



FUTURAGE

A ROAD MAP *for* AGEING RESEARCH



Emerging Research Themes and Issues in the Field of Socio-Economic Resources

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Stakeholders Meeting
Brussels, 11th May 2010

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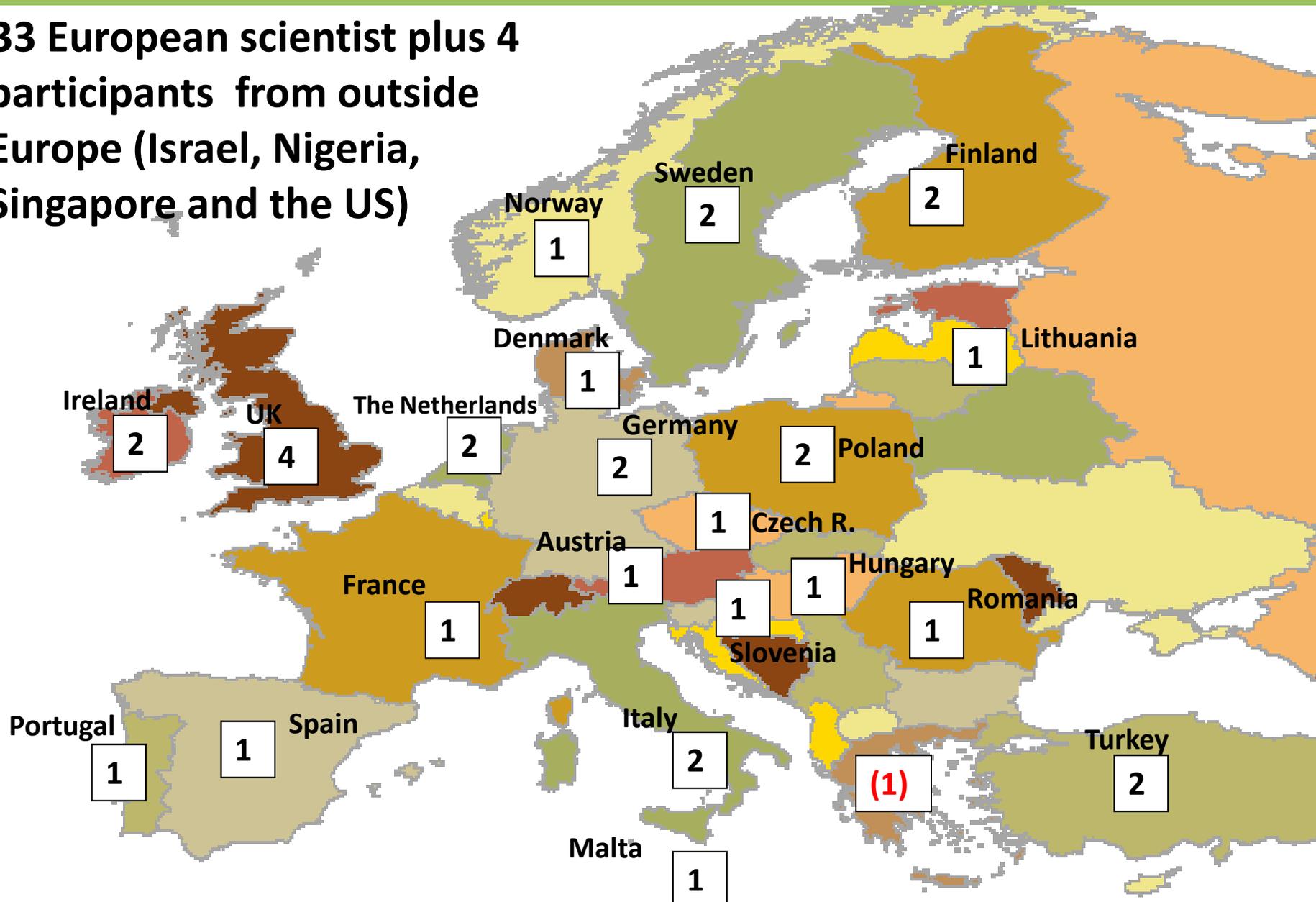
- **main areas/topics identified by working groups**
- **methodological issues**
- **infrastructure & transferability**

