

FUTURAGE Road Map Launch Conference ***Meeting the Grand Challenge of Ageing: the European Research Agenda***

Tuesday 18 October 2011, European Parliament, Brussels

Project summaries

ERA-AGE - European Research Area in Ageing

The European Research Area in Ageing (ERA-AGE) is the ERA-NET in ageing and brings together the representatives of national ageing-research funding organisations from countries across Europe. In October 2011 the consortium has 13 full partners and seven associate partners, between them representing 18 EU Member and Associated Countries. ERA-AGE was founded under FP6 in 2005 and is currently funded under FP7 until 2012. ERA-AGE has launched three joint calls funding European activity in ageing – in capacity building and ageing research.

Two calls, in 2007 and 2011, have been completed for the FLARE (Future Leaders of Ageing in Europe) post-doctoral programme. In total eighteen early-career researchers have each been funded for three years to undertake multi-disciplinary and multi-national research fellowships.

In June 2012 ERA-AGE also launched Europe's first joint research programme in the ageing field by publishing a call for multidisciplinary research applications on "Active and Healthy Ageing Across the Life Course", providing €4.3 million of funding from nine countries.

The consortium also has a series of joint activities and events, been designed to share knowledge and good practice and encourage new forms of transnational collaboration, including Summer School events to support networking and career development by FLARE Fellows.

More information: www.era-age.group.shef.ac.uk

JPI More Years Better Lives

Joint Programming is a new approach to foster collaboration and coordination in R&D in Europe. It is a member-states driven activity. The Joint Programming Initiative (JPI) "More Years, Better Lives - The Potential and Challenges of Demographic Change" seeks to enhance coordination and collaboration between European and national research programmes related to demographic change.

Areas affected by demographic change cover a wide range of research fields and policy topics ranging from health to social welfare, education & learning, work & productivity to housing, urban & rural development and mobility. The JPI therefore follows a transnational, multi-disciplinary approach bringing together different research programmes and researchers from various disciplines in order to provide solutions for the upcoming challenges and make use of the potential of societal change in Europe.

Currently 13 European member countries and 3 observing countries are participating in the JPI “More Years, Better Lives”.

More information: www.jp-demographic.eu

AAL - Ambient Assisted Living

The objective of the Ambient Assisted Living Joint Programme (AAL JP) is to enhance the quality of life of older people and strengthen the industrial base in Europe through the use of Information and Communication Technologies (ICT). The motivation of the new funding activity is in the demographic change and ageing in Europe, which implies not only challenges but also opportunities for the citizens, the social and healthcare systems as well as industry and the European market.

The AAL JP is initially set up for a duration from 2008 to 2013, under the basis of Article 185 TFEU. The programme’s planned total budget is 700 M€, of which approx. 50% is public funding - from the AAL Partner States and the European Commission - and approx. 50% is private funding from participating private organisations (e.g. enterprises).

More information: www.aal-europe.eu

European Science Foundation - Ageing, Health and Pensions in Europe: An Economic Perspective

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.

The ESF Forward Look project ‘Ageing, Health and Pensions in Europe’ has identified the main research challenges in Europe for economists and social scientists concerning welfare regimes, pension provision, public health, employment, income security and well-being. It has developed a research agenda that exploits the diversity of European pension, welfare and health systems to study causal links between institutional arrangements, individual decision making, labour force transitions, financial security, health and general well-being of older age groups.

The project started in early 2008 and ended in the spring of 2009 with a final conference. The most important research institutions and stakeholders took part either in the specific workshops or in the conference in order to take stock of the past research and define future questions. The events did not simply focus on research, but included foresight exercises with SWOT analyses and road-mapping efforts. A substantial Forward Look Final Report 'Ageing, Health and Pensions in Europe: An Economic Perspective', published and launched together with the present Science Policy Briefing, provides the reader with an overview of the state of the art and new ideas in the research area.

