THE FUTURE OF AGEING RESEARCH IN EUROPE

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Third FLARE Summer School,
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THE FUTURE OF AGEING RESEARCH IN EUROPE

- Background: The Europeanisation of Ageing Research
- The European Research Area in Ageing
- The European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing
- Towards a Road Map for Ageing Research
## Milestones in Europeanisation of Ageing Research

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1991-93</td>
<td>European observatory on Ageing and Older People</td>
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<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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<tr>
<td>1998-2002</td>
<td>FP5 Key Action 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>First European Forum on Ageing Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>FORUM, SHARE</td>
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<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>ERA-AGE</td>
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<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>AAL</td>
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<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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<td></td>
<td>FUTURAGE</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>JPI, EIPAHA</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>ERA-AGE Joint Call</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>FP8</td>
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The European Research Area in Ageing
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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Partner Countries:</th>
<th>Associate Partners:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>Luxembourg</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
<td>Romania</td>
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<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>Spain</td>
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<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>Sweden</td>
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<tr>
<td>Israel</td>
<td>United Kingdom (Coordinator)</td>
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<td>Italy</td>
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<td>Latvia</td>
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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
THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA IN AGEING (ERA-AGE)

MAJOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO EUROPEAN AGEING RESEARCH

- Creation of national research forums in partner countries (based on the UK model)
- Databases of research programmes and centres
- Development of key research priorities
- Good practice guides in research management
- A key part of FUTURAGE
- Europe’s first post – doctoral fellowship scheme
- Europe’s first joint programme of ageing research

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ERA-AGE Joint Programme

Key Features

- Focus on EIPAHA goal of extending healthy life years
- High quality science
- Multidisciplinarity
- Cross-national collaboration
- User/stakeholder engagement
- Knowledge transfer (the 3P’s)
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The European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing

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European Council, 4 Feb 2011:

“**Innovation contributes to tackling the most critical societal challenges** we are facing. Europe’s expertise and resources must be mobilized in a coherent manner and synergies between the EU and the Member States must be fostered in order to ensure that innovations with a societal benefit get to the market quicker. The **launch of the pilot Innovation Partnership on active and healthy ageing** is an important step in that context.”
A triple win for Europe

• Enabling EU citizens to lead healthy, active and independent lives until old age

• Improving the sustainability and efficiency of social and health care systems

• Developing and deploying innovative solutions, thus fostering competitiveness and market growth

Overarching goal by 2020

• Increasing the number of healthy life years (HLYs) by 2 in the EU on average
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Towards a Road Map for Ageing Research

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What is a Road Map?
What is a Road Map?

Politics

Science

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

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

NATIONAL CONSULTATIONS AT COUNTRY LEVEL (WP1)

- WP2 Biomedicine
- WP3 Socio-Economic Resources
- WP4 Environment and Ageing
- WP5 Healthy Ageing
- WP6 User Agenda

1st Scientific Workshops

- WP2
- WP3
- WP4
- WP5
- WP6

1st Users Workshop

- WP2
- WP3
- WP4
- WP5
- WP6

COUNCIL OF SCIENTISTS MEETING 1 (WP7)

STAKEHOLDERS MEETINGS 1 (WP7)

- WP2
- WP3
- WP4
- WP5
- WP6

2nd Scientific Workshops

- WP2
- WP3
- WP4
- WP5
- WP6

2nd Users Workshop

- WP2
- WP3
- WP4
- WP5
- WP6

COUNCIL OF SCIENTISTS MEETING 2 (WP7)

STAKEHOLDERS MEETINGS 2 (WP7)

- WP2
- WP3
- WP4
- WP5
- WP6

THE ROAD MAP (WP8)

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DESIGNING THE ROAD MAP
DESIGNING THE ROAD MAP

Overarching Principles

- An Holistic Person – environment Approach to Ageing (All Disciplines)
- A Life Course Perspective (Continuous Ageing)
- Multi-disciplinarity (The New Science of Ageing)
- User / Stakeholder Engagement (The Key Role of Older People)
- Knowledge Exchange (Impact on Policy, Practice, Product Development)
- Diversity, Cross-national, Cross-cultural (The European Research Area)
- Capacity Building (The Next Generations)
- Maximising Technological Innovation (EU Priority)
MULTIDISCIPLINARY PROGRAMME
MODEL

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www.newdynamics.group.shef.ac.uk
DESIGNING THE ROAD MAP

All Disciplines

- Biogerontology: biology, biomedicine and genetics
- Social and economic resources (including social support and care provision)
- Environments of ageing focusing primarily on the physical environment
- Healthy ageing and well being (physical and mental)
- User / Stakeholder Engagement
THE DEFINITIVE ROAD MAP FOR AGEING RESEARCH IN EUROPE (FUTURAGE)

COORDINATION TEAM (WP11) + NETWORK STEERING COMMITTEE (WP7)

THE ROAD MAP (WP8)

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INTRINSIC (genetic)  

EXTRINSIC (environment/lifestyle)  

AGEING (loss of function/adaptability)  

AGEING IS INEVITABLE BUT MALLEABLE  

Adapted from Grimley Evans (2004)
Interdisciplinary research should not be conducted for its own sake but, rather as a deliberate response to specific research needs.

