

What is Coral about?

The Community of Regions for Assisted Living (Coral) is an informal community of regions, aiming to improve regional policies for Active and Healthy Ageing. Above all Coral is a learning community working on the implementation and scaling of innovative solutions for Active and Healthy Ageing. It is a network of mutual learning and co-creation in a process of open innovation. The strength of Coral is the trust between partners that invest energy and creativity in this valuable collaboration.

Coral is about strengthening connectivity between the regions and their innovation clusters in Europe. The member regions of Coral consist of - *quadruple helix* - clusters of stakeholders in the sectors of research, entrepreneurship, government and civil society. Coral also connects the regions to other European counterparts and networks. It gives the regions a position in the fast growing European community of innovators in the field of Active and Healthy Ageing.

The added value of Coral for the European Commission is that it makes a connection between the supply and the demand side. This is among others because innovative companies, service providers and buyers - users and care institutions - are part of the regional clusters.

Most regions in Coral developed *integral regional policies* in which all aspects – such as economical, social and spatial - are included. In line with the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing (EIP AHA), Coral contributes towards the following goals:

- Enabling EU citizens to lead healthy, active and independent lives while ageing, through the promotion of inclusion and independent life for elderly and chronically diseased people.
- Improving the sustainability and efficiency of social and health care systems, through shifting from pilot projects to rooted services and scaling up projects.
- Boosting and improving the competitiveness of the markets for innovative products and services and creating new opportunities for businesses, through solving barriers for the deployment of assisted living solutions on a large scale.

What are the main ambitions of Coral?

Coral aims to be a learning community for the implementation and up scaling of innovative solutions for Active and Healthy Ageing. Coral is a platform for the exchange of knowledge and experience comprising most European front line innovators. It's a dynamic community for capacity building and mutual learning.

The network contributes and gives input - from a regional perspective - to the agenda of the European Commission among others through the participation in the action groups of the EIP AHA, events, projects, consultations and other initiatives.

The community raises awareness of and activates stakeholders in the regional networks and innovation clusters on Active and Healthy Ageing.

Coral mobilises other regions in Europe to connect and participate in the process of innovation and up scaling of smart solutions for Active and Healthy Ageing. By doing this Coral bridges the distance between the *cutting edge* innovators in Europe and those regions having just started.

What is Coral doing?

Coral connects stakeholders in the regional networks and innovation clusters for partner searches in European projects and tenders. Coral successfully connects regional stakeholders - like universities, companies, municipalities, care institutions etc. - all over Europe that are now collaborating in FP7, Interreg, AAL Joint Programme and CIP ICT PSP projects.

The community promotes the active participation of its members in the EIP AHA by collecting and translating regional experience and best practices. Coral and its members are actively participating in - and sometimes coordinate - the Action Groups A1, A2, A3, B3, C2 and D4.

The network frequently holds presentations at and contributes to the debate at conferences, seminars, workshops and other events all over Europe. For example at the AAL Forum, E-Health week, annual EIP AHA conference, Open Days of Regions and Cities and several national and regional conferences.

Initiate and run projects financed by Interreg, CIP ICT PSP or FP7. Coral and its members have successfully applied for the Interreg IVC project CASA and the CIP ICT PSP Thematic Network ENGAGED:

- The CASA project is about the development of regional policy and exchange of knowledge about the large-scale implementation of innovative ICT and services for independent living. Demographic changes make it necessary to organise the care and residential environment of senior citizens and chronically ill smarter with the use of ICT. This also provides opportunities for innovative companies to develop new tools and services.
- Coral is content manager of the CIP ICT PSP Thematic Network ENGAGED. This project aims to build a learning community of stakeholders who cooperate to promote the transferability of evidence, as well as common strategies, for wider deployment and market development of active and healthy ageing services.
- Coral regions are part of SmartCare, a CIP ICT PSP project that will explore and demonstrate the added value - and promote the wider adoption - of integrated care through piloting the deployment of ICT supported care services in 10 regions.

Coral member regions participate in several other European networks – like the AER, Euregha and Errin - through which they connect to a wider group of stakeholders in the field of Ambient Assisted Living and Active & Healthy Ageing. Coral also has co-productions and warm cooperation with networks like the AER, Errin and Euregha. Coral is a dynamic network and therefore always open to new collaborations and alliances.

An updated version of the more than 30 Coral member regions you find at:

<http://www.coral-europe.eu/33-2/>