

ESF Forward Look Project

Ageing, Health and Pensions in Europe

2008-2009

Presentation

at the FUTURAGE Road Map Launch Conference

"Meeting the Grand Challenge of Ageing: the European Research Agenda "

European Parliament, Brussels, 18 October 2011



EUROPEAN CENTRE • EUROPÄISCHES ZENTRUM • CENTRE EUROPÉEN
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ESF's Forward Look projects play a key role in....

..... **defining the research priorities** for scientists, as well as for research funding and research performing organisations, to help them interpret the societal challenges in Europe, so as to find the best solutions possible through scientific research.

Ageing, Health and Pensions in Europe: An Economic Perspective

.... project undertaken during 2008/2009, coordinated by NETSPAR, [involved workshops with stakeholders](#) and experts and a final conference

..... project [developed a research agenda](#) that exploits the diversity of European pension, welfare and health systems

.....specifically, [to study causal linkage](#) of institutional arrangements and individual decision making with labour force transitions, financial security, and health and general well-being [of older age groups](#).

Key commonality with the FUTURAGE vision is....

Population ageing yields [positive opportunities](#) and benefits, addressing questions such as:

- ✓ how can societies benefit longer from the talents of the ageing populations?
- ✓ how can human resources be maintained better during the entire life course?
- ✓ How can Europe take the lead in the social innovations aimed at active ageing at all ages?

Key commonality with the FUTURAGE approach is....

The impact of population ageing can be best studied from a **cross-national / comparative point of view**:

- ✓ by comparing **different policy approaches** and exploring the consequences of various policy changes in different institutional and business cycle environments
- ✓ by **stimulating research cooperation** across European countries, in particular with CEECs, with a focus on enhancing research capacity and knowledge exchange

Three research priorities identified through this project are...

1. **Employability of individuals at early old age** (with emphasis on demand-side factors, such as employers' attitudes, productivity of older workers and their wages, etc.)
2. **Collective versus individual responsibility for financial security in retirement** (balancing paternalism against risk sharing, and freedom of choice against heterogeneity of preferences)
3. The determinants of health, health care use and **well-being in old age**

For more information:

EUROPEAN SCIENCE FOUNDATION
SETTING SCIENCE AGENDAS FOR EUROPE

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Contents

- 1 • Foreword
- 2 • What is the Issue?
- 3 • Why is the Topic Important for Science in Europe?
- 3 • Why must ESF speak on this Issue now?
- 3 • Progress and Gaps in Understanding
- 5 • Research Priorities
- 6 • Recommendations for Action
- 7 • List of Contributors

Foreword

If there are topics that need long-term foresight and planning in Europe in general, and in research in particular, ageing is certainly one of them. Ageing challenges policy as well as science policy and, being the fastest ageing continent, Europe can become the leading force in the world in solving the policy questions – but only if proper scientific analyses ground the measures. That is exactly where ESF Forward Look projects can play a key role by setting the science agenda: they define the research questions for scientists, as well as for research funders and research performing organisations, to help them interpret the societal developments and find the best solutions to the problems.

