

**REFERENCE:**

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## OP76 Economic Contributions Of Older Adults In Europe

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**INTRODUCTION:**

Europe’s population is aging rapidly. Europeans aged 60 years and over formed only 16 percent of Europe’s total population in 1980, but they now constitute 24 percent and will grow to 34 percent by 2050 (1). These challenges may be expected in the form of tighter labor markets, lower savings rates, and slower economic growth, as well as fiscal stress from lower earnings and tax revenue and increased pension and healthcare spending.

We may, however, overestimate the magnitude of these challenges and make poorer policy choices if we underestimate the productive contributions that older adults make to society. The literature measuring these productive contributions is regrettably underdeveloped, as is the literature on what policies can enhance such contributions.

This study focuses on the market and non-market productive contributions of older adults in Europe and addresses three questions:

- (i) What is the nature and magnitude of the contributions made by older adults in Europe?
  - (ii) How do those contributions vary by country, time, and age, and how are they likely to evolve as the relative size of older cohorts swells?
  - (iii) How might changes in policy, institutions, behavior, and health likely influence the economic effects of population aging in Europe?
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**METHODS:**

These research questions are explored using multivariate statistical tools to analyze rich data from multiple countries and waves of the Survey of Health, Ageing, and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) and the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA).

**RESULTS:**

Older adults in Europe make significant productive contributions in the form of labor force participation, caregiving for family and friends, and volunteering. These contributions vary widely by country and are correlated with age, health status, official retirement age, and population age structure.

**CONCLUSIONS:**

The economic effects of population aging in Europe can be significantly moderated by effective retirement and healthcare policy.

**REFERENCE:**

1. United Nations Population Division (2017). World Population Prospects: The 2017 Revision, DVD Edition. [https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/DVD/Files/1\\_Indicators%20\(Standard\)/EXCEL\\_](https://esa.un.org/unpd/wpp/DVD/Files/1_Indicators%20(Standard)/EXCEL_)

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## OP77 Identifying Topics For Health Technology Assessment: The German “ThemenCheck Medizin”

**AUTHORS:**

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**INTRODUCTION:**

Clinicians, epidemiologists, economists and other non-medical professions are involved in the production of Health Technology Assessment (HTA) reports. In addition, patients or representatives from patient organizations, as well as the general public, are

increasingly involved. In 2015 a new proposal process of topic selection for HTA reports was initiated by German legislation with the aim of more closely involving patients and the general public. The new process has been implemented by the Institute for Quality and Efficiency in Health Care (IQWiG) under the project title “ThemenCheck Medizin” (Topic Check Medicine).

#### **METHODS:**

Since July 2016, patients and the general public can propose topics for HTA reports to IQWiG, excluding topics on the assessment of drugs. The proposals are submitted via the IQWiG website [www.themencheck-medinin.iqwig.de](http://www.themencheck-medinin.iqwig.de) (available only in German). No specific expertise is required for the submission of a topic. On the basis of the proposals a selection committee (patient representatives appointed by patient organizations legitimized in Germany) choose up to fifteen topics deemed suitable for HTA reports. In 2017 the committee will be extended to include members of the general public. IQWiG makes the final decision on the selection of up to five topics per year for HTA reports.

#### **RESULTS:**

In the first proposal phase thirty proposals were submitted. The topics were allocated to the following categories: two for diagnostics; four for teeth; one for skin and hair; four for head and nerves; three for muscles, bones and joints; two for heart and circulation; four for cancer; two for children and adolescents; one for reproductive health and birth; and three for mental and emotional wellbeing. Four topics could not be considered because they either addressed the assessment of drugs or could not be transferred into an HTA question.

#### **CONCLUSIONS:**

Through “ThemenCheck Medizin” patients and the general public in Germany can actively be involved in the process of collecting proposals for HTA reports as well as in topic prioritization. The prerequisites for successful implementation were in particular the

easy-to-use online form and IQWiG’s support of persons submitting topics in their formulation of an HTA question. The integration of a selection committee of patient representatives was shown to be constructive and productive.

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## **OP78 Patient Involvement In European Health Technology Assessment Focus Group With Cardiac Patients**

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#### **INTRODUCTION:**

Involving patients in defining the scope of health technology assessments is recognized as a valuable strategy that ensures that patient-relevant outcomes are considered.

The aim of this project was to pilot the focus group approach with cardiac patients in a European rapid assessment on the wearable cardioverter defibrillator, to improve involvement processes, to identify neglected outcomes, and to explore the potential of this methodology for eliciting the patients views on their disease and the wearable cardioverter defibrillator therapy.

#### **METHODS:**

An e-mail was sent to members of the nine regional associations of the Austrian Organization for Heart and Lung Transplant Patients to identify eligible participants. Guiding questions for the discussion were developed based upon a hand search of patient involvement initiatives and a review of appropriate literature. The 4-hour meeting was moderated by a patient support expert and recorded upon approval of participants. The anonymized transcript was analyzed using framework analysis.