Towards an Age-Friendly Europe

Biscay, Territory for All Ages

Bilbao, 30 September 2016

Julia Wadoux
Who we are?
AGE Platform Europe at a glance
Age-Friendly Environments: the starting point

Europe is ageing...

- 17.4% People over 65 in 2010
- 30% People over 65 in 2060

Average life year expectancy in Europe:
- 1900: 47
- 2012: 80.3
- 2050: 83.5

Healthy life years vs Life years expectancy at birth in the EU:
- 2012:
  - Women’s healthy life expectancy: 62.2
  - Men’s healthy life expectancy: 61.8
  - Men’s life expectancy: 77.4

Legend:
- Pink: Women’s healthy life expectancy
- Purple: Men’s healthy life expectancy
- Blue: Men’s life expectancy

Matching the gap and invest in healthy life years expectancy

Healthy life years vs Life years expectancy at birth in the EU

2012

- Women’s healthy life expectancy
- Women’s life expectancy
- Men’s healthy life expectancy
- Men’s life expectancy
Improving healthy life year expectancy to...

- Lower down the pressure on health- and social care systems
- Support informal carers
- Be able to better answer the need of vulnerable/frail older people
- Support active ageing, independant living and ageing in place
- Create a fair society for all ages
Thus invest in the age-friendly environments approach
Getting the momentum at EU level

European Year 2012 on Active ageing and solidarity between generations

European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing (including Reference Sites)

AFE-INNOVNET Thematic Network on Innovation for Age-Friendly Environments
There is a need for Member States to move from a reactive to an increasingly proactive policy approach seeking both to prevent the loss of autonomy and thus reduce care demand, and to boost efficient, cost-effective care provision in homecare and in residential institutions. (…)

The main elements of the proactive response to social protection against long-term care dependency include measures aimed at: preventing people from becoming dependant on care, by promoting healthy life styles, tackling the major causes of dependence and promoting age-friendly environments in homes and neighborhoods through design for all (…).
Support from the Committee of the Regions

The best approach to ageing is the promotion of age-friendly communities where public space, transport, housing and local services are conceived with the needs of all generations in mind, fostering also solidarity and cooperation between generations.

Markku Markkula, President of the Committee of the Regions
Convergence of the messages

« Visions for ageing societies should not exclusively target the older population. They have to include societies for younger cohorts and coordinate the benefits for both generations. »
On-going work on indicators

**Active Ageing Index**
The Active Ageing Index (AAI) is a tool to measure the untapped potential of older people for active and healthy ageing across countries. It measures the level to which older people live independent lives, participate in paid employment and social activities as well as their capacity to actively age.

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The Covenant on Demographic Change: linking up at EU level
The Covenant harnesses the expertise and experience of stakeholders at local, regional and national levels, along with that of European policymakers. This collective knowledge will help tackle the challenges of an ageing society.

Commissioner Marianne Thyssen
The Covenant on Demographic Change gathers European public authorities, at local, regional and national level, and other relevant stakeholders, committed to develop environments that support active and healthy ageing, enhance independent living and well-being of older persons, and create a society for all ages.
Current hooks at EU level to further develop age-friendly environments

Silver economy (e.g. Reference Framework for Smart housing and ageing)

Initiatives linked to accessibility

- Access City Award
- Web-accessibility Directive
- The European Accessibility Act

Work linked to standardisation work

- Design for all (Mandate 473)
- Built environments (Mandate 420)
- Reflections around active and healthy ageing and around smart cities

European Innovation Partnership on Smart Cities and Communities
May 2016 - the World Health Assembly adopted the first ever **Global Strategy and Action Plan on Ageing and Health**

Five **strategic objectives** are identified.
- Commitment to action on Healthy Ageing
- **Developing age-friendly environments**
- Aligning health systems to the needs of older populations
- Developing sustainable and equitable systems for providing long-term care
- Improving measurement, monitoring and research on Healthy Ageing
G7 Leaders Statement
Ise-Shima Summit (May 2016)

- Support to the WHO effort to develop and implement the Global Strategy and Action Plan on Ageing and Health
- Lifecourse and multisectoral approach
- Recognition of movement promoting age-friendly community
Influencing the UN Agenda on Housing and Urban development

§ 62 – We [Heads of State and Government] commit to address the social, economic and spatial implications of ageing population where applicable, and harness the ageing factor as an opportunity for new decent job and sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, while improving the quality of life of the urban population.
« Innovative housing, innovative transportation and innovative buildings programmes that make our cities accessible to all are urgently needed. Urban spaces have to be resilient and accessible to older persons, if we want to build inclusive, dynamic, resilient and sustainable cities and communities. »

Rosa Kornfeld-Matte
UN Independant Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons (1 Oct. 2015)
What elephant?
Thank you for your attention!

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