

EUROPEAN UNION



Committee of the Regions



The European Older People's Platform
La Plate-forme européenne des Personnes âgées

How to promote Ageing Well in Europe:

Instruments and tools available to local and regional actors

October 2009





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October 2009

This brochure was produced by AGE in partnership with the Committee of the Regions. It does not represent the official views of the Committee of the Regions.

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Foreword by

Luc Van den Brande, President of the Committee of the Regions



The issue of an ageing European population will have a strong impact at a local and regional level. This demographic trend will indeed result in a profound shift in the structure of the population in our towns, cities and regions, thereby affecting policies and services. This presents both opportunities and challenges, which need to be identified and correctly understood in order to be addressed effectively.

Senior citizens often choose to stay in the familiar environment of their local community, and the role of local and regional authorities is to accommodate this choice. These authorities provide various services that directly affect senior citizens, including accessible public transport, an urban environment adapted to their needs, health and long-term care services, and broader social inclusion activities. The integration and active participation of senior citizens in the local community also involves a significant contribution to the economic and general development of communities. This therefore promotes a mutually beneficial relationship between citizens of all ages and local and regional authorities.

The local and regional authorities' room for manoeuvre to tackle the challenges presented by an increasingly ageing population is limited, and may be more restricted in the future. They will nonetheless still continue to play an essential role as facilitators, providers and coordinators for the delivery of services targeted toward the ageing population, and thereby have a direct impact on the quality of life in their local communities. In this respect, the European Union and Member States can assist them in finding sustainable solutions and offering funding possibilities, which is the main aim this brochure seeks to achieve. I hope that the numerous examples of good initiatives and practices and the funding opportunities that illustrate them will be a source of inspiration for local and regional authorities.

Demographic change does not only have an impact at a macro-level, but also at a micro-level, where local and regional authorities are essential players. This is why Europe needs to be built in partnership. I strongly hope that this brochure will be a useful addition to the tools already available and will assist you in addressing this change effectively at a local and regional level.

Luc Van den Brande
President of the Committee of the Regions

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Luc Van den Brande'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Foreword by Liz Mestheneos, President of AGE



In most Member States, it is the role of regional and local authorities to create services adapted to the needs of their older population, such as offering accessible public transport, housing and infrastructure; facilitating access to employment and volunteering for older people; ensuring quality health and long term care services, fighting against discrimination, and promoting active citizenship and cross-generational initiatives.

However the financial crisis and recession is making it harder for many regions and local authorities confronted with a rapid population decline to provide the services required by their ageing population, in particular the health and long-term care needs of older people.

This is why AGE is pleased that the Committee of the Regions has agreed to publish a joint brochure on “Ageing Well in Europe, a toolkit for regional and local actors”. With this brochure we aim at providing useful information on the relevant instruments developed by the European Union which can be used by local actors to promote active ageing and greater solidarity between generations.

The challenges facing regional and local actors are even more pressing in today’s economic and financial context and will force policy makers at all levels to review completely the way they respond to the needs of their population as outlined in the European Commission’s Communication and Report on Ageing 2009 published on 29 April 2009. We hope that this brochure will foster a useful debate between all relevant actors interested in finding innovative solutions. Together local actors can find suitable solutions to tackle demographic ageing by building greater social cohesion with the support of the European Union instruments and World Health Organisation policy guidance.

This brochure also aims to help local actors take an active part in the European Year against Poverty and Social Exclusion 2010 and to prepare the European Year on Active Ageing and Intergenerational Solidarity envisaged for 2012.

We hope to be able to continue to collect information about the challenges faced by local actors across the European Union and to promote a useful exchange of information on the solutions they develop. Comments, suggestions and examples of good practices are welcome and can be addressed to the AGE office at info@age-platform.org. Don’t hesitate to share your experience with us and help us improve this awareness tool.

Liz Mestheneos
President of AGE

Acknowledgments

This brochure is a joint project of the Committee of the Regions and AGE-the European Older People's Platform. AGE drafted the content of this document as part of its work programme supported by the European PROGRESS¹ programme.

We would like to thank all those who have sent us information about initiatives and projects implemented at local and regional level in the field of ageing as well as those who provided the photos included in this brochure.

This document is not an exhaustive list of what is done by local actors to meet the needs of the ageing population and we are aware that there are many more innovative initiatives implemented across the EU. Remarks, comments, new examples are welcome and will be used to update the brochure in the future and adapt it better to the needs of regional and local actors in the European Union. Please forward them to Anne-Sophie Parent, AGE Director (annesophie.parent@age-platform.org).

The brochure is available in English, French and German on the Committee of the Regions' website and on AGE website. Printed copies can be ordered free of charge at: info@age-platform.org

Introduction

Why this toolkit?

Every region in Europe is faced with rapid demographic ageing which will oblige policy makers to review the way in which they respond to the needs of their citizens. Society has changed rapidly over recent years, and the ways in which local authorities respond to these new demands will have to adapt accordingly. Local stakeholders, town planners, public transport operators, public health organisations, social service providers, architects, social housing organisations, older citizens' groups, universities, etc. need to discuss the right response to the specific challenges faced by the European ageing populations.

There are a number of opportunities for local and regional actors to access EU funding for innovative projects around ageing issues but often information is difficult to find and it is the purpose of this brochure to facilitate this process.

Who is it addressed to?

The toolkit is designed for the regional and local actors, such as institutions, NGOs, private sector, who are responsible for meeting the needs of older people living in their territories and who wish to know what tools and funding instruments are available to them to help them achieve their objectives.

How to use it?

This brochure addresses a series of challenges that regional and local actors face due to demographic ageing and illustrate what they can do in each of these areas with examples of projects funded by EU programmes to:

Fight against poverty and social exclusion of older people

Promote:

- ✦ healthy ageing
- ✦ employment of older workers and active ageing
- ✦ quality care services for the elderly and prevent elder abuse
- ✦ accessible urban mobility adapted to an ageing population
- ✦ urban and rural development that is adapted to older people's needs
- ✦ housing that is adapted to the needs of older people
- ✦ intergenerational solidarity and cooperation
- ✦ Enhance equal opportunities, civic participation and volunteering of older citizens

Additional information concerning the most relevant EU programmes that can be used to fund projects in these areas can be found at the end of the brochure, together with additional methodological tools.

What can local actors do to...

Fight against poverty and social exclusion of older people?

With the current financial and economic crisis, poverty and social exclusion are expected to increase in the coming years and local actors will need to find solutions to support the most marginalised, including a growing number of older people whose savings and pensions will diminish and who will be faced with increasing age related expenses which they cannot afford and which will no longer be covered by the publicly funded systems.

Local authorities faced with the task of meeting the needs of all those affected by the recession need to find innovative and sustainable ways to respond to the growing difficulties experienced by many older people and allow those in precarious situations to find the help they need and for which they cannot pay.

Older migrants and older women living alone face a higher risk of poverty and social exclusion and this might create an extra challenge for local actors in some areas.

