

**Interreg
Europe**



Action Plan

InnovaTION in Health And Care for All



Partner:

Basque Foundation for Health Innovation and Research (BIOEF)

bioef

berrikuntza + ikerketa + osasuna eusko fundazioa
fundación vasca de innovación e investigación sanitarias

September, 2019

Part I – General information

Project: ITHACA, InnovaTion in Health And Care for All

Partner organisation: BIOEF, Basque Foundation for Health Innovation and Research

Other partner organisations involved (if relevant):

The main organisations involved, apart from BIOEF, will be:



Country: Spain (España)

NUTS2 region: Basque Country (País Vasco)

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Part II – Policy context

The Action Plan aims to impact: Investment for Growth and Jobs programme
 European Territorial Cooperation programme
 Other regional development policy instrument

Name of the policy instrument addressed:

- 2014-2020 ERDF Operational Programme (OP) of the Basque Country

Other regional development policy instrument:

- Basque Regional Research and Innovation Smart Specialisation Strategy (RIS3 Euskadi).

Overview of the regional policy context

Basque Social, Health and Community organisations shape a highly complex ecosystem. Providing best care and achieving healthy and active ageing requires good coordination.

In this context, the Basque Government launched Basque Strategy of Active Ageing 2015-2020 (<http://bit.ly/2LaqFKm>), centred on people, their rights and responsibilities as an active society. The Strategy aims to achieve positive, healthy ageing and a holistic integrated approach. Main areas are:

- Area I: Adaptation of society to ageing, a new governance model
- Area II: Anticipation and prevention to age better
- Area III: Welfare society: Friendliness and participation

Also, the Health Plan for the Basque Country 2013-2020 (<http://bit.ly/2LK6YbU>) defines actions for active ageing, coordination of health and social care, healthcare for older people, promotion of independence, adherence to treatments, and new ICTs for improving quality of life.

And finally, The Research and Innovation for Strategy in Health 2020 (RISH 2020), led by the Ministry of Health of the Basque Government, includes within its objectives the development of research and innovation agendas around the main needs and capabilities of the healthcare system, including active and healthy ageing.

The Basque Country European Regional Development Funds Operational Programme 2014-2020 (ERDF-OP) funding priorities are currently focused on (% of available funding foreseen):

1. Strengthening research, technological development and innovation (R&D&I) (44,60%).
2. Supporting the shift towards a low-carbon economy in all sectors (25.91%).
3. Enhancing access to, and use and quality of information and communication technologies in the development of ICT (10.51%).
4. Enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs (8.66%).
5. Promoting climate change adaptation, risk prevention and management (5.40%).
6. Preserving and protecting the environment and promoting resource efficiency (4.47%).

From these six main priorities, the first one has a specific mention on boosting the R&D&I on ageing and health by promoting the technological convergence to fill gap markets. Moreover, one of the main issues for priority 3 is to create new services, products for aged population, and health, being use, quality and access to ICTs (https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/atlas/programmes/2014-

2020/spain/2014es16rfop021).

On the other hand, the mission of the Science, Technology and Innovation Plan (STIP) Euskadi 2020 is to improve welfare, sustainable economic growth and employment in Basque society through a research and innovation policy based on smart specialisation and improvement of the efficiency of the System of Science, Technology and Innovation. The STIP Euskadi 2020 is the reference document for the deployment of the Research and Innovation Smart Specialisation Strategy (RIS3) in the Basque Country (RIS3 Euskadi). As such, it focuses in three strategic priority areas: Advanced Manufacturing; Energy; and Biosciences- Health; and four niches of opportunity: Food, urban habitat, ecosystems, cultural and creative industries (figure 1). The ERDF-OP is the main funding instrument of the research, innovation and technological development within the framework of the RIS3 Euskadi priorities.

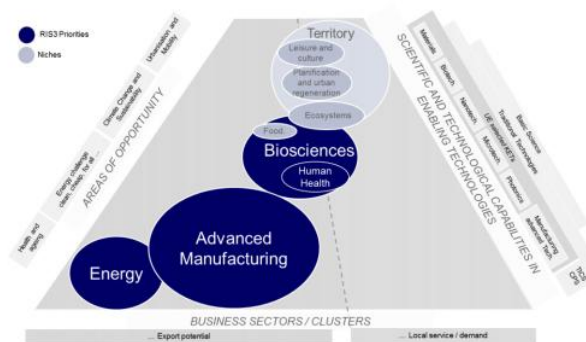


Figure 1. Priority areas of Basque RIS3. Source: SPRI, Basque Government

Each strategic or priority areas has a similar governance, with a Steering Group leading the RIS3 entrepreneurial discovery process. The Steering Group of Bioscience-Health priority defined four main thematic areas: Personalised Medicine (including Oncology; Cardiometabolic diseases; and Regenerative Medicine and Advanced Therapies; and big data); Rare diseases; Medical Devices; and Neuroscience and neurotechnology. These were complemented by two cross-cutting areas: Education and Business models, and by four Strategic Initiatives around innovation : program Baliosasun, program Innosasun, Innovative Public Procurement, and the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing (EIP-on-AHA).

