

LEARNING FROM RESEARCH COUNCIL PROGRAMMES AND EUROPE

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***British Society of Gerontology Conference on The Future of Ageing
Research, London, 11 November 2015***

LEARNING FROM RESEARCH COUNCIL PROGRAMMES AND EUROPE

AGENDA

➤ RETROSPECTIVE: THE PROGRAMMES



➤ PROSPECTIVE: THE EUROPEAN ROAD MAP

FUTURAGE
A Road Map *for* Ageing Research

UK RESEARCH COUNCIL AGEING INITIATIVES

Age Net	1997-2000	MRC (BUPPA, OST & Others)
EQUAL	1997-2004	BBSRC, EPSRC, ESRC, MRC
Growing Older	1998-2005	ESRC
NCAR	2001-2004	BBSRC, EPSRC, ESRC, MRC
SPARC	2005-2008	BBSRC, EPSRC
KT-EQUAL	2009-2012	EPSRC
NDA	2005-2015	AHRC, BBSRC, EPSRC, ESRC, MRC
LLHW	2007-2016	AHRC, BBSRC, EPSRC, ESRC, MRC

THE GROWING OLDER PROGRAMME

OBJECTIVES:

- 1. To establish a broad based multidisciplinary and co-ordinated Programme of research on different aspects of quality of life in old age.**
- 2. To try to contribute to the development of policies and practice in the field and, thereby, to extend quality life.**

GO: ADVANCES IN KNOWLEDGE

- **Meaning and Sources of QoL in Old Age**
 - Theory-based measures
 - Older people's priorities
 - Gulf between professional and lay definitions
- **Unequal ageing, ethnicity, spatial location**
- **The built environment and transport**
- **Social determinants of health in later life**
- **Social support networks**
- **Participation and activity in later life**

POLICY PRESCRIPTIONS

- **Need to tackle inequalities in later life**
- **Key role of environment in well-being/self identity: clear case for age friendly spaces**
- **Importance of life course focus on employment and multiple role occupancy**
- **Need for policies to facilitate participation**
- **Essential to include the frailest in strategies to promote QoL**

FOUNDATIONS OF QoL IN OLD AGE

- **Good social relationships with family, friends, neighbours**
- **Social roles and participation**
- **Good health and functional ability**
- **Good home and neighbourhood**
- **Positive outlook and psychological well-being**
- **Adequate income**
- **Independence and control over ones' life**

Source: Bowling and Gabriel, 2004

THE NEW DYNAMICS OF AGEING RESEARCH PROGRAMME

- **Generate new knowledge: life course influences, changes and increasing diversity in meaning and experience of ageing**
- **To encourage and support the development of new multi- and interdisciplinary perspectives on ageing**
- **To encourage comparative research and provide new opportunities for UK science to link with other countries**
- **To support a new generation of multidisciplinary researchers**
- **To provide a sound evidence base for policy, practice and product development so that research contributes to well-being and quality of life**



Arts & Humanities
Research Council



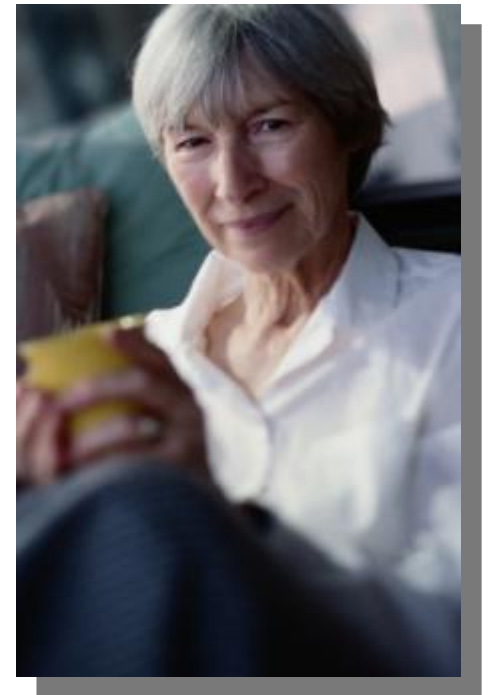
THE NDA IN A NUTSHELL

- 5 Research Councils (ESRC, EPSRC, BBSRC, MRC, AHRC)
- Budget = £22 million, 10 years (2005 – 2015)
- All 4 UK countries represented
- 35 projects (11 CRPs)
- 325 Researchers (PIs, Co-Is, Post docs, PhD)
- 128 others e.g. Advisory, partners, admin teams
- 70 early career researchers
- Over 400 journal articles and papers
- Over 300 events
- 200 plus presentations made by Director
- 35 lay findings, 8 newsletter, 13 one pagers for social care practitioners, New Science of Ageing Book Series
- 7.3 million website hits