Most relevant funding instruments

for more information, see page 27, 28, 30

European Social Fund

INTERREG IV C

PROGRESS

FP7 Socio-economic sciences and humanities



2010 European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion

2010 will be the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion. Local and regional actors will be able to apply for funding for activities to help older people live in dignity and take part in society, set up partnerships to combat poverty and social exclusion of older people, promote a more cohesive society that benefits all, including older people. Eligible activities will include awareness-raising campaigns and studies, innovative schemes to promote social inclusion, conferences, and competitions to identify success stories.

For more information: <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=637>

Examples of projects

From Isolation to Inclusion – (Re-)integration of isolated seniors into community life (funding instrument: Trans-national Exchange Programme)

The i2i-Project was launched in the framework of the Second Trans-national Exchange Programme 2005-2007. The i2i project focused on the identification and improvement of measures that enable older people to fully participate in community life, in particular those at high risk of social exclusion, such as single older people from ethnic minorities, older persons with disabilities or chronic diseases, older persons in need of support and care, older women affected by poverty and older persons threatened by homelessness. A major focus was on strengthening initiatives by older persons for older persons and on supporting networks of these initiatives. The i2i-project took place in Austria, the Czech Republic, Germany, Italy, Lithuania and the UK. In each country a public authority (regional or local) and an external consultancy organisation cooperated at regional level. By combining political impetus, expert know-how and direct links into practice the project intended to increase the chances for a successful implementation of socio-political measures in favour of isolated older persons.

For more information: <http://www.i2i-project.net/>

“SenEmpower” project

The i2i-project partners have launched a second project “**SenEmpower**”, which aims at offering training courses to members of senior self-help groups to improve their skills in empowering seniors, with weak family and social networks, to take a more active part in society.

For more information: <http://www.senempower.eu/project/>

What can local actors do to...

Promote healthy ageing?

Healthy ageing is not just about prolonging life. It is about promoting the necessary means to enable older people to continue to participate in society and to cope with daily life. It concerns learning, the exchange of good practice and the development of strategies and policies designed to promote older people's individual wellbeing and personal growth.

Promoting health throughout life is an essential part of any strategy aiming at achieving healthy old age for all. Much can be done before and after retirement age to enable people to maintain good health longer and to delay frailty and dependence. Promoting healthy ageing policies should therefore become a long-term goal for the local and regional actors.

However the current crisis and its effect on local public finances will aggravate the difficulties experienced by local authorities in meeting the needs of their older populations, in particular in areas which are rapidly ageing and in isolated or rural areas. New forms of solidarity will have to develop to prevent the burden falling entirely on the shoulders of already overburdened families.

Most relevant funding instruments

for more information, see page 27 and up

European Social Fund

INTERREG IV C

FP7 HEALTH

European Public Health Programme



Examples of projects

Best practices for tackling demographic change – falling birth rates and increasing life spans (funding instrument: Regions for Economic Change initiative, INTERREG IVC)

In the area of employment, human capital and education, INTERREG IVC finances a “Regions for economic change” initiative that is called: “Best practices for tackling demographic change – falling birth rates and increasing life spans – ESF6CIA”. The project aims to capitalise innovative approaches towards demographic change through the exchange of good practices on older workers, training of older workers, or managing age diversity. The project has been labelled as a Fast Track Network by the European Commission, which implies that the European Commission is involved as an additional project partner. The project is coordinated by the Aufbauwerk Region Leipzig GmbH in Germany, and involves 11 partners among which public authorities and research institutes.

For more information: <http://www.esf6cia.eu>

INTERLINKS (funding instrument FP7 European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures)

The objective of this 3-year project funded by ESFRI is to construct and validate a general model to describe and analyse long-term care (LTC) systems for older people in 14 Member States. The particular aspects of the different emerging national models that currently address long-term care needs in Europe will be used to show how the links to health care services, the quality of LTC services, the incentives for prevention and rehabilitation, and the support for informal carers can be governed and financed to enhance structures, processes and outcomes of LTC systems. Based on the assumption that LTC systems in Europe have only started to develop at the boundaries of health and social care, the project will focus on the elaboration of concepts, indicators and models for policies and practice at the interfaces and links between health systems and LTC.

For more information: www.euro.centre.org/interlinks

What can local actors do to...

Promote employment of older workers and active ageing?

Even before the current crisis, workers aged 50+ were facing a higher risk of unemployment and were the first to suffer from the huge restructuring that has taken place in some regions. Today, early retirement is used again in companies hit by the recession and this leaves an increasing number of older unemployed who need support from local employment agencies and lifelong learning centres to keep their skills and be ready to get back into the labour market when the recession will end.

Older women are encountering even more difficulties in the labour market than men with equivalent training and skills because of their family commitments (i.e. responsibility for children and/or an elderly dependent relative) and the reduction of care facilities.

Local actors (local authorities, local employment agencies, volunteer associations, trade unions) should work more closely together to explore new forms of cooperation with a view to lifting the barriers which prevent older workers from finding work.

Most relevant funding instruments

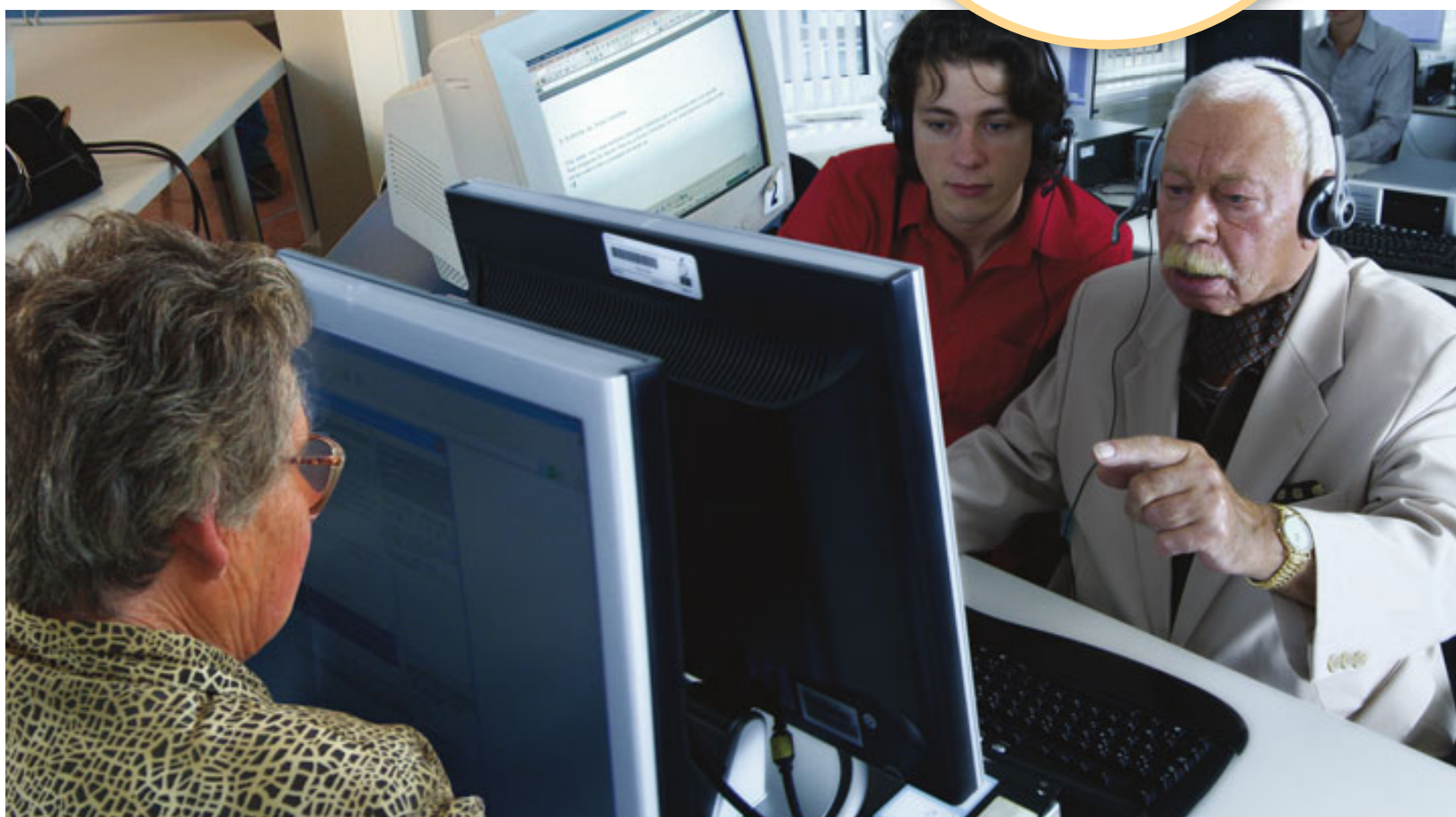
for more information, see page 27 and up