<http://ris3euskadi.eus/especializate/biociencias-salud/>

Health and Ageing are main priorities for the Basque Country, and significant efforts and strategies have been implemented to promote them in the last years. As a result, for example, the Basque Country has been recognised as a Reference Site with the highest rating “4 stars” and a “Special recognition for excellence” by the EIP-on-AHA, for its outstanding work and comprehensive and innovative approach to active and healthy ageing. The Basque Country Reference Site brings together an alliance of stakeholders that work in developing innovative solutions and are pioneering some of the most advanced innovative solutions to improve the lives of an ageing population.

Thanks to the ITHACA project, new stakeholders that work in different fields related to ageing have been incorporated to the innovative ageing ecosystem. Also, there is still enough margin to improve this scenario thanks to lessons learned through ITHACA project. Therefore, we propose

as the main objective of the action plan to improve the RIS3 Bioscience-Health ecosystem by strengthening the specific structure to govern the R&D&I on Ageing.

The Action Plan proposes an improvement of the Ageing ecosystem with the inclusion of threefold approaches; i) the consolidation of Ageing as a thematic area in RIS3 Bioscience-Health priority (transversal), boosted by a ii) specific workgroup (stakeholder network) that will develop iii) the Basque R&D&I Program of Ageing.

In this sense, the Action plan guides the stepwise approach needed to achieve the objectives pursued. As the Technical Secretary of the RIS3 Bioscience-Health priority, BIOEF ensures the capacity of channelling new initiatives proposed, and collaborates closely with Biodonostia and Kronikgune, relevant agents within the R&D&I Basque Public Health System (BPHS). Biodonostia proposed a R&D&I strategy focused on ageing in the year 2013 and Kronikgune coordinates the Basque consortium of EIP-on-AHA.

Impact of ITHACA's action plan (ITHACA-AP) in policy instrument addressed

The ITHACA Action Plan (ITHACA-AP) cannot affect the 2014-2020 ERDF-OP due to several reasons:

- Nowadays ERDF-OP is close to its end and the whole delivery roadmap period and most of funds are already committed.
- Regarding the calls funded by the ERDF-OP, all of them are impossible to be changed/influenced because the strategic lines are strongly established without option of modification.
- There is not enough time to implement measures.

Thus, other alternatives have been considered and the best option of reaching the highest impact in the region was deemed to be through the ongoing RIS3 strategy:

- BIOEF is in charge of the Technical Secretary of the RIS3 Bioscience-Health priority. This means that any proposals can be scaled through the adequate pathway, and lessons learned could be easily implemented by means of BIOEF lead and capacities.
- Throughout the ITHACA project, new social, technological and health entities have been added to the ageing work group (which was already working at EIP-on-AHA), and all the regional capacity to promote R&D&I in the region has been included. Following the example of the Trieste and the Ljubljana region, they built the adequate governance structure to improve the way that the Ageing is managed in the region.
- The RIS3 Bioscience-Health priority is supported by the alignment of Basque institutional levels policy mix, including a specific call for funding R&D&I activities related to the selected thematic areas. Ageing is also included into the list of thematic areas that could be benefited of being prioritized in this call.
- There is the opportunity to consolidate a specific working group of Ageing in the Basque Country within the RIS3 Bioscience-Health priority thanks to the network of stakeholders of the region, inspired in the Trieste and Ljubljana experience. This option not only improves coordination but can also boost the ecosystem, helping to increase the Ageing R&D&I outputs in the region.

- This will impact in the governance of the strategy because the working group of Ageing could suggest activities in which RIS3 resources will be focused on.
- The Basque Government is already working on the future Science, Technology and Innovation Plan Euskadi 2030, in which Ageing will be one of the transversal areas of interest.

To sum up, the activities included in the ITHACA's Action Plan will strengthen the regional ecosystem around the Ageing field, the innovation cycle and the wellbeing of the elderly people after re-focusing funds to the R&D&I.

