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- SCIENCE DISSEMINATION-

‘Advancing Research and Training on Ageing, Place and Home’

HOMeAGE Doctoral Network Older Adult Reference Group Meeting

Horizon Europe (HORIZON) Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Doctoral

Networks

HOMeAGE (101073506)

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Project Overview

HOMeAGE Aim

HOMeAGE institutes an interdisciplinary, intersectoral and international programme of doctoral training and research that drives the development of new leaders in excellence for the advancement of evidence-based innovation on ageing in place.

CHALLENGE 1 - Needs and Systems

Objective 1

HOMeAGE will identify flexible and sustainable housing, community-care and mobility systems and critically assess their capacity to support community living needs, across various cultural and structural conditions.

CHALLENGE 2 - Home and Belonging

Objective 2

HOMeAGE will harness new engagement pathways as a means to create new channels for building a sense of home and belonging amongst diverse older population, in diverse places.

CHALLENGE 3 - Rights and Representation

Objective 3

HOMeAGE will identify integrative frameworks that are responsive to the diversity of older people and their places, to drive relevant and rights- based policy development on ageing in place.

HOMeAGE Network

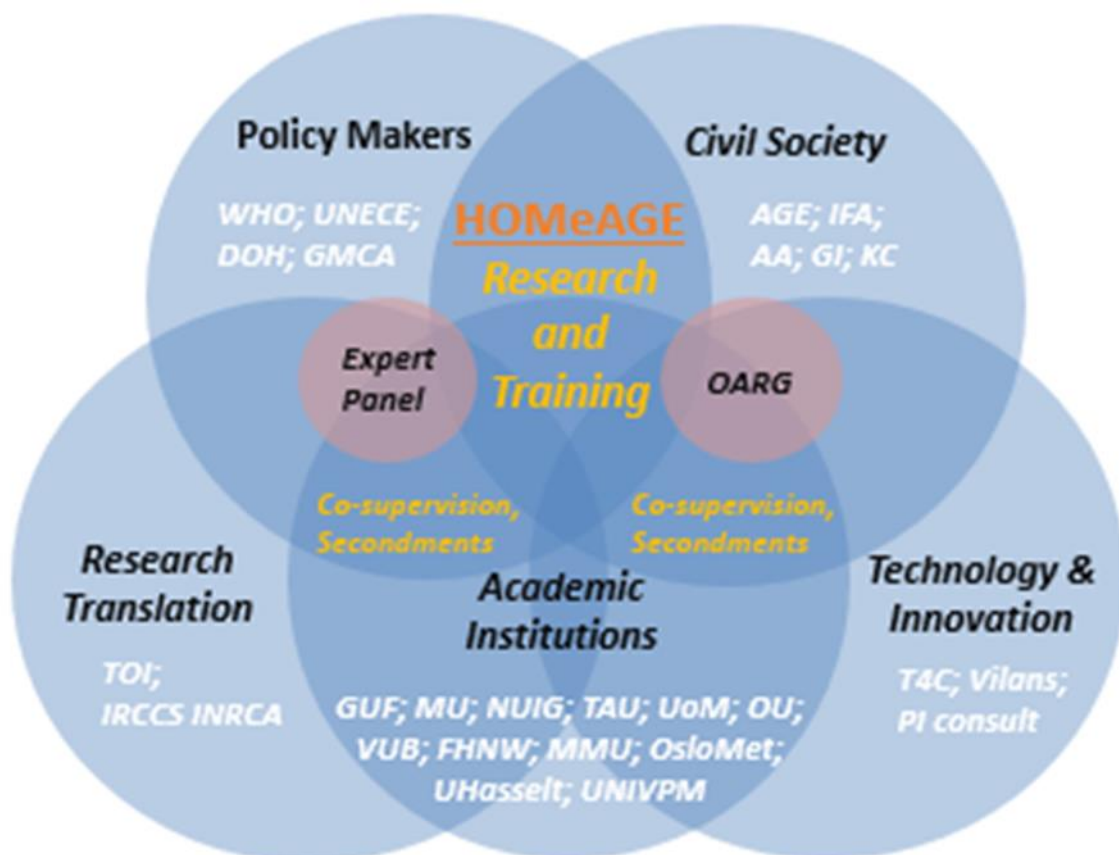
Seven beneficiaries (EU funded DR hosts)

Two funded associated partners (UK; Swiss DR hosts)

17 Associated Partners (intersectoral secondments hosts)

International panel of policy and research experts

Older adult reference group (OARG)



Purpose of the OARG

To include the voices and perspectives of older people within the HOMeAGE doctoral training network, embedding ‘on-the-ground’ experiences of older adult advocates, and the organisations that they represent.

Dr. Katalin Papp, representing Hungary (Faculty of Health Sciences of the University of Debrecen), participates in this Reference Group by HOMeAGE. Roua Shaban is a graduate student from the University of Debrecen. She received her master's degree from the Faculty of Health Sciences and previously had a bachelor degree in pharmacy from the University of Damascus in Syria. Being a part of the Doctoral researchers’ group since September 2023 as a PhD student/Doctoral Researcher at Goethe University in Frankfurt is a great achievement for Roua Shaban.

Objectives

To embed a ‘lived experience’ perspective within network-wide training and project supervision.

To provide insight and guidance on key topics related to ageing in place from a grass-roots perspective.

To facilitate the participation of older adult advocates and policy stakeholder experts in HOMeAGE activities and events.

What will the role involve?

Contribution to discussions and debates at 2-3 days network-wide training events.