European Social Fund

PROGRESS

Leonardo da Vinci

FP7 Socio-economic sciences and humanities, Health Programme



Example of projects

Ageless at work (funding instrument: ESF)

Ageless at work is a three year project, developing innovative work-related training schemes to help employment flexibility for an ageing population. This project deals with one of the greatest challenges for the South West UK economy – the increasing age profile of the working population. The project involves all major local authorities in the region, looking to develop new approaches to ‘age management’ together with partners from Sweden, Finland and Poland. The project will look at changing workforce culture to value employment skills for people aged 50+, e.g. those looking to retrain because of worklessness or changes in skills and workforce demand. The project will be developed through three stages: research; testing and modification; policy and practical mainstreaming. The project is also currently planning to establish a thematic network for exchanging experiences with other regions.

For more information: <http://southwest.skillsforcare.org.uk/>

MATURE@eu (funding instrument: Leonardo da Vinci)

The 2nd mature@eu-Supporting employers in recruiting and selecting mature aged persons project is currently running and involves local actors from Austria, Bulgaria, Germany, Greece, Hungary, the Netherlands, Slovenia, Switzerland and the United Kingdom concerned with tackling the prejudices that exist against older workers’ participation in the labour market by establishing an evidence base on redirecting recruitment policies, the selection and interviewing of candidates, and to present age diverse employers to external stakeholders. The project runs for 18 months and builds on the success of the earlier project mature@eu project.

For more information: <http://www.mature-project.eu/>

“Senior Enterprise” by SEN@ER network partners (funding instrument: INTERREG IV-B NWE)

The project Senior Enterprise is coordinated by the Mid-East Region of Ireland together with 9 partners from 6 SEN@ER regions in 4 countries. The regions include North Rhine-Westphalia, Yorkshire and Humber, North West Region, North East Region, Gelderland and Lower Saxony. The project objective is to increase the proportion of older people engaging with enterprise through different means: Starting and Partnering; Acquiring and Investing; Innovating and Advising.

The programme is tailored to specific regional requirements and will be tested through a variety of means in several regional contexts. The fully tested initiative will be transferable to other regions and ready to attract further funding.

For more information: <http://www.silvereconomy-europe.org>

PATRON (funding instrument: Lifelong Learning Programme)

The PATRON - Intergenerational learning and transfer of transversal skills related to entrepreneurial management project identifies and tests ways of transfer of the skills that senior managers and entrepreneurs have developed in their working life to young entrepreneurs and managers. Practices are transferred to the beneficiaries and outputs are transferred to the countries of the partnership aiming at a multiplying effect through the involvement of local entrepreneurs and Chambers of Commerce.

For more information: <http://www.patronproject.org>

What can local actors do to...

Promote quality social and health services for the elderly and prevent elder abuse?

As the population ages, local actors are faced with a rapidly rising number of dependent individuals, while at the same time the number of individuals able to support them is falling. The care for dependents is organised and provided for at the local level by public authorities, non-profit organisations, volunteer groups or profit-making institutions. Older people constitute a particularly vulnerable group of end-users of long-term care services and for that reason adequate measures must be put in place to ensure the quality of services and fight against elder abuse in all care settings: institutional, community or home care, both formal and informal.

In 2008, the European Commission organised a European conference on elder abuse where several innovative measures implemented by local authorities were presented. The European Commission is also working on the issue of quality of care services and a Communication will be published in 2010 on long-term care where local authorities might find useful information.

Local authorities should look at promoting new initiatives to provide quality care to those in need, including with the use of new technologies, and assist in recruiting and training volunteers.

Most relevant funding instruments

for more information, see page 27 and up

European Social Fund

PROGRESS

Leonardo da Vinci

FP7 Socio-economic sciences and humanities

DAPHNE

European Public Health Programme



Examples of projects

DREAMING (funding instrument: Competitiveness and Innovation Programme-Policy Support Programme)

DREAMING – Elderly-friendly alarm handling and monitoring project online was launched in May 2008. It aims to find innovative solutions to help keep older people in their home environment as long as their physical and mental conditions allow this, using new technologies to ensure their health and safety. DREAMING brings together a set of services which will allow older people to live longer independently. This goal will not only be achieved with technology but the participating social and health authorities will enhance their offering of non-technology based services essential for the autonomy of older people.

The following services are examined:

- monitoring and alarm handling services
- elderly-friendly videoconferencing services
- non-ICT based services

The Project Consortium is composed of 13 private and public organisations from 7 different EU countries. The following local and regional authorities are involved in the project: the County Council of Uppsala (Sweden), the Government of Aragon (Spain), Heby Kommun (Sweden), Langeland Kommune (Denmark) and the Syddanmark Region (Denmark).

For more information: <http://www.dreaming-project.org/>

InnoELLI Senior Programme in Southern Finland 2006-2008

The InnoELLI Senior Programme is aimed at developing wellbeing services for the elderly in Southern Finland. The program supported different projects in Finland that developed new, innovative procedures for wellness services for the elderly. This helped creating possibilities to enhance the cost-efficiency, quality and functionality of the services aimed at the elderly.

The InnoELLI Senior Program was prepared and carried out by the South Finland Regional Alliance, which is the regional cooperative agency between seven counties. The program also succeeded in creating new forms of cooperation between private, public and third sectors actors in developing wellness services for the older population.

For more information: www.etela-suomi.fi

What can local actors do to...

Promote accessible urban mobility adapted to an ageing population?

Local authorities faced with mobility problems of their ageing populations should learn from those municipalities which have made mobility for all a priority and develop strategies which meet the needs of all users of public space: public transport users, pedestrians, cyclists, motorists, etc.

