



# Researching and managing research on ageing in Spain

Vicente Rodríguez  
MICINN ERA-AGE2 Officer

Third FLARE Summer School  
San Lorenzo de El Escorial, Sept. 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> 2011

# Ageing demographics, Spain

- Some general facts
  - Near 8 mill. (17%)
  - Fast increase, mainly octogenarians
  - Spanish baby-boomers to retire around 2020
  - Increasing importance of Europeans retired (UK, Germany)
  - Life expectancy from 35 (1900) to 80 (2010)
  - The higher the population figures, the greater number of older people
  - The less populated areas, the higher proportion

# Ageing and health

- Elderly mortality pattern led by degenerative diseases: circulatory, cancer and mental
- Perceived health status stands very good (40%)
- Disability increases with age (half of those over 80), being female, illiterate, widows
- Family attendance for disabled:
  - for men first wives, then daughters
  - for women, first daughters, then husbands

# Economic assets

- Elderly great majority to receive public pensions (retirement, widowhood, non-contributory)
- Average retirement pension about 900 €
- Risk of poverty for more than a quarter of the elderly
- Compensated by owning the house

# Social aspects

- A half of Spanish elderly is living with a couple ...
- ... but single person households increase as people age..
- ... mainly among women (widows) as dominant situation
- Relatively high proportion of those illiterate: no infant education as they started working in their early years

# Research managing

- Ministry of Science (MICINN)
  - National Plan for Research, Development and Innovation (2008-2011)
  - Different actions to perform: research, human resources, transfers, international networks, dissemination
- Carlos III Health Institute
  - Strategic Health Action
- Both are responsible for international activities
- Future research programme under discussion

# MICINN and ERA-AGE2

- Agreement on FLARE Summer School
  - Funds provision (for Spanish Congress on Ageing and FLARE SS) for travel and accommodation expenses
  - Coordination Team to define scientific program, to select participants and organization aspects
  - Practical matters: venue, accommodation, travels and transfers

# MICINN and ERA-AGE2

- Databases actions (WP5): monitor existing research resources in Spain
  - Funding bodies: general/specific programs based on central/regional level
  - Tracing stable research groups on specific or multidisciplinary matters, either in universities or in research centres
  - Identifying of other public/private structures fostering research
- Compilation by MICINN and CSIC in the next few weeks



# Participation in FUTURAGE

- Spanish consultation
  - To determine Spanish research priorities
  - To contact salient research groups
  - Process
    - Detection of research groups (Portal Mayores)
    - 50 responses (used 46 after revision)
    - Researchers from medical, human and social sciences
    - Report sent to FUTURAGE and published in Portal Mayores
- Participation in discussion meetings

# Ageing: Research in Spain

- Meeting to contribute to FUTURAGE Roadmap in three major areas:
  - General statements: theoretical, multidisciplinary, multilevel, translation, user involvement, dissemination
  - Research proposals
    - Biogerontology
    - Healthy ageing
    - Social and economics resources
    - Environments of ageing
  - Methodological / instrumental guidelines: combination, longitudinal method, databases, training, networking