The Essential Elements of the Road Map

The User Perspective

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Global Population – Aged 80+ years

1950 – 14 million
Today – 300 million
Europe is the oldest continent
Its older population has a democratic right to be involved
Theoretical Gloom

- Exponential relationship between age and prevalence of chronic ill health
- Exponential relationship between age and chronic disabling diseases
- Dependency ratio soon to reach unity
Things will get worse - Disability
Things will get worse – Dependency Ratio

Dependency Ratio – UK Data

- 2010 – DR 1:6
- 2050 – DR 1:1
• Type 1 Panic ‘We can’t afford to make or keep old people healthy’

• Type 2 Panic ‘We can’t afford healthy old people’
Can Research Deliver?
What’s on offer

EVIDENCE-BASED GOOD CHEER
(Research Solutions)
Ageing is a young science but progress is exceptional and most of it has been made in the last 30 years.
Can Research Deliver?

The Delivery Equation

Investment + Strategy + User Involvement =

Research Solutions

(Knowledge Transfer)
The history of science is littered with slow or absent translation of benefit

Example: Statins

1950s  Discovery
1980s  RCTs
2000s  Prescription
Can Research Deliver?

Research Quality vs Research Impact

Einstein

No-one wants to be here!

Pasteur

Edison
Research translation – linear model

Research Question → Methodology → Data → Dissemination → Public Domain

Policy/Practice/Products/Services
Interactive Model

Users

Knowledge Need

Knowledge Transfer

User – Researcher Interaction

All

Researchers

Knowledge Creation
User involvement as an inviolable principle of the Road Map

• An expression of the democratic rights of the older population for social inclusivity

• An essential ingredient for research impact

• A major criterion for the funding of research
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
Cross-sector integration and inclusiveness

- Older people (individuals and groups)
- Government (local and national)
- Public services (Health and social care, Pensions, )
- NGOs (Age Platform, Age UK, BAGSO, etc)
- Private sector
  - Finance and commerce
  - Manufacturing industry
  - IT
  - Pharmaceutical
  - Healthcare and medical technology
- Universities and research institutes
Participants of the first user involvement workshop

- 37 participants from 25 countries
- Older people and their organisations (NGOs)
- Industry
- Research (WP 2-5)
- Policy
Policies, methodological solutions and priorities - emerging issues

- Identifying the ‘user’ – critical role of NGOs
- Using full involvement, not merely consultation or collaboration as subjects of research
- Enabling older people to become involved in research
- Convincing industry and commerce to invest in the older population
- Mainstreaming ageing
- Influencing from the top-down (decision makers)
- Changing the view: older people’s attitudes
- Empowering older people
- Raising the awareness of the importance of participation in the older population
Summary: The Four Essential Elements

- User Involvement as an inviolable principle
- Cross-sector user integration and inclusiveness
- Knowledge transfer as an essential ingredient
- Policies, methodological solutions and priorities