholders.

Partners: cities from Italy, UK, Spain, Czech Republic, Greece, Poland, Slovenia, Bulgaria

## **SEN@ER**

The *SEN@ER - Silver Economy Network of European Regions* is a joint initiative of European regions initiated by the region of North Rhine-Westphalia (Germany).

This European initiative regards the ageing of our society not as a threat but rather as a challenge and an opportunity for regional economic growth and for improving Europe's competitiveness. To realise this, the Silver Economy Network of European Regions (SEN@ER) has been established as a European-wide network of regions to promote the development and marketing of innovative products and services aimed at this new market segment, thereby contributing to regional development and job creation.

The SEN@ER was founded and established on 18 February 2005 at the first European Silver Economy Conference in Bonn, Germany.

During the conference, several European regions announced the foundation and establishment of the network and signed the

- Bonn Declaration for the Silver Economy.

They also agreed on their future work programme by signing the

- SEN@ER Agreement.

Several European Regions are members of the SEN@ER - Silver Economy Network of European Regions. They all signed the “Bonn Declaration” and agreed on their future work programme for the coming months and years when signing the “SEN@ER Agreement”. As of December 2006, the following regions and cities are members of the SEN@ER network:

- Nordrhein-Westfalen
- Extremadura
- Gelderland
- Limburg
- Limousin
- Mid-East Region
- North West England

The work of the SEN@ER network is coordinated by a European Secretariat located in Bonn, Germany and run by empirica GmbH and receiving basic financing from the Ministry for Intergenerational Affairs, Family, Women and Integration of North Rhine-Westphalia.

The overriding goal of the SEN@ER network is to improve the quality of life for older citizens, stimulate economic activity for growth and job creation, and support cohesion and inclusion across European Union regions.

At a more concrete level, the SEN@ER objectives are:

- **Awareness raising:** Develop policy memoranda and communications, present these to, discuss them with and get them approved by policy makers at regional, national and EU-level in order to define and support European-wide Silver Economy policy development.
- **Exchange of experience:** Organise thematic Special Interest Groups (SIGs) and experience exchange workshops on specific Silver Economy issues, like Ageing Well, Culture and Financial Services.
- **Conferences:** Organise annual European conferences and good-practice competitions with the first one organised in 2005 in Bonn/Germany, the second in 2006 Kerkrade/Netherlands and the third in 2007 in Seville/Spain. The fourth European Silver Economy conference took place in Limoges/France in 2010.
- **Communication:** Maintain the European Silver Economy website, publish regular Silver Economy newsletters, prepare papers & presentations on Silver Economy issues.
- **EU lobbying:** Regular meetings and talks with representatives from the European Commission and the European Parliament, invitation to and participation in EC consultation processes and expert workshops.
- **Empowerment of regions:** Presentation and explanation of relevant EU funding programmes in the form of factsheets and workshops, development of project ideas and proposal outlines.
- **Cooperations:** Setting up international project consortia.
- **Successful proposals:** Supporting the partner regions in writing proposals for EU funding programmes.