Local actors should also support initiatives implemented by a variety of volunteer organisations who help members of vulnerable groups to move around, young people and seniors who help the very elderly to do their shopping, get to the doctor, etc.

These initiatives contribute a lot to creating solidarity between citizens and between generations and help improve safe mobility for all, particularly the most vulnerable.

Most relevant funding instruments

for more information, see page 27 and up

FP7 Sustainable surface transport

Structural Funds

Intelligent Energy Europe



Examples of projects

Mediate – Methodology for Describing the Accessibility of Transport in Europe (funding instrument: FP7 Sustainable surface transport)

Mediate is the acronym of “ Methodology for Describing the Accessibility of Transport in Europe “, a European project financed by the 7th Framework Programme. The project was officially launched on 1 December 2008 and will last two years. The overall objective of Mediate is to contribute to the development of inclusive urban transport systems with better access for all citizens. The project involves urban transport operators and local authorities, transport experts and end users including people older and disabled users.

For more information: <http://mediate.euregio.net/>

AENEAS – Attaining Energy Efficient Mobility in an Ageing Society (funding instrument: Intelligent Energy Europe (IEE) programme)

Demographic change has negative impacts on energy-efficiency in urban mobility. The project AENEAS focuses on urban mobility for people aged 50+, as they are increasingly using private cars instead of environmentally sustainable modes of urban transport. The project aims to promote a better balance between ageing friendly mobility system (infrastructure and information) and energy efficient mobility, through good practice exchange across Europe. The project partner cities are Donostia-San Sebastián (ES), Kraków (PL), Munich (DE), Odense (DK), Salzburg (AT).

For more information: www.aeneas-project.eu/

EUROCITIES Demographic Change, Urban mobility and Public Space project (PROGRESS)

The study into Demographic Change, Urban Mobility and Public Space aims at giving an overview of the way selected European cities (Berlin, Copenhagen, London, Vienna and Zurich) have reacted to the challenges associated with demographic change, in terms of urban mobility and public space.

Based on the comparative analysis of the five cities, a set of challenges and key areas for action has been identified, which highlight the essential requirements for formulating policy responses to the forthcoming challenges.

For more information: <http://www.eurocities.eu/main.php>

What can local actors do to...

Promote an urban and rural environment that is adapted to the needs of older people?

Like many other European cities and rural municipalities, your urban environment might be designed essentially for the active population and for young and healthy people with no mobility problems. Promoting a public environment that is adapted to the needs of older people should then be one of your top priorities to facilitate independent living and participation of all, including older people.

For example, does your city or municipality have safe pavements and cycle tracks? Are the public parks designed so that everybody, young and old, is welcome and can enjoy the green spaces? Is the old town centre paved with cobblestones making it difficult for older people to get about safely? Are your public buildings designed with the needs of older people in mind (accessibility, seats to rest, elevators and ramps, etc.)? Do you face difficulties in attracting young families into areas where the population has aged rapidly?

If your urban environment is preventing older people and other vulnerable groups from participating in the community life, then you need to adopt urban policies that will aim at overcoming these barriers to restore the social fabric and enable all age groups to live in harmony with other social groups.

Most relevant funding instruments

for more information, see page 27 and up

INTERREG IV C

URBACT

JESSICA

JASPERS

Leonardo da Vinci



Examples of projects

Qec-ERAN Network (funding instrument URBACT)

Qec-ERAN is a network of towns promoting an integrated approach to the revitalisation of disadvantaged areas, with the involvement of politicians, technicians and local residents in that process. It is one of the longest established networks (since 1989) in relation to the theme of urban regeneration. Qec-ERAN remains committed to being at the leading edge in relation to the changing realities experienced by regeneration areas. It is one of the key players in the URBACT programmes.

For more information: <http://www.qec-eran.org/>

Design for All – Concevoir pour tous (funding instrument Leonardo da Vinci)

The department of Val-de-Marne (FR) has set up a partnership with the Architecture, Environment & Urban Development Council (CAUE) and the Urban Development Institute of Paris (IUP – Créteil University), to operate an awareness project for students on the problems of accessibility for all in the city. This project, funded by the Leonardo da Vinci Programme, also involves local or regional authorities from other Member States: Solna (SE), Venetia (IT) and Andalusia (ES). A training course for the students of the IUP, as well as training of the officials working in local authorities is proposed.

For more information: <http://www.ensa-network.eu/projects.htm>

HINTERLAND - Potentials for a Spatial Development under the Aspects of Decline

The “Hinterland” project aims at tackling the challenges faced by these areas in the Baltic Sea Region - a less active and over-aged population, fewer economic and social activities, and waste of houses and infrastructure - by looking for modern, innovative spatial development measures. The project plans to develop local/regional foresights and specific development strategies for future settlement structures, rural-urban business relations, transport and infrastructure matters as well as landscape and agriculture aspects, and apply them in their pilot activities.

For more information: <http://www.hinterland-info.net/index.php?css=normal>

What can local actors do to...

Promote housing that is adapted to the needs of the ageing population?

If you are faced with housing problems and the rapid ageing of some districts, developed thirty or forty years ago and if you struggle to attract young people in these neighbourhoods, you may wish to look at renovating your housing stock and developing new initiatives to promote a better mix of age groups, cultures and solidarity among residents. The most favoured options are those which promote a greater mix of ages in their social housing projects, and offer services and an urban space which are adapted to all age groups in order to encourage a generational mix in private housing.

If students in your area are unable to find adequate rooms to rent, while some older people suffer from loneliness in properties which have become far too big after the departure of their children, you may wish to support initiatives, both public and private, which are seeking to reconcile two needs: that of students in search of comfortable, inexpensive accommodation and that of the elderly living alone and looking for company.

Most relevant funding instruments

for more information, see page 27 and up

INTERREG IV C

URBACT

JESSICA

JASPERS

FP7 Socio-economic sciences and Humanities



Examples of projects

HOUS-ES network (funding instrument: URBACT)

The Hous-Es network gathers EU cities (benefiting or having benefited from URBAN or UPPs and cities from New Member States) to work on the restructuring and management of large housing estates. The project is considering a number of different approaches to management and physical renewal of housing estates and possibilities of public-private partnerships as a helping instrument to solve some problems. In the spirit of URBACT, the project aims to ensure the exchange of experience and transfer of knowledge on the widest scale possible. The project involves a strong and varied partnership with partners from the EU-27 and a number of research and regeneration organisations from across Europe who brings an external perspective to the work of the project. Each principal partner will also work with a local partnership bringing in to play a range of economic and social players and city inhabitants.

For more information <http://urbact.eu/hous-es>

European Neighbours' Day - European Federation of Local Solidarity

European Neighbours' Day is an event which takes place once a year on the last Tuesday of May. The objective of the Day is to foster community cohesion through the exchanges between people on neighbourly basis. The Day is a great opportunity for cities and social housing organisations to strengthen local communities and to encourage groups of people to organise neighbourhood parties. It is up to each group of residents to organise their own party. This event is organised with the support of Cecodhas, EuroCities and the Committee of the Regions, and endorsed by the European Commission.

For more information: <http://www.european-neighbours-day.com/>

What can local actors do to...

Enhance equal opportunities, civic participation and volunteering of older people?