THE NEW DYNAMICS OF AGEING RESEARCH PROGRAMME

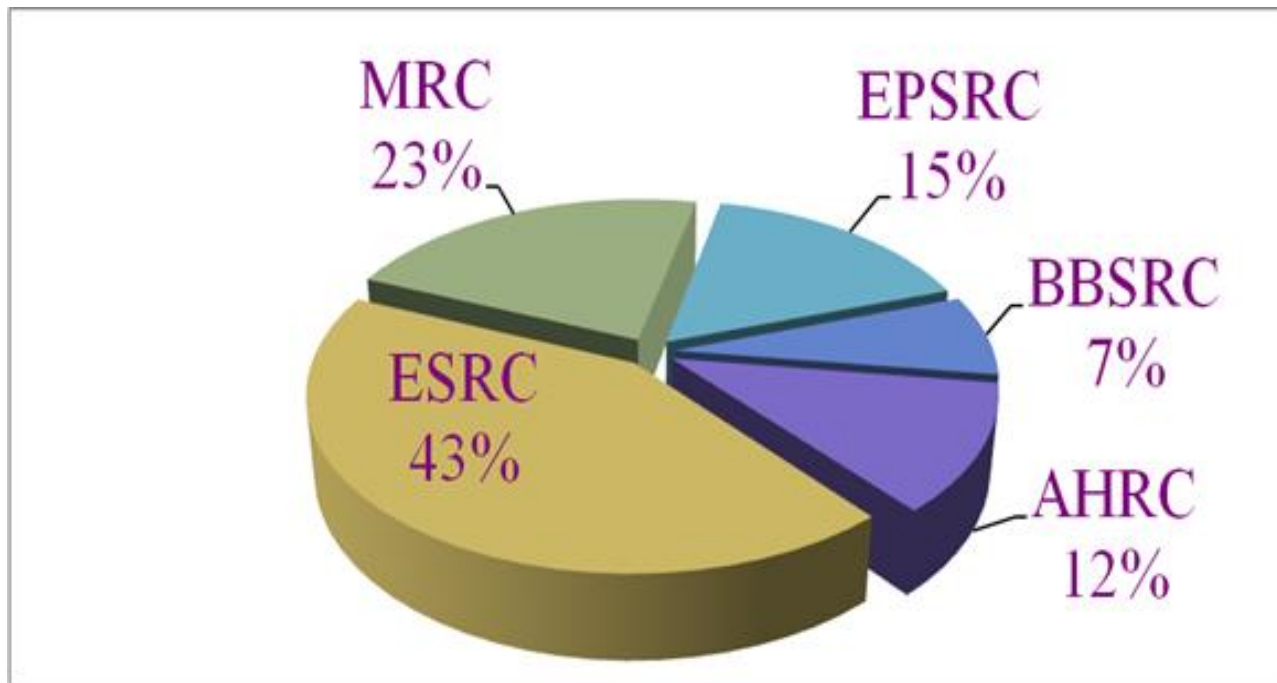
RESEARCH THEMES

1. Ageing Well Across the Life course
 - i) Active Ageing
 - ii) Autonomy and Independence
 - iii) Later Life Transitions
 - iv) The Oldest Old
2. Ageing and its Environments
 - i) Resources for Ageing
 - ii) Locality, Place and Participation
 - iii) The Built and Technological Environments
 - iv) The Global Dynamics of Ageing



THE NEW DYNAMICS OF AGEING RESEARCH PROGRAMME

DISTRIBUTION OF PROJECTS ACROSS DISCIPLINES



NDA: ADVANCES IN KNOWLEDGE

- **Facilitators of well-being in later life**
- **Importance of engagement in creative and cultural activities**
- **Biological ageing**
- **Global ageing**
- **Technology and ageing**
- **Key role of the life course**
- **Importance of design, especially co-design**
- **Mobility and social engagement**

KEY LESSONS

- **Importance of multi-disciplinary collaboration BUT... IT MUST BE:**
 - **Research led**
 - **Funded**
 - **Nurtured**
 - **Value of the programme model**
 - **Internal**
 - **External**
- BUT... the vagaries of open calls / peer reviews**
- **Support for impact / user engagement**
 - **Capacity building**
 - **The role of older people**

NDA OLDER PEOPLE'S REFERENCE GROUP

AIMS

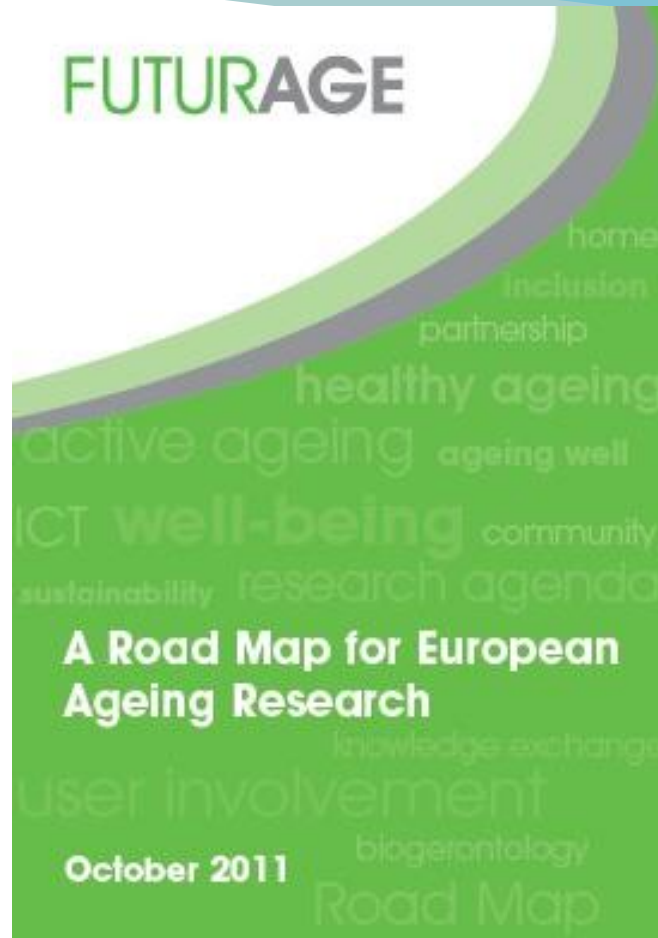
- Advise Director from the perspective of older people
- Consider implications of the Programme
- Help disseminate outputs
- Act as a resource for the whole Programme
- Advise projects



