



To: *Mary Manandhar, Technical Officer*
World Health Organisation
Department of Ageing and Life-Course
Secretariat for the Decade of Healthy Ageing

WHO Decade of Healthy Ageing (2020-2030)
Endorsement and commitment to action DECADE INITIATIVE
Brussels, 30 March 2020

Population aging presents important opportunities and challenges to our global societies that cross country borders and hence require concerted global policies to implement sustainable changes economic and social growth.

The current outbreak of Coronavirus disease, which is particularly affecting older persons, shows how much health inequalities, public health emergencies, environmental factors affect high, medium and low-income countries, hindering the achievement of human full potential.

The WHO proposal for “The Decade of Healthy Ageing (2020-2030)”, bringing together governments, civil society, international agencies, professionals, academia, the media, and the private sector for ten years of concerted, catalytic and collaborative action to improve the lives of older people, their families, and the communities in which they live, is therefore even more timely and we welcome and support it very much.

The European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing (EIP on AHA) has the objective of stimulating collaborations for innovative projects to strengthen engagement for AHA.

The Reference Site Collaborative Network (RSCN), on behalf of EIP on AHA Reference Sites, and the Action Groups of the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing (EIP on AHA) endorse the WHO proposal for a Decade of Healthy Ageing and commit to contributing to the creation and implementation of policies that benefit older populations, fighting against ageism, and sharing tools on what works, based on the best available evidence.

We look forward to working with you in eliminating health disparities in our communities and achieving health equity for all, including aging populations. We will designate a specified group of experts to work collaboratively with the DECADE Secretariat.

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



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 improving the healthy life year expectancy in the European Union by fostering innovation and digital transformation in the field of active and healthy ageing. Partners have been involved in the setup, 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 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.



For more information:

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

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

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EIP on AHA Reference Site Collaborative Network

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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

Lewis Leo

C2 AG Development of interoperable independent living solutions

Ganzarain Javier

D4 AG Innovation for age friendly buildings, cities and environments

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