The European Research Area in Ageing: Past and Future

Alan Walker
Professor of Social Policy & Social Gerontology
University of Sheffield
UK

The Future of Ageing Research in Europe – 2\textsuperscript{nd} February 2009, Brussels
The European Research Area in Ageing: Past and Future

- Background: Coordination of European Ageing Research
- ERA-AGE: Objectives, Achievements
- The FLARE Programme
- Future Plans

The Future of Ageing Research in Europe – 2nd February 2009, Brussels
The Need for European Coordination

- No systematic linkages between centres of excellence
- Duplication of effort
- Absence of a concerted European perspective
### Building Blocks in the Europeanisation of Ageing Research

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event/Programme</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1991</td>
<td>European Observatory on Ageing and Older People</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>Eurobarometer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>European Year of Older People and Solidarity Between Generations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>UN Year of Older People (the society for all ages)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1998-2002</td>
<td>FP5 Key Action 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>First European Forum on Ageing Research</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>FORUM, SHARE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>ERA-AGE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>AAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>FP7 Road Map</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Future of Ageing Research in Europe – 2nd February 2009, Brussels
The Coordination of Ageing Research

Websites

www.ageingresearch.group.shef.ac.uk

www.era-age.group.shef.ac.uk

The Future of Ageing Research in Europe – 2nd February 2009, Brussels
Coordinating European Research on Ageing

http://www.shef.ac.uk/ageingresearch/

The Future of Ageing Research in Europe – 2nd February 2009, Brussels
FORUM Priority Recommendations
Top 5

- Use recommendations to plan FP7
- Establish a European Institute on Ageing
- Work together to develop European and multi-interdisciplinary collaboration
- Ensure commitment to user involvement
- Attract and support a new generation of researchers to the ageing field.

The Future of Ageing Research in Europe – 2nd February 2009, Brussels
European Research Area in Ageing (ERA-AGE)

www.shef.ac.uk/era-age

The Future of Ageing Research in Europe – 2nd February 2009, Brussels
Partner Countries:

Austria, Finland, France, Germany, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Romania, Sweden, UK (coordinator)

Associate Partner Countries:

Latvia, Spain
The European Research Area in Ageing (ERA-AGE)

The Future of Ageing Research in Europe – 2nd February 2009, Brussels
The European Research Area in Ageing (ERA-AGE)

Objectives

- To facilitate coordination of existing ageing research programmes
- To promote interdisciplinary research activities between countries
- To share good practice in coordination and management of ageing programmes
- To support the production of European priorities for ageing research programmes
- To help break down the barriers between ageing research programmes and policy and practice

Research for a Better Old Age

The Future of Ageing Research in Europe – 2nd February 2009, Brussels
The European Research Area in Ageing (ERA-AGE)

Major achievements

- A joint post-doctoral fellowship scheme (FLARE)
- The creation of national agency research forums in 11 countries (based on the UK model)
- A unique database of European research programmes on ageing
- A database of European research centres
- The production of a comprehensive schedule of key research priorities for future ageing research
- Two good practice guides on research programme management and involving older users in research
- Establishment of partnerships among ERA-AGE members

The Future of Ageing Research in Europe – 2nd February 2009, Brussels
The European Research Area in Ageing (ERA-AGE)

Future Leaders of Ageing Research in Europe

The Future of Ageing Research in Europe – 2nd February 2009, Brussels
FORUM Priority Recommendations
Top 5

- Use recommendations to plan FP7
- Establish a European Institute on Ageing
- Work together to develop European and multi interdisciplinary collaboration
- Ensure commitment to user involvement
- Attract and support a new generation of researchers to the ageing field.

The Future of Ageing Research in Europe – 2nd February 2009, Brussels
Future Leaders of Ageing Research in Europe

- Supported by 8 countries
- Eighteen 3 year post – doctoral fellowships
- Direct response to identified needs
- Cross – national mobility
- Cross – disciplinary collaboration
- Funding period : 1 Jan 2008 – 31 December 2010
- Commissioning Panel, Berlin 10/11/ September 2007
- Summer School (FAS) June 2008
- Pilot project for joint funding

The Future of Ageing Research in Europe – 2nd February 2009, Brussels
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Institution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mechanisms of strategic elaboration &amp; associative binding in episodic memory: A lifespan developmental approach</td>
<td>Yvonne Brehmer</td>
<td>Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age-related changes in the use of linguistic cues for speech intelligibility in background noise</td>
<td>Antje Heinrich</td>
<td>Cambridge University, Cambridge, UK</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economics of formal and informal care for an ageing population</td>
<td>Berengere Davin</td>
<td>Inserm, Marseilles, France</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Impact of metabolic control on cognitive function and quality of life in elderly diabetic patients</td>
<td>Anna Marie Herghelegiu</td>
<td>‘Ana Aslan’ National Institute of Gerontology &amp; Geriatrics, Bucharest, Romania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A normative frame for the evaluation and regulation of age-related biomedical innovative interventions individual, social, and justice aspects</td>
<td>Hans-Joerg Ehni</td>
<td>University of Tuebingen, Germany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Effect of interleukin 6 on T cell subsets in old age: A search for new markers of immunological competence and frailty</td>
<td>Dietmar Herndlter-Brandstetter</td>
<td>Austrian Academy of Sciences, Innsbruck, Austria</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Future of Ageing Research in Europe – 2nd February 2009, Brussels
Role of mitochondrial dysfunction in astrocytes in brain ageing

