

FINLAND

Local development

Location

Lappeenranta

Programming period

2014 – 2020

Priority

P6 – Social inclusion & local
Development

Measure

M07 – Basic services
& village renewal

Funding (EUR)

Total budget 290 648
RDP support 249 957
Other 40 691

Project duration

2017 – 2018

Project promoter

Etelä-Karjalan sosiaali- ja
terveyspiiri

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A project to help keep elderly people living at home safe and happy.

Summary

The purpose of this project was to identify and prevent safety risks related to elderly people living at home, through studies, observations and experiences. The aim was to create a comprehensive system that helps to identify, eliminate and prepare for these risks.

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ASUMISEN
TURVALLISUUS



This would allow for the creation of a safety and support system that can tackle problematic situations effectively and quickly. This is the second stage of three projects. The first pilot project was used to identify the main risks for the elderly in their homes, and based on these create a home security checklist. As part of this project, the checklist was tested by the local social and emergency services.

Results

In terms of economic benefits, the costs of living at home are much than living in supported housing and support services can provide rural jobs. From a lifestyle perspective, many older people feel that staying at home longer will give them a better quality of life.

One focus of the project is on energy. If the system makes the energy/heating more efficient, this will also have a positive effect on the climate through the promotion of more efficient heating technologies and other means for reducing energy consumption.

The project is also about building connections and networks among the target group, including their friends, relatives, neighbours and health services.

The project achieved community links by bringing together regional social and rescue services and the university, gathering a wide range of different actors that are involved in the activity.

Context

There is increasing pressure to enable elderly people to stay at home. There is of course the cost factor, but many older people also prefer to stay independent for longer. Old age brings challenges related to living at home, but many of these can be eliminated and prepared for. However, cooperation across all relevant sectors is required.

In addition, there is an overall need to raise awareness about home safety for the elderly including not only amongst older people themselves but also their carers.

Objectives

Overall, the project aimed to create an effective and stronger network of all the different actors involved in caring for elderly people living at home. The project had two main specific objectives.

Firstly, enable citizens to realise that small things can make a big difference in home safety for the elderly.

The second objective was to create an entire support network to handle the actual risk management, and subsequently facilitate living at home.

Activities

The main activities of the project was getting the stage 1 results tested in real life, and to create the support network for risk management. In this process, the safety checklist that was created at the pilot project was converted to an easy to use [online test](#) that provides advice on how to improve home safety and also contact information if the user wants to get outside help based on the results.

There is now a large network of experts from involved/related organisations, working together with a test group of actual beneficiaries to create and activate a working model for both refining the risk data and to create the risk management solution. The main partners in the project are the regional social service provider (EKSote), the regional rescue department and the Saimaa University of Applied Sciences. The main co-operation NGO partners include The Red Cross, Voluntary fire brigades, regional and local village associations, other related NGO's, SME's, energy companies, private care takers and beneficiaries, especially the elderly.

Main results

In terms of economic benefits, the costs of living at home are much less compared to living in supported housing and support services can provide/create rural jobs. From a lifestyle perspective, many older people feel that staying at home longer will give them a better quality of life.

One focus in the project is on energy. If the system makes the energy/heating at home more efficient, this will also have a positive effect on the climate through the promotion of more efficient heating technologies and other means for reducing energy consumption.

This project is very much about quality of life, and this has a significant impact on social inclusion. Not only through the ability to live at home, but also through building connections and networks, and links between their friends, relatives and neighbours.

The project successfully brought together regional social and rescue services and the university, gathering a wide range of different actors that are involved in the activity. This also includes municipalities, service providers, NGO's, private citizens and beneficiaries as well as the Ministry of the Interior.

Additional sources of information

n/a