

Horizon 2020 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Individual Fellowships Call – Expression of Interest

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| Organisation Details | ALONE Address: ALONE, Olympic House, Pleasants Street, Dublin 8 Ireland www.alone.ie | |
| Organisation Type | <input type="checkbox"/> Academic <input type="checkbox"/> Large Enterprise <input type="checkbox"/> SME <input type="checkbox"/> Public Research Organisation | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Body <input type="checkbox"/> NGO <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Non-Profit <input type="checkbox"/> Other (<i>please specify</i>) <hr/> |
| Research Field(s) | <input type="checkbox"/> Chemistry CHE <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social and Human Sciences SOC <input type="checkbox"/> Economic Sciences ECO <input type="checkbox"/> Information Science and Engineering ENG <input type="checkbox"/> Environment and Geosciences ENV <input type="checkbox"/> Life Sciences LIF <input type="checkbox"/> Mathematics MAT <input type="checkbox"/> Physics PHY | Keywords: Older people, ageing sector, ageing research, design, technology, ageing in the community, supporting older people to age in their homes, supportive housing, support coordination, befriending, campaigning for older people, campaigns for change |

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| <p>Short Description of the Organisation and the Faculty/Dept./School/Centre</p> | <p>ALONE is an independent national organisation operating for almost 40 years that supports older people to age at home. We have four core services: Support Coordination, Befriending, Housing with Support and Campaigns for Change. We work with older people who have difficulties with loneliness, social isolation, ill health, poverty, poor housing or homelessness. All our services are quality approved, meaning we are high value and low cost.</p> <p>ALONE's Support Coordination service works with older people who need support to age at home. Professional staff work with the older person to assess their needs and link them in with the relevant supports they need to help them maintain their independence.</p> <p>ALONE's Befriending Service provides companionship to older people who are lonely through volunteer visits. As well as companionship, volunteers support the older person with practical tasks and basic advocacy. The Befriending Service is designed to alleviate the negative impacts loneliness has on mental and physical health. All ALONE volunteers are trained and supported by professional staff.</p> <p>ALONE's Housing with Support Service provides homes to older people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness and need a level of support. We work with each resident to ensure they have the relevant services they need to live independently. The level of support an older person receives is based on their changing needs. Every ALONE home is age friendly and is maintained to a high standard</p> <p>ALONE is an organisation that wishes to innovate in the ageing sector by embracing technology, forming partnerships with statutory and voluntary groups and currently leading 'Befriending Network Ireland', an alliance of 40+ national Befriending organisations to maximise the impact of our work. We believe our quality approved services enrich the lives of older</p> |
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| | people who need some support in order to age at home. |
| Short Description of the Research Project/Topic | <p>Research project to consider how older people's voices, inputs, changing needs are listened to and influence the design and implementation of services in this sector. In particular this project would consider how to include the voices of older people who traditionally would not have been heard. It would consider the differing capacities of older people and the barriers that deter them from participating in mainstream forums.</p> <p>ALONE wish to invite a researcher to investigate how older people's voices can be better heard in the shaping and running of ALONE's services in Ireland. It would also consider how ALONE can reflect back to older people the impact and influence they are having on service design and innovation. The study would outline how the findings and recommendations would be shared with other third sector organisations. This study would consider the participation and input of a select group of older people to create a circle of involvement in how policy is shaped and informed. By consulting older people, the researcher can highlight the ethical issues facing providers of services to older people particularly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •in the use of Assistive Technology in Older Peoples' homes, •gathering feedback from Older People, •how cognitive and literacy issues may affect the Older Person's ability to provide input, feedback. |
| Expertise required by the applicant | Significant research experience in an aspect of the research topic/idea |
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| Application procedure | Letter of Motivation together with your CV by email. |
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| Short Description of the Research Project/Topic | <p>Technology: Embracing technology to age at home</p> <p>To investigate how technology could help and support ALONE residents to age in their homes in ALONE Supportive Housing.</p> <p>The research study would examine the current experiences of ALONE residents who are supported by professional social care staff and ALONE's Support staff to maintain their independence and wellbeing while ageing at home. ALONE currently have over 100 residents living in properties who have low, medium and high support needs.</p> <p>The research project would investigate how innovative design and technology can positively impact our residents, strengthen their autonomy, security and wellbeing and provide viable solutions to problems faced by both the older people. International experience and best practices in this area would be reviewed as part of the study.</p> <p>The research study would consider the ethical, social and economic challenges of implementing assistive technology in older people's homes. The project would also identify solutions to the challenges of embracing technology as an older person, particularly technology training.</p> |
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| Short Description of the Research Project/Topic | <p>Mental Health: self-neglect and hoarding: ALONE professional staff work with older people who have experienced mental health difficulties and trauma which can impact negatively on both their health and home environments.</p> <p>This research study would examine the correlation between mental health difficulties, self-neglect and hoarding, a problem faced by many older people we work with. The ramifications of hoarding for the older person would be mapped out by the researcher while working with a sample group of older people.</p> <p>The researcher would identify solutions, including early prevention strategies, to this problem and work closely with ALONE's professional staff and older people to implement these solutions upon the project's completion.</p> |
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| Short Description of the Research Project/Topic | <p>Rural older people: configuring ALONE's services to respond to challenges in a rural environment.</p> <p>To investigate and determine how ALONE's three models of care: Support Coordination, Befriending and Housing with Support could be adapted and rolled out in rurally isolated environments. This research study would identify the most effective model for ALONE to operate our services in rural isolated environments, based on international research and models.</p> <p>The study would look at factors including the cost and economic implications, the availability of services, impact of transport availability for older people and the risks of rural living for older people.</p> <p>It would also draw from and examine the key partnerships ALONE have formed with voluntary and statutory bodies in providing our services outside Dublin.</p> <p>This research project would provide viable and mapped out solutions of how to rollout the proposed model.</p> |
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