ITHACA developments and proposals were presented for approval at the Steering Group meeting in June 14th 2019. The commitment of this Group led by the Ministry of Health is reflected in a support letter by the Directorate for Health Research and Innovation. In addition, the ecosystem is creating the economic support of future developments in specific areas. Indeed, the 10th of December the Basque Council of Science, Technology and Innovation decided to promote transversal cooperation, as part of the new STIP 2021-2030, between the different areas of smart specialization, while aligning with the missions defined in the new Horizon Europe framework program. For this, the Council created the "Transversal Driver Initiatives" which include Healthy Ageing, among others.

Part III – Details of the actions envisaged

This action plan will be aimed **at impacting in the governance of the current, and future, RIS3 Biosciences-Health priority through (i) the consolidation of a Working Group on Ageing, (ii) the consolidation of Ageing as a thematic area, and (iii) the development of an Ageing network that boosts its R&D&I.** In order to achieve above goal included in the action, three activities will be developed related to the lessons learnt of FVG and Ljubljana partners.

All details are explained along the next section, but the focus of each one is quickly summarised in the following table and in the figure 2 as well:

Activities of the ITHACA-AP	Lessons related to / Used as inspiration	Specific measure implemented adapted to the region
1	FVG/Ljubljana regions experience and its working inter-departmental group of Ageing (stakeholder network).	The creation of a working inter/multi departmental group of Ageing in the RIS3 Bioscience-Health governance.
2	The FVG/Ljubljana regions underpinning the importance of Ageing in the region fostering the interaction of different areas.	The consolidation of the Ageing as a transversal collaborative action in the RIS3 Bioscience-Health priority in order to foster new value chain.
3	The FVG/Ljubljana regions support their activity with an Active of Healthy Ageing strategies	To launch the development of the R&D&I Program of Ageing in the group of RIS3 Bioscience-Health as a tool to manage/organise the activities of the group.

The Figure 2 gives an insight of the main activities envisaged.

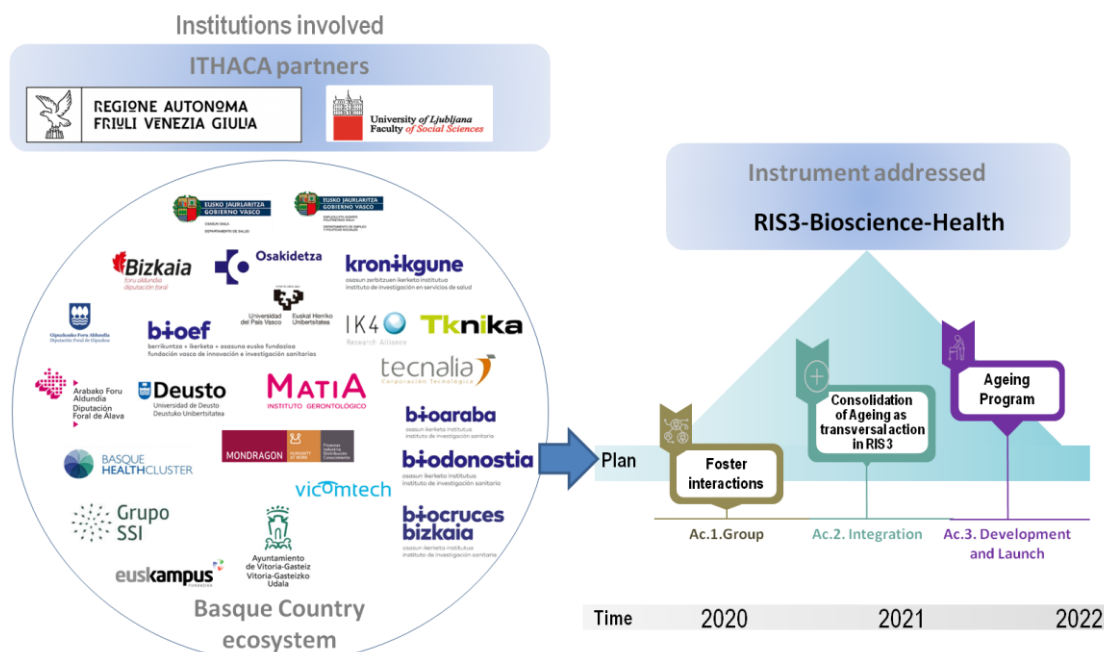


Figure 2 Interactions fostered in the Action Plan. *The graph is a global picture of the Action plan that does not really fit to a precise timescale.*

