



EUROPEAN UNION

Investing in your future
European Regional Development Fund



Northern Periphery and
Arctic Programme

2014-2020

PLATFORMS FOR AGEING COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT – EXCHANGE AND ENTERPRISE

April 2020



What is it all about?

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- **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 €1.7 million.
- Aim: To develop and implement locally derived sustainable solutions to encourage internet use and person-centered e-health.
- 3 year project September 2017 – August 2020

**If older people
get involved
with technology,
what they can
really do is
change their lives.**

Julian Cullinan, PLACE-EE Community
Engagement Officer, Skellefteå

Partners



Lead partner



Full partners



Associate partners

- Microelectronic Application Centre, Limerick, Ireland
- Institute of Public Health in Ireland

- Åsele Kommun Social Welfare Office Sweden
- The Health Care Institute of East Iceland
- AN Solutions, Iceland

- Checkup, Malmo, Sweden
- VA College, Iceland



Why?



Why?



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.

I would love to learn how to use the internet so I can engage with others...

Pearl Walsh, Elderly participant

Shared Characteristics of Rural and Isolated areas



- Economic disinvestment
- Outward youth migration
- Limited and expensive transport
- Loneliness
- Health vulnerability
- Absent or hard to reach services



Regions taking part



ICELAND

Fjarðabyggð

Total Population: **4,777**

% 65 or older: **14%**

% under 20: **28%**



NORTHERN IRELAND

Fermanagh & Omagh District Council

Total Population: **115,000**

% 65 or older: **15%**

% under 20: **27%**



REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

Limerick City & County Council

Total Population: **191,809**

% 65 or older: **14%**

% under 20: **27%**



SWEDEN

Skellefteå kommun

Total Population: **72,723**

% 65 or older: **24%**

% under 20: **22%**



What did the project do?

What did the project do?



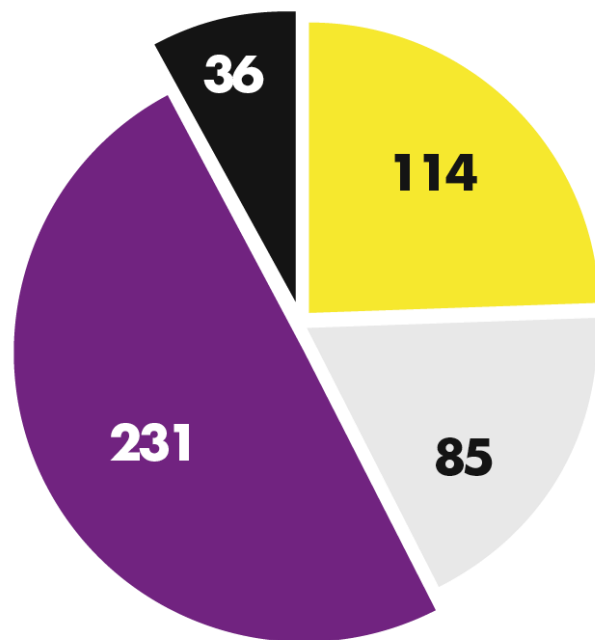
Provided opportunities for the transfer of knowledge, skills and products in health care for the benefit of older people and their communities by...

- Creating community coalitions in 4 demonstrator areas
- Using an arts based activity approach
- Engaging schools and students
- Knowledge exchange between older and younger citizens – intergenerational workshops
- Organising a Hackathon
- Developing collaboration between SME's, University and Public Health
- Archiving digital cultural heritage material





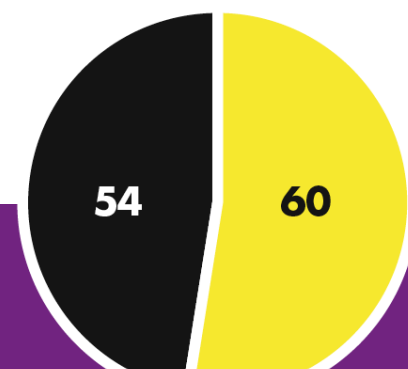
Total number of participants: 466



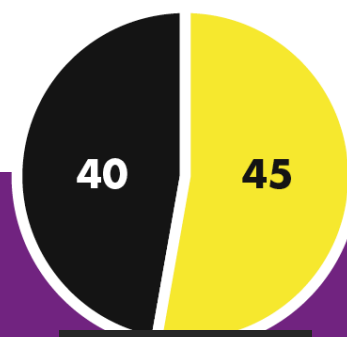
- Fermanagh & Omagh District Council
- Fjarðabyggð
- Limerick City & County Council
- Skellefteå kommun

