



Platforms for Ageing Community Engagement - Exchange and Enterprise

What is it all about?

PLACE-EE is a transnational partnership of public health agencies, local authorities, academics and ICT experts dedicated to improving the quality of life for older people. Funded by the Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme of the European Union, our aim is to develop and implement locally derived sustainable solutions to encourage internet use and person-centered e-health.

Older people will engage with our transnational partnership of municipal bodies, public health, universities and enterprises in a programme of community engagement and intergenerational exchange between younger and older citizens using an assets-based

approach to build capacity among older people to address barriers to service access. In doing so, we will identify, promote and connect local, cultural knowledge and other heritage resources with innovative ICT approaches that enable greater social inclusion, and access to timely and efficient advice, support and care. The PLACE-EE project will provide opportunities for the transfer of knowledge, skills, products in health care for the benefit of older people and their communities.

When is this taking place?

The project will run for 3 years from September 2017 and closing in August 2020.

Why are we undertaking this project?

Social exclusion and loneliness have significantly negative impacts on physical and mental health. Such problems are increasingly prevalent in remote and sparsely populated regions of Europe. The lives of older citizens are further complicated by growing health and social care needs.



WHO ARE WE?

The project team is made up from a consortium of public health agencies, local authorities, academics and ICT experts from across Europe.

The full partners are profiled below and associate partners will be outlined in a future issue.

Ulster University

Ulster University is the lead partner on this EU-funded project with the management team based within the Bamford Centre for Mental Health and Wellbeing. Ulster has considerable experience in the management of EU and other projects related to e-health, ageing populations, community development and young people having actively participated in over 500 EU funded projects since 1990 valued at £80m, for example; SENDoc: Smart Senor Devices for Rehabilitation and connected Health.



Fermanagh and Omagh District Council (FODC)

FODC have a strong working relationship with South West Age Partnership (SWAP), an organisation that works with statutory agencies to deliver joint services for older people across the Fermanagh and Omagh region. The Council also helps co-ordinate the Fermanagh & Omagh Interagency Forum for Older People with representatives from the other statutory bodies in the district including Government Departments, Health, Transport, Social Services and the Emergency Services. FODC piloted a very well received Older Persons Group Grant this year which aimed to make the application process simpler.





FJARÐABYGGÐ

Fjarðabyggð

Fjarðabyggð is a municipality located in eastern Iceland and is the 10th largest of a total of 75 municipalities in Iceland and largest municipality in eastern Iceland. The population of Fjarðabyggð is in total 4,800, varying from one fjord to the other. Together with aluminium production, fishing and fish processing are the main fields of employment in Fjarðabyggð. Three of Iceland's largest fishing companies, Síldarvinnslan, Eskja and Loðnuvinnslan, are located in the municipality, as well as the Alcoa Fjarðaál aluminium smelter. Agriculture is most prominent in the valley above Norðfjörður.

Services for senior citizens in Fjarðabyggð is performed according to the Fjarðabyggð rules of social home service which are according to the Icelandic Law on Ageing (125/1999). Social home service includes empowering the user and support him to be able to stay as long as he wishes at his own home. The focus is on encouraging the user to self-responsibility and respect his right to make decisions concerning his own life. In implementing the social home care another aim is to organize and coordinate services with other services like medical and health care services.

Limerick City and County Council (LCCC)

LCCC has played a major role in enhancing support of older adult services, including public service provision to older adults. It has the fastest ageing city population in Ireland since the last census, with 25.9% of its population aged 55-85 compared with 23.3% in the mid west region (Age Friendly Limerick, p.4:2015). To begin to address some of these challenges Limerick has an active age friendly initiative in place within the local authority, with a number of activities aimed at making places and spaces more age friendly.



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae Luimnigh
Limerick City
& County Council

Public Health Agency (PHA)

The PHA was established in 2009 under a major reform of health structure in Northern Ireland, in an executive body of the Department of health in Northern Ireland. A multi-disciplinary, multi-professional body bringing together a wide range of public health functions, our focus is on promoting and protecting the health and wellbeing of the population. We are also work across organisations and sectors, including enhanced partnership arrangements with local government, to tackle the underlying causes of poor health and reduce health inequalities.

PHA is also the lead organisation for regional implementation of Making Life Better, Northern Ireland Executive's ten year public health framework. Making Life Better seeks to create conditions for individuals and communities to take control of their own lives, and move towards a vision for NI where "all people are enabled and supported in achieving their full health & wellbeing potential through reducing inequalities in health".





Skellefteå kommun

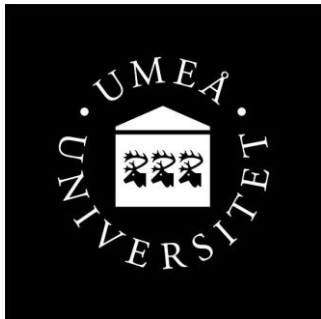
The City of Skellefteå employs over 8,000 people, in more than 400 professions spread in a wide range of professional areas, from environmental issues to education and care. The overall aim is to work for a secure, safe, effective and stimulating Skellefteå for everybody. The City of Skellefteå is a politically steered organization, with the Municipal Council and its chair as head, consisting of democratically elected politicians.

The department for elderly care has about 2,200 employees and is organized under the Social services committee which is the largest one in the organization. The core value is to enable for senior citizens to live their lives in the best possible way - according to individual dreams, will and needs - with focus on independency and meaningfulness.

Umeå University

Umeå University is the principal university in Northern Sweden, with about 37,000 students, 4,300 staff, 1,700 courses and 120 major study programmes. As part of the Social Science Faculty the Department of Informatics seeks to understand and influence the design and production of new information and communication technology and media. A central concern is how technology and media are used, experienced and evaluated. The Q-life research group at the department focuses on the potential of ICT in promoting personal wellbeing and creativity. We work closely with many local organizations, including those representing social and medical service providers and end users with particular needs.

Q-life have been involved in several international EU-funded projects. Amongst our other current activities, we run a social club for elderly IT-users, which meets bi-weekly in Åsele under the auspices of Associate Partner Åsele Kommun. This gives older citizens the chance to meet and try out different technologies and applications, and to use them for various activities between and during meetings. We are also participating in the *Västerbotten Digital Service Centre* project (2017-2019), financed by EU Structural funds and the municipalities of Åsele, Lycksele and Storuman. The project is developing and testing ways in which these municipalities can work for increased digital participation and skills of the residents in the longer term. Based in local libraries, each digital service center will become a resource for both digital and non-digital participants, and will also be a meeting place for e-service providers and those by whom these services meant to be used.



For further information
please contact us via:

Website: <http://place-ee.interreg-npa.eu/>

Facebook: <fb.me/placeeeeNPA>

Twitter: [@place_ee](#)

Email: place-ee@ulster.ac.uk

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