About the project

European statistics reveal that the number of people over 65 will hit 151.5 million in 2060. That is a 30% increase on figures recorded in 2008. Similarly, the number of people aged 80 or over is set to almost triple from 21.8 million in 2008 to 61.4 million in 2060. As the number of elderly in Europe increases, so does the need to address the considerable challenges this will present for future transportation systems. Therefore, taking into account the elderly population’s specific requirements is of great importance to transportation research projects.

GOAL developed an action plan for innovative solutions to fulfil the transport needs of an ageing society. The elderly’s needs, both now and in the future, were assessed through profiles representing the ranges of physical and mental characteristics among the population. These profiles were used to explore in a structured way the requirements while driving, using public transport, walking and cycling. Processing of relevant information required before and during travel was also included.

Furthermore, the project considered possible and relevant societal developments and transport alternatives. In addition, gaps in research were identified and product developments done elsewhere in the world were assessed with Europe-wide application in mind.

To validate its work and to ensure that it will receive the broadest acceptance, GOAL organised a series of workshops. These enabled the largest constituency of stakeholder bodies and experts to interact with the project team. To date, research and development needs have been identified in the workshops. Along with other results, this information was used to develop the final action plan. This action plan identifies knowledge gaps, research needs and suggest product development. Besides, it provides guidance on transport requirements based on existing knowledge.

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Consortium partners

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The action plan presents seven research actions that need to be addressed because of the considerable transport challenges we face by the growth of the older people population in the coming decades.

The seven research actions should be taken forward immediately if we are to understand and exploit the opportunities to enable older people to enjoy safe, sustainable and socially satisfying lifestyles. When we have looked further into the future, these same building blocks of fundamental understanding remain crucial for all the potential long-term scenarios that we have identified within the GOAL project.

These are the research actions:

1) Develop databases on walking and cycling behaviour by older people
2) Identify motivators for walking and cycling for older people
3) Investigate the transition behaviour from car to other modalities
4) Develop methodologies to assess the benefits of public transport accessibility measures
5) Identify the requirements for travel information and social media suitable for older people
6) Assess the impact and potential of future technology for the older driver
7) Develop driving screening and assessment tools and programs

Download the GOAL action plan on www.goal-project.eu