PAAR-NET

Working Group 4 (WG4) Synthesis and Quality Criteria for Participatory Research with Older Adults

The PAAR-NET COST Action prioritizes inclusive knowledge co-production through participatory approaches with older adults in research, policymaking, and practice. Working Group 4 (WG4) focuses on establishing ethical and methodological standards to ensure that participatory research is inclusive, meaningful, and respectful, particularly when engaging with deprived, vulnerable, or marginalized older adults.

We aim to:

- Develop quality criteria to guide ethical participatory practices with older adults.
- Synthesize best practices to ensure older adults' voices are heard and valued in research and decision-making.
- Address barriers to meaningful participation, particularly for those in vulnerable situations.

cost EUROPEAN COOPERATION IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Funded by the European Union

Challenges are:

Ethical dilemmas: Balancing inclusivity with the need for equal partnership while considering potential risks to participants' well-being and autonomy.

Exclusion of marginalized and minoritised groups: Ensuring the inclusion of older adults who are from minority ethnic backgrounds, facing socioeconomic disadvantages, health disparities, or social isolation.

Methodological limitations: Overcoming biases, tokenistic participation, and poorly designed participatory processes.

Opportunities are:

Inclusion of older people as active co-creators in contributing to the development of democratic and change-oriented knowledge, scientific progress, policymaking, and practical interventions at all societal levels.

Advancing inclusivity: Designing processes that actively include the voices of marginalized and minoritised older adults.

Promoting ethical standards: Establishing clear ethical principles for participatory research that empower and protect participants.

Enhancing research quality: Leveraging diverse experiences to enrich data and outcomes.

Implications are:

Set ethical benchmarks: Co-create ethical guidelines that emphasize respect, dignity, and agency for older adults.

Promote equitable participation: Ensure that participatory approaches are adapted to meet the needs of and marginalized groups.

Strengthen research rigor: Develop and disseminate robust methodological frameworks to guide participatory research.

Encourage institutional adoption: Advocate for policies and standards that institutionalize inclusive and ethical participatory practices across research and policymaking.

cost
EUROPEAN COOPERATION IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Funded by the European Union