1. Presentation of AGE
2. Objectives
3. Activities
1. Presentation of AGE

What is AGE?

► a network bringing together European, national and regional non-profit organisations of older people or working with and for older people
► set up in January 2001 following a process of discussion on how to improve co-operation between older people's organisations at EU level
► a non-profit making international association, financed by membership fees and an annual subsidy from the European Commission (PROGRESS: EU’s new employment and social solidarity programme)
AGE at a glance

► Gathers 140 associations from 27 EU Member States:

• 114 Full Members (9 European-wide organizations and 105 national or regional-level associations)
• 18 Observer Members (NGOs outside EU, regional and local authorities, research centres etc.)

► Represents 25 million older people across Europe
► Promotes and defends the interests of the 150 million older people in Europe
► A network that does not stop growing!
2. AGE Objectives

► To voice and represent the interests of older and retired people towards the European institutions

► To improve the dialogue and cooperation between its members and the European Institutions

► To support networking between older people’s groups in Europe

► To disseminate information towards its members and influential decision makers

► To cooperate with other European NGOs
3. AGE Activities

Policy influencing and development – 6 political priorities

► Non-discrimination
► Employment of workers > 50, active ageing
► Social inclusion and the fight against poverty
► Social protection (pension reform, minimum income)
► Health care and long term care
► New technologies, Accessibility and transport
► Research
► Active Participation of older people, including the most vulnerable
Involving Older People in Research

AGE - believes that user’s involvement in research is crucial:

- To improve the quality of services in Health and Social care
- To improve Accessibility of Public Transport, Buildings and outdoor Environment
- To develop Information and Communication Technology products and services
- There are strong reasons to involve Older People, users groups, especially representative organisations to improve the Quality of Life of citizens, individually and collectively
Involving Older People in Research

Identification of research relevant to users, definition and prioritisation of users needs.

User involvement from the very beginning of the research process to get things right and to provide effective services. This is essential to ensure the outcome meets the identified needs.

Exchange of ideas and dissemination of relevant information that can be used by the various actors and distributed through the various communication channels.

Establishment of research priorities, setting the agenda.

Develop new research, concepts and ideas and accelerate the acceptance of new policies, products, processes and services by end users.

Interpretation of the practical implications of the research findings
Involving Older People in Research

Raise the profile of research and encourage the use of users in the research process.

Mutual motivation and achievable targets in the research process.

Reduce the gap between academic research and actual practice.

Gain new experience and skills.

Have direct ownership of the research project.

Better quality and solid research.

Attracting funds and recognition of their organisation.

Etc.
Involving Older People in Research
An Example:

Aim:

Development of an open and innovative reference architecture so that there is interoperability of different web services from the same or different application domains. This will allow cost-effective interconnection of existing and newly developed services in domains (nutritional, physical activity, mental health, environmental control, health) required for independent living of older people.

www.oasis-project.eu
Involving Older People in Research
An Example: www.oasis-project.eu

Development of User Centred Design (UCD) approach. It deals mainly with the "participatory analysis" i.e. with the requirements analysis stage of a project aiming at placing the user at the forefront of the design effort.

The OASIS Participatory Analysis Framework (OPAF) includes three elements, referred to as OPAF-1 (Working with older users), OPAF-2 (Information gathering and envisionment processes) and OPAF-3 (Low-fidelity prototyping process). The sequential application of them comprises the user need analysis (participatory analysis) framework for OASIS.
Ageing Research
The Challenges:

Towards holistic approach to Ageing Research:

- Multidisciplinary approach (new frontiers in ageing research: e.g. Technology and Ageing)

- New forms of communication between researchers and end users and between researchers themselves
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