THE CASE FOR NDA 2

- **Multi-disciplinary requires RC support**
- **Research gaps:**
 - **Global ageing**
 - **Frailty**
 - **Unequal ageing**
 - **Arts and humanities**
 - **Comparative research**
 - **Ageing and Prevention: what works and why?**
- **Research alliances: Europe, China, India**
- **Capacity building**
- **Impact**

THE EUROPEAN ROAD MAP FOR AGEING RESEARCH



INNOVATION PARTNERSHIP ON ACTIVE AND HEALTHY AGEING

The European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing gathers stakeholders from the public and private sectors across different policy areas. Together they work on shared interests, activities and projects to find innovative solutions that meet the needs of the ageing population.

The overarching target of this pilot partnership is to increase by 2 the average number of healthy life years in the EU by 2020.

The Partnership's main goal is to obtain commitment and investment from stakeholders – public and private, EU, national and local – who have jointly agreed on three priority areas for action:

- Prevention, screening and early diagnosis
- Care and cure
- Active ageing and independent living

Active & Healthy Ageing
*A European Innovation
Partnership*

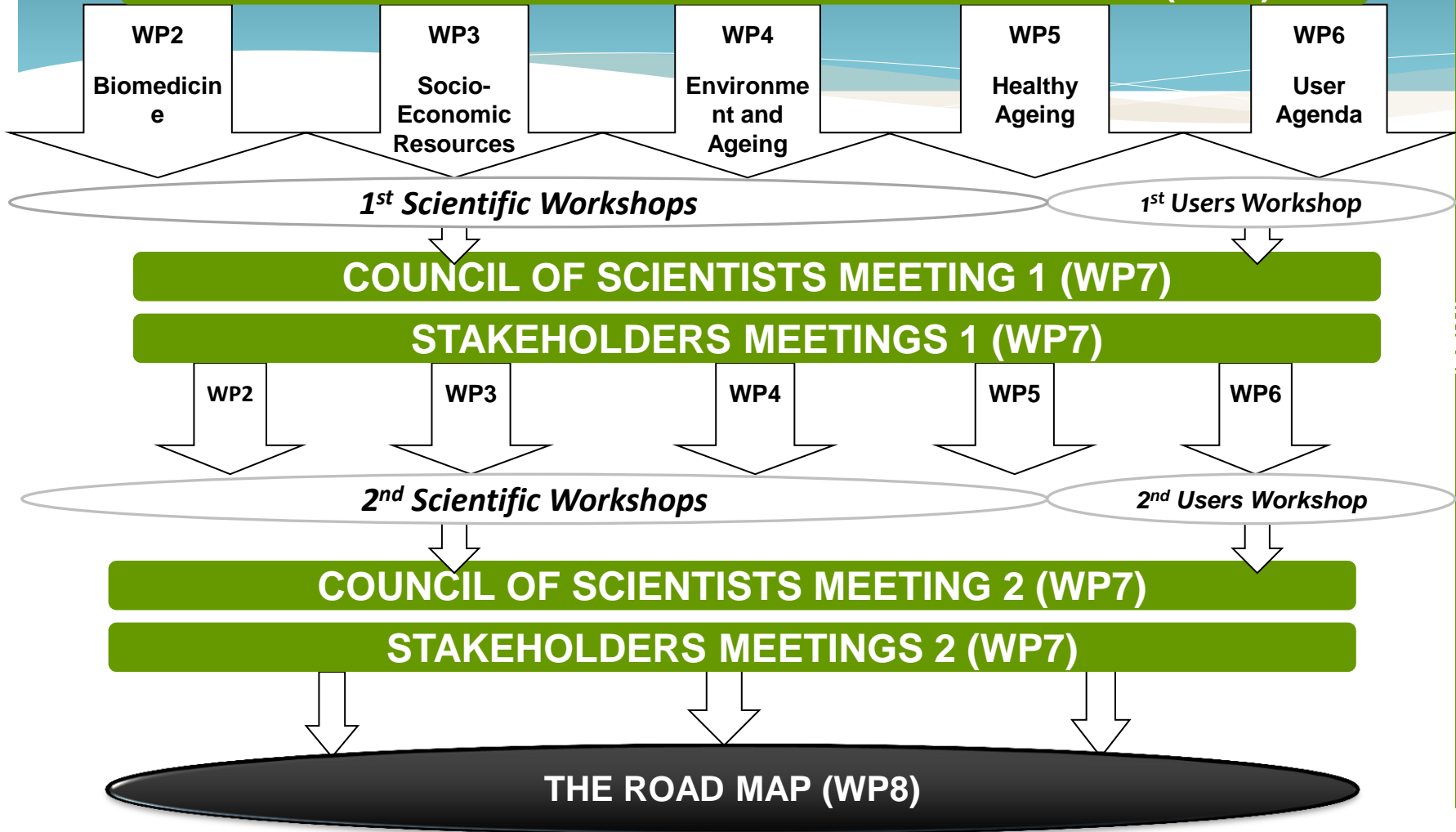
The Partnership is a catalyst for:

