



FUTURAGE

A ROAD MAP *for* AGEING RESEARCH



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Inclusion and Participation

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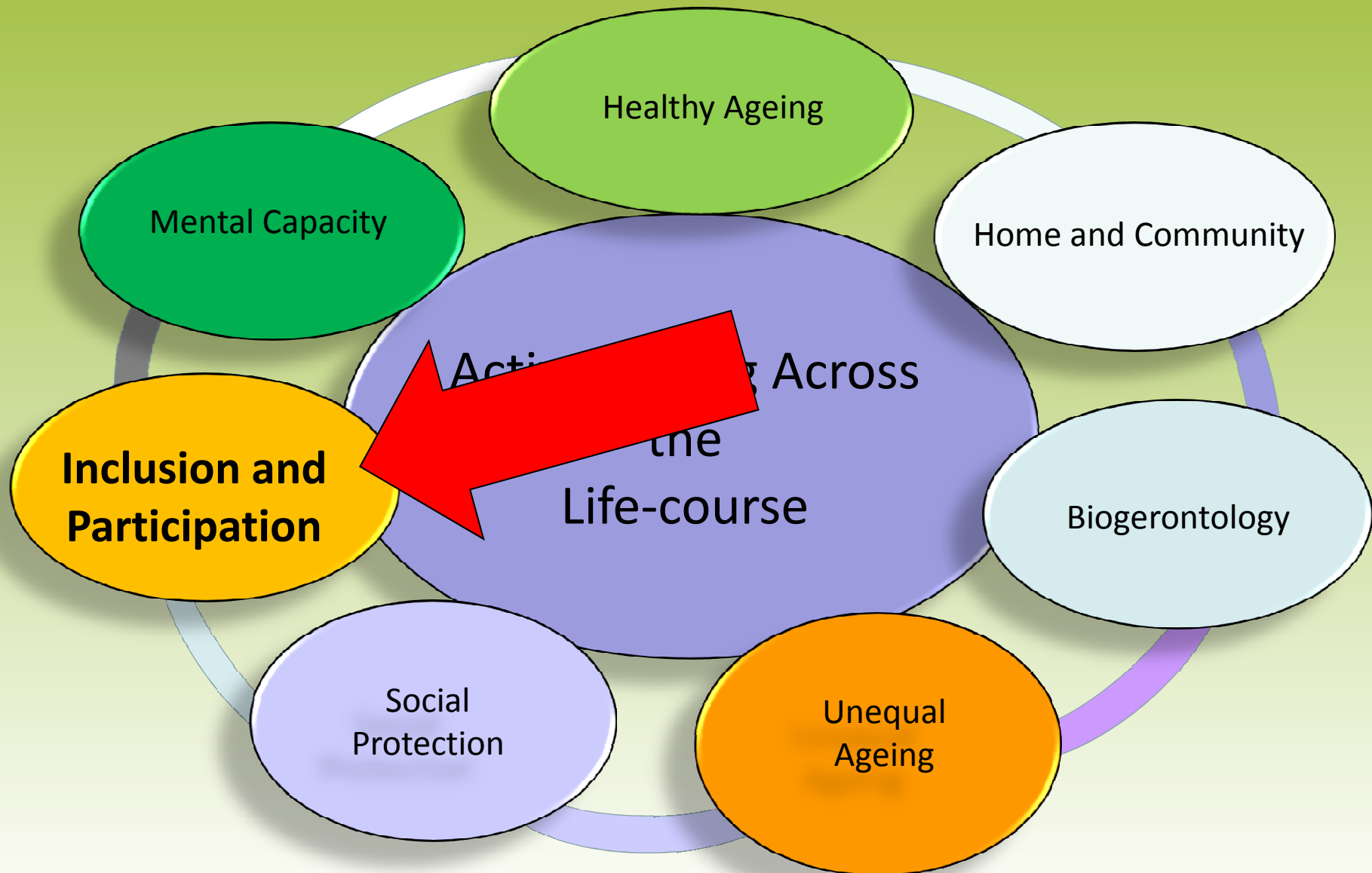
Social Protection

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RESEARCH PRIORITY THEMES



Inclusion & Participation in the Community & in the Labour Market

- Key topics:**
- **Ageism**
 - **Lifelong learning**
 - **Migration**
 - **Overcoming the digital divide**
 - **Mobility and accessibility**
 - **Spirituality**
 - **Volunteering**
 - **Participation as consumer/user**
 - **Discrimination in the labour market**
 - **Enabling a longer working life**
 - **Reconciliation of paid & informal care**

Key topic: Ageism

Main research questions include:

- Attitudes to ageing as a process: how are they formed and can be altered?
- Gaps between perceptions and realities of older people's abilities and contributions to society
- Can perceptions of age/aging be influenced to eliminate prejudicial attitudes? Role of media?
- What interventions at micro, meso & macro level can change perceptions towards older people?
- To what extent is discrimination 'institutionalised' through legislation & regulations across Europe?

