

The “Ageing Population” and their Disabilities

**A “key action” in
the European Community Research Programme on
the Quality of Life and
the Management of Living Resources (QoL)
(1998-2002)**

Peter KIND
Director, D.G. Research

*Brussels
28 September 2000*

www.cordis.lu/life

“Seniors and volunteering”

- ★ **Welcome this conference**
 - † **well-timed initiative to promote the policy debate**
 - † **also stimulus to research on the topic**

Volunteering

- ★ **Wide agreement on benefits of volunteering**
 - † *both for recipients of services provided*
 - † *and for volunteers themselves*
- ★ **Although information is thin, volunteering appears to be extensive**
 - † *makes substantial contribution to economic and social life*
- ★ **Appears to be scope for sector to expand**
 - † *particularly as seniors become healthier and more numerous*
 - † *buoyant voluntary sector would help ease pressures created by population ageing*
- ★ **Need to find the right volunteering-friendly social policies**
 - † *research can support better policy-making*

What is a “key action”?

- ★ **Key actions are a new concept in Community research**

- ★ They aim to put research to work to address the major social and economic challenges facing society and its citizens

- ✚ by taking a “problem-solving approach” to research

- *multidisciplinary, cross-sectoral*

- *covering whole research spectrum*

- ✚ by networking with national and international efforts

- ✚ by involving all stakeholders, especially users and beneficiaries of the research

in both priority setting and implementation

Main objectives of the “Ageing” key action

- ★ To help Europe’s society and its citizens meet the challenges of ageing by mobilising research:

- ✚ to enhance the quality of life, autonomy and social integration of older people

- *emphasis on healthy ageing and well-being in old age*

- ✚ to improve quality, efficiency and user-friendliness of care and welfare provision

- *emphasis on enabling older people to remain independent*

- ✚ to support policy and planning

- ★ To raise profile and status throughout Europe of “ageing” as a coherent field for top quality research

Next deadlines for proposals

- ★ Research projects, concerted actions...

- ✚ March 2001, March 2002

- ★ Studies, conferences, workshops...

- ✚ each February, June, October (*until February 2002*)

Further information

- ★ website

www.cordis.lu/life

- ★ e-mail

georgios.mezelas@cec.eu.int