



# ACTIVE A.G.E.

## Managing Change: Impact of demographic ageing for cities



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# MONITORING REPORT FOR LSG

JANUARY 2009 – JUNE 2009

## I. LSG – ALS meeting

LSG activities carried out at partners' level can be synthesized as follows:

### City of Rome

Two ALS meetings took place on the following dates: April 4th and May 20th 2009. During the first meeting of the core LSG, a discussion among participants focused on the analysis of the problems that people aged over 45 are facing was opened and potential stakeholders have been singled out.

The second ALS meeting was held on May 20th. The aim was to underline the overall goals of LAP, what kind of activities should be carried out in order to reach those objectives and to define the expected results.

Participants were asked to identify a case study to be presented to the 1st TEW. The chosen case study deals with an experience at regional level developed within a general framework of support to employment based on an agreement between BIC-LAZIO and Lazio Lavoro Agency namely "Activities and services to promote self-employment and entrepreneurship among workers in mobility list".

Members of the Core LSG participated to the wider LSG meetings in order to present the Active Age project, to disseminate results at local level and to inform people about the above mentioned actions. The following LSG meetings took place:

- on February 20th at the Municipality of Rome
- on April 28th - LSG National Meeting at Ministero delle Infrastrutture e dei Trasporti
- on June 23rd at SANIT International Forum on Health "La qualità del lavoro allunga la vita: politiche integrate per la prevenzione sanitaria e per l'invecchiamento attivo"- "Quality of work means better and longer life: integrated policies for preventive health and active aging"
- Conference at Lazio Region (MA) on July 23rd 2009

## City of Edinburgh

The local support group met on 26th May and developed the 2 key areas to focus on as part of the Urbact Active Age programme. Eleven members attended the meeting namely: Roger Horam, Rebecca Pilch, Glenda Watt, Violet Laidlaw, Joyce Armstrong, Ann Munro, Gerry Baker, Brian Martin, Jane Macintosh and Muriel MacKenzie

The topics, that were discussed, are the following:

- Promotion of flexible working arrangements for older people within the public, commercial and voluntary/ community sectors;
- Establishment of co-operatives and social firms for the employment of older people;
- Ensure Edinburgh's employability strategies include the opinions, needs and wishes of older people;
- Pre-retirement issues for both employees and employers;
- Re-skilling plan;
- Older people offer through Edinburgh's Joined Up for Jobs strategy

From this the following 2 topics were selected to be worked up by the ALS:

1. Promotion of flexible working arrangements for older people within the public, commercial and voluntary/ community sectors;

2. Ensure Edinburgh's employability strategies include the opinions, needs and wishes of older people.

## City of Sevilla

The LSG had three core LSG meetings were held in the following dates:

- 27th Friday 2009
- 9th June 2009
- 7th July 2009

During the past six months Sevilla has been working on setting up a suitable Local Support Group which involved different stakeholders able to bring new knowledge and experiences in order to develop a local strategy for elderly people on the subtheme chosen. In order to complete the group they are still looking for a representative from the University of Seville.

This LSG will represent administration, public companies, seniors associations, and experts on Ageing people. Meetings held were helpful for sharing information about the ACTIVE AGE project and about lessons learned at the international project meetings namely: two steering group meetings and one Thematic Exchange Workshop in Wolverhampton. ALS members focused on the following issue: how to design a local strategy for people aged over 50. After holding LSG meetings, members decided jointly that the Local Action Plan should aim to reflect innovative relationships among people aged more than 50 and the local administration

## City of Wolverhampton

During this period they had two meetings of the Core Steering Group that consisted of the original applicants i.e. the west Midlands Regional Assembly, Age Concern west Midlands, the University of Staffordshire and PISCESwm. The first of these was on 28th January.

The second on 3rd April decided that all future work on URBACT would be concentrated at a local level and that the input of the other partners, other than the University of Staffordshire had little local relevance particularly as they were not able,

as originally suggested, to contribute any resources to the project.

The Wolverhampton local support group which has a mailing list of over 40 people representing 25 organisations met on 4 occasions namely 28th January, 25th March, 29th April and 27th May all at the Evcap centre. The Group carried out a Gaps analysis as well as a prioritisation programme looking at key areas which needed development. These have been processed into a single document as a work programme for the group.

Following the Steering Group Meeting in Rome on February 26th-27th they fed back and discussed the timetable for activity and also the fact that Wolverhampton had been invited to host the first TEW workshop on Enterprise and Employment. They established a small working group within the LSG to plan for this occasion.

A major area of concern was the fact that Enterprise and employment for people over 50 in Wolverhampton has not attracted much investment of resources and interest and it was agreed that they should use the TEW as a Launch pad to develop this theme within the City.

## City of Starogard

The LSG meetings took place on the following dates:

1. January – second half
2. February – first half
3. March, 10
4. April, 24
5. May, 11
6. June, 4-5
7. June, 17-21

January – second half of the month and February – first half of the month.

The two meetings focused on the following issues: engaging new members of LSG; organising meetings with representatives of NGOs, social care institutions, cultural and recreation centres, i.e.:

- County Work Office;
- City Social Aid Centre;
- Starogard Cultural Centre;
- Starogard Rehabilitation Centre;
- NGO Care for the Elderly;
- City Town Hall.