Older people often face barriers which prevent them from participating fully in society. Local authorities should develop measures aimed at ensuring equal opportunities to everyone, including older people in their communities. These include measures such as free or subsidised public transport facilities, campaigns to promote a positive image of ageing and older people, promoting digital literacy among older people, providing alternative format for e-government services, etc.

Promoting the civic participation and volunteering of older people should be an important objective of local actors. Local community activities can do much to encourage intergenerational mixing by supporting activities such as the local annual fair or local flea markets, open days at schools or homes for the elderly, carnival parades, homework or handicraft schools, neighbourhood choirs, amateur sports clubs, public area clean-up operations, school parties, etc. There are numerous examples and all have the same goal: to encourage the residents of a neighbourhood to get involved in activities together to know each other better and to develop a feeling of belonging to a community and solidarity between the members of that community.

Most relevant funding instruments

for more information, see page 27 and up

GRUNDTVIG

GIVE: Grundtvig Initiative for Volunteers in Europe!

Europe for Citizens Programme town twinning and citizens panels



Examples of projects

A new project of the SEN@ER network - “InCreaSe – Intercultural Creativity of Seniors: A Travelling European Academy” (funding instrument: GRUNDTVIG)

The InCreaSe project is a travelling training academy for cultural learning and participation of older people in Europe. During the two-year partnership the expert partners will meet in each others' countries to exchange models of good practice in different areas. These involve different ethnic groups and generations, 'keyworking', volunteering for culture, theatre and media work. The overall aim is to develop training modules for implementation at a yearly “European Summer School”. As arts and culture are particularly appealing in later life more learning projects are using these activities to integrate seniors into community life. This is beneficial not only for the seniors themselves but also for the wellbeing of the society.

For more information:

http://www.age-culture.de/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=4&Itemid=96&lang=en

Senior European Volunteers Exchange Network – SEVEN

SEVEN is an international network of 29 organisations that promote voluntary service in Europe as an educational and lifelong learning tool for senior citizens. The network includes NGOs, local governments, universities and research centres working with NGOs with at least 5 years' experience in the coordination and management of senior volunteer programmes. The aim of the SEVEN network is to create a “European Wide Space” where all organisations involved can easily exchange information on the implementation of their mobility and exchange projects, and take part in common project proposals. Another aim is to give advice on senior volunteering to national and international institutions dealing with active ageing, educational tools, active citizenship and social cohesion.

For more information: <http://www.seven-network.eu/site/>

Thematic town twinning project on older people's needs

The Europe for Citizens town twinning programme funds a thematic exchange project which brings together local authorities and older citizens groups from Grosseto (Italy), Woluwé St. Lambert (Belgium) and Wexford (Ireland). The town twinning project focuses on the daily life experience of older people in these cities and their active participation in the development of local policies. The project aims at facilitating an exchange of views on the policies implemented by local authorities to help older people live independently, exchange good practice in areas such as older volunteering, lifelong learning, intergenerational activities, heritage, care and informal carers, new technologies, relations between generations within the family and in the community, sustainable partnerships for home care, long-term care, dependency insurance, gender equality, age friendly cities, innovative services, etc.

For more information: http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/citizenship/index_en.php

What can local actors do to...

Promote intergenerational solidarity and cooperation?

As underlined by the flash Eurobarometer published by the European Commission in April 2009 to mark the first European Day of Solidarity between generations, a vast majority of citizens feel that local authorities should support associations and initiatives that foster stronger relations between young and older people, schools should promote better relations between the young and the old, and there should be public centres where older people are helped to find opportunities to volunteer for tasks that match their skills and wishes (page 14).

Local initiatives which encourage intergenerational solidarity and cooperation are very useful helping residents of a neighbourhood to get to know each other in order to develop a feeling of belonging to a community and create greater solidarity between the members of that community. Local stakeholders can enable local citizens to contribute to the development of their community and this should be a high priority for local actors. They should support initiatives which encourage interaction and solidarity between the generations and between social and cultural groups.

Most relevant funding instruments

for more information, see page 27 and up

GRUNDTVIG

GIVE: Grundtvig Initiative for Volunteers in Europe!

Europe for Citizens Programme - town twinning and citizens' panels



Examples of projects

European Day of Solidarity between Generations – 29 April

Local actors should support activities around the **European Day of Solidarity between Generations** which is celebrated on 29 April. This initiative was celebrated for the first time in 2009 by thousands of citizens across the European Union.

For more information: http://www.age-platform.org/EN/rubrique.php3?id_rubrique=87

European Year on Active Ageing and Intergenerational Solidarity – 2012

During the Slovenian Presidency conference in April 2008, Vladimir Špidla, European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, declared that he would propose that 2012 should be declared the European Year on Active Ageing and Intergenerational Solidarity.

If this proposal is confirmed by the incoming Commission, local actors would have the opportunity to organise activities and raise awareness of the need to promote active ageing and intergenerational solidarity in their community. European funding would also become available for local activities. More information should be available on the DG Employment and Social Affairs website in 2011.

TCAST - Transfert des compétences acquises et de savoir techniques / Transfer of acquired competences and technical skills (funding instrument: GRUNDTVIG)

This project is coordinated by the Corsican Environment Office (France), in cooperation with the Council of Majorca (Spain), the Community of Montana Suol d'Aleramo (Italy) and KEK Tekniki Ekpedeftiki (Greece). It aims at experimenting intergenerational transfer of endangered competences and knowledge in the jobs related to the preservation of the architectural heritage.

For more information: www.oec.fr

ADD-LIFE! (funding instrument: GRUNDTVIG)

The overall aim of the Add-Life project was to develop university-accredited modules for non-traditional students, especially senior citizens. Among its objectives was to explore different models of intergenerational learning, collaborative learning between older and young learners, and intergenerational collaboration on designing new modules.

For more information : add-life@uni-graz.at



Summarised information on the main European Union instruments which can be useful for local actors faced with demographic challenges

DG REGIO – Structural Funds

How to obtain support from the European Structural Funds: partnerships for more family-friendly living and working conditions (DG EMPL)



This brochure published by the European Commission, DG Employment and Social Affairs, provides useful information about the various Structural Funds instruments that local actors can use to respond to their demographic challenges. It includes also examples of projects that have been implemented with the support of previous instruments for example in the field of elderly care. Finally the brochure provides practical tips for those who wish to set up a project.

For more information:

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/families/docs/eul_1414_family_081023_web_en.pdf

Manual on the Structural Funds, a guide for NGOs (EAPN)



The European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) recently launched a manual on Structural Funds 2009 – 2011 which is designed mainly for social inclusion NGOs but can be used by any local or regional actor determined to ensure that EU Structural Funds become effective instruments for making Europe a more inclusive society. Building on case studies and practical tips, the manual focuses on how NGOs can be a critical voice in the development of Structural Funds and on the opportunities to use them for social inclusion projects (in particular after the end of the EQUAL programme). It also provides guidance on how to look to the next Structural Funds round (2014-2020).