1. Approach and organisation of workshop (1/5)

- based on results of National Consultations at country level
- held on 25th – 26th February in Ancona (Italy)
- attended by 37 scientists from 25 countries (21 European)

Workshop participants by country

33 European scientist plus 4 participants from outside Europe (Israel, Nigeria, Singapore and the US)



Other main characteristics of participants

Different disciplines:

- economics
- ethnicity and ageing
- gerontology
- geriatrics
- medicine
- political sciences
- psychology
- psycho-gerontology
- social gerontology
- social work
- sociology

Gender balance: 60% female

Different professional and life course stages:

- post-doctoral students
- mid-career researchers
- established scientists

1. Approach and organisation of workshop (2/5)

- based on results of National Consultations at country level
- held on 25th – 26th February in Ancona (Italy)
- attended by 37 scientists from 25 countries (21 European)
- participants were grouped into different Working Groups according to 4 thematic areas/topics

Conceptual matrix for identification of Working Groups

<div style="text-align: right;"><i>Perspective</i></div> <div style="text-align: left;"><i>Area</i></div>	Older people as a “socio-economic” resource for society (OP for society)	Older people as users/recipients of socio-economic resources (Society for OP)
Care	<u>Working Group 1: Older people as caregivers</u>	<u>Working Group 2: Dependent older people</u>
Other socio-economic areas	<u>Working Group 3: OP as social and economic resource</u>	<u>Working Group 4: Socio-economic needs of older people</u>

1. Approach and organisation of workshop (3/5)

- based on results of National Consultations at country level
- held on 25th – 26th February in Ancona (Italy)
- attended by 37 scientists from 25 countries (21 European)
- participants were grouped into different Working Groups according to 4 thematic areas/topics
- the first scientific workshop had mainly a brainstorming aim

Nov 2009
Feb 2010

NATIONAL CONSULTATIONS AT COUNTRY LEVEL (WP1)



Feb-Mar
2010



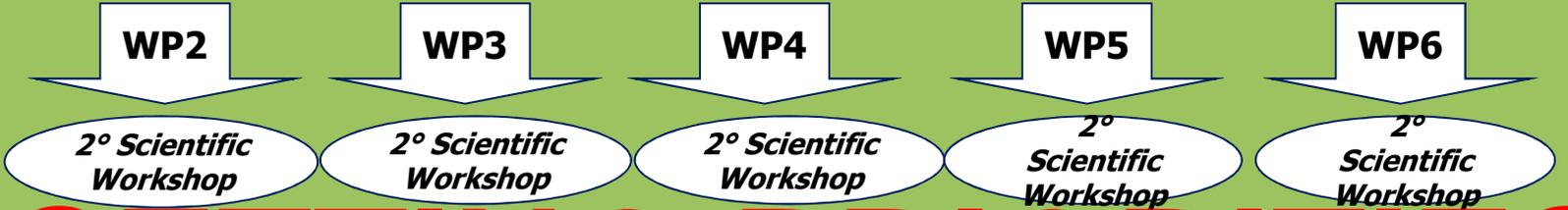
BRAINSTORMING

Apr-May
2010

COUNCIL OF SCIENTISTS (WP7)

STAKEHOLDERS MEETINGS (WP7)

Jun-July
2010



SETTING PRIORITIES

Sept-Nov
2010

COUNCIL OF SCIENTISTS (WP7)

STAKEHOLDERS MEETINGS (WP7)

