

ROSEnet COST ACTION (CA 15122)

REDUCING OLD-AGE SOCIAL EXCLUSION:
COLLABORATIONS IN RESEARCH & POLICY

Reducing Old-Age Social Exclusion in Europe

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What is ROSEnet?

- Research networking platform
 - Innovative partnership of policy stakeholders, researchers, and older people
 - Involving 135+ members from 41 countries
- *ROSEnet aims to overcome critical knowledge gaps in research and policy to tackle social exclusion amongst older people in Europe*



Structure

1. Social exclusion in later life
2. Societal and policy challenge
3. ROSEnet objectives and approach
4. Exclusion from social relations



1. Framing Social Exclusion in Later Life

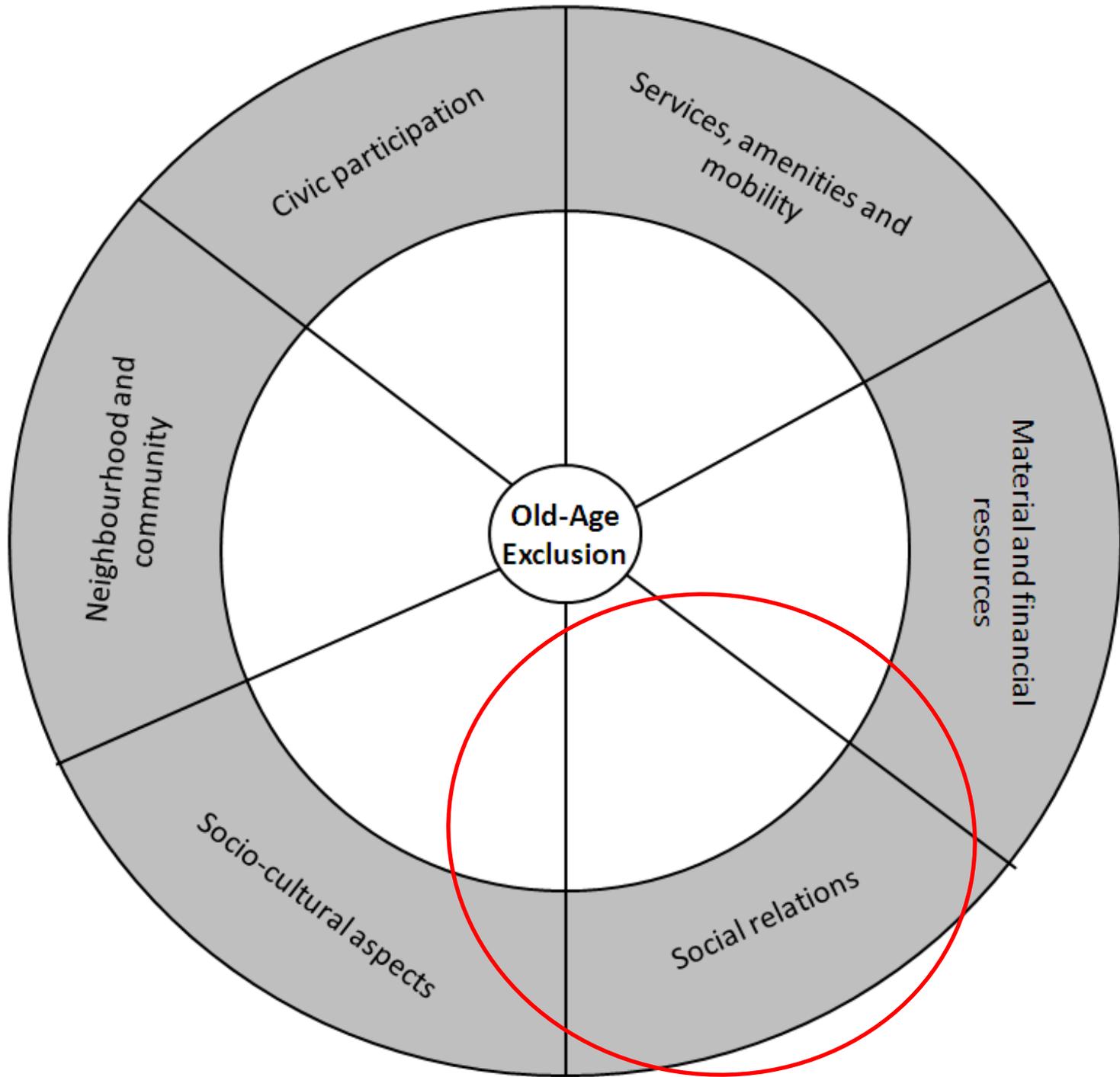
- Exclusion seen as separation of groups/individuals from mainstream society (Moffatt and Glasgow 2009)
- Growing attention on exclusion in research on ageing
 - Individual/group disadvantage (Beland 2007)
 - Relational/distributional (Saunders 2008)
- Contested dimensions of social exclusion
 - People of working age; unemployed people; children
- Fragmented evidence base



