

The SIZE Project Plan

- A Critical Review

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Project Objectives

- To explain and describe the present mobility situation of senior citizens – from their own perspective
- To motivate action from responsible societal actors
- To provide guidance for setting up and implementing policies ”keeping older people mobile”

Questions focusing on mobility problems

- How do people cope with limitations of old age?
- Positive aspects of the present situation?
- Which measures are necessary?
- Which measures have the potential to improve the situation?
- Would these measures be feasible and realistic?
- What are the barriers to implementation?

Project Design

- Preparatory Activities
- Qualitative Studies
- Standardised Survey
- Finalisation & Distribution of Results

A combination & successive integration of:

- Problem exploration
- Assessment of the magnitude and character of problems
- Heuristic analysis and development of action plan

Preparatory Activities

- **State-of-the-art description**
 - promising examples
 - empirical data
- **Methodological frame of reference**
 - targeting senior citizens
 - targeting decision-makers and experts

Qualitative Studies

- **Focus group interviews (FGI):** An efficient way to gather information from a group of people
 - Interaction between participants is crucial and underfeeds knowledge generation
 - Participant perceptions in focus
- **Individual narrative interviews:** Elaboration of concepts identified during the FGIs

Standardised Survey

- Based on results from the qualitative studies
- Construction of questions "to arrive at quantitative empirical representation"
- Pre-tests of instrument
- Interviews with representative samples in the partner countries

Finalisation & Distribution of Results

- A heuristic approach
- Organisational psychology
- Communication & marketing principles
- Workshops involving different actors
- The role of senior citizens' associations

Congruence between Objectives & Methodology?

- Strong integration of senior citizens
- Objectives do not include decision-makers and experts
- Focus on barriers to implementation; why not on facilitators?

Definition of Core Concepts?

- Mobility
- Life Quality / Quality of Life

Inter-disciplinary composition?

- Many relevant disciplines/users/actors involved

Additional perspectives:

- Health/Medical Sciences
- Assistive technology
- Political Sciences
- (Health) Economy

Operationalisation?

- Assessment/measurement of "mobility"
- Assessment/measurement of "Life Quality / Quality of Life"
- Development of novel instruments versus building upon existing methodology

Can the methodology developed be used in future studies, in practice contexts?

Challenges to Consider

- Qualitative analyses – trustworthy and valid results?
- Sampling for the qualitative studies?
- Representative sampling for the survey?
- Validity of survey questionnaires – cross-national comparability?
- Interview reliability?
- Heuristic approach – did the workshops reach their goal?
- Knowledge "spill-over" between societal sectors?

Let's learn and reflect upon what happened along the process...

- Structured planning
- Strong user involvement – from start to completion
- Powerful combination of methods
- Development of new methods
- Strict methodology – process perspective – practice implementation
- Working out solutions
- Challenges in cross-national, inter-disciplinary research
- Challenges in dissemination & implementation processes

How can project success and goal attainment be assessed?