- Bringing new solutions to the market quickly and efficiently
- Giving a greater benefit to end users through the delivery of products and services that respond to their needs
- Making smart investments in health that ensure financial sustainability



DESIGNING THE ROAD MAP

NATIONAL CONSULTATIONS AT COUNTRY LEVEL (WP1)



COORDINATION TEAM (WP11) + NETWORK STEERING COMMITTEE

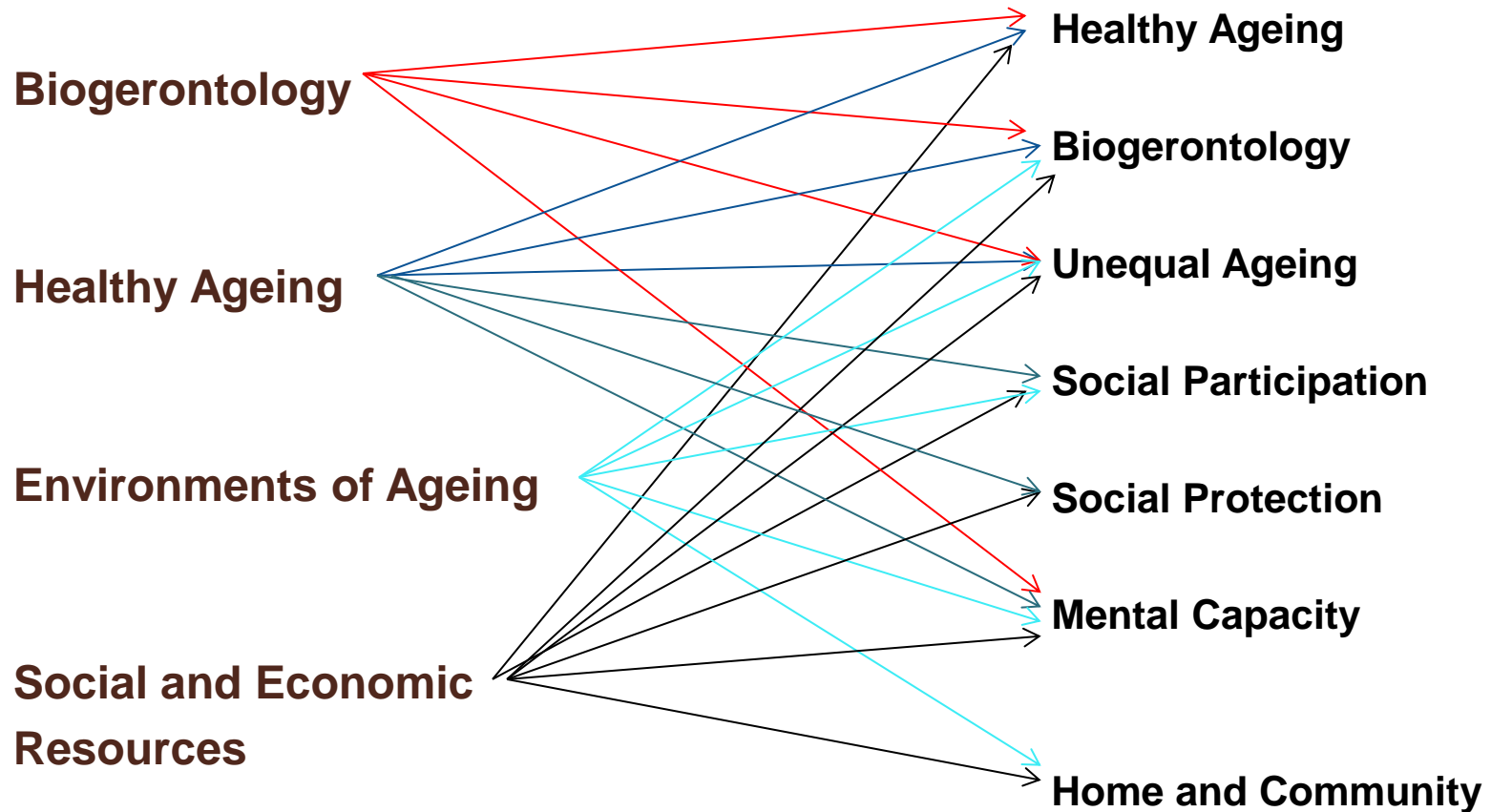
EIGHT OVERARCHING PRINCIPLES

- **An Holistic Person – Environment Approach to Ageing (All Disciplines)**
- **A Life Course Perspective (Continuous Ageing)**
- **Multi-disciplinarity (The New Science of Ageing)**
- **User / Stakeholder Engagement (The Key Role of Older People)**
- **Knowledge Exchange (Impact on Policy, Practice, Product Development)**
- **Diversity, Cross-national, Cross-cultural (The European Research Area)**
- **Capacity Building (Following Generations, NMS)**
- **Maximising Technological Innovation (EU Priority)**

