

2 Name

Clémentine Schelings

3 Contact email

clementine.schelings@uliege.be

4 Affiliation

Inter'Act, Department of Urban and Environmental Engineering, University of Liège

5 Short bio (max 100 words)

Clémentine Schelings holds a master's degree in Architectural Engineering (2016) and a PhD in Engineering Sciences (2021) from the University of Liège (Belgium). Her thesis focuses on the renewal of participatory approaches in the making of the smart city. Her research interests cover citizen participation, e-participation, participatory design and co-design in various urban contexts. She is currently looking at participatory approaches deployed with older adults as part of the Horizon Europe STAGE ('Stay Healthy Through Ageing') project. Through this project, she will test and develop participatory tools and methods adapted to co-constructing a Healthy Ageing Atlas with older citizens themselves.

6 Abstract title

Opportunities and challenges of older citizens' participation: a systematic review

7 Abstract (max 300 words)

Contemporary urban challenges call for the participation of a wide range of stakeholders throughout the co-creation of the city. Citizens have long been and are increasingly being invited to share their experiences and express their needs when it comes to designing more inclusive cities. Participatory approaches are constantly evolving and multiplying, in an ongoing quest to develop processes tailored to both local contexts and the specific characteristics of the target audiences. With this in mind, we are conducting a systematic literature review focusing on the participation of one group in particular - older people - and the different methods and tools that exist and have been tested empirically to include them in the development of their neighborhoods. A number of criteria are examined: the necessity (or not) to adapt participatory approaches for older people; the suitability of certain tools or methods for older participants, and the strengths and limitations associated with the participation of older people.

This preliminary work is conducted in the framework of STAGE ("Stay healthy through ageing"; 2024-2029), a Horizon Europe project focusing on healthy ageing in European regions. In collaboration with Amsterdam UMC (AUMC), our main mission is to build an interactive European atlas of healthy ageing, structured around a healthy ageing index and iteratively enhanced and updated thanks to the participation of older people. This tool will help (i) older people to better understand their local area and (ii) decision-makers to identify local priorities and inspiring territories in terms of healthy ageing, at both European and local levels. In practice, we will organize participatory activities and use participatory methods and tools specially designed to harness the territorial intelligence of older people. This systematic literature review about older citizens' participation thus

constitutes the first step of our research, the conclusions of which will serve as a basis for testing and implementing participatory approaches with seniors.

8 Keywords (max 5)

Citizen participation; Older adults; Healthy ageing; Neighbourhood

9 Additional authors

Catherine Elsen (ULiège) and Erika Jarva (UOULU)