For more information: http://www.eapn.eu/images/docs/manual%20pdf_en.pdf

European Social Fund (ESF)



The ESF can be a useful instrument for local actors faced with challenges such as a high unemployment rate among older workers and the social exclusion of the elderly, for example to:

- Improve the skills and employability of older workers
- Support businesses undergoing change to prevent unemployment among older workers
- Promote access to employment and social inclusion of vulnerable groups of older workers (older women, low skilled workers, migrants, older people with disabilities)
- Provide education and training to older workers
- Promote employment of older women caring for dependent relatives through the reconciliation of work and family life
- Fight age/gender discrimination and promote social inclusion of older people

- Set up partnerships on active ageing
- Improve public services aimed at older people
- Promote trans-national projects and networks around ageing issues
- Support innovative actions aimed at meeting the needs of the ageing population

For more information:

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/esf/discover/esf_en.htm

European Regional Development Fund and “Regions for Economic Change” support projects on demographic change

The European Regional Development Fund supports projects addressing regional development, economic change and enhanced competitiveness. The ERDF priorities include innovation and the knowledge economy, and environment and risk prevention. The ERDF also encourages the exchange of good practices in cross-border activities between regions or cities. The ERDF “Regions for Economic Change” initiative is integrated into the work of INTERREG IV C and URBACT (see below).

For more information:

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/cooperation/interregional/ecochange/doc/theme33.pdf

INTERREG IV C can help set up fast track networks of regions facing similar demographic challenges



The interregional co-operation programme INTERREG IV C gives regions the opportunity to work together and exchange good practices and knowledge on the best ways to meet the needs of their ageing population in various policy areas. INTERREG IV C can finance cross-regional initiative projects and capitalisation projects, such as fast track network projects aimed at transferring best practice on general or specific ageing issues between several EU regions.

For more information: <http://www.interreg4c.net>

URBACT II – can help EU cities set up an Age Friendly Cities network



The urban dimension is fully integrated into the Operational Programmes co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). The URBACT II programme can be used to develop age friendly urban policies and to facilitate the exchange of experiences between European cities faced with demographic ageing. For example, URBACT II could be used by cities and municipalities wishing to implement the WHO Age Friendly Cities programme and set up a EU network of Age Friendly Cities.

For more information: <http://urbact.eu/urbact-programme.html>

The LEADER Approach: Rural Development Policy 2007-2013



For the 2007–13 programming period the new LEADER approach is mainstreamed in all national/regional rural development programmes. This opens up new possibilities for the Leader approach to be applied on a far wider scale and across a much broader range of rural development activities. This LEADER approach can be used by local actors in rural areas to explore new ways to overcome the challenges they may face, such as an ageing population, poor levels of service provision, or a lack of employment opportunities which pushes the younger generations to move to urban areas.

For more information: http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/publi/fact/leader/2006_en.pdf

EUKN can help share knowledge on ageing issues



The European Urban Knowledge Network (EUKN) can help share knowledge and experience on tackling ageing issues. Sixteen EU Member States, EURO CITIES, the URBACT Programme and the European Commission participate in this European initiative. Local actors can find interesting information on the EUKN online library on various urban policies:

- social inclusion and integration;
- housing;
- transport and infrastructure;
- urban environment;
- economy, knowledge and employment;
- security and crime prevention
- skills and capacity building.

For more information: www.eukn.org/eukn/

JESSICA can help local actors access loans to develop age friendly cities

JESSICA is a joint initiative of the Commission, the European Investment Bank and the Council of Europe Development Bank to promote investment in urban development. JESSICA offers the managing authorities of Structural Funds programmes the possibility to take advantage of outside expertise and to have greater access to loan capital to adapt the urban environment to the needs of their ageing population and to renovate their social housing stock to adapt it to older residents.

For more information: www.jessica.europa.eu

JASPERS can provide assistance for the development of Structural Funds infrastructure projects around ageing



JASPERS (Joint Assistance to Support Projects in European Regions) is a major joint policy initiative of the European Investment Bank, the European

Commission (DG REGIO) and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD). JASPERS aims at assisting beneficiary countries (mainly the new Member States and acceding countries of the EU) to prepare major infrastructure projects to be funded by the EU Structural and Cohesion Funds during the period 2007-2013. Local and regional actors needing assistance can get it free of charge from JASPERS. Assistance may be given to prepare individual projects or horizontal studies covering more than one project or more than one country.

For more information: www.jaspers.europa.eu

DG Employment and Social Affairs

PROGRESS Transnational Exchange Programme supports exchange between local and national actors on social protection and social inclusion – DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities



Every day in Europe, considerable human and financial resources are employed by local governments, NGOs or academia to tackle common issues such as social exclusion of the elderly and how to meet their long term care needs. There is a consensus to acknowledge that a great share of these resources would be best used if they were pooled through common projects. Local actors can use the trans-national exchange programme to set up projects to compare their social situation with that of other regions, to allow the identification of strengths and weaknesses and help to set priorities. Knowledge of the programmes carried out in other countries broadens the range of options available to local decision makers, triggers new policy developments and helps them avoid costly mistakes.

The PROGRESS Transnational Exchange Programme is open to local actors in the EU-27 Member States, candidate countries and EFTA/EEA countries. On the following website, local actors can find calls for proposals that aim to support exchanges on policies, good practice and innovative approaches and to promote mutual learning in the context of the EU social protection and inclusion strategy.

For more information:

http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/spsi/transnational_exchange_en.htm

DG Research

The Seventh Framework Programme (FP 7) 2007-2013 supports ageing-related research – DG Research



FP7 is the short name for the Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development. It is the EU's main instrument funding research in Europe and will run from 2007-2013. FP7 is also designed to respond to Europe's employment needs, health, social cohesion, environmental, competitiveness and quality of life challenges.

FP 7 supports research in selected priority areas among which some can be of direct interest to local actors looking for solutions to meet their demographic challenges such as:

- Optimising the delivery of healthcare to citizens
- Enhanced health promotion and disease prevention

- Promoting quality, solidarity and sustainability of healthcare systems
- Quality of food, health and wellbeing
- Demographic change including ageing and migration
- Lifecycles, work, families, gender issues, health and quality of life
- Socio-economic sciences and humanities

For general information about on-going FP7 calls:

<http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/dc/index.cfm?fuseaction=UserSite.FP7CallsPage&rs>

For more information on ageing related research under FP7:

ftp://ftp.cordis.europa.eu/pub/life/docs/hansen_fp7.pdf

ESFRI

The European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures can support research on age related issues



ESFRI, the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures, is a strategic instrument to develop the scientific integration of Europe and to strengthen its international outreach. The competitive and open access to high quality Research Infrastructures supports and benchmarks the quality of the activities of European scientists, and attracts the best researchers from around the world. The mission of ESFRI is to support a coherent and strategy-led approach to policy-making on research infrastructures in Europe, and to facilitate multilateral initiatives leading to the better use and development of research infrastructures, at EU and international level.

For more information: <http://cordis.europa.eu/esfri/roadmap.htm>

DG Education and Culture

The Leonardo da Vinci programme can help promote vocational learning of older workers



The Leonardo da Vinci programme supports projects on vocational education. It aims to support European citizens to acquire new skills, knowledge and qualifications and have them recognised across borders. It also supports innovations and improvements to increase the quality and attractiveness of vocational education and training in Europe.