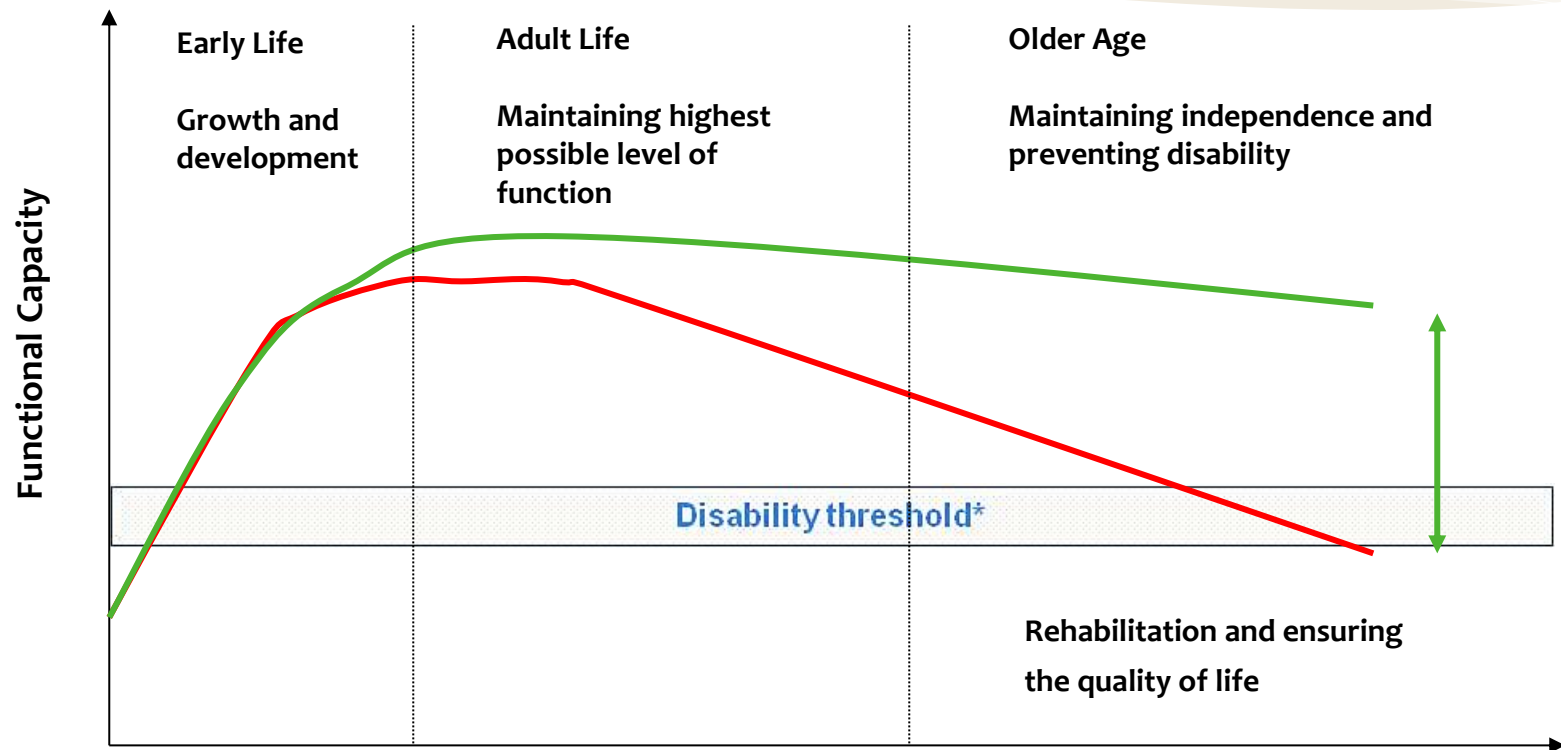
FROM WORKING GROUPS TO MAJOR THEMES

WORKING GROUPS

MAJOR RESEARCH THEMES



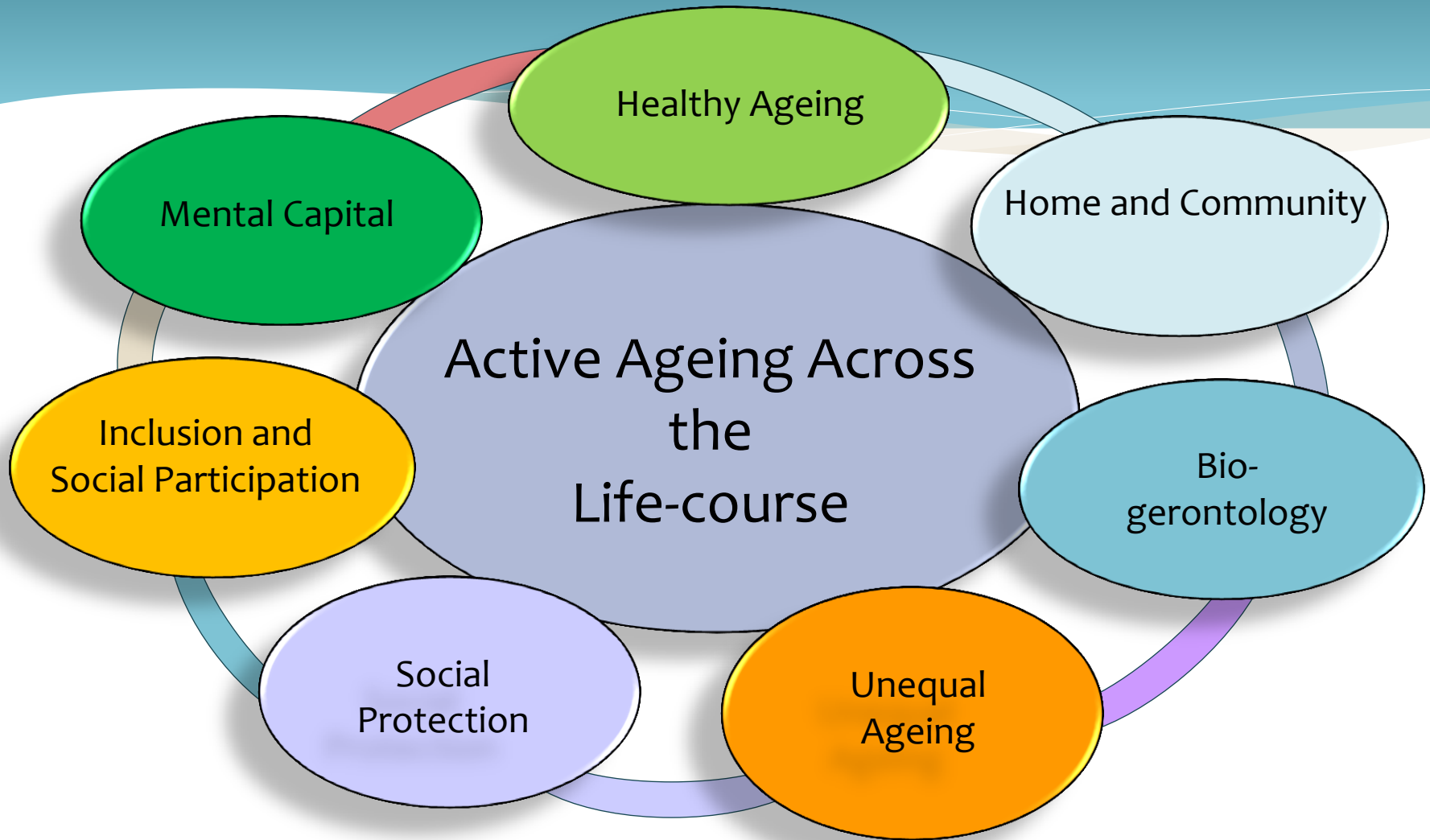
FUNCTIONAL CAPACITY