March, 10: Starogard LSG members took part in a conference and set of workshops for Polish cities LSGs in Warsaw. Participation in this conference was in fact the first step for creating a kind of knowledge and experience exchange network among national and international LSGs involved in URBACT projects. Subjects:

- introduction to the URBACT II Programme (by Jean-Loup Drubigny, Head of the URBACT Secretariat);
- ULSG Toolkit (by Peter Ramsden, URBACT Thematic Pole Manager);
- set of parallel workshops (composition and organization of LSG, its mission and contribution to the project, LAP)

April, 24

Meeting of Starogard LSG devoted to:

- main aims of URBACT II and its methodology;
- Active AGE priorities;
- Active AGE objectives, project partners, calendar of actions;
- objectives and budget of a LSG.

May, 11

LSG meeting was joined by an university expert, professor of sociology, Brunon Synak, chairman of Regional Council. The meeting took place in Gdansk and focused on:

- exchange the knowledge, statistic figures, conditions and trends of develop of regional and local societies;
- establish future expert support and cooperation.

June, 4-5

A coordinator of LSG took part in the conference "Always Active", organized by Sport Commission of Baltic Cities Association, in Gdynia, Poland. The conference was dedicated to physical and intellectual activity of elderly people (participants from Germany, Sweden, Poland, Denmark, Norway and Finland). Main topics:

- the importance of being fit in the age of 50 +;



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- a dance – how to motivate elderly not to stay at home;
- Third Age University in Gdynia.

June, 17-21

Starogard ALS related to the subtheme Age and Economy attended the 1st TEW Wolverhampton 17 – 19 June in Wolverhampton.

## City of Thessaloniki

Three meetings were held: on March 6th, on May 26th and on July 9th.

During the first two meetings a brainstorming session took place on how to help elderly people to enter again into the labour market.

Representatives of municipality of Thessaloniki, Chamber of Commerce of Thessaloniki, trade unions, Unemployment office of the city, National Unemployment office, and the president of the KAPI (a social house for people over the age of 50 where common activities are organized for everyone that want to participate) attended the meeting.

The third meeting consisted of a discussion on topic of social inclusion of elderly people focusing on activities currently carried out by KAPI. The objectives identified are the following:

1. To increase the collaboration between the above mention institutions;
2. To circulate better the information to both employees and employers regarding the possibilities they have.
3. To circulate better the information through all the offices involved by newsletters and leaflets, and the municipality radio stations.
4. To inform the KAPI and all the people visiting these houses.

## City of Maribor

One Local Support Group meeting was held on June 1st 2009 and a few individual working meetings took place in May 2009.

During those meetings members discussed about the problems they are facing in Maribor and about proposals for solution. They have arranged some

meetings with people working for the Association of Societies for Social Gerontology of Republic of Slovenia in order to define the contributions to present to the 1st thematic workshop, case study included.

The topics discussed with the Local Support Group were about the problems they are facing:

- increase of the share of the elderly (older than 65 years),
- a rapid increase of unemployed persons, especially the elderly (older than 50 years)
- rise of share of the elderly living on the brink of poverty,
- social exclusion,
- self-perception of socially excluded elderly people and of people who lives on the brink of poverty is deteriorating, with adversely affects on health for the mentioned target group

Then, the topics discussed focused on concrete proposals for coping with the problems:

- Preservation of employment of elderly people,
- Systematic education of workers and employees on the possibilities of active (economically and socially efficient) life and operation after retirement,
- Promotion of various forms of socio-economic integration of the elderly (voluntary work),
- Providing guarantees for volunteers – unemployed people, who are integrated into programmes of voluntary humanitarian activity – that their voluntary work will count toward the period of employment and that their work will be awarded with a financial prize that would enable them to survive and become eligible for retirement,
- Developing new programmes that could contribute to solve new problems of the ageing population
- Increasing support for programmes and organizations that are already carrying out activities for helping to solve the socio-economic situation of elderly people. For example by involving elderly unemployed people in voluntary work.

## City of Prague



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The City of Prague informed the Lead Partner that the City had several meetings on legal aspects of project implementation on the City Hall level. None of the LSG members were involved in these meetings but they were informed on delay in project implementation. In a first phase the implementation of the project was stopped by the Department of Social Affairs and Healthcare until the project would be approved by the City Council (expected in September 2009).

On September the City of Prague informed the Lead Partner that the City Council approved the project, according to the legal department but another step is required namely the approval of Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The letters demanding this approval has already been sent by the City to the respective ministries.

The City of Prague is sending a written explanation confirming that:

*“The Legal department announced that the participation of the City in an international project must be approved by the City Council and by the Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Foreign Affairs according to Czech national law. As this is a long process, a delay was caused. The City is nevertheless committed to fulfilling all project tasks”.*

## URBACT II

**URBACT** is a European exchange and learning programme promoting sustainable urban development.

It enables cities to work together to develop solutions to major urban challenges, reaffirming the key role they play in facing increasingly complex societal challenges. It helps them to develop pragmatic solutions that are new and sustainable, and that integrate economic, social and environmental dimensions. It enables cities to share good practices and lessons learned with all professionals involved in urban policy throughout Europe. URBACT is 181 cities, 29 countries, and 5,000 active participants

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