Life long learning

- What are the most appropriate non-formal and informal learning forms for older people?
- What are the barriers faced by older people in accessing formal training and education? How can they be overcome? Role of educational institutions in supporting older learners?
- What are the specific needs of older women, migrants & disabled older people in this field, as well as of people living in rural or remote areas?
- How can knowledge transfer among generations be promoted to ensure benefits to all parties?

Migration

- Which policies and practical strategies can most appropriately tackle the challenges raised by migration for integration and social cohesion?
- How can migration contribute to the challenges associated with the ageing of our society?
- What role can the ageing process play, on the other hand, for migration-related phenomena?

Overcoming the digital divide

- **What role can ICT and virtual networks play in facilitating social inclusion?**
- **What are the effects of ICT-tools in terms of intra- and intergenerational relationships?**
- **Which measures are most effective in reducing or preventing the digital divide in using new technologies, especially in fields like long-term care, where they represent a crucial support tool for both formal and informal care providers?**

Mobility and accessibility

- How do mobility limitations impact on social relations in different, very old age groups (e.g. very old couples or singles)? And what kind of solutions are needed to overcome them?
- What role can assistive technologies play in facilitating accessibility for those with limited physical mobility?
- How can we achieve a balance between physical mobility & accessible environments to enable participation & inclusion for all age groups?
- What are the health and economic outcomes of interventions designed to facilitate accessibility?

Spirituality

- **What is the role of spirituality in facilitating social participation at an individual level?**
- **Which role does spirituality play in promoting or hindering social inclusion and an active contribution of ageing individuals in society?**
- **How does spirituality affect intergenerational relations?**
- **How can research on spirituality contribute to the ethical debate on 'conditions of living and dying', also in the light of current and future technological developments?**

Volunteering

- How can a better image of volunteering in older age be promoted, especially in sectors traditionally 'off-limits' older volunteers?
- Can volunteering represent a source of fulfilment and social inclusion for ageing individuals with poor health and socio-economic status?
- How are informal care & volunteering related? Is there a trade-off between the two?
- How can investments in volunteers' human capital be ensured along the whole life course through appropriate programmes?

Participation as consumer or user

- How do consumption and expenditure patterns vary between age groups and across the life course?
- To what extent are age-related variations in consumption and expenditure patterns demand- or supply-driven?
- What role does age-based discrimination play in excluding older people from service use and consumer markets?
- How can producers and service providers be stimulated to mainstream the principles of 'Design for All' in developing products/services?

Discrimination in the labour market

- What are the different types of direct and indirect age discrimination at play in the labour market?
- What is the economic and social impact of age discrimination in the labour market?
- Which measures are most effective in preventing and addressing work-related age discrimination?