Contribution to the development of lived-experience sessions (if desired) at network-wide training events.

Four nominated members of the OARG will sit on the main decision-making committees of HOMeAGE.

Each member of the OARG will sit on a Project Support Team for 1-2 researchers.

The first event Oct 17-20

Year 1: Framing Ageing in Place: Context, Settings and Understandings				
Event 1: Kick-off and integration meeting	Academic Lead: NUIG	Non-academic Lead(s): DOH	Month: 10	ECTS: 2
Objective: DRs will learn about the fundamentals of developing an interdisciplinary, intersectoral research project and will be introduced to broad interdisciplinary and intersectoral perspectives on ageing in place. It will be an <i>in-person event</i> .				
Experiences and Interconnections in Context: <u>Interconnections</u> (VUB-AS.Smetcoren; AAct-N.O'Connor) focus on the ways the three challenges have been connected in the international literature, and an opportunity to explore the links between projects within and across challenges. <u>Context and lived experience</u> consider experiences of ageing in place in general, with a presentation of positive, negative and adaptive experiences. The site visit will consider different forms of ageing in place within urban and rural regions.				
Themed Knowledge: Research overview and Research approaches (GUF-F.Oswald; UNIVPM-M.Bronzini) an overview of ageing in place research constructs and conceptual frameworks, and research developments/approaches from different disciplinary streams in ageing and place research. Policy overview (NUIG-K.Walsh; WHO-A.Officer) policy frameworks and <i>sustainable innovation</i> on ageing in place, e.g. age-friendly place, community care, independent living and <i>digitalisation</i> . <u>Critical thinking</u> a critical analysis of major challenges and future directions in research for policy, with a focus on homogenising assumptions, delivered by N. Keating (policy) and M. Cutchin (research).				
Transferable Skills: <u>Research and innovation 1</u> (NUIG-K.Walsh; IFA-J.Barratt) an overview of interdisciplinary research design, and research and digital management techniques (work-plan development; bibliographic and digital management systems; accounting for <i>gender/diversity bias</i> in research collaboration). <u>Research and innovation 2</u> (IRCCS INRCA-G.Lamura; UoM-T.Buffel) <i>gender and diversity considerations in research</i> (objectives, methods and recruitment), and ethics and <i>open science principles</i> (responsible conduct in research; open science practices; <i>engaging stakeholders for impact</i> ; digital repositories). <u>Policy Impact</u> (NUIG-K.Walsh; WHO-A.Officer) overview of the role of public policy in ageing, and the <i>role of research communication in informing policy impact</i> . <u>Career development 1-2</u> (AGE-J.Wadoux; UU-A.Peine) setting career goals and developing PCDPs, and mentorship from team members on PCDPs.				

Training Events

Event 1

Ageing in place – Galway (October 2023)

Event 2

Needs and systems- Ancona (April 2024)

Event 3

Home and belonging – Frankfurt (October 2024)

Event 4

Rights and voice- Netherlands (April 2025)

Event 5

Impact- Brussels (October 2025)

Quality and credibility of the training programme

To achieve the HOMeAGE aim, and to address the absence of emerging research leaders who can negotiate cross-discipline, cross-sector research-policy deficits, HOMeAGE will: institute an interdisciplinary curriculum that embeds analytical, intersectoral perspectives in DR training, in order to develop new leaders for the advancement of evidence-based innovation on ageing in place.

To implement the research programme and equip DRs with transferable real-world skill sets, the HOMeAGE training curriculum encapsulates four key innovations:

Innovation no. 1 - the curriculum is driven by the HOMeAGE Research Framework. It is therefore grounded within research led understandings of ageing in place and gaps in science and policy. This maintains a focus on the delivery of training required to complete IRPs. Such an evidence-based process to curriculum development will help guarantee the scientific credibility, quality, and applicability of skills that DRs will obtain and provide significant marketability amidst a highly competitive research workforce. Using the Framework to select the HOMeAGE team has ensured that the required expertise to deliver excellence in training is in place.

Innovation no. 2 – a dual approach to interdisciplinary supervision underpins the DR training programme. As described a two-strand form of interdisciplinary supervision will be embedded within HOMeAGE. While this marks an innovation in generating interdisciplinary research, and forms a core methodological feature, it also represents an innovation in the HOMeAGE curriculum that extends beyond typical doctoral training networks.

Innovation no. 3 - co-production involving older people and DRs is a core part of the pedagogic philosophy. First, older people will directly contribute to the co-production of DR training. An Older Adult Reference Group (OARG) will be established to provide insight into ‘on-the-ground’ advocacy issues. As civil society actors drawn from AGE Platform members, the OARG is not meant to be representative of European older populations, but will assist in embedding critical ‘lived experience’ perspectives within network-wide training. OARG members will sit on project support teams, the Steering Board, and other groups. At training events, older adult organisations local to the event location will relay experiences of the three challenges. Second, DRs will be positioned as producers of their own knowledge, with the curriculum incorporating peer support and peer-led learning sessions as key tools. Third, intersectoral involvement in supervision, and the design and delivery of network-wide training events demonstrates this co-production, and is key for challenge specific and transferable skills.

Innovation no. 4 - the curriculum is based on international expert-led peer review. To ensure the scientific rigour and quality of the training an International Panel of Policy and Research Experts (IPPRE) will be established. The IPPRE will lead a peer-review process providing a critique of learning materials and the learning outcomes for network-wide training. Comprising of academic and non-academic experts, five panel members will support HOMeAGE to deliver gold-standard transferable training that fosters cross-sector innovation.

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