1. Framing Social Exclusion in Later Life

- Agency: people may be excluded against their will or they may choose to be excluded
- Dynamic nature: people may experience forms of exclusion at different points of the life course
- Relativity: people experience forms of exclusion in relation to the particular contexts in which they live
- Multidimensionality: people may be excluded in one or more areas of life (Grenier and Guberman 2009; Walsh et al. 2012)





Features of Exclusion in Later Life

- Multi-level channels – micro, meso and macro
- Cross-cutting mechanisms
 - Socio-spatial context (Dwyer and Hardill 2011)
 - Marginalisation of groups (McCann et al. 2013; Hunkler et al. 2015)
 - Risk-laden life paths (e.g. Arber 2004; Beaulaurier et al. 2014)
 - Constrained choice and power (e.g. Raymond and Grenier 2013)
 - Diminishing role of the state



Old-age exclusion involves interchanges between multi-level risk factors, processes and outcomes. Varying in form and degree across the older adult life course, its complexity, impact and prevalence is amplified by old-age vulnerabilities, accumulated disadvantage for some groups, and constrained opportunities to ameliorate exclusion.

→ Increased prevalence (Chen et al. 2012)

Old-age exclusion leads to inequities in choice and control, resources and relationships, and power and rights in key domains of: neighbourhood and community; services, amenities and mobility; material and financial resources; social relations; socio-cultural aspects of society; and civic participation.

→ Age-related health declines, contracting networks, reduced-generation opportunities

(Daniel Chipstern and Yoonman 2008)

Old-age exclusion implicates states, societies, communities and individuals.

(Walsh et al. 2017)

2. Societal and Policy Challenge



Societal and Policy Challenge

- National Social Inclusion Action Plans (Warburton et al. forthcoming)
- Headline target of Europe 2020 strategy (European Commission 2010)
 - To lift 20 million people out of poverty and exclusion by 2020
- Concentration on economic aspects
 - Labour market participation as key inclusion instrument (EC 2010)
 - AROPE (at risk of poverty; severe deprivation; household work intensity) (Eurostat 2017)
- Broad misalignment between policy and research



3. ROSEnet objectives and approach



Research Coordination Objectives

1. Synthesise existing knowledge
2. Critically investigate the constructions of life-course old-age exclusion
3. Assess the implications of old-age exclusion across the life course
4. Develop new conceptual frameworks, and their practical application
5. Identify innovative, and implementable, policy and practice



ROSEnet approach

Working Groups

- Economic working group
- Social working group
- Services working group
- Civic rights working group
- Community/spatial working group
- All working groups involve researchers and policy stakeholder members



ROSEnet Research Programmes (Selected)

Exclusion from social relations and health and well-being outcomes

L. Vidovičová (CZ), M. Aartsen (NO), A. Motel-Klingesbiel (SE); A. Lowenstein (IS), A. Wanka (AU), F. Villar (SP), K. Walsh (IE)

Mixed methods; unpacking gender and life-course pathways

Food related poverty and exclusion

G. Lamura (INCRA) and AUSRE, Italy 2017-2019

Social relations and nutritional exclusion – through Italian food practices (low SES)

Social and material deprivation and changes in health

M. Myck, M. Najsztab, M. Oczkowska, Poland/Cross-national, 2018

Using panel data, investigates influence of multi-dimensional exclusion on changes in health

Income and material circumstances and loneliness and isolation - social, health and mobility factors *C. Waldegrave (NZ), C. Cunnigham (NZ) , T.K.*

