

Factsheet Health and Aging in cooperation programmes

The added value of EU cooperation projects

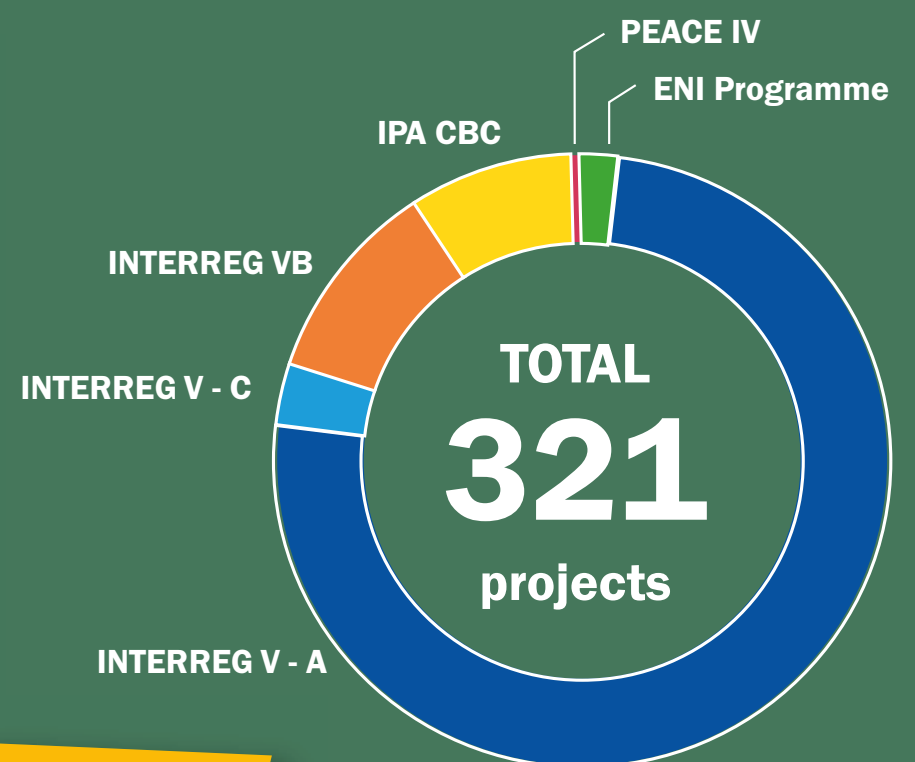
Key advantages

- Cooperation projects can be implemented in **tangible and intangible ways**.
- Enhance health and ageing services in **disadvantaged regions**.
- Stimulate/enhance capacity to innovate.
- Financial leverage.
- **Cost-effective**, allowing territories to **share the costs** of common health infrastructures and services.
- **Knowledge sharing** between healthcare stakeholders.
- Exchange of knowledge and **training** of healthcare professionals

Key opportunities

- New market opportunities with a growing demand due to **increase in life expectancy** and **progress in diagnosis and treatment**.
- **Increased patient mobility** can lead to greater mobility of healthcare professionals.
- The increasing flow of European citizens **intensifies the use of hospital services and medical facilities in border areas**.
- New opportunities within the **2021-2027 programming period**, ESF+ in particular.

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES RELATED PROJECTS



Key obstacles

- **Reluctance to cooperate** and integrate, compared to other sectors.
- **Differences among Member States** health systems may raise barriers for patients.
- **Limited resources** compared to ESIF.
- Cooperation and coordination across stakeholders can be **time-consuming** and **challenging**.
- **Cultural barriers** (i.e. language).
- Different hierarchical levels of authorities and institutions can **limit the capacity to cooperate**.
- **High administrative burden** has a greater influence on patient choice than quality and safety standards.
- **Less effective** in regions where cooperation has not been previously established.