Leonardo da Vinci funds a wide range of actions, notably transnational mobility, European projects focusing on the development or the transfer of innovation and networks. It addresses trainees in initial vocational training, people available on the labour market and professionals in vocational education and training, as well as any organisation active in this field.

Local and regional actors can also use the Leonardo da Vinci programme to improve the recognition and validation of work-based learning acquired by unemployed people in their regions and to support activities aimed at redressing problems caused by demographic change, such as helping older workers retain and update their skills.

For more information:

http://ec.europa.eu/education/programmes/llp/leonardo/index_en.html

The GRUNDTVIG programme can support adult education and older volunteering



The GRUNDTVIG programme seeks to respond to the challenges raised by the necessity to update knowledge and to provide adults with pathways to improve their know-how and competences, as they progress through life so that they can adapt to changes in the labour market and society.

Local and regional actors can apply to GRUNDTVIG to get funding for projects promoting various forms of non-vocational adult and continuing education. GRUNDTVIG is targeted at learners, teachers, trainers and other staff in adult education, organisations and other bodies offering and facilitating such learning opportunities. Local actors such as adult education associations, counselling and information services, NGOs, enterprises, research centres and higher education institutions can work together through transnational partnerships, European projects and networks with the support of GRUNDTVIG. Those involved in adult education can also take part in mobility activities. A priority of the GRUNDTVIG programme is to enhance the participation of older learners including learning in later life, and intergenerational and family learning.

For more information: http://ec.europa.eu/education/grundtvig/doc872_en.htm

GRUNDTVIG – GIVE programme on older volunteering



“GIVE” (Grundtvig Initiative on Volunteering in Europe for Seniors) is a new initiative which will be implemented from 2009 onwards. It consists of a scheme of grants to support Senior Volunteering Projects between local organisations located in two countries participating in the Lifelong Learning Programme (LLP).

The new Action pursues the following interlinked objectives:

- To enable senior citizens to volunteer in another European country for any kind of non-profit activity, as a form of informal (and mutual) learning activity (learning / sharing knowledge).
- To create lasting cooperation between the host and sending organisations around a specific topic or target group, and thanks to the exchange of volunteers.
- To enable the local communities involved in the exchange of volunteers to draw on the potential of senior citizens as a source of knowledge, competence and experience.

For more information: http://ec.europa.eu/education/grundtvig/doc986_en.htm

The Transversal programme can help promote policy cooperation and break language barriers faced by older people



A priority of the Transversal programme is on guidance and vocational training to address economic change and the ageing of the active population. Local actors can use the Transversal Programme to promote policy cooperation on ageing issues and challenges, break the language barriers faced by older people, develop innovative learning methods using new technologies, as well as spread the results of lifelong learning projects.

For more information:

http://ec.europa.eu/education/lifelong-learning-programme/doc90_en.htm

Europe for Citizens Programme



The aim of the Europe for Citizens programme is to promote active citizenship throughout Europe. The programme supports citizens' exchanges, town twinning, studies, and events to promote knowledge of Europe's culture and history and construction of Europe.

The thematic town twinning programme enables local actors (local public authorities and older citizens groups) to get together and discuss local policies around older people's needs and demographic ageing.

The Citizens' Panels can provide support to groups of citizens from different regions in the EU who wish to get together to discuss issues of common interest such as how to respond to the challenges posed by the rapid ageing of the population.

For more information:

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/education_cultura/activecitizenship/citizens_en.html

DG Energy and Transport The Intelligent Energy Europe (IEE) programme



The Intelligent Energy - Europe programme is the EU tool for funding actions that encourage the use of renewable energy sources in Europe. The programme is run by the Executive Agency for Competitiveness and Innovation (EACI) on behalf of the European Commission, and seeks to bridge the gap between EU policies and national implementation.

Any private or public organisation in the European Union can respond to a call for proposals, and submit a proposal that helps at fulfilling the EU's energy and climate change objectives. The projects need to involve at least three partners coming from different countries. In mid-2008, the EACI managed more than 400 projects and supported the establishment of 60 new local or regional energy agencies.

This programme can be used by local public and private actors for actions related to ageing and older people's mobility.

For more information: <http://ec.europa.eu/intelligentenergy>

DG Information Society Competitiveness and Innovation Program - CIP-PSP



The Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) developed by DG INFSO aims at boosting the competitiveness of European enterprises. With small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) as its main target, the programme supports innovation activities (including eco-innovation), provides better access to finance and delivers business support services in the regions. It aims at encouraging a better take-up and use of information and communications technologies (ICT) and help to develop the information society. It also promotes the increased use of renewable energies and energy efficiency.

Local and regional actors can apply for funding under the CIP programme for age- related initiatives. Several important projects are already funded on ageing and older people needs (see section on ICT and ageing)

For more information:

http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/ict_psp/index_en.htm

ICT Policy Support Programme



The ICT Policy Support Programme (or ICT PSP) aims at stimulating innovation and competitiveness through the wider uptake and best use of ICT by citizens, governments and businesses.

Local actors can use the ICT PSP programme to improve access and take-up of new technologies by older people.

For more information:

http://ec.europa.eu/information_society/activities/ict_psp/index_en.htm

The Ambient Assisted Living (AAL) Joint programme



The EU's research and development programme 'Ambient Assisted Living' (AAL) was launched in 2008 and will run for six years. The programme aims at improving the quality of life for older people through the use of new information and communication technologies. Innovative ICT-based products and services for ageing well can extend the time older people can live in their own homes by assisting them in carrying out daily life activities. They can consequently reduce the costs of health and social care. The initiative is driven by the participating Member States with the involvement of the European Commission. Twenty countries are involved so far. Local and regional actors of these countries can apply through their national AAL contact person (<http://www.aal-europe.eu/aal-ncp>).

For more information: <http://www.aal-europe.eu/>

DG SANCO

European Public Health Programme



The Second Programme of Community Action in the Field of Health (2008–2013) aims at complementing and supporting Member States' policies on the protection and promotion of human health, safety and public health. The overall aim of the Health Programme is to finance actions which contribute to improving and protecting human health, and its specific objectives are to:

Improve people's health security (protect people from health threats and improve people's safety)

Promote health (foster healthier ways of living and reduce health inequalities; reduce major diseases and injuries by tackling determinants of ill health)

Generate and disseminate health information and knowledge (exchange knowledge and best practice; collect, analyse and disseminate health information).

Healthy ageing and helping live longer in good health is a key priority of the European Public Health Programme. Local actors can submit applications for projects on healthy ageing and age-related diseases which will contribute to any of these three objectives. There are different types of funding schemes available under the Health Programme, depending on the type of action to be financed.

More information is available in a comprehensive booklet about the EU Health Programme 2008-2013 and how to participate in the Health Programme at:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_programme/documents/prog_booklet_en.pdf

For more information:

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_overview/pgm2008_2013_en.htm

DG Justice, Freedom and Security

DAPHNE III Programme to combat elder abuse and neglect



In June 2007, the European Parliament and the Council adopted the Daphne III programme for the period 2007-2013. This programme aims at preventing and combating violence against children, young people and women and to protect victims and groups at risk and is part of the General Programme "Fundamental Rights and Justice".