Tamsese

Mixed methods; data analysis; Older Māori and Pacific People

4. Exclusion from social relations





EXCLUSION FROM SOCIAL RELATIONS IN LATER LIFE

The ROSEnet Social Relations Working Group

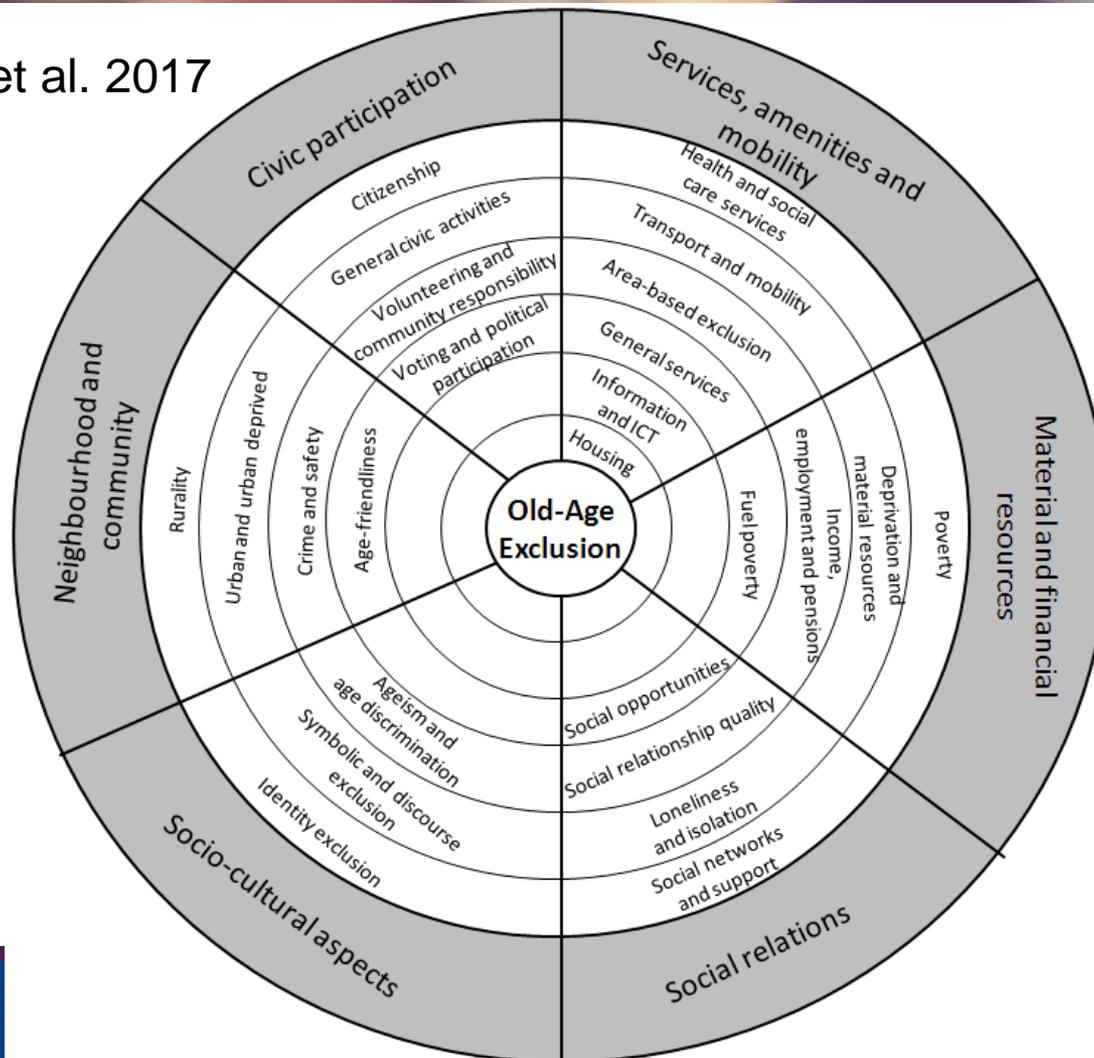
Authored by: Marja Aartsen, Nicole Valtorta, Lena Dahlberg,
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Social exclusion and ageing adults

Source: Walsh et al. 2017



Individual impacts of loneliness

Evidence links individuals' loneliness to:

- Reduced quality of life
- Premature mortality
- A broad range of physical and mental health conditions (e.g. sleep disorders, risk of cardiovascular disease, low self-esteem, dementia, depression)
- Increased use of medications
- Increased alcohol consumption



Broader impacts of loneliness

Social and economic impacts that reach beyond individuals:

- Impacts on families, friends and neighbours
- Impacts on communities (e.g. community-based interventions to tackle isolation and loneliness)
- Impacts on broader society (e.g. increased use of health/social care services; GP consultations; emergency admissions to hospital; re-admission to hospital; entry into institutional care)