The leading scientists participating in the foresight project supported by ESF have done their job; the next step is to do research in order to answer the questions defined and, in parallel, to provide the scientists with the necessary infrastructure and funding so that they can contribute to the interpretation of, and solutions to, the problems stemming from ageing in Europe.

More information: www.esf.org/index.php?id=4777

BRAID - Bridging Research in Ageing and ICT Development

BRAID is developing a comprehensive Research and Technological Development roadmap for active ageing in Europe, through consolidation of existing roadmaps from four previous EU projects and by describing and launching a stakeholder co-ordination and consultation mechanism. BRAID aims to characterise key research challenges and produce a vision for a comprehensive approach in supporting the wellbeing and socio-economic integration of increasing numbers of senior citizens in Europe. The BRAID stakeholder analysis work examines the needs of the various stakeholders (policy-makers, industry, civil society organisations, academia, the media as well as senior citizens) and finds that existing organisations do not adequately address all these needs, nor are they meeting the calls for greater partnership in responding to these needs.

BRAID is currently drawing up recommendations as to how a new approach for an inclusive, open and democratic organisation could support research and development, act as a focal point for e-inclusion, address the market for assistive technologies, help efforts to harmonise legislation, reduce regulatory barriers, implement standards and encourage interoperability of assistive technologies. The vision and the roadmap are currently being disseminated to a wide range of stakeholders in order to promote acceptance and engagement in its implementation. A series of workshops to confirm and develop the vision and roadmap are being undertaken throughout Europe.

More information: www.braidproject.eu

Age Platform Europe

AGE Platform Europe is a European network of around 165 organisations of and for people aged 50+ representing directly over 30 million older people in Europe.

Its work focuses on a wide range of policy areas that impact on older and retired people. These include issues of anti-discrimination, employment of older workers and active ageing, social protection, pension reforms, social inclusion, health, elder abuse,

intergenerational solidarity, research, accessibility of public transport and of the build environment, and new technologies (ICT). The Platform takes also active part in several EU projects. The majority of these projects are funded by the 7th Framework Programme.

The purpose of its work is to voice and promote the interests of the 150 million inhabitants aged 50+ in the European Union and to raise awareness of the issues that concern them most. AGE seeks to give a voice to older and retired people in the EU policy debates, through the active participation of their representative organisations at EU, national, regional and local levels, and provides a European platform for the exchange of experience and best practices. It also aims to inform older people on their rights as EU citizen or resident and on EU policy making processes and recent EU policy development.

For more information: www.age-platform.eu

Institute of Aging

Canadians over 80 years are the fastest growing age group in the country. By the year 2026, those over 65 years of age will constitute more than one out of every five Canadians. This represents a dramatic demographic shift in the population of Canada, and will have profound consequences for all aspects of individual, community and national life. It also reflects the importance of placing research into aging at the forefront of health research in Canada today.

The Institute of Aging is one of 13 'virtual' Institutes of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. Under the leadership of The Institute's third Scientific Director, professor Yves Joanette, its administrative offices are in Montreal. The Institute has a broad mandate to support research and knowledge translation, and build research capacity in the field of aging, with a focus on the aging person in an aging society. Its goal is to improve the quality of life and health of older Canadians by understanding and addressing or preventing the consequences of a wide range of factors associated with aging. The Institute of Aging also leads two large CIHR Signature Initiatives in which many of the CIHR Institutes, as well as national and global partners are engaged: the International Collaborative Research Strategy for Alzheimer's Disease, and the Canadian Longitudinal Study on Aging.

In its short history, the Institute of Aging has become a national leader in addressing health research priorities for older Canadians. Institute of Aging initiatives not only link and support researchers located in universities and hospitals across the country, but also bring together different levels of government, practitioners, voluntary health organizations and seniors themselves.

The CIHR Institute of Aging is part of the Government of Canada's commitment to providing our aging population with the support needed to live healthy, independent lives and to maintain quality of life in all states of health.

For more information: <http://www.cihr.ca/e/8671.html>