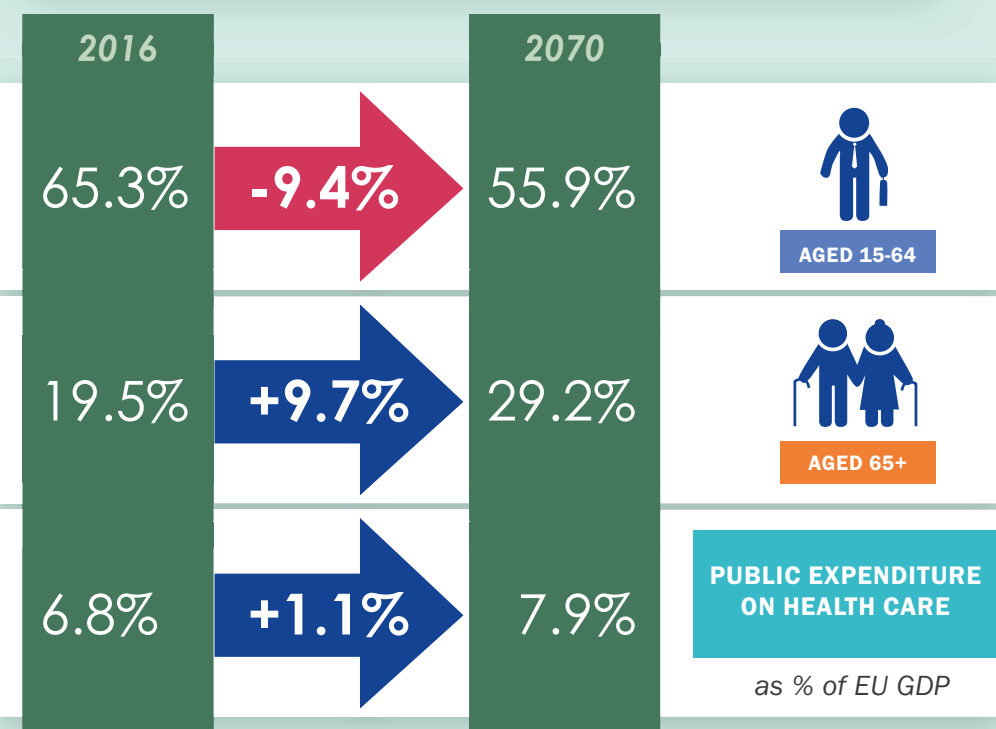
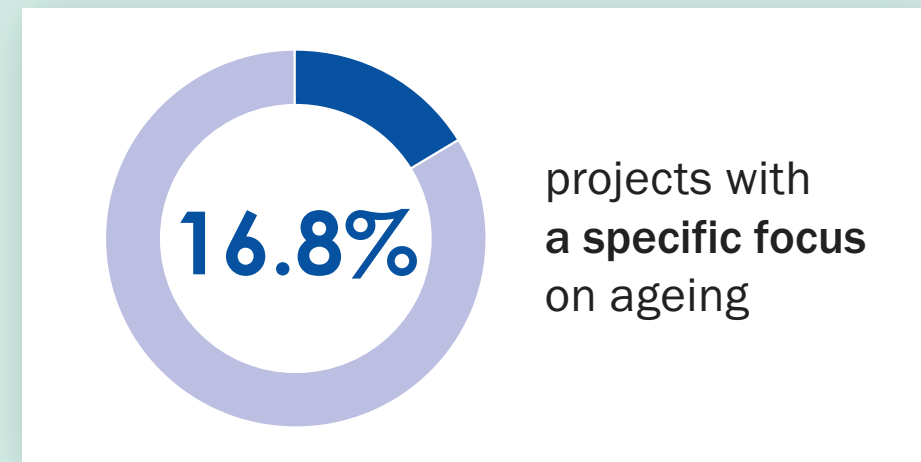
What can be improved?

Key threats

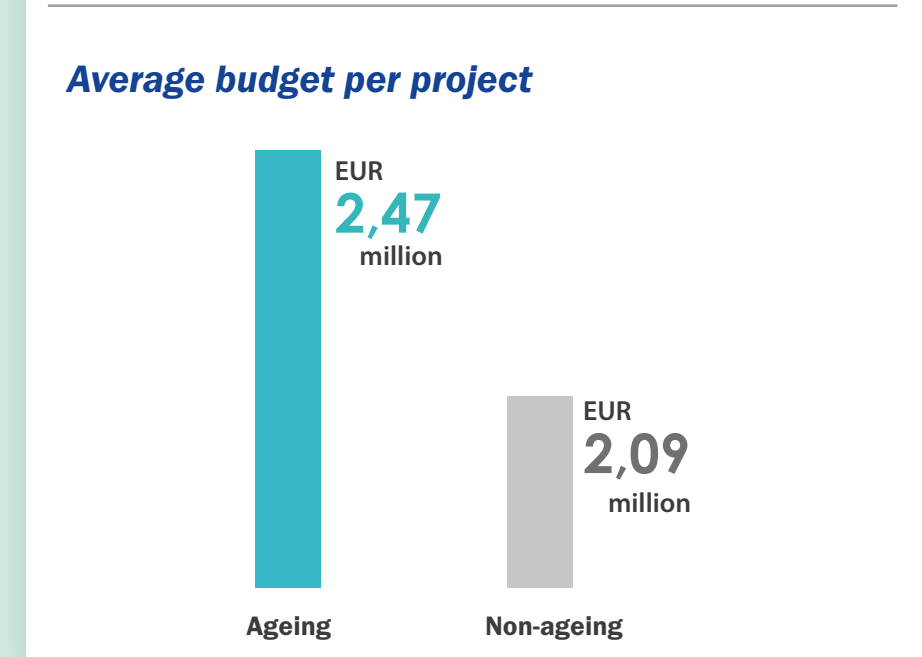
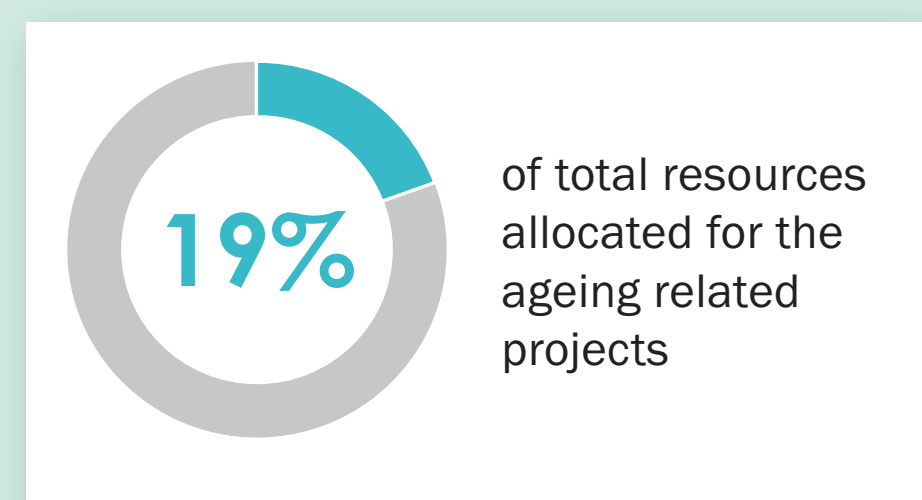
- Due to **demographic ageing**, the cost of social support for seniors will rise considerably affecting public budget and quality of social care.
- **Information asymmetries** for both players and patients.
- Stakeholder **reluctance to cooperate**, specifically low political will.
- **Impact of Brexit**, especially between Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland and Western Scotland.
- Political movements pushing for **renationalisation** of key policies in several EU countries.