ACTION PLAN (ITHACA´s-AP)

ACTION 1

(Entitled: Ageing: consolidation as a thematic area of the RIS3 Euskadi

1. The background

Good practice/experience: Active Ageing Strategy (Ljubljana, Slovenia) / Active and Healthy Ageing (Friuli-Venezia Giulia Autonomous region)

Main Institution: Centre Social Informatics at University of Ljubljana / Friuli-Venezia Giulia Autonomous region

Location: Ljubljana (Slovenia) / Trieste (Italy)

Dates of each EEPE where the GPs were identified: 3th-4th of October, 2018 (Ljubljana, Slovenia) and 10th-11th of October, 2019 (Trieste, Italy).

Two main exchanges of experiences have triggered the development of this action, the Active Ageing Strategy (Ljubljana, Slovenia)¹ and Active and Healthy Ageing (Friuli-Venezia Giulia Autonomous region). Both strategies want to boost the wellbeing of their population using two approaches. In the Slovenia´s strategy definition involved key-agents from the beginning of the strategy plan and was born as a global document for a country. However, in the case of the Friuli-Venezia Giulia Autonomous region its strategy was created as a small or local solution that gathered evidence for being used in a scaled up approach, under a regional perspective.

In the last 20 years in which Friuli-Venezia Giulia (FVG) developed strategies for healthy ageing, a number of stakeholders and sectors have been involved. Indeed, from the government side, FVG established an **innovative means of collaboration by setting up the permanent interdisciplinary workgroup** for the development and implementation of regional laws mainly focus on healthy ageing. This consists of people belonging to five local government directorates together with other stakeholders which represented the quadruple helix approach.

The group started working on building a methodology to work on healthy ageing, establishing a common scope and a structure of strengthen the legislation around the elderly people. All members of the group contributed to ideas for helping into the development needed. As a main feature, the core of the group was leaded by five directorates who watched over the implementation of the planning. The workgroup hold monthly meetings on carrying out long-term plans, although yearly they also did additional plans.

The group created in FVG has similarity with the Steering Group of the Biosciences-Health priority area. This group has subset working groups related to specific thematic areas and transversal areas which design and implement actions that contribute to the socio-economic development of each field. The acquired learning on the functioning of the group created in FVG will be applied for

¹ Active ageing strategy. Marijana Bednaš; Alenka Kajzer; Sebastijan Maček. Ljubljana : Institute of Macroeconomic Analysis and Development of the Republic of Slovenia : Ministry of Labour, Family, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities, 2018

the improvement of the ageing working group.

Summary of the ITHACA´s learning activities and the influence in the action plan.

Perspective obtained from the exchange of experiences of Ljubljana (Slovenia) and the Friuli-Venezia Giulia region (Italy) is the inspiration seed for increasing the relevance of R&D&i in our region.

These approaches (lessons, barriers and regional opportunities) together with the existing scenario within RIS3 Bioscience-Health area in our region, served as inspiration to establish a stepwise process of sub-activities:

- 1- Consolidation of the thematic **working group** in Ageing (stakeholder network). – Activity 1.
- 2- In parallel, the consolidation of Ageing as a **thematic area** of RIS3Bioscience-Health, within the **governance structure** of RIS3 Biosciences-Health (the ongoing strategy and the future version, RIS3-Euskadi 2021-2030). Activity 2.
- 3- The development and launching the **R&D&I Program of Ageing**. Activity 3.

Global goal:

Improve the governance of the RIS3 Bioscience-Health policy instrument regarding the Ageing field.

Activity 1. To Consolidate an inter-institutional and multi-disciplinary stakeholder network related to Ageing – “The group”

Inspiration obtained of the ITHACA project:

This activity is based on the FVG region experience and its workgroup of Ageing. They established a group representative of most Institutions that worked in the Ageing field with the main goal of getting the wider representation of their ecosystem and align their work in the same sense. Their experience showed us important lessons such as;

- a) the importance of establishing a stable workgroup in the Ageing field to the success of activities launched –which allowed them funds managing, prioritization of areas of investment and the development of a framework law in Ageing- and,
- b) the need of establishing the correct way of working to ensure the cohesion and alignment of the objectives of the group.

