



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

Brussels, 30 November 2011

17854/11

RECH 405

NOTE

From: General Secretariat
To: Delegations

Subject: Strategic Implementation Plan for the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing
- Information from the Commission

Delegations will find, in annex, a note from the Commission on the above-mentioned topic.

**Strategic Implementation Plan for the European Innovation Partnership on
Active and Healthy Ageing
*Information from the Commission***

The European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing ('the Partnership') was first proposed in the Europe 2020 strategy and its Innovation Union flagship initiative. It is the first pilot of a new approach proposed by the European Commission for the speeding-up of innovation and breakthroughs to address major societal challenges, in this case the challenge of the ageing of Europe's population.

The objective of the Active and Healthy Ageing Partnership is to add, by 2020, two healthy life years to the average healthy life span of European citizens. In a broader sense, the partnership also aims to enable citizens to live independently for longer and in good health, make the cost of care more sustainable, expand the market for innovative products and services and increase EU's global competitiveness.

A key achievement of the partnership is to have come forward within a limited time with a shared positive vision on ageing and a concrete plan of action (its Strategic Implementation Plan). This represents a consensus amongst a wide range of stakeholders - representatives of older people, patients, carers, doctors, hospitals, academics, insurers, pharmaceuticals, nutrition, ICT and medical devices industry, venture capital, regions and Member States.

Being a pilot, this approach to building a common approach and commitment is an innovative approach in its own right, and an enabler for cooperation in innovation in the area of healthy and active ageing. Many ideas have been submitted to the development of the Strategic Implementation Plan. Amongst them over 500 contributions in a public consultation and over 130 specific action items from workshops (see website¹).

¹ <http://ec.europa.eu/active-healthy-ageing>

The Strategic Implementation Plan ('the Plan') was adopted on the 7th of November 2011 by the Steering Group – the Partnership's governing body consisting of the mentioned actors. The Plan is the intellectual ownership of these stakeholders.

The Partnership considers ageing an opportunity rather than a socio-economic burden. It argues that future dynamic and sustainable care systems - while continuing to be based on the common values of universality, access to good quality care, equity and solidarity – need to accommodate new realities and acknowledge the need for more use of innovative solutions which are effective, cost-efficient and evidence based.

The Partnership has focused on a limited number of priorities. Each priority has been selected on the basis of specific criteria, such as: making the greatest contribution to the objectives of the Partnership; benefiting particularly from the partnership approach; significantly contributing to overcoming the key bottlenecks and barriers; and facilitating innovation in an area where European industry has or may develop a competitive advantage.

The priorities were grouped within three thematic pillars: prevention, screening and early diagnosis; care and cure; active ageing and independent living. In addition, horizontal actions have been identified that address framework conditions, that promote connections between the different priority areas of work, and that act as catalysts for all other actions, including regulatory conditions and effective funding schemes.

The key areas balance short term 'wins' with longer term objectives. They provide an opportunity to capitalise on current innovations, while also offering perspectives for longer-term research and development, and opportunities to exploit synergies within and across the different pillars.

In order to deliver quickly and bringing in tangible outcomes, the Partnership has therefore agreed to initially put forward 5 specific actions that can start in 2012:

- Prescription and adherence action at regional level
- Personal health management, starting with a Falls Prevention Initiative
- Action for prevention of functional decline and frailty
- Replicating and tutoring integrated care models for chronic diseases, including remote monitoring at regional level
- Development of interoperable independent living solutions, including guidelines for business models

In addition, networking and knowledge sharing on innovation for age-friendly buildings, cities and environments will be pursued. While the Plan outlines a path to implementation, being a strategic framework it does not present detailed resources or action-holders.

The European Commission will present a Communication for discussion and endorsement to the Council and the European Parliament in early 2012. The Communication will set out the Commission's commitment to contribute to the implementation of the Plan's priorities, will propose the governance structure for carrying out of the actions, as well as define the arrangements for the Plan's monitoring and evaluation.

In these challenging times for Europe, the partnership is positioned as a new approach to accelerate innovation for the major societal challenge of active and healthy ageing, with the aim to benefit individuals, make care systems more sustainable, and contribute to new ways for economic growth.