

FUTURAGE

National Consultations Ageing Research Priorities in Europe until 2025 ITALY

This report describes the Italian ageing research priorities come out from the FUTURAGE National Consultation.

The procedure adopted following the project guidelines started with the translation and customization of the agreed letter and the questionnaire; the most important ageing research stakeholders to be involved in the FUTURAGE National Consultation were therefore selected. The consultation was performed mainly using a list of the relevant stakeholders and key-person contacted by mean their email address.

The criteria adopted for the inclusion of the professionals involved in the survey took into account the relevance of the contribution to the ageing research area and were oriented to cover at least the main activities domains that are listed below:

- National scientific institutes for research, hospitalization and health care (IRCCS)
- University post-graduate geriatric and gerontology courses
- Public health research institutes and Ministry of Health
- Non governative organizations
- Municipalities and regions.

The questionnaire was sent to 72 institutions. The following is the list of consulted centres.

LIST OF CONSULTED CENTRES

NATIONAL SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTES FOR RESEARCH, HOSPITALIZATION & HEALTH CARE (IRCCS)

1. **Centro Riferimento Oncologico della Basilicata – Rionero in Vulture**
2. **Istituto Ortopedico Rizzoli – Bologna**
3. **Centro di Riferimento Oncologico – Aviano, PN**
4. **Casa di Cura S. Raffaele Pisana – Roma**
5. **Fondazione S. Lucia – Roma**
6. **Istituti Fisioterapici Ospitalieri – Istituto Regina Elena / Istituto Dermatologico Santa Maria e San Gallicano – Roma**
7. **Istituto Nazionale per la Ricerca sul Cancro – Genova**
8. **Istituto Eugenio Medea – Bosisio Parini (LC)**
9. **Centro San Giovanni di Dio-Fatebenefratelli – Brescia**
10. **Centro Cardiologico SpA Fondazione Monzino – Milano**
11. **Fondazione Centro San Raffaele – Milano**
12. **Fondazione Don Carlo Gnocchi Onlus – Milano**
13. **Fondazione Istituto Nazionale per lo Studio e la Cura dei Tumori – Milano**
14. **Fondazione Istituto Neurologico “Carlo Besta” – Milano**
15. **Istituto Auxologico Italiano – Milano**
16. **Istituto Ortopedico Galeazzi – Milano**
17. **Fondazione Salvatore Maugeri – Pavia**
18. **Fondazione Istituto Neurologico Casimiro Mondino – Pavia**
19. **Istituto Nazionale di Riposo e Cura per Anziani (INRCA) – Ancona**
20. **Istituto Neurologico Mediterraneo – NEUROMED – Pozzilli, IS**
21. **Istituto Tumori Giovanni Paolo II – Bari**
22. **Ospedale “Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza” – Dipartimento Scienze Mediche – Struttura Complessa di Geriatria – Foggia**
23. **Istituto Oncologico Veneto – Padova**

MULTI-PROFESSIONAL AND INTERSECTORAL COALITIONS (from countries, regions and municipalities in governmental and non-governmental sectors)

24. **Ce.R.R.Co.** - Centro Ricerche e Relazioni Cornaglia
25. **UPTER** – Università popolare della Terza Età di Roma
26. **ANAP** - Associazione Nazionale Anziani e Pensionati
27. **ANTEAS** - Associazione Nazionale Terza Età Attiva
28. **UNITRE** - Università delle Tre Età, Associazione Nazionale delle Università della Terza Età
29. **Cooperativa Sociale Centro Maderna**
30. **Ageing Society** – Osservatorio Terza Età

MUNICIPALITIES and REGIONS (staff with responsibility for health policies and programmes)

31. ASSR - Agenzia Nazionale per i Servizi Sanitari Regionali

32. ANCI - Associazione Nazionale Comuni Italiani

POST-GRADUATE UNIVERSITY COURSES ON GERIATRY AND GERONTOLOGY

33. University of Ancona

34. University of Bari

35. University of Bologna

36. University of Brescia

37. University of Cagliari

38. University of Catania

39. University of Catanzaro

40. University of Chieti

41. University of Firenze

42. University of Foggia

43. University of Genova

44. University of L'Aquila

45. University of Messina

46. University of Milano

47. University of Milano Bicocca

48. University of Modena

49. University of Napoli Federico II

50. University of Napoli II Ateneo

51. University of Padova

52. University of Palermo

53. University of Parma

54. University of Pavia

55. University of Perugia

56. University of Pisa

57. University of Roma "Cattolica"

58. University of Roma "La Sapienza"

59. University of Roma "Campus ^{Bio}Raffaele medico"

60. University of Roma "Tor Vergata"

61. University of Sassari

62. University of Siena

63. University of Torino

64. University of Trieste

65. University of Udine

66. University of Verona

PUBLIC HEALTH RESEARCH INSTITUTES, MINISTRY OF HEALTH

67. MoH - Ministero della Salute, Direzione Generale Prevenzione Sanitaria, Uff. VII - Tutela salute soggetti più vulnerabili -