Challenges in our region

The FVG experience needs to be adapted to the Basque Country situation. In this sense, many stakeholders in the region are already working together in the EIP-on-AHA Strategic Initiative, with a twofold main goal which can be complemented by the efforts of a group specifically working on

R&D&I in ageing. Getting the correct representation of ecosystem diversity is a challenge and also the best opportunity to sum up coordinated efforts through **the consolidation of this group in the RIS3 Bioscience-Health priority.**

Delivery of the activity

The following concrete activities have been established to achieve the goal of consolidating a specific **working group in the RIS3 Bioscience-Health priority** based on the “stakeholder network of Ageing” of Trieste and Ljubljana.

Description of the actions within the Activity 1. Responsible for the activities Biodonostia HRI, Kronikgune and BIOEF:

- New stakeholders/institutions will be contacted and encouraged to take part of the Ageing group.
- As main actions of this activity are (stepwise progress):
 - Setting priorities of the group.
 - Discussing and sharing the vision and the mission of the group.
 - Defining the target of the group’s activity.
 - Creating the culture of Ageing inside of each Institution.
 - Establishing a political commitment to ageing of all public institutions operating in the Basque Country (and also part of the group) together with the Steering Group of the RIS3 Bioscience Health.
 - **Impact in the RIS3 Bioscience-Health priority:** The group will contribute to the current Steering Group of the RIS3 Bioscience-Health and, internally, the connection established within the group will allow the submission of new projects to the calls funded by the ERDF-OP, as Hazitek and/or Elkartek calls (at least 1 per call).
- **Indicator:** A document reporting on the whole process. Minutes of meetings. Network actually established.

Deliverables related to the activity 1:

- Deliverable 1.1. (D1.1) Report of the “Ageing working group” creation (members, institutions, etcetera.).

The deliverable will fit to the September 2021 deadline

Activity 2.To consolidate the Ageing as a thematic area in the RIS3 Bioscience-Health priority.

Inspiration obtained of the ITHACA project:

The FVG and the Ljubljana experiences – with their Active Ageing Strategy – showed us that if the challenge of the ageing population want to be tackled, it is necessary to count with all the tools that allow getting enough resources to launch suitable measures. They used their Active Ageing Strategies to create the framework to underpin and support the delivery of their work. Therefore, the idea behind this experience is that if a region wants to achieve a success in the topics related

to the Ageing it is necessary to create the adequate framework.

Challenges in our region

In our region, a simple and effective way of improving is taking advantage of the dynamic nature of the RIS3 Euskadi strategy and modify the governance of the RIS3 Bioscience Health priority. Therefore, **in parallel to the consolidation of the working group on Ageing in the RIS3 Bioscience-Health priority** (activity 1) the thematic area of Ageing will be explicitly identified, accompanying the existing Strategic Initiative of EIP-on-AHA. It could be included as a transversal area in the governance in order to increase the interaction and synergy with other thematic areas. Both the group and the thematic area are needed to push the impact of the Ageing in the smart specialization strategy. RIS3 seeks to boost the territorial economic transformation that concentrates the resources available in a limited set of R&D and innovation priorities. **In this sense, the integration of ageing area in the strategy is essential to change the way that the priorities are governed, as well as how it is able to create new value chains as result of the interaction with other thematic areas.**

At the moment of developing this action plan, the main topics included in the RIS3 Bioscience-Health priority are shown in the figure 3, together with the approach of ITHACA Action Plan. The suggestion consists in the consolidation of an integrative and multidisciplinary work in R&D&I of all stakeholders in Ageing besides EIP-on-AHA initiative. The Figure shows Ageing as a multi-disciplinary workgroup (WG) and a transversal area (identified with the “star” symbol).

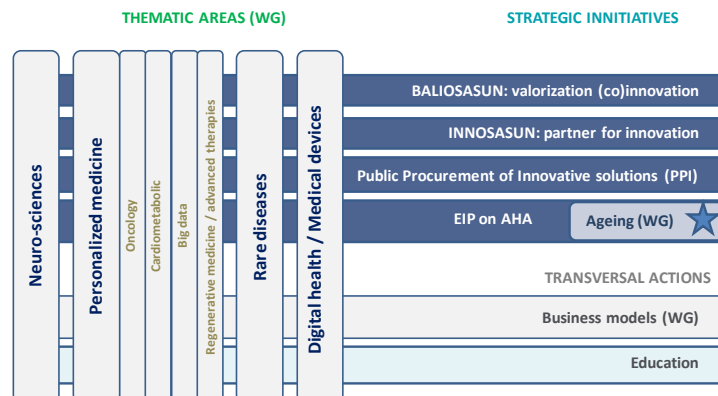


Figure 3 Suggestion of the strategic landscape of the Bioscience-Health priority. The “star” marks the consolidation of the working group (WG) in charge of Ageing topic.

