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Launch of new EU-wide network on innovation for age-friendly environments

According to the World Health Organization, physical and social environments are key determinants of whether people can remain healthy, independent and autonomous long into their old age. Creating age-friendly environments is therefore one of the most effective approaches to respond to demographic change. To support this approach, the AFE-INNOVNET thematic network on innovation for age-friendly environments kicked off today with the support of the European CIP ICT PSP Programme and will run for two years.

"These past years, we have witnessed the development of many innovative solutions to address Europe's demographic change. Unfortunately up until now we lacked an EU-wide structure bringing together local and regional authorities and other stakeholders to support their scale-up. This is what we want to achieve with this network and we believe it will play a key role to support the objective of the European Innovation Partnership on active and healthy ageing which is to extend by 2 years the healthy life year expectancy," said Anne-Sophie Parent, AGE Secretary General.

The overarching goal of the **AFE-INNOVNET** thematic network is to:

- **mobilise a wide range of local and regional authorities and other stakeholders** – industries, research centres, universities, civil society organizations – to link up, benefit from each other's experience and work together to promote initiatives on age-friendly environments across the EU;
- **develop methodologies** to help local and regional authorities assess the socioeconomic impact of age-friendly environments and the benefits of involving older people in the co-production of age-friendly environments solutions;
- develop a **repository of notable and replicable practices** in innovative ICT and services solutions with associated socio-economic evidence;
- launch an **EU Covenant on Demographic Change** to create the necessary political and technical framework to bring together in a more formal and long-term structure local and regional authorities – and other stakeholders - across the EU, using the model of the existing Covenant of Mayors on sustainable energy.

The consortium is composed of **28 partners** from **16 EU countries** and includes **12 cities** and **6 regions**. The project is led by a Steering Group composed of **AGE Platform Europe**, **CEMR** (Council of European Municipalities and Regions), **TNO** (Dutch Research Centre), the **University of Valencia**, **PAU Education** and the **Louth County Council**. The project will run in close cooperation with **WHO Europe**.

The project will open up to new partners as from mid-March. Interested? Please visit the project [website](#). You will soon be able to subscribe to the AFE-INNOVNET monthly newsletter and to join the Network. You can also join the conversation on [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#).

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