

SHAPING THE FUTURE OF AGEING RESEARCH IN EUROPE

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

FUTURAGE: A Road Map for Ageing Research
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FUTURAGE
A ROAD MAP *for* AGEING RESEARCH



SHAPING THE FUTURE OF AGEING RESEARCH IN EUROPE

➤ The Coordination of European Ageing Research

➤ ERA-AGE



➤ FUTURAGE



THE NEED FOR EUROPEAN COORDINATION

- **No systematic linkages between centres of excellence**
- **Duplication of effort**
- **Absence of a concerted European perspective**

MILESTONES IN EUROPEANISATION OF AGEING RESEARCH

1991-93	European observatory on Ageing and Older People
1992	Eurobarometer
1993	European Year of Older People and Solidarity Between Generations
1999	UN Year of Older People (the society for all ages)
1998-2002	FP5 Key Action 6
2000	First European Forum on Ageing Research
2001	FORUM, SHARE
2004	ERA-AGE
2006	AAL
2007	LINK AGE, AGE-ACTION
2008	Why We Age, FP7 Road Map
2009	ERA-AGE2 FUTURAGE

COORDINATING EUROPEAN RESEARCH ON AGEING



www.ageingresearch.group.shef.ac.uk



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

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM EUROPEAN FORUMS

- **Essential that ageing features prominently in Framework Programmes**
- **Establish a European Institute on Ageing (virtual)**
- **Promote multidisciplinary collaboration**
- **Ensure commitment to user involvement**
- **Build capacity: attract and support new generation of researchers to the ageing field**

THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA IN AGEING



ERA-AGE 2

Partner Countries:		Associate Partners:
Austria	Romania	Canada
Finland	Sweden	Quebec
France	United Kingdom (Coordinator)	Saxony (Germany)
Israel	Bulgaria	
Italy	Latvia	
Luxembourg	Spain	

THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA IN AGEING (ERA-AGE)

Objectives

- To facilitate coordination of existing ageing research programmes
- To promote multidisciplinary research activities between countries
- To share good practice in coordination and management of ageing programmes
- To develop European ageing research programmes
- To help break down the barriers between ageing research and policy and practice

RESEARCH FOR A BETTER OLD AGE

THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA IN AGEING (ERA-AGE)

Major achievements

- A joint post-doctoral fellowship scheme 
- 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 a involving older users in research
- Establishment of partnerships among ERA-AGE members

ERA-AGE AMBITIONS

- **Extension of membership to a critical mass**
- **Involvement of key stakeholders
(regional, national, European)**
- **Provide infrastructure for FLARE**
- **Develop and implement FLARE 2**
- **Develop Europe's first ageing research programme**

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 DEFINITIVE ROAD MAP FOR AGEING RESEARCH IN EUROPE (FUTURAGE)

Participants

- **11 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), Age UK**

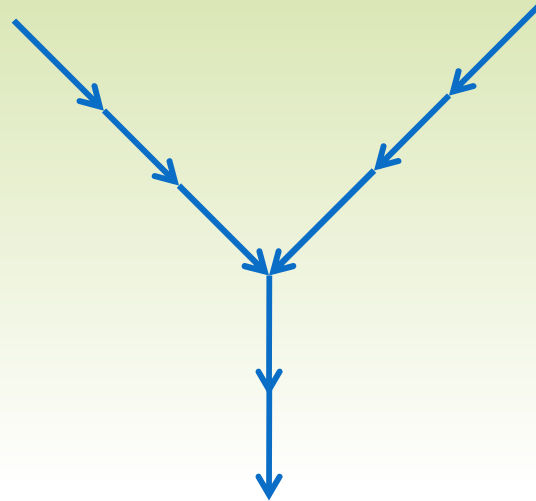
ROAD MAP KEY PRINCIPLES

- **A Life Course Perspective (Continuous Ageing)**
- **Multidisciplinarity (The New Science of Ageing)**
- **User/Stakeholder Engagement
(The Key Role of Older People)**
- **Knowledge Transfer (Impact on Policy, Practice,
Product Development)**

AGEING IS INEVITABLE BUT MALLEABLE

INTRINSIC
(genetic)

EXTRINSIC
(environment/lifestyle)



AGEING
(loss of function/adaptability)

Adapted from Grimley Evans (2004)

LIVE LONGER, DIE FASTER

- **Prevention (postponement)**
 - **lifestyle: education, knowledge, opportunities, incentives**
 - **public health and medical care**
- **Enabling environments**
 - **architecture, transport, education, working conditions, culture and sport, safety**
 - **prosthetics: physical supports, ICTs**
- **Disability-reducing interventions**

MULTIDISCIPLINARY PROGRAMME MODEL

www.newdynamics.group.shef.ac.uk

The screenshot shows the homepage of the 'new dynamics of ageing' website. The header includes the program name and logo, and a navigation menu with links for Home, About, News, Events, Newsletters, Documents, Links, Contact, and Login. The main content area features a large image of an elderly man running, with text describing the program as a five-year multidisciplinary research initiative. Below this, there are sections for 'Who got that cash - THES' (dated 14/01/2008) and 'EVENTS', which lists two workshops: 'BBSRC/NDA Workshop on Biological Research (closed)' and 'SPARC/NDA funding opportunities workshop'. A 'Previously' section at the bottom mentions an interview with Alan Walker.