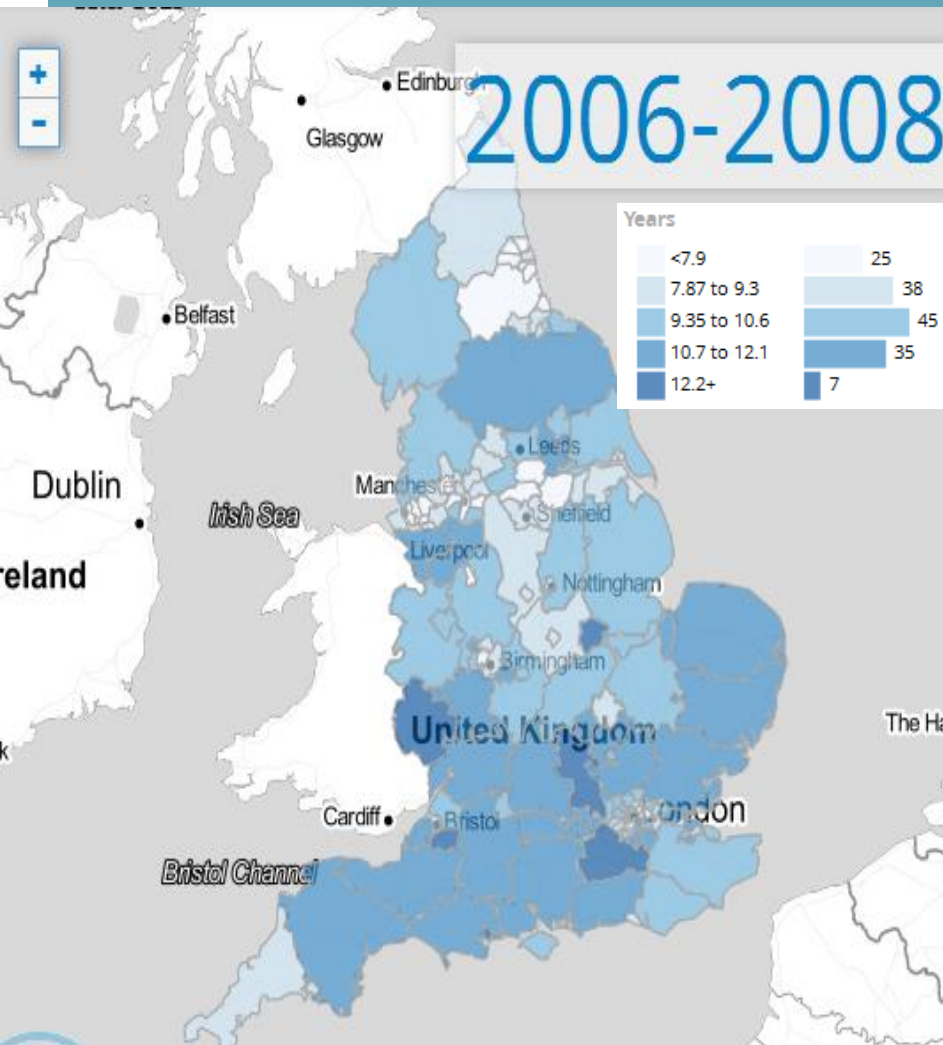
* Changes in the environment can lower the disability threshold, thus decreasing the number of disabled people in a given community.