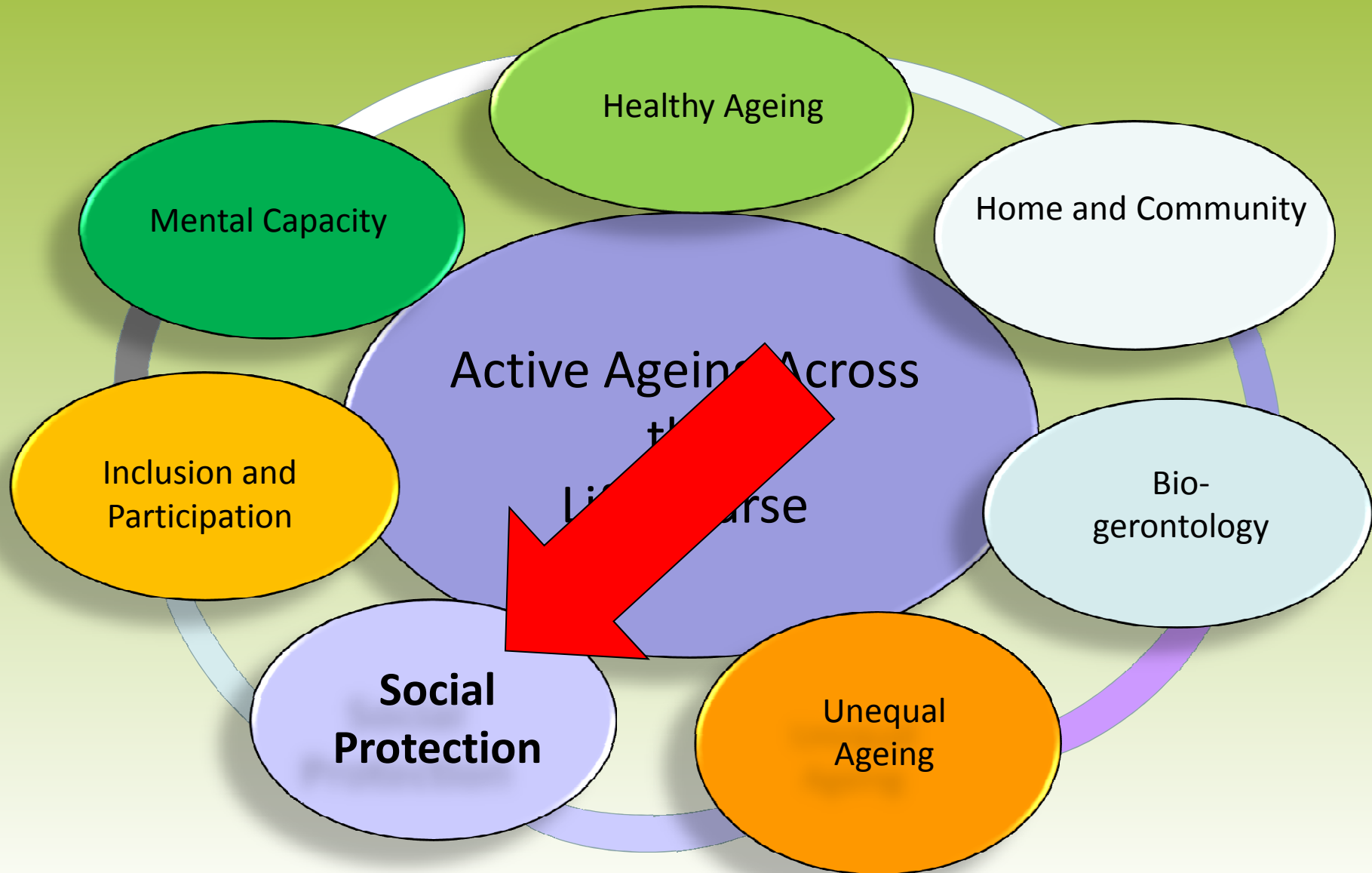
Enabling a longer working life

- Most effective pension and labour regulations in supporting those who wish to work longer
- How can employers best adjust to the ageing workforce? What incentives for them are most effective in retaining and hiring older workers?
- What is the optimal balance between social protection and labour market policies to promote older worker employment?
- What further measures should be introduced to better preserve the employability of workforce?
- What lessons can be learnt from the application of the 'workability' approach in various settings?

Reconciliation of paid work & informal care

- Which barriers are faced by carers to remain in employment (especially women and migrants)?
- Policies to ensure adequate working arrangements for reconciliation and minimum income for both men & women?
- What services are more effective and should be developed to support informal carers?
- How can we ensure a better sharing of caring and work responsibilities at a micro (individual) and macro (societal) level between women and men?
- How can informal carers be better empowered in order to ensure their wider social participation?

RESEARCH PRIORITY THEMES



QUALITY & SUSTAINABILITY OF SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEMS

Key topics:

- **Sustainability of social security & social care systems**
- **Supporting informal carers**
- **Improving access to services**
- **Efficiency, cost-effectiveness & quality of interventions**
- **ICT-supported informal caregiving**
- **Reviewing & strengthening intergenerational solidarity and cooperation**

Sustainability of social security & social care systems

- Which policy models can make current pension, health, social and long-term care systems more sustainable over time?
- Which role does education play in improving sustainability of social security systems?
- Which impact would banning mandatory retirement age have at micro/meso/macro level?
- How can an adequate level of care quality be achieved, in times of budget constraints?
- Which alternatives exist between the urgent need to reform current social protection systems and their long-term sustainability?
- Which role is globalisation playing in this area?

Improving access to services

- How can access to health and social care services be improved and better integrated, especially in deprived and sparsely populated areas?
- How can formal public services support hard-to-reach segments of the older population, also to prevent elder abuse?
- Can ICT improve knowledge about the services available, and to which extent can it release some of the burden on social and health services?

Efficiency, cost-effectiveness and quality of interventions

- How can improved transparency be achieved regarding the use of public welfare resources & the value-for-money in this sector be maximised?
- Which strategies can increase the quality (from a user's perspective) and cost-effectiveness (from a provider's perspective) of interventions?
- What are the most promising interventions in the field of preventive care and integrated care?
- Which are the most innovative interventions to support people coping with chronic diseases?
- What is the potential of '-omics' technologies in developing new approaches for diagnosis & care?

Supporting informal carers

- How can family carers and private care workers become better integrated within the formal support system?
- How can formal services support informal carers in their tasks and prevent them from stressful situations and burn-out?
- To what extent can the support from formal services allow carers to remain in paid employment, with beneficial effects in terms of both social inclusion and public finances?
- How is migrant work in the LTC sector changing traditional formal and informal care patterns?
Problem of undeclared work in this area?

ICT-supported informal caregiving

- How can ICT-based tools support informal caregiving?
- What is the role of ICT-based solutions in improving the quality of long-term care provided by informal carers, as well as their quality of life?
- Which ICT-solutions are most easily transferrable and implementable on a large scale, also in contexts in which no strong tradition nor digital competences exist in using ICT?
- Which impact can ICT have in reducing the direct and indirect costs attached to informal caregiving?

Reviewing & strengthening intergenerational solidarity & cooperation

- Which changes are needed to ensure that today's social and demographic context will not weaken solidarity between generations in the long-term?
- How can the contribution given by retired people to society be measured through their unwaged activities like grandparenting and volunteering?
- What are the good practices aimed at increasing older people participation to such activities after their retirement?