



European Innovation  
Partnership on Active  
and Healthy Ageing

# Considerations on the future of the EIP on AHA Action Groups post-2020

This document has been produced by the internal working group of the EIP on AHA Action Groups with the support of the WE4AHA CSA, supporting the EIP on AHA community.

**Disclaimer:** These considerations are proposed on behalf of the EIP on AHA Action Groups' Internal Working Group. However, we recommend that this reflection process on the EIP on AHA continues with the inclusion of all the Action Group coordinators and the Reference Sites in order to represent the current main strands of the EIP on AHA (AGs and RS). This could be extended as appropriate.

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# Members of the internal working group present at the Madrid face to face meeting

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# Introduction

The European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing (EIP on AHA) is a bottom-up, multi-stakeholder community established by the European Commission in 2011 with a definite mandate till 2020 to develop innovative solutions in the field of active and healthy ageing, that concerns all European countries and beyond.

Two main strands of the EIP on AHA are the Action Groups (AGs) and the Reference Sites (RS).

Six AGs were set up around six specific thematic areas in 2011 whose structure and way of operation have not changed since then. These six AGs are:

- A1: Adherence to prescription
- A2: Fall prevention
- A3: Lifespan health promotion and prevention
- B3: Integrated care
- C2: Independent living solutions
- D4: Age-friendly environments

This draft document currently focuses on the AGs and their future only. The WE4AHA Horizon2020 CSA was tasked by the European Commission to provide support to the EIP on AHA community to elaborate on possible paths for the AGs and the RSs and secure their sustainability post-2020.

In 2018, the WE4AHA consortium started talks with other AHA-related European initiatives, such as the Active and Assisted Living Programme (AAL) and More Years Better Lives (JPI MYBL) to create synergies based on their complementary assets. As a result of their joint efforts, these three initiatives, together with the TO-REACH Horizon2020 CSA, are mentioned in a Horizon Europe co-funded partnership called “Large-scale innovation and transformation of health and care systems in a digital and ageing society” as initiatives whose experience the new partnership should be built on.

One very clear and obvious complementary asset that the EIP on AHA can offer is the regional/local dimension, the territorial ecosystems through the Reference Sites. However, in order to best define the complementary asset that the AGs could offer to this collaboration, a series of meetings were initiated following up on the discussions at the Conference of Partners in September 2019 in Aarhus. At the CoP 2019, the participants at the AG meeting agreed that there is an urgent need to prepare the AGs for the future to guarantee their sustainability. As a result, an internal working group from the AG coordinators was set up that met twice online (07/11/2019 and 17/12/2019) and face-to-face in Madrid on 30-31/01/2020 to come up with recommendations on the objectives their activities should fulfil and on the structure their existence could be best sustained by.

It is highly necessary to look into transition avenues for the EIP on AHA if it wants to maintain all the knowledge, know-how and network of experts beyond its mandate (end-2020) that have been developed over the past decade. The EIP on AHA needs to re-invent itself, adapt its architecture, objectives and activities to the changing priorities, approaches and policy context in order to provide valuable outputs, products and services and also to re-engage its members.

# Considerations from the meeting held in Madrid on the 30-31/01/2020

This internal working group has considered a number of potential recommendations oriented towards the sustainability of the entire EIP on AHA post-2020.

Our considerations are detailed below:

- Capture the energy, enthusiasm, expertise and experience of the AG members to facilitate ageing well for European citizens through their lifecycle.
- Move beyond the existing structures and focus of the individual AGs, this internal working group recommends that we become one community of expertise focusing on priorities, which actively promote the interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral collaboration between all members.
- Implement and evaluate the impact at regional and local level through ecosystem-driven innovation and transformation of health and care systems.
- Foster, harness and strengthen a close collaboration with the Reference Sites to create a structure that encompasses as many partners as possible.

As a community with expertise, we recommend that our main objective is to realise the full value of the EIP on AHA main outcomes, e.g. through exploitation and capitalisation, aiming to:

- continue to define research priorities and collaborate to maximise the impact of research findings;
- assess and evaluate good practices and case studies to elicit: the context, learning, outcomes, experiences etc.;
- support regions and organisations to adapt and adopt innovative solutions;
- spread knowledge and skills coming from previous research and innovation projects, commitments, best practices.

In order to keep the content and the momentum of the previous initiatives, we recommend the creation of a legal entity to ensure future sustainability and the effective provision of support and services. **This solution would be dependent on the creation of a business plan and exploitation model of this entity, ensuring it will have a long-term strategy and resources needed to ensure an adequate performance towards its goals**

Based on the expertise within the community we recommend the development of a suite of services along “the research to market & implementation cycle” that will include (but not exclusively):

- Health and care needs identification for public authorities and other sector organisations;
- Advocacy activities;
- Capacity building;
- Evaluation of practices, monitoring services;

- Impact assessment;
- Offer living lab and test bed support to facilitate the products/services to move along the innovation cycle;
- ....

The internal working group would require additional support from the European Commission, ideally through the current WE4AHA CSA and any future supporting initiatives put in place in favour of the EIP on AHA, in order to further elaborate on the considerations and to eventually implement them.

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## Next steps

This draft is a starting point, a living document that will

- be shared with the European Commission for further comments and approval;
- go through validation and endorsement processes within each of the six Action Groups;
- be discussed with the Reference Sites in order to coordinate in terms of future links between the regional ecosystems and this new competence hub;
- be extended with further ideas on the overall representation of the entire EIP on AHA by a potential entity;

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