Source: Kalache and kickbusch, 1997

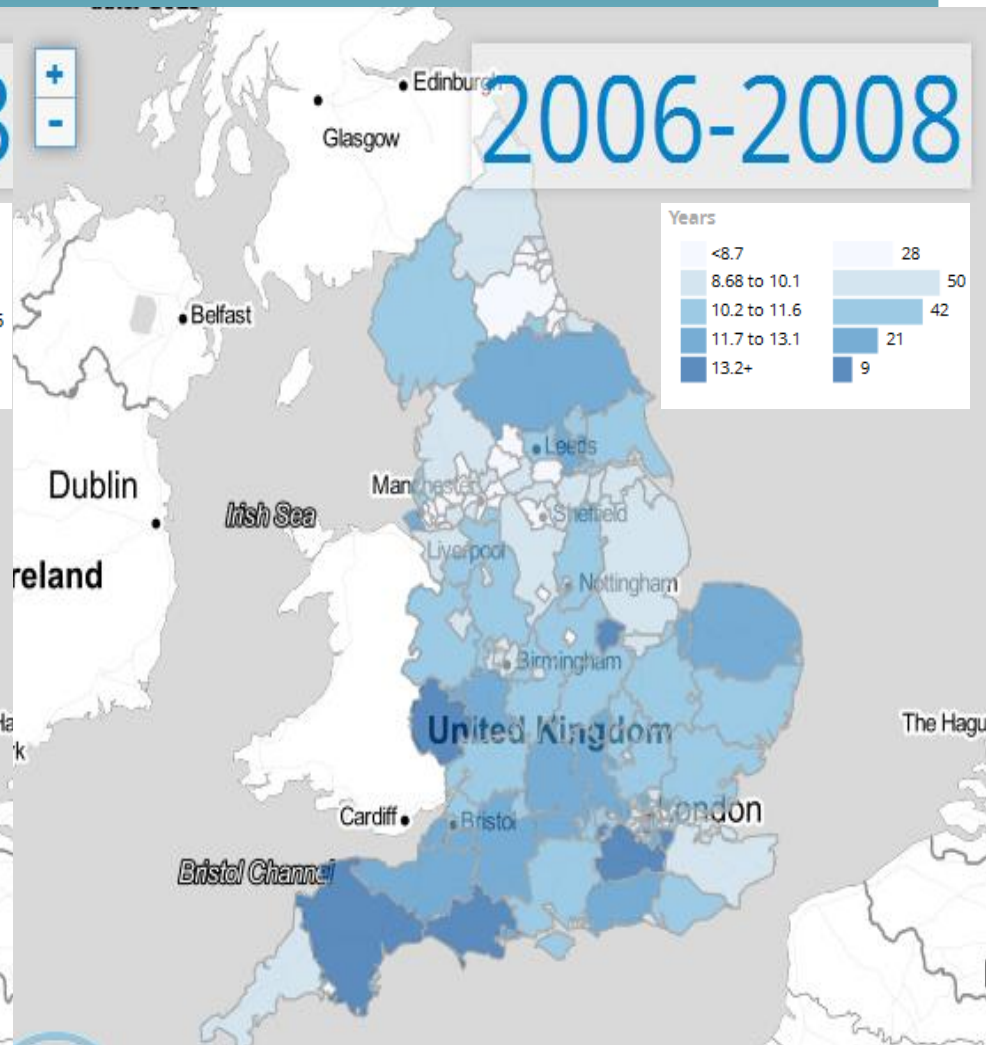
THE PRIORITY OF ACTIVE AGEING



INEQUALITIES IN DFLE



DFLE Males at 65

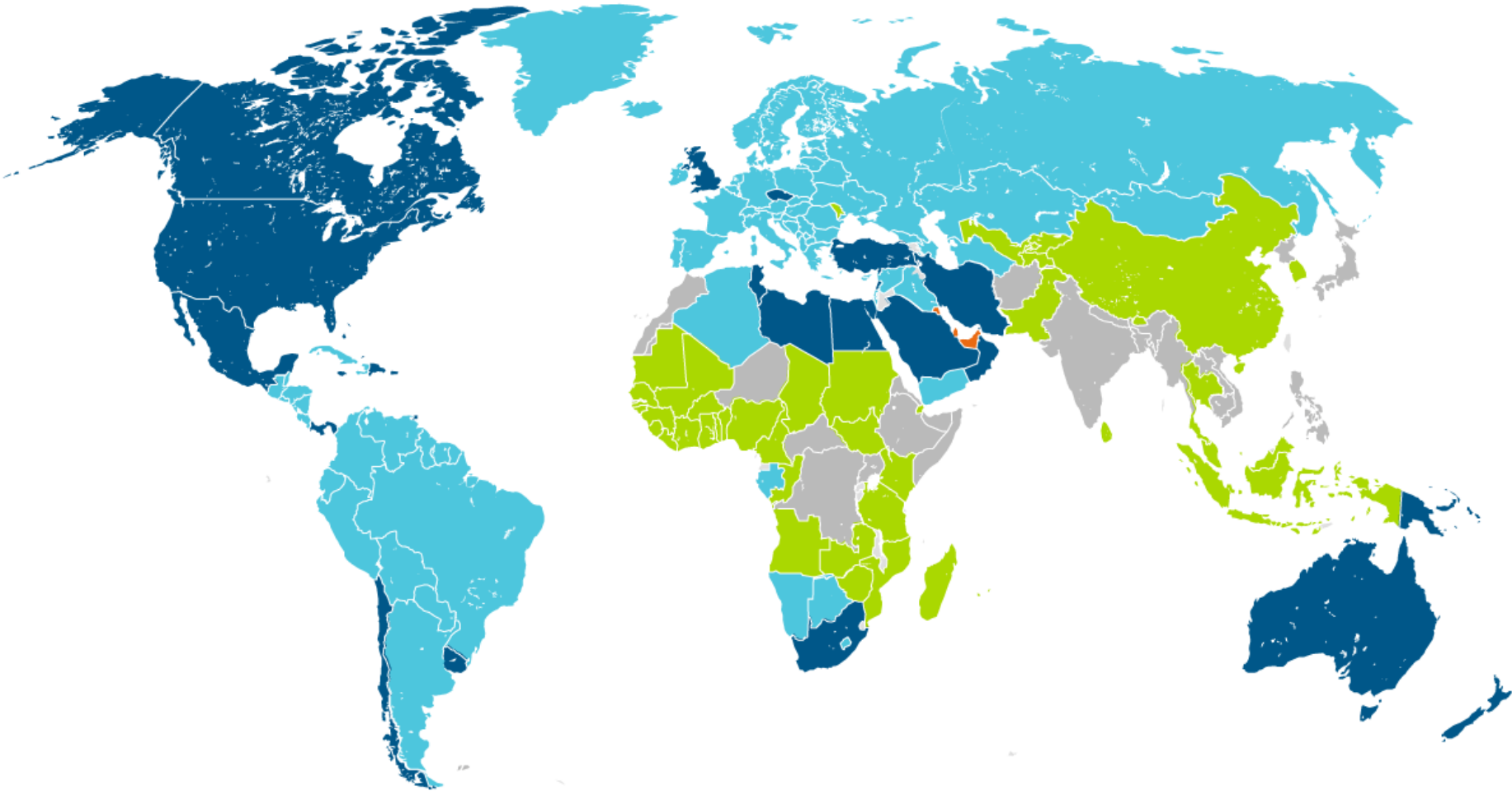


DFLE Females at 65

THE OBESITY CHALLENGE

Obesity : BMI > 30kg/m², percentage estimate

5 to 10 | 15 to 20 | 25 to 30 | 35 to 40 | No data



KEY MESSAGES

- **Multi-disciplinarity essential to understand the ageing process**
- **Multi-disciplinarity requires RC support**
- **Integrative role of social sciences in multi-disciplinarity**
- **Need to balance research on old age and ageing**
- **Value the programme model**

LEARNING FROM RESEARCH COUNCIL PROGRAMMES AND EUROPE

Thank You



www.growingolder.group.shef.ac.uk



www.newdynamics.group.shef.ac.uk



www.futurage.group.shef.ac.uk

EUROPEAN RESEARCH

*innov*Age

SOCIAL INNOVATIONS PROMOTING ACTIVE
AND HEALTHY AGEING

www.innovage.group.shef.ac.uk

**MoPAct**

Mobilising the Potential of
Active Ageing in Europe

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