



FUTURAGE

A ROAD MAP *for* AGEING RESEARCH

Report from the User Involvement Workshop
Brussels, 24 – 25 March 2010

James Goodwin

AGE Platform Europe and Age UK

Aims of user involvement

- Engage end users of ageing research in the project
- Ensure ageing research is more society driven across the whole of Europe
- Improve the relationship between research and policy and practice
- More effective product development

Aims of the Workshop

- To identify what are the barriers and solutions to the participation of older people and other users
- To create a lasting model of user involvement for European research in ageing
- To integrate user perspectives into the the Road Map
- To ensure that the Road Map represents both the priorities of scientists and those of users

Participants

- Older people and their organisations (NGOs)
 - Industry
 - Research (including WP 2-5)
 - Policy
-
- Wide geographical spread
 - High quality of debate

Format

1. Initial Plenary session – Stakeholder Perspectives

- Policy – Paul Timmers, DG INFSO
- Industry – Simon Roberts, Intel
- Researcher – Fiorella Marcellini, Ancona
- Older people – Heidrun Mollenkopf, BAGSO

Format

2. Working Groups

- 1. User Involvement: How can researchers and public authorities support it ?
- 2. Industrial best practice: How do nindustries ensure that older people's expectations and needs are taken on board?
- 3. Recent experience: How do older people express their expectations to researchers and service/product developers?

Working Group 1

Issues

- Identification of the 'user' – critical role of NGOs
- Funding issues: enabling older people to become involved in research
- Full involvement, not merely consultation or collaboration as subjects of research

Working Group 2

Issues

- We must convince industry to invest in users (the business case)
- Mainstream ageing
- Influence from the top-down (decision makers)
- Older people's attitudes (eg to technology)

Working Group 3

Issues

- Empowerment of older people vital
- Equal participation across the older population
- Raising the awareness of the importance of participation in the older population

Some Additional Comments

- Cross-workshop integration
- Generation of the 'Road Map of Road Maps'
- 'European Institute' functions
- Importance of knowledge transfer and the removal of barriers to dissemination and implementation

Workshop 2

- Barcelona 13-14 July 2010
- University Autònoma de Barcelona
- Refinement of issues identified in W1, with concentration on Knowledge Transfer and...
- Removing the barriers to involvement, participation and the realisation of research benefits