

RESPONSES TO DEMOGRAPHIC AGEING -
A CONTRIBUTION TO A POSITIVE
CHANGE?

ALPINE SPACE FORUM

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Focus on old-age services

- demographic changes have many faces, here the focus is on ageing
- growing numbers of older people with varying needs
- increasing needs for quantity and quality of services both in institutions and at home
- a wide spectrum of services: daily functional support, quality of life, integration vs. isolation of older people; ICT are powerful, but there are also physical and social needs

Specific features of the Alpine space

- with respect to their welfare regimes: these countries (except France) are recognised as more familialistic (high reliance on family for care for dependent persons (children and elderly), less developed family-friendly services and policies (principle of subsidiarity); so the caring burden of family is relatively large
- with respect to geography, settlements and climate: areas of high quality of natural environment, in summer particularly attractive for seniors; many are lacking supportive services; remote nature rich/service poor areas

Development of senior-friendly services has a wider potential

- for improving the quality and accessibility of services to the elderly
- to lessen the caring burden of families
 - so caring does not interfere with working capacity of women, who are traditional providers of family services
 - improvement of intergenerational contacts by making the caring burden more manageable
- to create new opportunities for employment of women (new jobs in caring services)
- possible economic benefit: creating senior friendly centres/areas (for vacations, summer camps, courses and training for the elderly and caregivers); integrated tourism, attract seniors from other parts of EU and outside