*Bridging Disciplines in the Brain, Behavioural and Clinical Sciences, 2000, p.4.*
Designing the Road Map

3 Sections

1. Introduction: rationale, basic assumptions and principles
2. Major Research Themes
3. Implementation
DESIGNING THE ROAD MAP

Major Research Themes

- Healthy Ageing for More Life in Years
- Maintaining and Regaining Mental Capacity
- Inclusion and Participation in the Community and Labour Market
- Social Protection: Quality and Sustainability
- Ageing Well at Home and in Community Environments
- Unequal Ageing and Age-related Inequalities
- Biogerontology
## KEY THEMES FROM WORKSHOPS

### Environments
- Theoretical development
- Diversity
- Life course
- Interdisciplinary
- Methods
- Early career researchers
- User perspectives

### Social and Economic Resources
(Burning issues)
- Sustainability of social protection
- Migration and ageing
- Inequalities and diversity
- Age discrimination
- Social participation

(General)
- Labour market
- Ageing, families and generations
- Ageing and education
- Ageing and consumption
- Ageing and welfare
- Ageing and spirituality
- Ageing and technologies
- Ageing and leisure

### Healthy Ageing
- Inequalities in Healthy Ageing
- Prevention and Promotion
- Interventions for improved health and well-being
- Psycho-social aspect of healthy ageing
- Methods and infrastructure

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**KEY THEMES FROM WORKSHOPS**

**Biogerontology**
- Biomarkers of ageing and longevity
- Telomere biology, DNA damage, senescence
- Oxidative stress, protein damage
- Systems biology
- Immunosenescence
- Metabolism
- Nuclear receptors
- Vascular ageing
- Muscle weakness and exercise
- Skin-related biology
- Clinical biogerontology

**User Involvement**
- Healthy ageing
- Access to health services
- Social participation
- Social protection sustainability
- Mental health
- Living alone, dependence
- Age discrimination
- Intergenerational relations
- Environments and quality of life
- End of life
- User involvement paradigm
FROM WORKING GROUPS TO MAJOR THEMES

WORKING GROUPS

- Biogerontology
- Healthy Ageing
- Environments of Ageing
- Social and Economic Resources

MAJOR RESEARCH THEMES

- Healthy Ageing
- Biogerontology
- Unequal Ageing
- Social Participation
- Social Protection
- Mental Capacity
- Home and Community

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THE PRIORITY OF ACTIVE AGEING

Active Ageing Across the Life-course

Healthy Ageing
Mental Capital
Inclusion and Social Participation
Social Protection
Unequal Ageing
Home and Community
Bio-gerontology

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DESIGNING THE ROAD MAP

Implementation

- Framework Programme Priority for Ageing Research
- Infrastructure: A Virtual European Institute
- Capacity Building: Multi-disciplinarity, New Member states and the Next Generations
- Funding for User Engagement / Knowledge Exchange
THE FUTURE OF AGEING RESEARCH

- More Multi-disciplinary
- More Diverse in Methods (e.g. Translational, Social and Biological, Longitudinal)
- More Holistic Approach to Ageing (Life Course, Diversity, Contextual)
- Closer Reference to End Users, Including Older People (from subjects to partners)
- Greater Emphasis on Impact (the 3p’s)

More Responsive to the Grand Challenge
For example, the ‘Futurage’ initiative is an FP7 European project which aims to produce a definitive road map which will guide European research on ageing for the next ten years to come. The ‘Futurage’ programme is undertaking the most extensive consultation ever conducted in this field and it is mobilising stakeholders, including medical practitioners, policy makers, industry and representatives of older people to work out the terms of this road map...

Márie Geoghegan-Quinn
Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation
15 April 2010
WITH THANKS TO.......
THE COUNCIL OF SCIENTISTS

Marja Jylha, University of Tampere, Finland (Chair)

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Jean-Pierre Michel, University Hospital of Geneva/President Elect of the European Union Geriatric Medicine Society (EUGMS), Switzerland
Jean-Pierre Baeyens, University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg
Emanuele Scafato, ISS, Italy
Leon Zagrean, "Carol Davila" University of Medicine and Pharmacy, Bucharest.

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THE FUTURE OF AGEING RESEARCH IN EUROPE

THANK YOU MUCHAS GRACIAS

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