THE DEFINITIVE ROAD MAP FOR AGEING RESEARCH IN EUROPE (FUTURAGE)

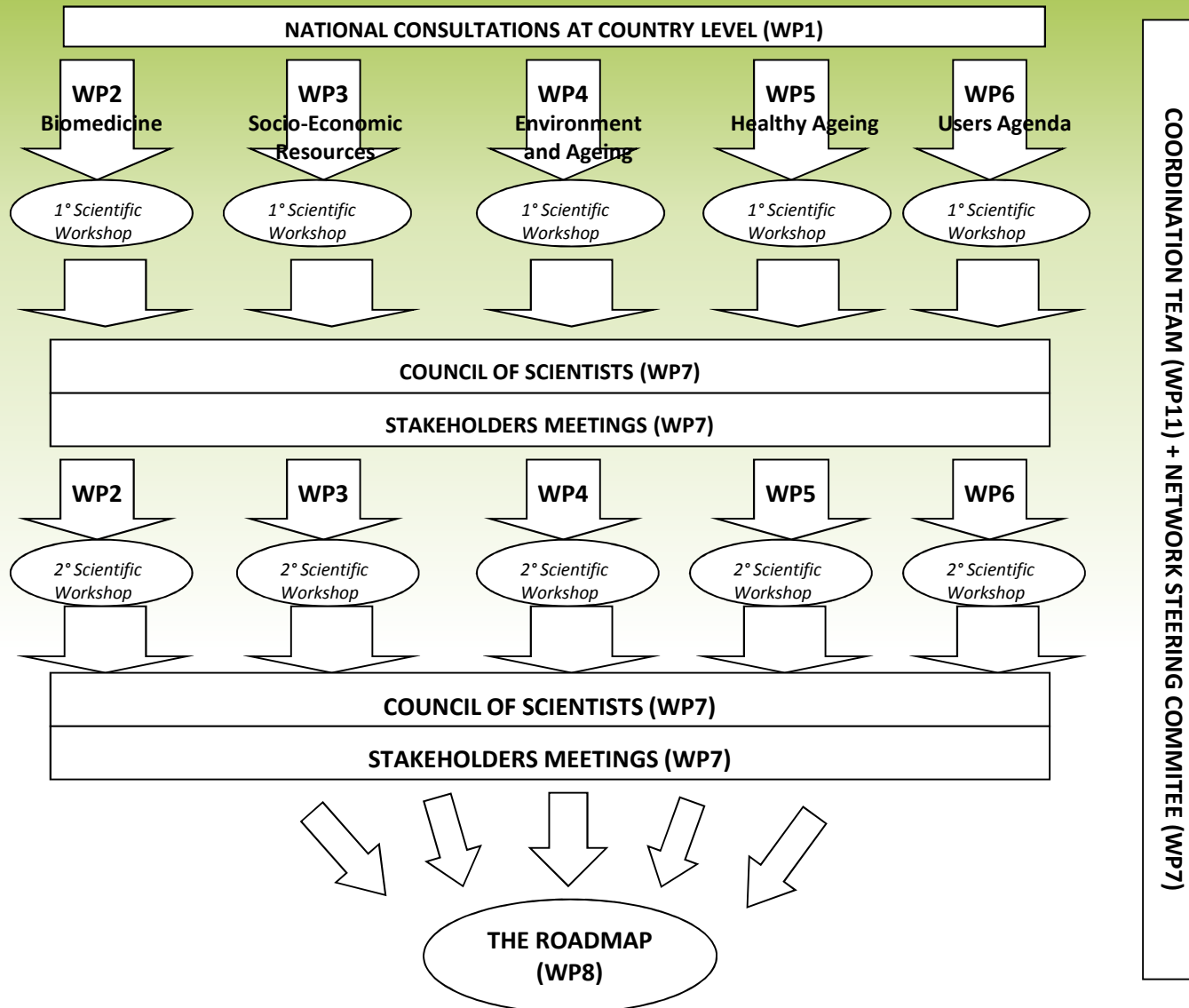
Implementation

- **Priority scientific 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 DEFINITIVE ROAD MAP FOR AGEING RESEARCH IN EUROPE (FUTURAGE)



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RESEARCH FOR A BETTER OLD AGE



THANK YOU

www.futurage.group.shef.ac.uk

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