SHAPING THE FUTURE OF AGEING RESEARCH IN EUROPE

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FUTURAGE: A Road Map for Ageing Research
European Parliament
Brussels 11 May 2010
SHAPING THE FUTURE OF AGEING RESEARCH IN EUROPE

➢ The Coordination of European Ageing Research

➢ ERA-AGE

➢ FUTURAGE

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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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event/Initiative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1991-93</td>
<td>European observatory on Ageing and Older People</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>Eurobarometer</td>
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<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>European Year of Older People and Solidarity Between Generations</td>
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<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>UN Year of Older People (the society for all ages)</td>
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<td>1998-2002</td>
<td>FP5 Key Action 6</td>
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<td>2000</td>
<td>First European Forum on Ageing Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>FORUM, SHARE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>ERA-AGE</td>
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<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>AAL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>LINK AGE, AGE-ACTION</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Why We Age, FP7 Road Map</td>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>ERA-AGE2</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>FUTURAGE</td>
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COORDINATING EUROPEAN RESEARCH ON AGEING

www.ageingresearch.group.shef.ac.uk

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

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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

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Partner Countries:</th>
<th>Associate Partners:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>Romania</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>Sweden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>United Kingdom (Coordinator)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Israel</td>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
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<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>Latvia</td>
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<td>Luxembourg</td>
<td>Spain</td>
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<tr>
<td>Canada</td>
<td>Quebec</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saxony (Germany)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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

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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
  involving older users in research
- Establishment of partnerships among ERA-AGE members

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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
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)

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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
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
RESEARCH FOR A BETTER OLD AGE

THANK YOU
www.futurage.group.shef.ac.uk