68. MoH - Ministero della Salute, Uff. IV – Ricerca Scientifica e Tecnologica
69. ISS - Istituto Superiore di Sanità (National Institute of Health)
70. Center on Aging, National Research Council - University of Padua
71. CNR – Centro Nazionale Ricerche – Dipartimento di Medicina - Roma
72. CNR – Centro Nazionale Ricerche – ILSA Study - Firenze

The following is the list of participants: 31 out of 72 stakeholders replied to the questionnaire with a 43% attrition rate.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

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10. Cooperativa Sociale Centro Maderna
11. Ageing Society – Osservatorio Terza Età
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15. University of Firenze
16. University of Foggia
17. University of Genova
18. University of Milano
19. University of Milano Bicocca
20. University of Napoli II - Ateneo
21. University of Padova
22. University of Perugia
23. University of Roma "Cattolica"

24. University of Roma "La Sapienza"
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Most of participants pointed out that an overlapping among all the fields is indispensable. Obviously each questionnaire has been filled according to specific professional field's experience. In another word, the list of priorities has been influenced by the specific affiliations, focusing mainly on their specific fields and not taking particularly into account the others.

The main results can be summarized as follows:

Consultation Question 1:

Within each of the following key themes what are the three main research priorities for the next 10 years?

The majority of responders (29/31) believe that *Healthy Ageing & Well-being* (physical and mental) is the main research priority for the next 10 years, followed by *Social & Economic Resources* (24/31), *Biogerontology* (22/31), and the last *Environments of Ageing* (18/31).

The main themes reported by the responders are the following:

BIOGERONTOLOGY

- Genetic screening of chronic diseases
- Epigenetic, nutrigenetic, farmacogenetic
- Cellular homeostasis
- Biomarkers of frailty
- Research on dementia

SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RESOURCES

- Quality health service
- Training of primary health care professionals
- Ethic aspects of the end of life and the generation gap
- Ethic aspects on the use of new technology
- Psychological and social support of caregivers
- Physical and psychological resources to prevent social isolation and depression
- Reinforce active ageing through voluntary work
- Adequate economic resources for pensions on retirement in old age

ENVIRONMENTS OF AGING

- Promotion and role of voluntary associations of the elderly
- Gerontechnology
- ICT (Information and Communication Technology) and domotics to improve: home-care, continuity of care, and assistive technology on mobility and transport
- Disability and studies on functional impairment, new technology support

HEALTHY AGING AND WELL-BEING

- Epidemiology of ageing
- Quality of life
- Nutrition, physical and mental activities, and life styles
- Clinical guidelines on nutrition and physical activities and mental health
- Predictive medicine
- Longitudinal studies population-based of chronic degenerative diseases and relative risk factors
- Age-associated dysfunctions and chronic diseases
- Co-morbidity

- Pharmaco-epidemiology and surveillance
- Frailty in elderly
- Epidemiological and psychopathological studies of behavioural and cognitive disorders including dementia, and relative risk factors

Consultation Question 2:

Are there any major research priorities outside of these themes? If so, what are they?

Further sub-themes research priorities have been integrated in the question 1.

Consultation question 3:

Which priorities, in your view, require European collaboration?

This is a multiple choice consultation question. The analysis of the answers revealed the following:

- The majority (23/31 = 74.2%) believe that *Healthy Ageing & Well-being* (physical and mental) requires European collaboration, followed by
- *Biogerontology* (19/31 = 61.3%),
- *Social & Economic Resources* (16/31 = 51.6%) and finally
- *Environments of Ageing* (15/31 = 48.4%).

Consultation question 4:

What infra-structures are necessary to deliver these priorities at a European level?

28 out of 31 participants answered to this question. The opinion expressed were the following:

- 23 out of 28 (82.1%) pointed out that it is not necessary to have a European Ageing Institute but to create a experts European Network using pre-existing infra-structures. This group includes 7 centres that consider only the possibility to have common high technology European Laboratories (such as in vivo imaging, PET, LIVE microscopy ecc) and the creation of tissues and blood banks.
- Only 5 out of 28 (17.9%) consider the possibility of a European Ageing Institute.