iCareCoops

cooperative solutions for independent, innovative and community based ageing
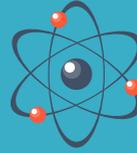
1 · CHALLENGE

Over the next 40 years, the proportion of the population over the age of 65 in the European Union will double, rising from 17% in 2005 to 30% in 2050. Due to this demographic change, dignified ageing and caregiving will gain relevance in the long-term future. This development has critical social and economic implications for European healthcare systems, which are already facing challenges of sustainability and resource scarcity.

WHY COOPERATIVES? · 2

Cooperatives are ethical enterprises that bring together civil society and local actors to deliver on community needs. They are based on the values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy and equality, equity and solidarity, and are dedicated to the values of openness, social responsibility and caring for others.

In the care sector, they develop innovative, people-centred and economically-viable models, aimed at empowering older persons while improving the quality and relevance of services. Cooperatives also implement an integrated vision of care: they aim to modernise care services by mobilising communities and the diverse stakeholders involved.

3 · iCareCoops

iCareCoops is a project co-financed by the Active and Assisted Living (AAL) Programme, gathering 6 EU countries and experts specialised in older people care, cooperatives, ICT and AAL Applications.

iCareCoops
initiate . interact . integrate

The **iCareCoops Vision**

iCareCoops project offers an ambitious vision for the future of care in Europe: enabling the development of collaborative economy services for older people, based on cooperatives. We aim to put the older people, and those involved in their care, in the driver's seat of their own lives.

BUT **HOW?**

INITIATE ...

Providing better understanding of care cooperatives and their needs in Europe, and promoting start-up of new care cooperatives with concrete guidelines.

Foundation Guide and Best practices report on icarecoops.eu

INTERACT ...

Developing of prototype mobile and website application to improve the efficiency of cooperative care services through a better coordination between (professional and volunteer) care providers, care receivers, and the cooperative organization.

INTEGRATE ...

Merging technological innovation with social experimentation to foster emergence of independent care communities in today's Europe.

SOME **RESULTS**

27	Cooperatives interviewed
12	EU countries included in research
06	Times tested the prototype
>40	involved end users in prototype testing
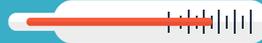
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