- **Description of the actions within the Activity 2.** Responsible for the activities Biodonostia HRI, Kronikgune and BIOEF:
 - As main actions of this activity are (stepwise progress):
 - Coordinator of the Ageing group will attend to the meetings of the Steering Group of RIS3 Biosciences Health where the transversal area of Ageing is represented by the coordinator of the respective working group.
 - Indicator: new scheme of governance.
 - **Impact in the RIS3 Bioscience-Health priority:** Ageing will be included as a

target area that will have special consideration for project assessment.

Deliverables related to each activity:

- Deliverable 2.1. (D2.1) Report or document where Ageing is a topic recognised as key-point in the Bioscience-Health priority.
- Deliverable 2.2. (D.2.2) Diffusion of main progress/results reached by the group.

All deliverables will fit to the September 2021 deadline.

Activity 3. Launch the development of R&D&I Program on Ageing in the Basque Country.

Inspiration obtained of the ITHACA project:

An Ageing program is the best way to boost the R&D&I in Ageing. Several questions may require of a complex (infra) structure, facilities and projects involving several stakeholders in a wide range of multi-level approach. This is no easy task and touches on just about all aspects of a society, from approaches to customer service to health care, social supports, opportunities for social connection and housing, among others. So defining the scope of the program will be of paramount importance.

We are going to consider those lessons learned from the Active Ageing Strategy (Ljubljana, Slovenia) and Active and Healthy Ageing (Friuli-Venezia Giulia Autonomous region) to tackle this activity.

Some of the key aspects of their activities used as inspirational of the activities 3.1 - 3.4 are:

- Knowing in deep the ecosystem identifying key-stakeholders and their activities.
- Seeing how stakeholders are part of a committed team with a global approach.
- Strengthening the relationship between the individuals, policy makers and government organizations. **It was highlighted to observe how Trieste and Ljubljana regions engaged several ministries in the ITHACA project** beyond the Health ministry.
- Showing a strong and effective engagement at all levels and across all relevant sectors as the basis for design, delivery and evaluation of public health interventions.
- Creating a future scenario where people feel comfortable using the ICTs.
- Solving common problem with technology available in their ecosystem.
- Using the volunteers as a workforce to reach out to the target group and to keep them active participants in the society.

Challenges in our region

The R&D&I Program of Ageing will take into account the RIS3 Bioscience-Health priority, and the foreseeable Science, Technology and Innovation Plan. **Indeed, the document should**

establish which activities are needed to develop the socio-economic scenario in the Basque Country around Ageing. Therefore, this text could **improve the delivery and the impact of the current and future RIS3 Bioscience-Health priority.**

According to this approach some sub-activities have been designed and included below:

Activity 3.1. Analysis. Responsible for the activity Biodonostia, Kronikgune and BIOEF.

- **Goal:** To establish the current situation and findings of the BC's ecosystem.
- **Description of the activities:** To get an overview of the current situation through the process of:
 - Performing a participatory assessment.
 - Creating a baseline profile of the main target tackled.
 - Assessing current and future needs.
 - Determining strengths and weaknesses with the help of all stakeholder approach.
- **Indicator:** A document which includes the main features of the aged BC's population.

Activity 3.2. Achieving a consensus for agreeing the mission, vision and goals of the Program. Responsible for the activity Biodonostia, Kronikgune and BIOEF.

- **Goal:** To establish the mission, vision and goals of the program.
- **Description of the activities:** Agreed upon with the government and the main stakeholder for ensuring the implementation (objectives, challenges, activities, roadmap, etc.).
- **Indicator:** A document that includes the mission, vision and the draft of goals of the program.

Activity 3.3. Program pillars. Responsible for the activity Biodonostia, Kronikgune and BIOEF.

- **Goal:** To write the draft of the structure of the program.
 - Use the SWOT (or the local analysis developed) to set and stick the priorities.
 - Identify short smart goals.
 - Set key performance indicators.
 - Determine the budget needed.
 - Set a calendar for progress reviews.
- **Indicator:** The development of own procedures that overlap the whole process from the design of conditions documents to the assessment of the result.

Deliverables related to the action:

- Deliverable 3.1. (D2.1) Summary of the current situation and findings of the BC's ecosystem.