The programme is open to NGOs, local public authorities and institutions (for example universities and research institutes) from the 27 EU Member States, the EFTA/EEA countries (Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein), the candidate countries and the Western Balkan states. Local and regional actors can use the DAPHNE programme to access funding for projects on elder abuse and the promotion of adequate and quality care to the dependent elderly. The DAPHNE II programme has already funded a few projects on elder abuse which were led by local actors.

For more information:

http://ec.europa.eu/justice_home/funding/daphne3/funding_daphne3_en.htm#part_3

Other useful publications and toolkits

Local actors looking for solutions to their demographic challenges can find useful complementary information in the following toolkits and appraisal tools. These tools can help local actors assess the needs of their population, find more examples of projects implemented at local level and information about the Structural Funds.

How to develop regional strategies about ageing?

The Committee of the Regions, Age Concern England and AGE jointly published an “Age Proofing Toolkit” in July 2006. It provides a briefing and series of prompt questions to focus on the key issues presented by demographic ageing in the context of regional and cohesion policy. It aims to ensure that regional authorities and organisations can fully consider the issues of an ageing population when preparing their regional strategies, and can “age-proof” their documents.

For more information: www.cor.europa.eu/migrated_data/2454_ageing_EN.pdf

In January 2007, DG REGIO organised a Regions for Economic Change conference on Regional policies to demographic change. A series of reports were produced for that event that can be useful to local actors faced with demographic challenges:

For more information:

http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/conferences/demographicchallenge_jan07/sources_en.cfm?nmenu=8

Where to find demographic and economic analysis on the issue?

The European Commission published in November 2008 its second demography report on “Meeting social needs in an ageing society”. The purpose of this second report is to provide the latest facts and figures that are needed for an informed debate with the stakeholders taking part in the Forum and with the group of government experts on demography, which was involved in the conception of the present report.

For more information:

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=419>

The European Commission also adopted on 29 April 2009 a Communication on the impact of an ageing population in the EU, accompanied by an extensive analytical report, the 2009 Ageing Report. These two key documents provide very useful information to local actors about the impact of ageing and the expected future needs of large numbers of older people.

For more information:

http://ec.europa.eu/economy_finance/thematic_articles/article14761_en.htm

Are there regional statistics about ageing?

The Eurostat Regional Yearbook 2008 provides very useful regional population projections and statistical information about the impact of demographic ageing and its consequences in terms of

urban development, gross domestic product, household accounts, structural business statistics, the labour market, sectoral productivity, labour costs, transport, tourism, science, technology and innovation, health, agriculture.

For more information:

http://bookshop.europa.eu/eubookshop/download.action?fileName=KSHA08001ENC_002.pdf&eubphfUId=625601&catalogNbr=KS-HA-08-001-FR-C

How to assess the needs of your ageing population?

The World Health Organisation (WHO) published a guide that aims at helping cities and municipalities, regional authorities, voluntary organisations, the private sector and citizens' groups identify where and how they can better respond to the needs of their ageing populations. It includes a series of checklists aimed at providing a self-assessment method and a map to chart progress in the following areas: outdoor space and buildings, transportation, housing, social participation, respect and social inclusion, civic participation and employment, communication and information, community support and health services. Several cities and municipalities across the EU have already decided to join the WHO Age Friendly Cities Programme.

For more information, visit WHO's Age Friendly Cities website:

http://www.who.int/ageing/age_friendly_cities/en/index.html

Is your local health system prepared for an ageing society?

This book has been developed by WHO/Europe as a framework, not a user's manual, offering national policy makers a possible architecture for a health policy based on values. It reflects a broad consensus – that setting targets at the regional level does not take account of the overwhelming diversity in the social, economic and health status of the different countries. It strives to demonstrate that the Health-for-All values are not just abstract aspirations but that they can be implemented in practice. Pragmatic tools for policy makers are presented that may enable them to test and check their local health policies, programmes and systems against the values commonly shared by society.

For more information: <http://www.euro.who.int/document/e87861.pdf>

How to combat age barriers in employment?

The positive management of an ageing workforce presents a new challenge to local authorities, employers and workers across the European Union. In order to help practitioners in this area, the European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions has published a portfolio of good practices that analyses more than 150 initiatives in favour of the retention, retraining and reintegration of older workers. It is intended as a practical tool for all those concerned with combating age barriers in employment.

For more information: <http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/publications/htmlfiles/ef9719.htm>

How to meet the challenge of demographic ageing in the context of the current crisis?

Local and regional actors may also find some useful information about the needs of all age groups and examples of interesting initiatives and policies implemented to meet the demographic challenges faced by local actors in a brochure that AGE published in April 2009 to mark the first European Day of Intergenerational Solidarity: “Meeting the challenge of demographic ageing in the context of the current crisis: a plea for greater solidarity between generations”

For more information:

<http://www.age-platform.org/EN/IMG/AGE-Solidarity-BROCHURE-EN.pdf>

AGE

AGE - the European Older People's Platform is a European network bringing together about 150 organisations of people aged 50+, directly representing over 25 million older people in the European Union.

Our network is mainly financed by the European PROGRESS Programme and our members' contributions.

AGE works at European level to raise awareness of the opportunities and challenges that arise from the ageing of our society, to shape appropriate policy responses and to promote the interests and involvement of the older citizens of Europe

Among our guiding principles is the conviction that a change of attitudes is needed to achieve a society for all ages and to ensure that the rights of all age groups including older people are not only protected but that they are also enhanced. Solidarity between generations should also be sought in a way that recognises older people's contributions to society.

For more information:

www.age-platform.org

Leaflet on AGE: http://www.age-platform.org/FR/IMG/General_Leaflet_EN.pdf

AGE publications: http://www.age-platform.org/FR/rubrique.php3?id_rubrique=61

AGE publication on "Meeting the challenge of demographic ageing in the context of the current crisis: a plea for greater intergenerational solidarity":

<http://www.age-platform.org/EN/IMG/AGE-Solidarity-BROCHURE-EN.pdf>

Committee of the Regions

Around two-thirds of EU legislation is implemented by local and regional authorities in the Member States. The Committee of the Regions (CoR) was created in 1994 to give representatives of local government a say over the content of these laws. The CoR organises five plenary sessions a year, where its 344 members vote on opinions issued in response to proposed legislation. The European Commission, which initiates EU laws, and the Council of Ministers, which determines the final content of the legislation (usually in tandem with the European Parliament), are obliged to consult the CoR on a wide range of policy areas including the environment, employment and transport. The Lisbon Treaty will further strengthen the position of the Committee of the Regions. In future, the Committee must be consulted by the European Parliament on all issues that are important for regions and municipalities. The Committee can also appeal to the European Court of Justice if its rights are infringed or it believes that an EU law violates the subsidiarity principle or fails to respect regional or local powers.

The Committee's Directorate for Consultative Work is organised in six Commissions, whose responsibility is to support the preparation of Committee of the Regions Opinions on the proposals of the European Commission. The present brochure has been developed in partnership with the Economic and Social Policy (ECOS) Commission.

Contact: ecos@cor.europa.eu

Website: www.cor.europa.eu



EUROPEAN UNION



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