



Summary report Stakeholder workshop

Knowledge sharing process on
“Isolation and loneliness of older people
during the COVID-19 pandemic:
formal/informal care”

1. Background

Joint Programming Initiative 'More Years, Better Lives' (JPI MYBL) aims to complement, and provide a concrete perspective, to existing research on the issues regarding Isolation and Loneliness of older people during the COVID-19 pandemic: formal/informal care” by involving policy makers, stakeholders, and researchers. The underlying document for the process is the red line document. The document provided a short background and summary of the state of the art on the topics of isolation and loneliness during the pandemic. During the knowledge sharing process this document would be expanded towards a state of the art document. The process consists of 4 workshops. All workshops will be attended by the whole group of stakeholders, researchers, and policy representatives

This report summarises the first workshop moderated by nathali Noupadja, chair of the JPI MYBL societal Advisory board. After introductions from Peter Allebeck (JPI MYBL chair) and Bruno Arpino (coordinator of the knowledge sharing process) the stakeholders are invited to share their views on the redline document. There was also time for researchers and policy representatives some questions and discussion.

The workshop was recorded and is available on the JPI MYBL you tube page via the following link: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCaiJZDzL6yYyO_nco_1N_9A

2. Stakeholder presentations

AGE Platform and BAGSO's – Heidrun Mollenkopf

Priorities

In her presentation Heidrun stated that two elements of the redline document were a priority: The general attitude towards ageing. E.g 1) the call for older persons +65 to stay home and the paternalistic attitude (you're suffering, and we have to protect you...) and the fact that many decisions were made without asking what older people wanted. Here it is important to find out

- By whom is it being exerted? Gov, family members, municipalities?
- What is the impact on? Heterogeneity?
- Impact different across European countries? If yes, why? Why there are different outcomes? The impact factors, the reasons behind

2) Ageism: we needed to know what kind of ageism? which one has the worst impact?

Overall we need to

- Agree on how older people will be actively included in the discussions
- know how feeling of loneliness and problems in care giving were developed at what speed in the past years? Did resilience last also during the 3rd or 4th waves? Or did loneliness decrease because older people adapted to digital devices (or their home care or care givers

Policy use

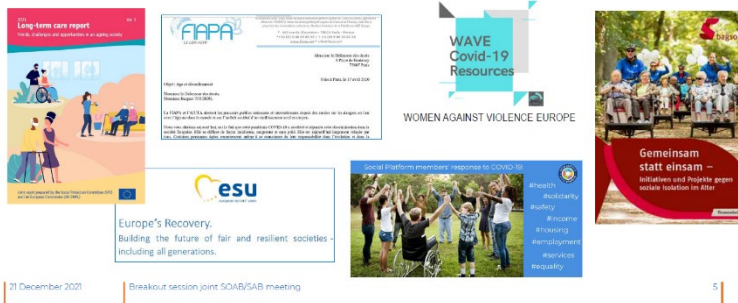
Heidrun concluded that there was a lot of knowledge out there, but people needed to be made aware that it existed, it needed to be translated in a way that it can be used by policy.

After the presentation the group had time for a brief discussion. The overall conclusion was that they agreed that Ageism and especially the question: What type of ageism are we talking about? Was an important one. Also the element of fear was acknowledged. Regarding the good practices the statement was made that good practice did not always mean that they were effective. More knowledge was needed.

Good practices:

Heidrun gave examples of several good practices. She stated that several of BAGSO's press releases, statements, etc. were taken on board by Ministries but still there was not enough knowledge about how they were used or implemented

Good practices/ examples



EUPrevent PROFILE - Elke Tippelmann

Elke presented the cross broader project [euPrevent PROFILE](#) (*prevention of loneliness of older people in the Euregio*). The project would stimulate cross-border cooperation with the aim to prevent and combat loneliness in older people, to promote knowledge exchange, best practices and implementations, to increase awareness of the effects of loneliness and to connect people, experts and organizations who have already been active in this field.



As priorities she identified the need to develop guidelines about effective interventions and effective practices and Lack of successful approaches in crisis management targeting vulnerable groups. Inside the programmes related to the project family carers were included. There was a need for policy recommendation regarding informal care e.g the need for emergency care which could be provided by emergency teams. In some cases, informal care practices do not exist.

She stated that research should focus on

- Higher risk population with multiple forms of vulnerabilities
- identifying the success factors
- the intergenerational approach. It may help to get a better picture of what happened in times of crisis

Policy use

The development of new policy was one of the aims of the PROFILE project. JPI MYBL’s work combining the demographic problems with the impact of COVID, loneliness and older people could have an added value to the PROFILE project

Good practices

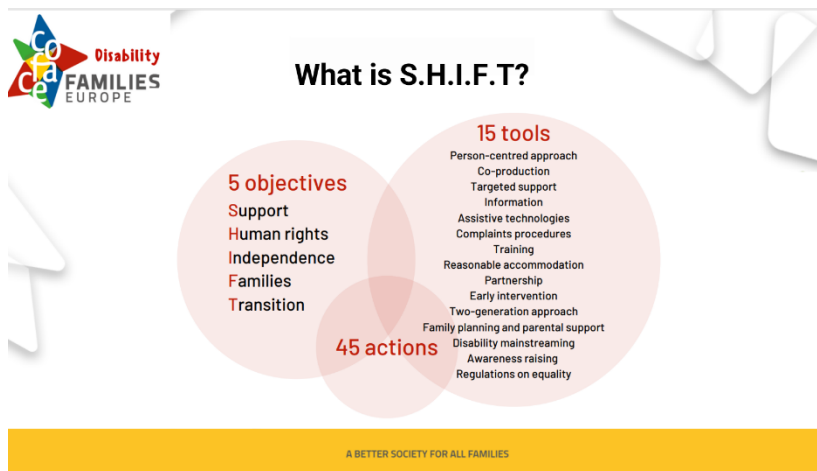
Several examples of good practices were given. One in the German Malteser region were the Ministry for Family, Youth and Senior stimulated the expansion of voluntary visiting services such as