- Deliverable 3.2. (D2.2) Identification and publication of the objectives, challenges activities and roadmap of the program.
- Deliverable 3.3 (D2.3). Procedure of the whole process from the main guidelines of the program.
- Deliverable 3.4. (D3.4). Publication of news regarding the goals achieved.

All deliverables will fit to the September 2021 deadline.

Activity 3.4 Commitment. Responsible for the activity all stakeholders involved and Biodonostia HRI, Kronikgune and BIOEF.

The full potential for ITHACA-AP to influence changes in decision-making and policy and practice in the delivery of RIS3 is promising. But, it is vital an effective dissemination in an appropriate format together with a commitment of the monitoring committee of RIS3 (the Steering Group) validating and a developing the follow-up. Therefore, there are a number of actions that can be taken.

- Goal: To disseminate and to get the commitment to the goals of the R&D&I Program of Ageing and to impact the culture of ageing among Basque institutions and society
- Method: To publish news in social media / website or newspapers. Organising workshops and other social, academia and technological events on order to provide the stakeholders with the opportunity of sharing their works as well as sharing the common goals and values of the program with other partners and society itself. Consolidate the open forum that it is needed guided by the group of stakeholders of the Ageing environment (Activity 1).
- Indicator: number of news published and activities launched.

Impact in the RIS3 Bioscience-Health priority: The development of the R&D&I Program should be approved by the Steering Group of RIS3-Bioscience-Health priority in order to ensure the complete delivery of program. This will guide the activities of the group and the thematic area of Ageing. This document should include how deal with the main challenges of the region in the R&D&I, scheduling specific actions to improve the RIS3-Bioscience-Health and those features to be improved.

Summary of expected output with these activities

Activities of the ITHACA-AP	Expected output	Political instrument addressed	Concrete IMPACTs on the instruments addressed
1	Consolidation of the working group of Ageing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basque Regional Research and Innovation Smart Specialization Program (RIS3 Bioscience-Health priority). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multidisciplinary workgroup that help delivering the strategy (RIS3). Foster the application of new projects among stakeholders to the Hazitek or Elkartek calls (ERDF funds).
2	Inclusion of the Ageing as a transversal collaborative action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basque Regional Research and Innovation Smart Specialisation Program (RIS3 Bioscience-Health priority). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ageing, part of the delivery of the strategy (RIS3). Request of inclusion of some funds dedicated to the Ageing in the new version in the specific call funded by RIS3.
3	R&D&I BC's Ageing Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basque Regional Research and Innovation Smart Specialisation Program (RIS3 Bioscience-Health priority). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Program will guide the R&D&i activities of numerous stakeholders More aligned allocation of funds from different sources, including members of the Steering Group

IMPACT on the instruments addressed

Once the envisaged activities will be fully implemented, a positive impact on the policy instruments addressed will be achieved. It is expected to develop a R&D&I program that will include the challenges, objectives, activities and roadmap and which will receive funding by the ERDF-OP.

2. **Players involved** (please indicate the organisations in the region who are involved in the development and implementation of the action and explain their role)

The main players directly involved in this Action will be:

- Biodonostia Health Research Institute
- Kronikgune.
- BIOEF



Biodonostia Health Research Institute is an international biomedical research institute associated to Donostia University Hospital (<http://www.biodonostia.org/sarrera.php>), created in 2009. Awarded the accreditation of the "Instituto de Salud Carlos III" (ISCIII) in 2011 and re-

accredited in 2016, Biodonostia provides a stable structure for patient-oriented scientific research of excellence. Since its creation, Biodonostia has expanded, now hosting 7 areas and more than 400 researchers. Biodonostia belongs to the Clinical Research and Clinical Trials Platform of the ISCIII and participates in several CIBERs (Network Biomedical Research Center Consortiums) and RETICs (Thematic Networks for Cooperative Health Research), including CIBERfes (frailty and healthy ageing), CIBERned (neurodegeneration and neurodegenerative diseases) and REDISSEC (chronic diseases), closely related to the proposal. In the recent years, Research on ageing has become a priority in the Institute with two relevant milestones: (i) the implementation of a Strategy of Research and Innovation on Ageing called “Ikagure BD” in 2013. (ii) Ageing becomes one of the 3 main priorities, together with personalized medicine and innovation in the 2016-2020 Strategic Plan.

