

## INRCA – National Institute of Health and Sciences on Ageing

### CENTRE FOR SOCIO-ECONOMIC RESEARCH ON AGEING

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## INTRODUCTION

**Focus:** The Centre for Socio-Economic Research on Ageing carries out interdisciplinary gerontological research, with the main aim of contributing to a more holistic understanding of the ageing process from a demographic, social, economic and political perspective. The results of this activity, which is made possible thanks to the multi-disciplinary composition of its research staff, allow to integrate the traditional clinical-geriatric approach in translational terms, and are mainly disseminated by means of scientific publications on international journals and books, but also through consultancy work for public and private organisations.

**Areas of interest:** In the last decade, our research has been carried out – at a regional, national and especially European and international level – on following empirical and theoretical themes: integrated long-term care of dependent older people; support services to family carers, also to improve their work-life balance; prevention of abuse and neglect in older age; migrant care work in elder care; promotion of active ageing both in the labour market (via supports to older workers) and in civil society (by enhancing opportunities for volunteering in older age and preventing age discrimination); new technologies to improve the quality of life/care of older people and their carers.

**Recent highlights:** Our Centre has contributed to develop the Road Map for Future Ageing Research in Europe (click here for details: [Road Map for Future Ageing Research](#)). In 2012 it has coordinated the organisation of the first edition of the International Summer School on Ageing (for details: [ISSA](#)), recently established by INRCA in collaboration with the University of British Columbia (Canada) and the Lund University (Sweden). It also runs a help-line (for details only in Italian: [click here](#)) to provide telephone support, advice and information on how to deal with situations of elder abuse and neglect (see more details below).

## MAIN RESEARCH AREAS AND PROJECTS

### ▪ Long-term care:

- Project *AIDA - Advancing Integration for a Dignified Ageing. Fostering the integration of social and health services in LTC* (2012-13): this project, funded by the European Union, aims at strengthening the information system for a better integration of health and social care services for frail older people (for details: <http://www.projectaida.eu/>);
- Project *ICARE4EU - Innovating care for people with multiple chronic conditions in Europe* (2013-16): this study, started in March 2013, aims at improving care for older people suffering from multiple chronic conditions, by increasing and disseminating knowledge on the most effective models existing in Europe in this area (for details: <http://www.icare4eu.org/>);
- Project *EURHOMAP - Mapping professional home care in Europe* (2007-10): this project has carried out an overview of home care in 30 European countries, collecting related information in terms of organisation, supply, costs and funding, users and their needs, policies and future trends (for a summary of its main results: [http://www.euro.who.int/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0008/181799/e96757.pdf](http://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/181799/e96757.pdf)).

### ▪ Support to family carers of older people (see also further below section on new technologies):

- Project *Carers@work* (2010-11): this project was funded by the Volkswagen Foundation to identify in 4 European countries (Germany, Italy, Poland and UK) the best strategies to support working carers who face the challenge of reconciling paid work and informal care of frail older relatives (<http://www.carersatwork.tu-dortmund.de/en/ziel.php>);

- Project *Quality of life in caregivers of dependent people affected by incontinence in Europe* (2010-11): this study focussed on the quality of life of carers of older people affected by incontinence in four European countries (for the final comparative report please [click here](#));
- Project *EUROFAMCARE* (2003-07): our centre was one of the main partners of this extensive investigation on support services for family carers of older people in Europe (click here for the [project website](#)).

▪ **Prevention of elder abuse and neglect:**

- **Helpline “TAM TAM”:** this help line, which has been running since 2010, provides telephone support, advice and information on how to deal with situations of elder abuse and neglect (for more information in Italian please [click here](#));
- Project *“Ri-Generiamoci”* (2012-13): this project has been initiated to integrate the TAM TAM helpline with initiatives aiming at promoting intergenerational solidarity in the field of elder care, as an essential contribution to prevent elder abuse and neglect. Currently, the project addresses mainly teenagers who are prompted to interact with frail older people in residential care, via the support of older volunteers (for a summary in Italian [click here](#));
- Project *ABUEL* (2008-10): this study has investigated the prevalence of elder abuse in seven European countries (for the Italian report [click here](#), for the project website [here](#)).

