



PROJECT IDEA

PROVISIONAL TITLE:	Successful and active ageing: Extending autonomy of seniors
INSTITUTION:	Departmental Council of Hérault, France
TIME FRAME:	January – December 2020
BUDGET:	approximately 200.000 €
PARTNERSHIP:	Two partners from EU member countries

LEAD PARTNER PRESENTATION

Departmental Council of Hérault (CD34) is a local authority, situated in the South of France with headquarters in Montpellier¹. Hérault is one of 13 departments in the region Occitanie, covering 6,224 km², with 1.163 million inhabitants. As a part of departmental competences, the Direction of Departmental Solidarity is working on the wide range of issues concerning ageing persons and currently is focused of extending the autonomy of ageing persons at their homes.

In this context the Conference of financiers of the prevention of the loss of autonomy (CFPPA) was set up in 2015. Funded by the National Solidarity Fund for Autonomy (CNSA), the CFPPA aims to develop an innovative prevention policy for persons aged over 60 still living in their home, and support professionals who provide different services. CFPPA members would like to exchange good practices with other EU countries on this topic.

PROBLEMATIC

The loss of autonomy for people over 60 is a result of various factors, especially falls and similar accidents. A large number of devices and equipment already exists on the market, but often provide unsuitable answers, particularly in the areas of digital technology and home automation. Home care solutions must respond to needs of the users and caregivers, thus, there is a need to work with final users on the following issues:

1. Favour autonomy of seniors at home (including fall prevention);
2. Improve the use of technological and numeric equipment (by optimizing and designing adopted technology, home automation and digital solutions);
3. Implement the conception of technical solutions with final users;
4. Accompany the users in the use of new solutions.

¹ <http://herault.fr/>

LOCAL ON-GOING PROJECT

CD34 in partnership with Mediterranean Institute for longevity professions supports aid the autonomy of ageing persons by identifying and responding to their real needs, and proposing technical, technological, domotic and numeric solution. Current local project consists of 5 phases: consultation, ateliers, prototyping, testing and evaluation.

- 1) The **consultation** with ageing persons and professionals has been already conducted in the form of questionnaires, interviews and focus group meetings (JAN 2019).
- 2) Once needs are identified **the workshops of co-conception** with ageing persons will be organised to create “autonomy packs” (ex : security pack to prevent falls, comfort pack proposing innovative solutions of heating or automatic shutters, social pack to support numeric communication and social insertion, etc.). (SEP 2019)
- 3) The stage of **prototyping** will follow the installation of “the autonomy packs”, according to opinions and needs identified in previous two phases. (JAN 2020)
- 4) **Testing** will be conducted by installing 50 packs at user’s homes, followed by education of professionals about correct usage and interviews of satisfaction. (JUN 2020)
- 5) **Evaluation** of the experimentation will be organised in small groups, as well as evaluation of project impact on the autonomy, followed by general recommendations and future perspectives. (SEP-DEC 2020).

OBJECTIVE OF THE EU COOPERATION PROJECT

Is to enrich and advance the local project by exchanging experience with other countries, in order find innovative and smart solutions for ageing population. The idea is also to share our local experiences and projects with European partners.

Further, the cooperation project would enable policy makers to exchange on how the strategies and actions for the ageing persons are developed and implemented, by consulting final users all along the process. The assistants to ageing persons would have a chance to extend their knowledge on accompanying ageing persons in using equipment, maintaining social connection and would thereby develop their competences.

TYPE OF PARTNERSHIP

We are looking two partners from two different EU countries preferably local or regional authorities or associations and research institutes with competence and experience in dealing with autonomy of ageing persons.

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