Adapting European Cities to Population Ageing (ACPA)

Demographic trends in the ESPON territory

All European countries are experiencing population ageing, with projected shares of older people in 2030 over 25 percent in some regions. This decade has been declared by the WHO as the Decade of Healthy Ageing 2020-2030.

The eight stakeholder cities featured in ACPA are already preparing themselves for this decade:
- Amsterdam
- Barcelona
- Gothenburg
- Greater Manchester
- Zaragoza
- Hengelo
- Nantes
- Oslo

How do older people experience the daily life in the cities?
Older people are generally positive towards daily urban life, although they feel a pressure to become increasingly self-reliant – which can be challenging.

What do older people view as the benefits and constraints associated with urban living?
Older people have expressed the proximity to essential services and amenities as important benefit of urban life. Yet, they are worried about the accessibility of information (due to digitalisation), buildings, public space (feelings of insecurity) and transportation. Lastly, older people are concerned about lack of affordable and adapted housing, and lack of activities and services for minorities.

How are the eight stakeholder cities involved in ACPA responding to population ageing?
All cities have developed measures to facilitate healthy and active ageing around the eight WHO domains, being Outdoor spaces and built environment, Transport and mobility, Housing, Social Participation, Respect and social inclusion, Civic participation and employment, Communication and information, and Community and health services. Most emphasis is placed on social participation.

Which policies have been the most effective in developing age-friendly cities and how have they been implemented and which are the success factors?
On the right, good practices with their success factors are displayed.

ACPA has resulted in a main report, policy handbook and eight city reports. Visit www.espon.eu/ACPA for more information.