

The fundamental aim of TAGS is to improve or innovate products and/or processes to meet the specific textile needs in the areas of bedding, clothing, hygiene and therapy for a growing sector of the European population.

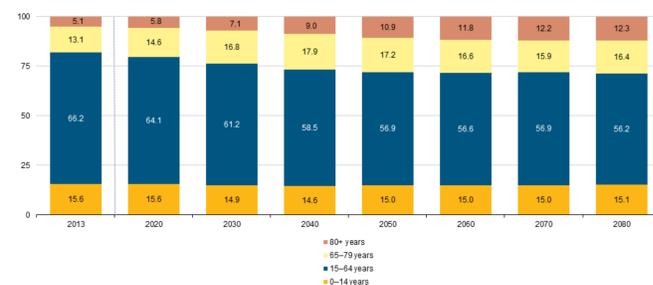
WHO ARE WE?

Textiles for Ageing Society (TAGS), is a research programme coordinated by the University of Innsbruck, carried out by a consortium of European institutes, and funded by the European Commission, as part of the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7).

THE PROBLEM

Population ageing is undoubtedly going to be a key demographic challenge in many European countries over the next fifty years. Over the next 50 years, population ageing is likely to attain unprecedented levels in 31 European countries, though the magnitude, speed and timing are likely to vary.

Population structure by major age groups, EU-28, 2013–80 (1)



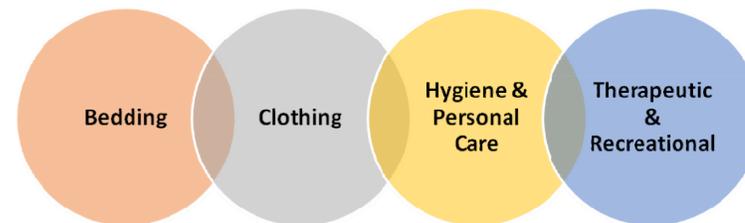
(*) 2020–80: projections (EURPOP2013)
Source: Eurostat (online data codes: demo_pjanagroup and proj_13pms)

Another aspect of population ageing is the progressive ageing of the older population itself, as the relative importance of the very old is growing at a faster pace than any other age segment of the EU’s population. The share of those aged 80 years or above in the EU-28’s population is projected to more than double between 2013 and 2080 (see Figure 1)

During the period from 2013 to 2080 the share of the population of working age is expected to decline steadily, while older persons will likely account for an increasing share of the total population — those aged 65 years or over will account for 28.7 % of the EU-28’s population by 2080, compared with 18.2 % in 2013. As a result of the population movement between age groups, the EU-28’s old-age dependency ratio is projected to almost double from 27.5 % in 2013 to 51.0 % by 2080. The total age dependency ratio is projected to rise from 51.1 % in 2013 to 77.9 % by 2080¹.

1. http://epp.eurostat.ec.europa.eu/statistics_explained/index.php/Population_structure_and_ageing

RESEARCH AREAS



BEDDING

Examples: Bed linen, blankets, bed sheets, mattress protectors

Focus: Absorbance, breathability, reduce friction and pressure, sensors, disposability, temperature regulation, layered systems, easy care, cost, antimicrobial, SMART textiles.

CLOTHING

Examples: Garments, fasteners, design, functionality, colour, sizing and fit

Focus: Absorbance, breathability, sensors, disposability, temperature regulation, layered systems, easy care, cost, safety, discrete incontinence systems, SMART textiles, odour

HYGIENE & PERSONAL CARE

Examples: Wet wipes, dry wipes, incontinence pads and products, ostomy products, sanitary pads, flannels, surface wipes, towels

Focus: Disposability, time release function, range of products for independent and dependent people, ease of use, maintenance, durability.

THERAPEUTIC & RECREATIONAL

Examples: Compression stockings, wearable drug delivery, heated clothing, electro-therapy

Focus: Drug delivery, physical therapy, cognitive therapy, heating, cooling, skin health and condition, light therapy, electro-therapy, compression therapy, lymphatic drainage, micro encapsulation.

WHAT ARE OUR GOALS?

The intention of the TAGS consortium is to bring together **older people, social and medical care organisations, research institutions, technology transfer associations, and manufacturers** to identify: specific requirements of the older people, and care organisations; latest developments in materials science and technology that will help meet these requirements; and strategies to incorporate developments in the manufacturing chain.

- Identification of **new materials, production techniques, and technologies**, based on demands and requirements formulated by end-users and industry that can improve the performance of textile products for the elderly
- Identification and assessment of the **scope for innovation**, and of barriers preventing progress
- Initiating **platforms for active discussion** and **dissemination** of information between partners, and the provision of general information accessible by the public
- Generation of **new joint and collaborative concepts**, initiation of **joint research activities**.
- Identification of **standards and specifications** for products, and formulation and **recommendations for policy makers**.

HOW ARE WE GOING TO DO IT?

- Bi-annual TAGS meetings which involve all consortium members and invited industry experts, health care professionals, end-users and research and technology transfer institutions from the EU.
- Brainstorming and discussion rounds to generate new ideas and provide the potential for further projects.
- Series of Work Packages summarised below.