▪ **Active ageing:**

- Project *MOPACT – Mobilising the potential of active ageing in Europe* (2013-16): this large project has started in March 2013 to carry out an in-depth analysis of the most relevant challenges – from an health, social, economic and technological perspective – arising from population ageing in Europe, in order to identify the most innovative policies and initiatives to promote active ageing in the coming years;
- Project *ASPA - Activating Senior Potential in an Ageing Europe* (2008-11): this investigation has been conducted in eight European countries to analyse the situation of over 50 year old people both in the labour market and in civil society (especially as volunteers), in order to point out the most effective strategies to encourage their social and economic participation (click here for the [project website](#));
- Project *“Employment Initiatives for an Ageing Workforce”* (2005-07): through the study of good practices in companies across 27 European member states, this project (funded by European Foundation for the Improvement of Working and Living Conditions) has contributed to establish an on-line database of company-led initiatives to improve working conditions in older age (click here to consult the [database](#));
- Project **“My Mind: the effects of cognitive training for elderly”** (2012-2015): this project, coordinated by the Geriatric Unit of INRCA’s research hospital in Fermo, aims at investigating the effectiveness of cognitive training against dementia, by analysing the association between psychological, biochemical, nutritional and social factors and cognitive status.

▪ **New technologies to support older people and their caregivers:**

- Project *INNOVAGE - Social Innovations Promoting Active and Healthy Ageing* (2012-15): this research project aims at developing an testing four different types of social innovations across Europe, which might have a relevant impact on older people’s quality of life and life expectancy. Our Centre coordinates in particular the implementation of a multilingual web-platform di support services for informal carers of older people, in collaboration with [Eurocarers](#) (the European federation of organizations supportino informal carers);
- Project *CARICT-PUBL* (2012-2014): this project aims at developing an on-line inventory of the most relevant initiatives existing in Europe in the field of ICT-based support services for informal carers of dependent older people, based on the result of the antecedent project [CARICT](#).

**Selected recent publications**

Carretero, S., Stewart, J., Centeno, C., Barbabella, F., Schmidt, A., Lamontagne-Godwin, F. & Lamura, G. (2012). *Can*

*technology – based services support long-term care challenges in home care?* Luxembourg: Publications Office of the European Union ([click here to access this publication](#)).

- Chiatti, C., Barbabella, F., Lamura, G. & Gori, C. (2011). La bussola di NNA: lo stato dell'arte basato sui dati. In Network Non Autosufficienza (Ed.), *L'assistenza agli anziani non autosufficienti in Italia. 3° Rapporto* (pp. 13-33). Santarcangelo di Romagna: Maggioli. Reperibile all'URL ([click here](#)).
- Garms-Homolová V., Naiditch M., Fagerström C., Lamura G., Melchiorre M.G. et al. (2012). Clients in focus. In: Genet N., Boerma W., Kroneman M., Hutchinson A., Saltman R. (eds.) *Home Care across Europe. Current structure and future challenges*. WHO, European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies, NIVEL, the Netherlands Institute for Health Services Research, 55-70 ([click here](#)).
- Genet N., Boerma W., Kringos D.S., Bouman A., Francke A.L., Fagerstrøm C., Melchiorre M.G., Greco C., Devillé W. (2011). Home care in Europe: a systematic literature review. *BMC Health Services Research*, 11:207. ([click here](#)).
- Giuli C, Papa R, Mocchegiani E, Marcellini F. (2012) Dietary habits and ageing in a sample of Italian older people. *Journal of Nutrition, Health & Aging*, 16 DOI: 10.1007/s12603-012-0080-6.
- Lamura, G., Chiatti, C., Di Rosa, M., Melchiorre, M.G., Barbabella, F., Greco, C., Principi, A. & Santini, S. (2010). Migrant Workers in the Long-Term Care Sector: Lessons from Italy. *Health and Ageing*, 22, 8-12. ([click here](#)).
- Melchiorre M.G., Chiatti C., Lamura G. (2012), Tackling the phenomenon of elder abuse in Italy: a review of existing legislation and policies as learning resource, *Educational Gerontology*, 38(10):699-712 ([click here](#)).
- Melchiorre M.G., Chiatti C., Lamura G., Torres-Gonzales F., Stankunas M., Lindert J., Ioannidi-Kapolou E., Barros H., Macassa G., Soares J.J.F. (2013) Social support, socio-economic status, health and abuse among older people in seven European Countries. *PLoS ONE*, 8(1): e54856. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0054856([click here](#)).
- Principi, A., Lindley, R., Perek-Bialas, J., Turek, K. (2012). Volunteering in older age: an organizational perspective. *International Journal of Manpower*, 33(6), 685-703. ([click here](#)).
- Rodrigues R., Huber M., Lamura G. (eds.) (2012) Facts and Figures on Healthy Ageing and Long-Term Care in Europe. Vienna, European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research ([click here](#)).

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