

Main Themes of the JPI:



Health & Performance



Social Systems & Welfare



Work & Productivity



Education & Learning



Housing, Urban and Rural Development & Mobility

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MORE YEARS
BETTER LIVES

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JOINT PROGRAMMING INITIATIVE

More Years, Better Lives
The Potential and Challenges
of Demographic Change



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An Initiative of European States
Addressing a Global Megatrend.

More Years, Better Lives The Potential and Challenges of Demographic Change

Demographic change affects the whole of Europe. Rising life expectancy coupled with falling birth rates will lead to a challenging situation in the population's age-structure. All approaches to solve these imminent challenges call for an active participation of politics, the economy and research.

Joint Programming is a new approach to foster collaboration and coordination in R&D for societal challenges in Europe. It is a member-states driven activity. The Joint Programming Initiative (JPI) "More Years, Better Lives - The Potential and Challenges of Demographic Change" seeks to enhance coordination and collaboration between European and national research programmes related to demographic change. Areas affected by demographic change cover a wide range of research fields and policy topics ranging from health to social welfare, education & learning, work & productivity to housing, urban & rural development and mobility. The JPI therefore follows a transnational, multi-disciplinary approach bringing together different research programmes and researchers from various disciplines in order to provide solutions for upcoming challenges and make use of the potential of societal change in Europe.

The first steps towards a better coordination and collaboration of national programmes will be the **comprehensive mapping of current and future national activities** in these fields and the development of a common **strategic research agenda**. Based on these foundations **possible joint activities and funding measures** will be evaluated by the Member States. Finally, a **Work Programme** of the JPI will outline all short, mid and long term activities and their implementation.

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Health & Performance

Good health is the most important factor to live independently in old age. A better understanding of ageing processes and the related plasticity of individual performance, the prevention of age-related illnesses and healthcare strategies are the basis for keeping European citizens healthy and active throughout the course of their lives.

The group of the oldest-old (over 85 of age) has been the most rapidly expanding segment of population in developed countries. Rising prevalence of diseases, chronic conditions, disability and mortality among elderly people will therefore have a fundamental effect on sustainability of modern society. New methods of prevention and treatment of age-related diseases and in rehabilitation and compensation of physical and mental restrictions are needed in order to promote long lives with better health and performance.



Social Systems & Welfare

The basis of social and welfare systems in Europe is threatened by demographic development. New welfare arrangements are necessary to cope with the demands of a changing population and to guarantee social security for all citizens.

The future provision of welfare is not only a challenge for the economic sustainability of these systems, but also challenges the organisation and institutional settings of welfare and social support in ageing societies. New innovative ways of combining public, private and societal social care provision and the use of innovative technologies inside the care sector can lead to a flexible "welfare mix" that guarantees social security and support as well as quality of life along one's whole life course.



Work & Productivity

Longevity confronts the multifaceted reality of work: generational segregation needs to be countered and economic productivity and societal inclusion must be improved and maintained. The correlation between health and work across one's

life span has to be reconsidered. The integration of older people and the use of their expertise at the work place is essential for future prosperity and economic stability. The relative competitiveness of older people has to be enhanced by lifelong learning, work organization and staff and wage policies and health prevention at work. New work-life-balance-models can offer greater flexibility for older employees at the end of their career or enable them to start a 2nd career. Formal as well as voluntary work is an important arena of social inclusion of older people.



Education & Learning

Continuous education is essential to ensure economic and social inclusion when people become older. Learning and professional training at the work place and in educational contexts must be interlinked more intensively, taking into account the cognitive capabilities and characteristics of older people.

There is a strong link between life expectancy, well-being on the one hand and education level on the other. It is important to realize that lifelong learning does not only start at an age of 55, but with the first steps of one's educational biography. Taking seriously life-long-learning during the whole life course brings challenges and opportunities for individuals and the current systems of education and training.



Housing, Urban and Rural Development & Mobility

Home and residential environments are important places for self-determined ageing. Social inclusion needs to be ensured both in urban and rural contexts. Mobility in everyday life encourages people to participate in social, political, and economic exchange processes.

Cities and rural areas of the future need to take into account the needs of their older citizens. Living independently in one's known home and environment as long as possible is a basic requisite for quality of life in old age. At the same time, social participation and connectedness to public space and its communities is of equal importance, especially in rural areas. New approaches in planning, building and design, the use of assistive technologies, new care and support concepts for accessible, secure public and private transport can contribute substantially to the development of the age-friendly city.