Ravi Jagasia
Helmholtz Zentrum München, Munich, Germany

Degeneration and ageing – the effect of pathogenic mitochondrial mutations

Marko Kervinen
University of Oulu, Oulu, Finland

The urokinase receptor in vascular ageing: regulatory mechanisms and clinical perspectives

Julia Kiyan
Hannover Medical School, Hannover, Germany

Forms of ageing, dependency and responsibility; from public policies to the informal sector: Configurations of care and intrafamilial solidarity in France, Great Britain and Greece

Anastasia Meidani
Inserm Unite U558 Institute, Toulouse, France
University of Toulouse, Toulouse, France

The role of lifestyle factors in the prevention of dementia: A life course approach

Chengxuan Qiu
Karolinska Institute Centre, Stockholm, Sweden

Dependency: The emergence and legal construction of a social risk in Europe

Katarzyna Rubel
Université Montesquieu Bordeaux IV, Bordeaux, France

The Future of Ageing Research in Europe – 2nd February 2009, Brussels
The Future Leaders of Ageing Research in Europe (FLARE)

An integrated investigation of vascular cognitive impairment in population based studies across Europe
Blossom Stephan
Cambridge University, Cambridge, UK

Inflammation, muscle weakness and disability in older people
Kristina Tiainen
University of Tampere, Tampere, Finland

Elderly care in a globalised world: a study of cross-cultural interaction in the context of Swedish elderly care
Sandra Torres
Linköping University, Norrkoping, Sweden

Quality of social care for the elderly – The effects of public funding on social care systems & social care provision
Birgit Trukeschitz
Vienna University of Economics and Business Administration, Vienna, Austria

The impact of PPAR signalling on Alzheimer’s disease
Lynn Welter
University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg

Fostering lifelong autonomy and resources in Europe: Behaviour and successful ageing (FLARE-BSA)
Jochen Philipp Ziegelmann
Freie Universitaet, Berlin, Germany

The Future of Ageing Research in Europe – 2nd February 2009, Brussels
The European Research in Ageing
Future Plans

- Extension of ERA-AGE
- The New European Dynamics of Ageing
- The Road Map for Ageing Research in Europe
The Extension of ERA-AGE

- New members: Bulgaria, Latvia, Spain
- Extend membership to a critical mass
- Involve key stakeholders (regional, national, European)
- Provide infrastructure for FLARE (Summer Schools)
- Develop and Implement FLARE 2
- Develop framework for a major European research programme (NEDA)
The New European Dynamics of Ageing (NEDA)

Two Horizontal Themes:
- Ageing Healthily Across the Life Course
- Ageing and its Dynamic Environments

Six Vertical Themes:
- A life course perspective
- Comparative research
- Diversity and heterogeneity
- Multidisciplinary (the new science of ageing)
- User involvement (key role of older people)
- Knowledge translation

The Future of Ageing Research in Europe – 2nd February 2009, Brussels
The Definitive Road Map for Ageing Research in Europe (FUTURAGE)

Objectives

- State-of-the-art assessment of research priorities, emerging fields and methods
- Wide involvement of Europe’s leading scientists in the ageing field
- Full engagement with key non-academic stakeholders in ageing research
- Public information about ageing research
- Launch the definitive road map.

The Future of Ageing Research in Europe – 2nd February 2009, Brussels
The Definitive Road Map for Ageing Research in Europe (FUTURAGE)

Participants

- 15 ERA-AGE Partners
- University of Namur (Belgium)
- University of Heidelberg (Germany)
- Italian National Institute on Ageing
- Universities of Leicester and Sheffield (UK)
- University of Tampere (Finland)
- Research Users: European Older People’s Platform (AGE), Help the Aged
Implementation

- Four Priority Themes: Biogerontology, Social and Economic Resources, Environments of Ageing, Healthy Ageing
- A Life Course Perspective
- Close Engagement with Users (especially older people)
- Process: Scientific and Stakeholder Workshops, European Forum, Council of Scientists
The European Research Area in Ageing: Past and Future

- Background: Coordination of European Ageing Research
- ERA-AGE: Objectives, Achievements
- The FLARE Programme
- Future Plans
- Conclusion

The Future of Ageing Research in Europe – 2nd February 2009, Brussels
Research for a Better Old Age

THANK YOU

www.shef.ac.uk/era-age