Kronikgune Institute for Health Service Research aims to generate new knowledge on the sustainable responses of health and socio-health systems to ageing, dependency and chronicity through research on health services. The Association acts: a) Encouraging the implementation and scaling up of strategies proven by scientific evidence. b) Achieving competitive and quality scientific production in their field of activity. Kronikgune is, by delegation of the Basque Ministry of Health, the organisation which coordinates the community forming the Basque Reference Site in EIP-on-AHA.

The Basque Foundation for Health Innovation and Research, **BIOEF**, takes part in the development of plans, programs or strategic initiatives, promotes the gradual structuring of Health’s R&D&i and its professional management, disseminates the results of these activities and values them, triggers transfer and exploitation of results, and supports the Ministry of Health and Osakidetza (Basque Public Health Service) in those topics that are required at all times for the continuous reinvention of health services. In addition, BIOEF is responsible for the development of several programs and lines of action included in the Research and Innovation Strategy in Health 2020 and acts as technical secretary, besides being directly involved as an agent, for the **RIS3 Euskadi** in the Bioscience-Health area. The Foundation is a key interlocutor within the Bioregion or Bioscience’s Basque ecosystem. It facilitates and supports the business sector in its collaboration with the Health System, leading the Innosasun program for interaction of companies and technological agents with the health system. Innosasun provides *ad hoc* support for companies and also for those unmet needs and ideas born within the Healthcare System which can be developed and transferred to the industries and research centres of the region in order to provide innovative solutions in a win-win scenario.

3. Timeframe

All activities detailed in this action are drawn in the following Gant chart according to the expected timeframe of development (Figure 4).

Pilot Project	jan-20	feb-20	mar-20	apr-20	may-20	jun-20	jul-20	aug-20	sep-20	oct-20	nov-20	dec-20	jan-21	feb-21	mar-21	apr-21	may-21	jun-21	jul-21	aug-21	sep-21	oct-21	nov-21	dec-21
Activity 1																								
Activity 2																								
Activity 3.1																								
Activity 3.2																								
Activity 3.3																								
Activity 3.4																								

Figure 4 Timeline of the implementation of the main action of ITHACA´s-AP

This chart refers to the activities included into the second point of this section (Action).

4. Costs (if relevant)

All cost/resources related with the implementation of this action are covered by the Public Institutions involved in the delivery of each action. The main costs are related to the staff involved. In fact, we infer that the following people are needed to implement the action:

- Biodonostia´s staff. 2.5% of the workday during the activities mentioned on the action.
- Kronikgune´s staff. 2.5% of the workday during the activities mentioned on the action.
- BIOEF´s staff. 5% of the workday during the activities mentioned on the action.

All costs are funded by each Institution with internal/structural resources.

5. Funding sources (if relevant):

The Action is aligned with the RIS3 priorities. The activities strengthen the Regional ecosystem of public system and companies boosting innovation development.

Date: 16th of December, 2019

Signature: _____

Maria Aguirre Rueda

Director for Health Research and Innovation of the Basque Government's Ministry of Health

An endorsement letter is attached to this document.

Stamp of the organisation (if available): _____



OSASUN SAILA
Osasun Sailburuordetza
Ikerketa eta Berrikuntza Sanitarioko
Zuzendaritza

DEPARTAMENTO DE SALUD
Viceconsejería de Salud
Dirección de Investigación e Innovación
Sanitarias

Vitoria-Gasteiz, 16th December 2019

To whom it may concern,

The *Innovation in Health And Care for All* project (hereafter ITHACA) is led by the Basque Foundation for Health Innovation and Research (BIOEF), dependant on the Basque Ministry of Health. The project took its first steps in 2017 with the aim of improving regional policies and implementation across the smart health and care innovation cycle. ITHACA is part of the efforts framed within the Basque Smart Specialisation Strategy (RIS3 Euskadi) and enhances regional and interregional ecosystems.

After three years and close to finishing the first phase, I write this letter of support for the Action Plan developed during the 1st part of the abovementioned project. As part of the Ministry responsible of leading the Biosciences-Health priority area of the RIS Euskadi strategy, I confirm that the Action Plan developed by ITHACA is consistent with our policies and goals. Indeed, it will strengthen the Bioscience-Health priority. For future foreseen policy developments, it will be useful to consolidate a working group and the thematic/transversal area of Ageing as part of the governance structure, together with the launch of a comprehensive R+D+I program o Ageing.

Therefore, I want to express our support for the development of the Action Plan, in the conviction that will provide invaluable solutions which will eventually contribute to boost the healthy and active ageing of our citizens.

Your faithfully,

Maria Aguirre Rueda,

Director for Health Research and Innovation,
Basque Ministry of Health