

Housing for old age through the platform of the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing (EIP on AHA)

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'Indoor Environments and Health in Buildings'

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Introduction

The global ageing phenomenon is affecting individuals, investors and policy makers. An environment incorporating in its' design principles and spatial characteristics, the knowledge on human physiology and psychological effect of the built environment and especially the physiology and perception of people across the lifespan, is beneficial for all and acts as their multiplier.



Objectives

Main objective is to include accommodation and housing as main priorities in Europe and provide inclusive environments for older people allowing them to live an independent life and being able to contribute to the silver economy.

This project is an innovative, multi-disciplinary, user-inclusive approach that has been created as part of the call of Commitment Actions of D4 Action Group, of the European Innovation Partnership (EIP) on Active and Healthy Ageing (AHA). It targets synergies between European Regions to identify areas of research in generating practical scalable solutions applicable to reference sites and new or existing buildings to improve the quality and comfort of housing for people across the lifespan.

Methods

The project identifies new design paradigms, informed of end-users' opinion on the care and treatment of ageing population so as to sustain healthy societies free of sources of structural stigma. **This includes transfer of knowledge, upscaling for frailty and fall-prevention through design technologies and Evidence Based Design for policy initiatives for people across the lifespan.**



Results & conclusions

Partners of this project include academia, central government, local authorities, regulatory bodies, start-ups, end-users, user-representatives and SMEs from several sectors such as architecture, planning, IT technologies, transportation, healthcare, psychiatry, art-therapy, business administration, medical tourism and service provision.

Stakeholders' collaboration resulted in creating informal networks of partnerships on:

- advancing the state of the art through experimental and interpretative frameworks,
- advancing the potential for investment in successful solutions for improving indoor environments through suitable quality tools,
- collecting, sharing, and disseminate promising practices to contribute to the silver economy.



Achievements from the Commitment and latest policy-making activities of the D4 Action Group include:

- The creation of **General Domain 4**: Age-friendly design physical environments, of the Innovation and Collaboration Plan D4, bringing emphasis on the eco-psychosocial elements of active and healthy ageing.
- Representation of the Built Environment sector on behalf of EIP on AHA at the 2nd European Summit on Digital Innovation for Active & Healthy Ageing in Brussels in December 2016. An important outcome of the summit: technology alone is not enough to transform health and care in Europe and there is need for special consideration to be paid to the Built Environment.
- Presentation of the Built Environment practices for people across the lifespan at the 3rd UCL Qualitative Health Research Symposium and the 'Living and Sustainability' Conference 2017 at Southbank University, London.
- Representation of the Built Environment sector on behalf of D4 Action Group at the Workshop on Policy recommendations for the EU Silver Economy in Brussels in March 2017.

Publications:

- Chryssikou, E., Tziraki, C., Lekkos, P., Buhalis, D., 2016. Inclusive urban and rural communities: The Bartlett Faculty of the Built Environment "Commitment" on the call for Commitments of EIP on AHA. *BMJ Open*, (7).bmjopen-2017-016492.25. doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2017-016492.25
- Chryssikou, E., Tziraki, C., Buhalis, D., 2016. Co-creating integrated healthy-hospitality hybrids for across the lifespan. *Proceedings of the 1st Cornell Hospitality, Health and Design Symposium 2016, 9th-11th October 2016. Ithaca, NY.* To be published
- Chryssikou, E., Rabnett, R., Tziraki, C., 2016. Perspectives on the role and synergies of architecture, social and built environment in enabling active healthy ageing. *Journal of Ageing Research, Special Issue Active and Healthy Ageing and Independent Living 2016.* Volume 2016, Article ID 6189349, 7 pages. doi:10.1155/2016/6189349

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