- new services like telephone visits
- New forms of shopping together or visiting Cultural events
- Recruitment new volunteers

About the recruitment of new volunteers: the associated partners in the project are stakeholders in the communities and one of the questions they had was how can you avoid volunteers disappearing in times of crisis? One of the solutions was the recruitment of younger people which resulted in mixed groups.

SHIFT and COFACE - Annemie Drieskens

Annemie Drieskens from COFACE families Europe presented SHIFT: Shedding light on the S.H.I.F.T. towards meaningful inclusion in Europe. They are tools to develop the inclusive community based care



infrastructures of tomorrow. Although the example was focused on the persons with disabilities their families the procedure could also be implemented to achieve the same for older persons in relation to loneliness and Covid -19.

The group concluded that this was a good example and building a such a tool to tackle loneliness in older persons would be interesting.

For the older population besides the family the inclusion of friends and non-related partners in the combat of loneliness is essential

3. Conclusion

The red line document is a good starting point for discussion. It gives clear direction on important issues but is not an exhaustive literature as many papers are still coming out. The stakeholders emphasise in their presentations that

- older people themselves must be included in the discussions
- there are good practices and tools out there. They influence 'local' policy but its difficult to measure their impact.

Annex I - List of participants

Annemie	Drieskens	Coface Families Europe	Belgium
Christina	Victor	Brunel University London	United Kingdom
Clemens	Tesch-Roemer	German Centre of Gerontology (DZA)	Germany
Elke	Tippelmann	BAGSO e.V.	Germany
Elsa	Perdrix	Dauphine University	France
Giovanni	Lamura	INRCA IRCCS - National Institute of Health and Science on Ageing	Italy
Heidrun	Mollenkopf	AGE Platform Europe	Belgium
Jennifer	Bethell	KITE Research Institute, Toronto Rehabilitation Institute – University Health Network	Canada
Oliver	Huxhold	German Centre of Gerontology (DZA)	Germany
Theo	Van Tilburg	Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam	Netherlands
Tineke	Fokkema	Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute (NIDI)	Netherlands

Organisation:

Bruno	Arpino	Coordinator JPI MYBL knowledge sharing Process
Giuseppe	Gabrielli	JPI MYBL General Assembly member
Denice	Moi Thuk Shung	MYBL secretariat
Nathalie	Noupadja	Moderator & Chair JPI MYBL societal advisory board

Annex II – Programme

A knowledge sharing process on “Isolation and loneliness of older people during the COVID-19 pandemic: formal/informal care”

Date and time: 21 December 2021 from 13.30 till 15.30 CET

Meeting via zoom

Organization: Bruno Arpino, Nathalie Noupadja, Giuseppe Gabrielli

Support and documentation: Denice Moi Thuk Shung and Lianne van Horen, MYBL secretariat

Participants: stakeholders, researchers, and policy representatives

Objectives of the knowledge sharing process:

- to complement, and provide a concrete perspective, to existing research on these issues by involving policy makers, stakeholders, and researchers.
- to disseminate knowledge, research, and practices; and contribute to the JPI visibility.

Setting:

The process consists of 4 workshops and is based on a redline document. All workshops will be attended by the whole group of stakeholders, researchers, and policy representatives. During each workshop one group gives its views on the redline document and after each workshop the document is revised. The process ends with a half day face to face event during the participants make a synthesis of all the input and agree on needs for the future.

WORKSHOP 1: Stakeholders

Chair: Nathalie Noupadja (Chair of societal advisory board of JPI MYBL)

PART 1 – Introduction

- About JPI MYBL: aim, activities, agenda (Peter Allebeck, Chair of JPIMYBL)
- Introduction to the topic and aim of the knowledge sharing process (Bruno Arpino, chair of knowledge and sharing activities)

PART 2

- The stakeholders will present their views on the redline document

PART 3

Discussant: Johan Fritzell (chair of scientific advisory board of JPI MYBL)

- Discuss the challenges and actions identified by the stakeholders

Participants who confirmed attendance are

Clemens	Tesch-Roemer	German Centre of Gerontology (DZA)	Germany
Theo	Van Tilburg	Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam	Nederland
Giovanni	Lamura	INRCA IRCCS - National Institute of Health and Science on Ageing	Italy
Elsa	Perdrix	Dauphine University	France
Heidrun	Mollenkopf	AGE Platform Europe	Belgium
Elke	Tippelmann	BAGSO e.V.	Germany
Tineke	Fokkema	Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute (NIDI)	
Jennifer	Bethell	KITE Research Institute, Toronto Rehabilitation Institute – University Health Network	Canada
Christina	Victor	Brunel University London	United Kingdom
Annemie	Drieskens	Coface Families Europe	Belgium
Denice	Moi Thuk Shung	ZonMw	Netherlands
Oliver	Huxhold	German Centre of Gerontology (DZA)	Germany
Vincent	Horn	University of Mainz	Germany