Joint call: Active and Healthy Ageing Across the Life Course

The European Research Area in Ageing (ERA-AGE 2) has launched Europe’s first joint research programme initiative in the ageing field by publishing a call for multidisciplinary research applications on “Active and Healthy Ageing Across the Life Course”.

The call is dedicated to the achievement of enhanced and healthy ageing and, in particular, to address the major priority established by the AHAIP (Active and Healthy Ageing Innovation Partnership) of a 2 year increase in healthy life expectancy in the European Union by 2020.

Thirteen funders in nine countries have committed €4.2 million to fund research projects of up to three years. This is Europe’s first joint call for ageing research and follows the second round of ERA-AGE’s post-doctoral fellowship programme, FLARE (Future Leaders of Ageing Research in Europe).

The three objectives of the call are to:

• Generate new knowledge on the biological, clinical, behavioural, social and environmental factors that enable individuals to live actively and healthily into later life.

• Explore comparatively different models, methods, approaches and good practices in societal responses to increased longevity which emphasise both social inclusion and sustainability.

• Engage in effective knowledge exchange activities that will assist European and other countries to achieve the goal of increasing healthy life expectancy by 2 years by 2020.
FLARE 2 update

Following a successful call for applications by the European Research Area in Ageing, fifteen early-career post-doctoral researchers have been awarded funding for three years under the FLARE programme (Future Leaders of Ageing Research in Europe).

Nine new FLARE 2 Fellowships have been awarded by funders in Austria, Finland, France, Israel, Luxembourg, Romania, and Sweden to projects across the disciplinary field. In addition, due to the number of high quality applications received, the Academy of Finland has funded another six FLARE applicants under a standard Finnish scheme. We are pleased to welcome six FLARE 2 Associate Fellows to the programme, who will also embody the FLARE programme’s commitment to multidisciplinary, multi-national European ageing research.

The third FLARE Summer School will take place in San Lorenzo del Escorial, Madrid, Spain in the first week of September 2011. This will bring together 30 post-doctoral researchers from 14 countries, including Canada. FLARE 1 Fellows and FLARE 2 Fellows will be joined by a number of non-FLARE post-docs nominated by ERA-AGE 2 partners. The event will focus on ‘Navigating Research Careers’.

Forum meetings

The second ERA-AGE 2 Forum meeting (the eighth in the ongoing series) was held on 1st March 2011 in Vienna, hosted by the Austrian Academy of Sciences. Some 60 attendees from 19 countries gathered together to consider “The role of technology in achieving extended life years”. Speakers represented the key projects of AAL, EIPAHA and BRAID as well as a number of disciplinary fields.

A special Forum targeted at the New Member States of the European Union will be held in Bucharest, Romania in November 2011, hosted by the Romanian Ministry of Health and UEFISCDI.
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