EU COOPERATION PROJECTS ON AGEING

SPECIFIC FOCUS



FINANCIAL



The **ageing-related projects** cover different types of intervention. Some provide direct support to the target group (i.e. direct healthcare assistance to the elderly with specific disease problems), others indirect support, for example by training professionals working with the elderly or providing innovative technology solutions to address elderly needs.

A first category of projects relates to **supporting enterprises operating in the Silver Economy**, to produce goods and services related to population ageing and its specific needs. Other than supporting elderly needs, this type of project aims to improve SME competitiveness as well as to create new job opportunities.

Another category focuses on **innovative solutions** for the elderly living alone to enhance their quality of life through improved quality and accessibility of customised care in targeted areas (i.e. rural areas). This category also includes also R&D projects to provide innovative technologies for diseases.

A third category of projects aims at **active ageing** to prevent the social exclusion of older people by, for instance, improving information about existing voluntary work for seniors and developing of new opportunities.

Other examples focus on **enhancing the competences and skills of professionals** providing healthcare and assistance to the elderly to increase their collaboration and coordination, improve the quality and delivery of services, and foster the development of innovative care facilities and business models.

A final group of projects focuses on **specific diseases**, often for preventive actions and early diagnostics.


AGEING RELATED PROJECTS




SE SUPPORTING ENTERPRISES OPERATING IN THE SILVER ECONOMY



FINANCING INNOVATIVE AND TECHNOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS



PROMOTING ACTIVE AGEING



ENHANCING THE COMPETENCES AND SKILLS OF PROFESSIONALS




COMBATING SPECIFIC DISEASES

THE EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND AND EU COOPERATION ON AGEING

ESF

- R&D activities
- Innovative actions related to active ageing
- Counselling to companies and employees about long-term health maintenance
- Development of tools, practices and favourable plans for continued employment of senior citizen
- Awareness-raising for the general public



ACTIVE AGEING



EU COOPERATION

- Create networks for cross-border exchanges between healthcare professionals
- Develop new technology platforms
- Design transnational solutions to social isolation in remote contexts
- Increase access to therapy using automated, computer-based services



ACTIVE AGEING
SE THE SILVER ECONOMY
INNOVATIVE AND TECHNOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS
COMPETENCES AND SKILLS
SPECIFIC DISEASES



The main scope of ESF intervention for active and healthy ageing is to prevent social exclusion and provide a means of meaningful participation in society **mainly by investing in programmes providing continued employment for senior citizens**. These are, for instance, educational and training programmes so the elderly can adjust to changes in the workplace and can re-enter the work force. Sometimes they are in the form of financial aid or advisory services to companies and the public sector.

ESF acts therefore on the 'ageing' thematic, but, differently from cooperation projects, does not directly link 'health' with 'ageing' (i.e. supporting investments for health services for elderly people). It is more focused on 'healthy ageing', by supporting actions aiming at social inclusion of the elderly through enhanced employment opportunities and improved job conditions.