Jan-Mar 2011: 1st draft

June 2011: final version + launch



1. Approach and organization of workshop (4/5)

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- attended by 37 scientists from 25 countries (21 European)
- participants were grouped into different Working Groups according to 4 thematic areas/topics
- the first scientific workshop had mainly a brainstorming aim
- participants could refer to a set of key-questions (common to all work-streams) circulated in advance

Key-questions for Working Groups

1. Keeping in mind recent research and policy developments, which areas/topics require, in your opinion, to be explored more in-depth and should be taken into consideration by the future Road Map for Ageing Research?
2. Which theoretical and methodological aspects should be better developed in future ageing research?
3. What should be the key priorities for comparative research in this area?
4. Which research infrastructures are necessary to deliver these priorities at a European level?
5. Which topics would benefit more from a multidisciplinary perspective?
6. How we can facilitate better links between research, policy and practice in this field (transferability of research)?

1. Approach and organization of workshop (5/5)

- based on results of National Consultations at country level
- held on 25th – 26th February in Ancona (Italy)
- attended by 37 scientists from 25 countries (21 European)
- participants were grouped into different Working Groups according to 4 thematic areas/topics
- the first scientific workshop had mainly a brainstorming aim
- participants could refer to a set of key-questions (common to all four work-streams) circulated in advance
- the working groups identified following main topics and issues:

2. Outputs of the Working Groups: WG1

<i>Perspective</i> <i>Area</i>	Older people as a “socio-economic” resource for society (OP for society)	Older people as users/recipients of socio-economic resources (Society for OP)
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Other socio-economic areas	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Working Group 3: OP as social and economic resource</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>Working Group 4: Socio-economic needs of older people</u></p>

2. Outputs of the Working Groups: WG1

Working Group 1: **Older people as** **caregivers**

Who cares?

- Investigation on the carers and their care arrangements, particularly in relation to three main perspectives: gender, cohort, and life course;
- Investigate how informal carers interact with professional carers and the formal care system: roles, tasks, responsibilities, use of technology, etc.;
- Focus on carers' resources, particularly in relation to available time (considering delayed retirement) as well as functional abilities/competences for providing care.

Reasons for caring

- Relationships between carer and cared-for in new family settings (e.g. role of grandparents in general but also when families split up);
- How do new patterns of solidarity and individualism shape reasons for caring, e.g. how people without support network get help (is it possible to create social arenas for support, independently of parents or other family networks?);
- Impact of migration on care, particularly in relation to the increasing number of migrant care workers and social transformations.

2. Outputs of the Working Groups: WG1

Working Group 1: **Older people as** **caregivers**

Contents of provided care

- Contents of the care that is being provided and which instrumental elements this involves (e.g. mental, physical, medical etc.);
- Cultural perceptions about when care is provided (e.g. spousal care, cultural and gendered differences);
- The concept of quality of care, considering differences in caregivers' and care recipients' conceptualisation of quality.

Policies for care

- Policies and incentives for involving older people in informal caregiving, also beyond the family setting;
- Preferences and (moral, normative and/or legal) obligations of older people involved in informal caregiving;
- Influences on care from different perspectives: costs, work life, company measures (conciliation between work and care), policies (legislation, services, etc.);
- Influences of care on work life and quality of life.

2. Outputs of the Working Groups: WG2

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2. Outputs of the Working Groups: WG2

Working Group 2: Dependent older people

Dependency and independence

- Understandings of dependency and independence from two different perspectives:
 - a) considering different stakeholders and acknowledging heterogeneity;
 - b) considering social welfare regimes and the underlying socio-cultural values;
- Older people's experiences of "dependency and independence", taking into consideration cross-cutting factors such as class, education, income, gender, sexuality, ethnicity, migrant status, disability and life course transitions.

Home and residential care

- Influences on home care and residential care: different stakeholders' perspectives (older people, their families, health and social care providers); standards for good quality of care; role of civic society; alternatives to residential care;
- Impact of cross-cutting factors on home and residential care use: social policies and welfare regimes, impact of income & housing (structural factors), impact of formal and informal care mix.

