Researching and managing research on ageing in Spain

Vicente Rodríguez
MICINN ERA-AGE2 Officer

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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 health
• 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)
  – 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