PROJECTS RELATED TO AGEING IN HORIZON 2020, FRAMEWORK PROGRAMME FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

Smijka Vikić-Topić¹, Miroslav Rajter², Slobodan Vukičević¹, Fran Borovečki¹

¹Centre for Translational and Clinical Research, University of Zagreb
School of Medicine, Zagreb, and Clinical Hospital Centre Zagreb, Croatia
²Research office, University of Zagreb, Zagreb, Croatia

Background

• Growing ageing population influences economy, demography and unsustainable health-care costs.
• Interest in research of ageing in many disciplines increases.
• We aim to investigate the quantity and fields of research within Horizon 2020.

Material & Methods

• We searched the Calls for Proposals, projects and their results in the European Commission databases “Funding and Tenders” (https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders), “Cordis” (https://cordis.europa.eu/search/en), .eu/dashboard/sense/app/93297a69-09fd-4ef5-889f-b83c4e21d33e) and others.

Results

• 79/340 Calls and 335/1059 Projects within Horizon 2020, SC1 were dedicated to ageing
• EC contribution to ageing projects is – 1,46 bill. EUR
• 1588 scientific papers published
• 50 exploitable results generated
• Geographical distribution is presented in the figures below.

Top funded projects mostly include smart and assisted living, with more than 10 projects funded by >15 mil EUR

Content analysis shows multidisciplinary approach tackling all the ageing issues: frailty, mobility, chronic diseases, co-morbidities etc. with application of digital tools and artificial intelligence, self-management of health and living

Conclusion

• Ageing is a growing issue in various aspects and research fields.
• Top funded projects and most EC contribution is going to developed EU15 countries, UK being the best in total, but NL is the best per capita.
• Most projects are exploiting advanced technical solutions for improvement of healthy ageing: assisted living, driving, robotic and AI solutions.
• The system for the monitoring of allocated research funds, topics and results are overwhelming, but not harmonized nor easy to use and should be improved for free keywords search.