2. Outputs of the Working Groups: WG3

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2. Outputs of the Working Groups: WG3

Working Group 3: **OP as social and** **economic resource**

Prerequisites for older people as a socio-economic “resource”

- Supportive environment (transport, physical environment); urban planning, urban design; “age-friendly” cities and territories;
- Health, capacities, dementia (ergonomics to balance that);
- Money and wealth;
- Lifelong learning & teaching older persons; universities of the third age; role of media for education.

Main activities of older people as a socio-economic “resource”

- Activities in the labour market;
- Activities within the family;
- Learning/teaching;
- Volunteering and active citizenship.

2. Outputs of the Working Groups: WG3

Working Group 3: **OP as social and** **economic resource**

Effects of older people's role as a socio-economic resource for society

- For individuals (e.g. in terms of identity, social inclusion and intergenerational solidarity);
- For governments, society, welfare state and companies (money saved, social cohesion etc.).

Cross-cutting topics in the activation of older people's potential

- Preparation for old age (in general and in specific: financial literacy, nutrition, ICT etc.);
- Generational issues;
- Public policies (individual choice vs. policy driven changes) and normative expectations;
- Barriers and opportunities for the different activities.

2. Outputs of the Working Groups: WG4

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2. Outputs of the Working Groups: WG4

Working Group 4: **Socio-economic** **needs of older people**

Social/Health needs

- Social inclusion and participation;
- Media representations;
- Social solidarity mechanisms in the society and in the family;
- A new sociology of generations would be empirically helpful in identifying processes of material and non-economic transfers.

Economic needs

- Income maintenance;
- Pension system developments;
- Different provision to cover LTC needs;
- Consumption patterns over the life course (including effect of the ongoing financial crisis).

2. Outputs of the Working Groups: WG4

Working Group 4: **Socio-economic** **needs of older people**

Cultural needs

- Religion and spirituality;
- Communication and media utilisation.

Vulnerability

- Elder abuse and neglect;
- Living arrangements of different groups, as for instance those living alone and refugees;
- Accumulation of life-long disadvantages, including disabled elders as well of isolated elders in rural areas;
- Socioeconomic inequalities which continue over the life course into old age.

2. Cross-cutting aspects

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Methodological issues

2. Crossing-cutting aspects: methodology

Methods and study design

- Advances in study designs: expand use of longitudinal and cohort studies; further develop methods to identify cost-effective interventions, of social network analysis, time use studies etc.;
- Better clarify links between qualitative and quantitative research;
- More investments in theoretical research and definitions;
- Increase older people's participation in research.

Data accessibility

- Giving value to existing data;
- Add new data (consider also issue of authenticity, expand use of qualitative data).

Coordination and collaboration in ageing research

- Need to involve more new MS and non EU countries in future research;
- Issue of comparability.

Interdisciplinarity

- Interdisciplinarity is important to influence policy and practice;
- Recognise that, however, not all the topics require interdisciplinarity.

2. Cross-cutting aspects

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Infrastructure & transferability

2. Crossing-cutting aspects: infrastructure and transferability

The hypothesis of a European Institute on Ageing

- The need for a coordinating body is widely recognised;
- However, the idea of a European version of the NIA was not supported by all participants, some suggesting the model of a more flexible “permanent forum”.

European ageing research agenda and coordination among countries

- A shared European agenda could facilitate the advocacy of national focuses.

Funding ageing research in Europe

- More funds are needed to improve the quality of research on ageing problems;
- A systematic development of “follow-up” funds would be useful to follow the implications and consequences of results from finished projects.

Transferability of ageing research

- Need for more practice-oriented research;
- Importance of getting Stakeholders and Users involved in research.

Capacity building

- Investing in education of coming generations of researchers;
- Tailoring Marie Curie initiatives for the needs of ageing research (creating opportunities also for senior researchers with family and work responsibilities).



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Thank you!