



To: *Mary Manandhar, Technical Officer*
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Department of Ageing and Life-Course
Secretariat for the Decade of Healthy Ageing
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WHO Decade of Healthy Ageing (2020-2030)
Endorsement and commitment to action DECADE INITIATIVE
Brussels, 9 April, 2020

Population aging presents important opportunities and challenges to Ageing is posing several important societal challenges for Governments and society that cross country borders and therefore require concerted global policies aimed at implementing sustainable approaches to transform ageing into opportunities for sustainable changes to health, social, and economic development and growth. Addressing health inequalities, public health emergencies, and environmental factors affect high, medium and low-income countries, where they can hinder the achievement of full human potential, and therefore requires both a national and global response.

The WHO defines Healthy Ageing as “the process of developing and maintaining the functional ability that enables wellbeing in older age. Functional ability is about having the capabilities that enable all people to be and do what they have reason to value”.

You will be aware of the actions taken across Europe since 2012 under the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing (EIP on AHA), particularly in stimulating collaborations between Regions for innovative projects that strengthen engagement for active and healthy ageing. There is a synergy between the objectives of the WHO Decade of Healthy Ageing closely and those of EIP on AHA which can be built upon to continue the valuable work progressed by European Regions to date.

The Reference Site Collaborative Network (RSCN), on behalf of European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing (EIP on AHA) Reference Sites, and in collaboration with the Action Groups of the EIP on AHA, endorse the WHO proposal for a Decade of Healthy Ageing, and commits to contributing to the creation and implementation of policies and activities to help eradicate ageism, share tools and good practices based on the best available evidence designed to provide benefits for older people.

We look forward to working with you in eliminating health disparities in our communities and achieving health equity for all, including aging populations.

The RSCN Co-chairs and Ex Board, also on behalf of
The EIP on AHA Action Groups Coordinators



For more information:

EIP AHA website: https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/home_en

RSCN website: <http://www.rscn.eu/>

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List of Signatories

RSCN Ex Board on behalf of RS:

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AGs Coordinators on behalf of AGs

A3 AG Lifespan Health Promotion & Prevention of Age Related Frailty and Disease

Andersen Henning Boje
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EIP on AHA Reference Site Collaborative Network

Solana Sanchez Javier
Texeira Ana Maria
Tziraki Chariklia
Vollenbroek Hutten Miriam
Zavagli Veronica

A1 AG Adherence to prescription and medical plans
Costa Elisio

A2 AG Personalized health management and prevention of falls
Eklund Patrik

B3 AG Replicating and tutoring integrated care for chronic diseases
Bousquet Jean
Lewis Leo

C2 AG Development of interoperable independent living solutions
Catoni Raffaele
Ganzarain Javier
Cristina Guimarães
Kobliakov Nicolai
Montalvá Juan
Pedrosa Ignacio
Zanutto Oscar

D4 AG Innovation for age friendly buildings, cities and environments
Dantas Carina
van Staalduinen Willeke

Annex:

The Reference Site Collaborative Network (RSCN), on behalf of EIP on AHA Reference Sites, along with the EIP on AHA Action Groups have accepted and incorporated the WHO definition of Healthy Ageing, i.e. “the process of developing and maintaining the functional ability that enables wellbeing in older age. Functional ability is about having the capabilities that enable all people to be and do what they have reason to value”.

The European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing (EIP AHA) was launched in 2011 by the European Commission with the purpose of fostering innovation and digital transformation in the field of active and healthy ageing. Partners from across Europe have been involved in the design, piloting, implementation and scale-up of good practices in the effort of pursuing a triple win:

- Improving health and quality of life of Europeans with a focus on older people.
- Supporting long term sustainability and efficiency of health and social care systems.
- Enhancing the competitiveness of business opportunities in new markets.

The EIP on AHA comprises 2 distinct, but related strands - Reference Sites (Regions or Municipalities); and Action Groups. Reference Sites are regional clusters of Government organisations and health and care providers, academia, SMEs, and civil society collaborating to deliver a comprehensive, innovative and evidence-based approach to active and healthy ageing. Action Groups, on the other hand bring together experts and stakeholders across Europe to work together on six specific issues related to active and healthy ageing:

- Adherence Prescription
- Falls Prevention
- Lifespan Health Promotion and Prevention of Age-Related Frailty and Disease
- Integrated Care
- Independent Living Solutions
- Age Friendly Environments

The Reference Site Collaborative Network (RSCN) is a non-profit organization that brings together the EIP on AHA Reference Sites awarded by the European Commission and Candidate Reference Sites into a single forum. The overarching goals of the RSCN are to promote cooperation, share and transfer evidence-based good practice and solutions in the development and scaling up of health and care strategies, policies and service delivery models, while at the same time supporting the EIP on AHA thematic Action Groups in their work.