



## DELIVERABLE

**Project Acronym:** AFE INNOVNET

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**Project Title:** Thematic Network for age-friendly environments in the European Union

### D5.4 – Improvements to repository: short report on activities

**Revision:** Final

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**Revision History**

Revision	Date	Author	Organisation	Description

**Statement of originality:**

This deliverable contains original unpublished work except where clearly indicated otherwise. Acknowledgement of previously published material and of the work of others has been made through appropriate citation, quotation or both.

## 1. Introduction

Deliverable 5.4 foreseen under Work Package 5 of the AFE-INNOVNET project concerns improvements to the structure of the Repository of Notable Practices (Repository) subsequent upon the establishment of its first fully functional version.

The main workload for this deliverable was expected to fall in year 2 of the project. The main improvement drives expected in the work plan for the project centred on:

- Improvements on the basis of user feedback
- The integration of relevant findings and elements from deliverable 4.2: the participative methodology for involvement of older citizens in co-production of solutions
- The introduction of grading of notable practices

This short report outlines activities undertaken for these drives, relative to the point of development ascertained during the Midterm Review of the project.

Relative to the original work plan for the project, as a result of developing priorities set by and actions undertaken by or on behalf of the European Commission, extra effort has been needed (and has been sanctioned by the European Commission) to provide input and guidance from the AFE INNOVNET Repository to the efforts on development of an EIP AHA repository, specifically linked to the Scaling Up strategy for AHA. These efforts are briefly described in the final section, where this short report will also provide a succinct outline of relevant work under other deliverables and the envisaged strategy for continuity of the repository beyond the end of the project.

## 2. Improvement drives

The Midterm Report noted re the Repository development and structure that the achievement of a fully functional basic repository had proved more involved and time-consuming than expected. Hence, at the time of the Midterm review, although the Repository was operational and Notable Practices had been published, adjustments to the basic structure were still ongoing. The Midterm Review specifically noted the following:

- Little information on the content of Notable Practices from the initial presentation screen
- Unsatisfactory search structure
- Improvements necessary to identification of “blood groups” involved, aimed specifically at identification of involvement of SME’s.

In addition, the Midterm Review noted that there had been up to that point no grading of Notable Practices into categories (notable, good, best).

The latter point is addressed separately later on in this paragraph. The first three have been taken on board in the improvement activities on the basis of user feedback (the Midterm Review committee being considered as special-purpose users of the Repository).

### ***User-feedback driven improvements***

As noted, achieving full technical functionality for the Repository has proven very time-consuming, and technical issues have continued to play a role during the remainder of the project. This has necessitated intensive coordination and collaboration with P.A.U Education, who have been in charge of the technical development of the repository on the Drupal platform required. Partly for this reason, partly because in assessing and uploading notable practices, the WP5 leader TNO staff have adopted a pro-active stance in engaging with uploading entities, both to provide positive reinforcement for contributions, and to elicit comments and observations on the functionality of the repository and the uploading experience. In light of the persistence of technical issues and the intensity of contacts with uploading entities, it was judged sensible to pursue a strategy of continuous, incremental user-feedback based improvements.

Next to smaller technical improvements, the following actions were undertaken:

- The format of the Notable Practices and the Repository was adjusted to show more extensive summary information on Notable Practices in the initial presentation view.
- The original search structure for the Repository was based on the structure of the taxonomy developed in the early stages of the project. User feedback indicated that this structure did not work well for search purposes. Rather than trying to adapt the taxonomy structure, a new search structure was put in place that allows users to search on the basis of the WHO domains, country of origin of the Notable Practice, as well as free search option. The WHO domains have amply proven their relevance from the user point of view; additionally, the inclusion of these domains reflects the close alignment of AFE INNOVNET and the resulting Covenant with the WHO AFEE project and facilitates exchange of information between the two. Country of origin was identified as a relevant criterion on the basis of user feedback.
- Improvements relating to blood groups centred on the clearer identification of Notable Practices with executive involvement of SME's. In the summer of 2015, all Notable Practices then in the Repository were screened, and those with executive involvement of SME's received a "label" marking indicating this.

From this moment on, any new Notable Practices fitting this description also receive an SME-label.

- Developments external to the scope and control of the project meant that the original ideas for a system of grading of Notable Practices proved no longer current, and their implementation within an isolated AFE INNOVNET context would have proved counterproductive in positioning the AFE INNOVNET within the array of available instruments and databases for AHA innovation. This is further explained below.

### ***Participative methodology***

The WP5 leader TNO has been intensively involvement in the development of the participative methodology for involvement of older citizens in co-production of solutions. The work on this deliverable (D.4.2) was led by Polibienestar Research Institute. Over the course of the development of this methodology, its possible relevance to the Repository structure was addressed, as part of regular communication and coordination for the development of the deliverable. Over the course of its development, it became apparent to the WP5 leader, that the methodology, while a very valuable asset for engaging older citizens in innovation practice, did not contain clear anchoring points or way markers for adjustments of the Repository structure.

### **3. Extra work, relevant effort under other deliverables and strategy for continuation**

#### ***Extra work***

An important factor for the work on the AFE INNOVNET repository during its second year, has been the development of an EIP AHA repository. Coordination of this work has taken place under the PROEIPAHA project. The development has seen extensive involvement from Actions Groups and Reference Sites, as well as from relevant EU-funded projects. As one of the more mature discrete repositories linked to the EIP AHA – and one with a more extensive and detailed taxonomy than most – substantial input and effort has been required from AFE INNOVNET partners involved in the AFE INNOVNET repository development. Both TNO and AGE Platform Europe have participated in plenary meetings and working group activities designed to further the development of the EIP AHA repository. This has necessitated partial reprioritization of effort. Particularly relevant for the second year of the AFE INNOVNET project was that the EIP AHA repository took into account the Scaling Up Strategy launched by the European Commission in late 2014. Part of the work on the EIP AHA repository involved the development of a maturity assessment

instrument for practices in the latter repository. The WP5 leader TNO has contributed specifically to this task. It became clear that a three-tier maturity classification would be in place for the EIP AHA repository. Additionally, AFE INNOVNET facilitated the upload of the 70 notable practices then in the AFE INNOVNET repository into the EIP AHA repository, to give the latter a “running start” in terms of content.

In light of this, the original idea of introducing a separate grading in the AFE INNOVNET repository was considered counter-productive, and potentially confusing.

### ***Relevant work under other deliverables***

The working approach used in AFE INNOVNET has continually assessed whether information relevant to one or more of the priority focus areas of the project would be presented to best effect as part of the Repository, or whether another instrument, report or communications channel produced by the project would be more appropriate. Accordingly, the emphasis on SME involvement in particular, and multi-stakeholder innovation models in general, as well as the application of the Scaling Up Strategy, were felt to be better served under Deliverable 5.5. That is to say that these elements were taken on board in the in-depth analysis of selected notable practices. Readers are referred to the report on this deliverable for further information.

### ***Strategy for continuation***

Upkeep of the Repository and uploading/publication of new Notable Practices are included as part of the basic package of activities to be undertaken by the legal entity established for the Covenant. Hence, the basic level of commitment expected of its constituent members will be sufficient to ensure the availability of relevant material beyond the end of the AFE INNOVNET project.