Age breakdown per region

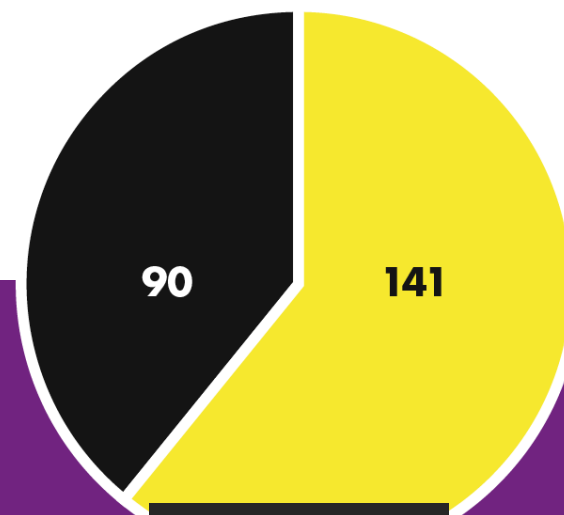
- Younger people
- Older people



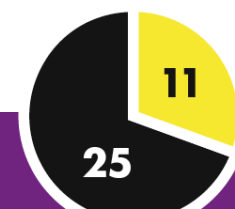
Fermanagh & Omagh District Council



Fjarðabyggð



Limerick City & County Council



Skellefteå kommun

Challenges & concerns identified by older people



- Loss and disconnection from family and friends
- Disconnection from young people
- Feeling left out, social exclusion and lack of opportunity for social activities
- Limited transport – reduction in local buses / fear of driving or having no car
- Access to health and other services – GP consultation/ eye/ hearing tests/ shopping



Technology concerns



- Need training
- Limited access to broadband/ internet
- Safety online – fear of scams
- Poor eyesight/ arthritis
- Need for appropriate apps – age/ language/ health needs

“I hope to gain a knowledge of technology skills so I can engage more with community activities in my area and get more involved”.

Richard Nolan, Elderly participant

Older people were interested in technology for...



- Communication eg facebook but to have available on bigger screen eg TV
- The internet of things and automation of household appliances
- Cheap and accessible transport
- Aid to navigate medical and personal care needs



Older people wanted...



- Initiatives that enable intergenerational cooperation to enhance active citizenship
- Shared spaces to facilitate connectedness
- Increase in the number of intergenerational activities within area to provide opportunities to develop social networks and relationships
- Forums where older and younger people could come together to interact





What did the project achieve?

What did the project achieve?



- Created social capital through intergenerational exchange
- Improved the capacity of older people to engage with new technologies
- Facilitated access to health and social care services
- Highlighted and showcases local heritage across remote, rural regions of the EU
- Developed links between European citizens

”

Technology is amazing. You can do anything. Things you could never have imagined.

Swedish older participant



Outputs



Outputs



Community Mapping

A Guide to Community Mapping
for PLACE-EE (Nov 2018)



Community Mapping

Transnational Comparisons of Service
Provision for Older People in Rural,
Sparsely Populated Areas (Feb 2019)



Community Mapping

Transnational report and the Needs and
Assets of Older Citizens Living in Rural and
Sparsely Populated Areas (June 2019)



Intergenerational IT Toolkit

Intergenerational Skill Exchange
between Students and Older
Individuals



Systematic Review

Effectiveness of intergenerational
exchange programmes between
adolescents and elders
(January 2020)



PLACE-EE Newsletters



Transnational Cultural Heritage Archive

(Forthcoming)



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Thank you.



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