THE FUTURE OF AGEING RESEARCH IN EUROPE

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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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<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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<tr>
<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>
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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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<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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<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, FPT calls</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>FP8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The European Research Area in Ageing
COORDINATING EUROPEAN RESEARCH ON AGEING

www.ageingresearch.group.shef.ac.uk

www.era-age.group.shef.ac.uk
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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<td>Luxembourg</td>
<td>Canada</td>
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<td>Bulgaria</td>
<td>Romania</td>
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<td>Romania</td>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
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<tr>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>Spain</td>
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<td>Spain</td>
<td>Lithuania</td>
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<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>Sweden</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>Saxony (Germany)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Israel</td>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
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<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>Quebec</td>
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<tr>
<td>United Kingdom</td>
<td>Coordinator</td>
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<tr>
<td>Italy</td>
<td>Lower Silesia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lower Silesia</td>
<td>(Poland)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Latvia</td>
<td>Ireland</td>
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</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
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
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)
Joint Call for Research on "Active and Healthy Ageing"

- Europe's first joint research programme in the ageing field
- Launched June 2011
- Budget 4.2 Million Euros
- 12 funders in 9 countries: UK, Canada, Finland, France, Sweden, Israel, Luxembourg, Latvia, Romania
  - 35 applications were received to Stage One
  - 28 of which were peer-reviewed (7 were ineligible).
  - 12 applications were invited to Stage 2
  - 6 applications recommended for funding

Final results expected Autumn 2012
THE FUTURE OF AGEING RESEARCH IN EUROPE

The European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing
“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.”
OBJECTIVES AND HEADLINE TARGET

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
THE FUTURE OF AGEING RESEARCH IN EUROPE

Towards a Road Map for Ageing Research

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Galway, Ireland, 6-9 August 2012
What is a Road Map?
What is a Road Map?

Politics

Science
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
PARTICIPANTS

- 11 ERA-AGE partners
- University of Namur (Belgium)
- University of Heidelberg (Germany)
- University of Lund (Sweden)
- 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 FUTURE OF EUROPEAN AGEING RESEARCH: A ROAD MAP

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

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 NEW SCIENCE OF AGEING

AGEING = LOSS OF FUNCTION/ADAPTABILITY

EXTRINSIC

ENVIRONMENTAL

DAMAGING

INTRINSIC (GENETIC)

EXTRINSIC

ENVIRONMENTAL
A NEW VISION OF AGEING

“A new vision of ageing is required because the present dominant paradigm is now a relic of a previous socio-demographic era in which retirement took place for a majority at state pension ages and post-retirement years were relatively short. Changes in the labour market and social behaviour coupled with a remarkable extension in longevity, associated in some countries with a pushing further up the age range (or ‘compression’) of morbidity, have transformed the experience of later life. The boundaries of frailty are being pushed back and, for a growing number of older Europeans, 70 is the new 50.”

European Road Map, p.11
THE CASE FOR INTER/MULTI-DISCIPLINARITY

“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
FROM DISCIPLINES TO WORKING GROUPS

Disciplines
- Architecture
- Biology
- Biomedicine
- Biotechnology
- Demography
- Design
- Economics
- Education
- Engineering
- Epidemiology
- Genetics
- Geography
- Geriatric medicine
- Health sciences
- Law
- Management
- Occupational therapy
- Philosophy
- Physiology
- Psychology
- Public health
- Social policy
- Social work
- Sociology
- Technology & ICT
- Urban planning

Working Groups
- Biogerontology
- Social & Economic Resources
- Environments of Ageing
- Healthy Ageing

September 2009 - October 2011
### KEY THEMES FROM WORKSHOPS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Environments</th>
<th>Social and Economic Resources</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Theoretical development</td>
<td>• Sustainability of social protection</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Diversity</td>
<td>• Migration and ageing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Life course</td>
<td>• Inequalities and diversity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Interdisciplinary</td>
<td>• Age discrimination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Methods</td>
<td>• Social participation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Early career researchers</td>
<td>(General)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• User perspectives</td>
<td>• Labour market</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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

**Social and Economic Resources**

- Sustainability of social protection
- Migration and ageing
- Inequalities and diversity
- Age discrimination
- Social participation

- Labour market
- Ageing, families and generations
- Ageing and education
- Ageing and consumption
- Ageing and welfare
- Ageing and spirituality
- Ageing and technologies
- Ageing and leisure
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
THE PRIORITY OF ACTIVE AGEING

Active Ageing Across the Life-course

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

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DESIGNING THE ROAD MAP

Four Implementation Priorities

- 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)
- Close Cooperation Between all Member States

More Responsive to the Grand Challenge
POLITICAL SUPPORT

“Ageing research is an area of great social, political and economic importance for the European Union... I want to re-focus research and innovation polices very clearly on developing a coherent strategic research agenda which will tackle the grand societal challenges, which include both the promotion of healthy living and healthy ageing... These challenges can only be confronted if innovative and multi-disciplinary approaches are taken.”

Máire Geoghegan-Quinn
Commissioner for Research, Science and Innovation
15 April 2010
POLITICAL SUPPORT

“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…”

Máire 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)

Ariela Lowenstein, University of Haifa, Israel
Dieter Ferring, University of Luxembourg
Dietmar Wuppermann, Federal Ministry of Research and Education, Germany
Heinz Osiewacz, Goethe-Universität Frankfurt, Germany
Pearl Dykstra, Erasmus University Rotterdam, Netherlands
Tom Kirkwood, Newcastle University, United Kingdom
Fiorella Marcellini, Italian National Institute on Ageing
Dorly Deeg, VU University Amsterdam and VU University Medical Center
Amsterdam, Netherlands
Stathis Gonos, National Hellenic Research Foundation, Greece
Chris Phillipson, Keele University, United Kingdom
Rocio Fernandez-Ballesteros, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Spain

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Claudio Franceschi, University of Bologna, Italy
Janet Lord, University of Birmingham, United Kingdom
Alfonso Sousa-Poza, University Of Hohenheim
Jean-Marie Robine, University of Montpellier, France
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, Romania
THE DEFINITIVE ROAD MAP FOR AGEING RESEARCH IN EUROPE (FUTURAGE)
THE FUTURE OF AGEING RESEARCH IN EUROPE

THANK YOU

Fourth FLARE Summer School, NUI Galway
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