



Annex 1. Producing the JPI MYBL SRA

This Annex describes the process by which the current draft agenda was produced.

Given the importance of demographic change in many areas of public policy, 14 EU Member States agreed in 2010 to use the EU Joint Programming structures to explore the potential for comparative research in this field, and the Joint Programming Initiative "More Years, Better Lives" was created with a General Assembly of national representatives. The Assembly identified five major areas of study, and the participating countries nominated academic experts to serve of each of five working groups to undertake preliminary review of the issues. The five working groups were based around broad academic disciplines as follows:

Health & Performance: was concerned with how to maintain the health of individuals as long as possible into the new extended lifespan, and how to mitigate the risks of declining capabilities. It drew particularly on expertise from the broad range of biomedical sciences and sociology.

Welfare & Social Systems: was concerned with how to maintain appropriate levels of welfare in the context of a deteriorating dependency ratio. It drew particularly on sociology, social policy, and economics

Work & Productivity: was concerned with how older people can remain contributing members of society as long as possible, through paid and unpaid work. It drew particularly on labour economics, occupational health, sociology and management.

Education & Learning: was concerned with how learning, in a broad sense, can contribute to older people's quality of life and productivity. It drew particularly on adult education, psychology and sociology.

Housing, Environment & Mobility: was concerned with the physical environment, and how it can be best configured to meet the needs of an ageing population. It drew particularly on sociology, urban planning, architecture and geography.

Each working group met a number of times to prepare a report, identifying the key policy and research issues, with the work coordinated through a Scientific Advisory Group comprising the chairs and vice-chairs, with a number of other experts. The resulting reports were considered by the General Assembly, and by a Societal Advisory Board, drawn from a range of European agencies concerned with relevant topics (e.g. regional government, social care, adult education etc.).

It became very clear that many of the issues required exploration which crossed not only national and regional boundaries, but also the boundaries, techniques and data sources of traditional academic disciplines. A Strategic Research Agenda therefore needed to be interdisciplinary, and comparative, and seek to work across the traditional boundaries between policy areas (like health and social care).

The Societal Advisory Board was particularly helpful in identifying the major policy drivers, and their advice led to a decision to develop a research strategy based on the work of the working groups, but built around four major policy challenges. The four challenges are:

Quality of life: how can we ensure the best possible quality of life for all people, throughout their lives (including the final stages), recognising the diversity of circumstances and individual aspirations.

Economic and social productivity: how can the prolongation of working lives promote economic and social production in ways that are sustainable, equitable, and efficient in the use of human and technical resources?



Sustainable health and welfare: How is it possible to secure adequate levels of welfare for all people, i.e., for all generations, nations, social or ethnic subgroups, in the context of the changing age balance of the population?

Governance: How are the processes of decision making and institutions changing, and how might they need to change, at all levels from local to European, to ensure that services respond to changing needs and that all citizens and stakeholders are able to be involved in decisions affecting their lives and work?

The General Assembly, the Societal Advisory Board and the Scientific Advisory Board all agreed this framework, but agreed that there were some issues and themes which cut across these challenges. These "cross-cutting" themes are:

- health
- learning
- technology
- social inclusion
- public attitudes
- intergenerational relationships

These were all considered in the drafting of text on each of the four domains.

The chairs of the working groups joined by a representative of the SOAB then met as an editorial group to draft the current draft Agenda.

The prefinal version of the draft agenda was sent to the JPI MYBL member states for *national consultation*. The objective of the national consultations was to stimulate discussion amongst national stakeholders, to detect omissions in the SRA and to mobilize support for the SRA. It was important that the final draft SRA was informed by inputs and ideas from a broad base of national stakeholders. The reports from the national consultations were used to revise the prefinal draft SRA. The Scientific Advisory Board discussed the revised version and a final draft version was produced to be sent to the SOAB for comments. The GA approved the final draft version and the JPI MYBL strategic research agenda was launched in April 2014.