



POLIBIENESTAR RESEARCH INSTITUTE, UNIVERSITY OF VALENCIA

POLIBIENESTAR (<http://www.polibienestar.org>) is a research institute belonging to the University of Valencia and it is a referring group in Spain and in the Region of Valencia.

POLIBIENESTAR is integrated by different professionals with important R&D expertise including sociologist, psychologists, doctors and lawyers, among others.

POLIBIENESTAR is specialized in research, development and innovation, management and assessment of social policies. Nowadays, one of its main lines of research is focused on studies and R+D projects on social tourism accessible for all. In this field **POLIBIENESTAR** has been compiling ample know-how demonstrated in the:

- Assessment of the accessibility of urban environments and touristic resources;
- Identification and analysis of the accessibility needs in the urban environments for elderly and disabled regarding physical, visual and hearing impairments;
- Design of communication tools based on the new technologies and adapted to elderly and disabled to promote tourism and mobility;
- Design of strategic plans for improving the accessibility levels of urban environments and touristic resources.

Due to our expertise, knowledge and previous researches we would be very interested in collaborating in the following **3rd Call for Proposals for the creation of thematic Networks (URBACT II): 3 Promoting employment and supporting labour mobility; and 7 Promoting the active inclusion of specific groups (e.g. young people, the elderly, immigrants, women, homeless, etc.)**.

POLIBIENESTAR participates in several European projects and coordinates national projects. Among others, Polibienestar has implemented so far:

- ❖ *Livingall*, Free movement and equal living opportunities for all, with the aim of support free movement and equal opportunities for disabled people, during 2007-2009, funded by the VI Framework Programme of the European Commission. Polibienestar participates as a project partner.
- ❖ *HOST*, *Smart technologies for self-service to seniors in social housing*, providing easy-to-use technologies and services in social housing flats to allow a better quality of communication and a better access to package services for the elderly people, during 2011-2013, funded under the Ambient Assisted Living (AAL) Programme. Polibienestar participates as a project partner.

- ❖ *Alzheimer: tremplin intergénérationnel d'insertion sociale et professionnelle*, during 2011-2013, promoting the maintenance and reconstruction of social ties through activities centred in the provision of care to Alzheimer's disease patients and their informal caregivers, funded under the VP PROGRESS 2010 Call for proposals for Social Experimentations VP/2010/007. Polibienestar participates as a *project partner*.
- ❖ INTERLINKS, Health systems and long-term care for older people in Europe (<http://www.euro.centre.org/interlinks>), during 2008 – 2011, funded under 7th Framework Programme, Research Area: HEALTH-2007-3.2-2 Health systems and long term care of the elderly. Polibienestar participates as a *project partner*.
- ❖ THOFU, *Technologies for the future hotel*, during 2010 – 2013, in which Polibienestar provides adapted technologies for elderly that contribute to the efficiency and energy savings in hotels;
- ❖ SOCIALTOURISM, *Research for the improvement of the knowledge in social tourism accessible for all in Spain*, during, 2011 – 2013, to increase the sustainability and competitiveness of the Spanish tourism sector through the improvement of knowledge in social tourism accessible for all. Polibienestar participates as leader and is designing a website to self-evaluate tourist resources based on a validated questionnaire, inform about how improve accessibility and inform to tourists about the accessibility of touristic resources;
- ❖ Thinktur, *the Spanish Technological Platform of Tourism*, during 2009 – 2013, to promote the tourism for all through a network of relevant touristic entities in the Spanish tourist sector as Segittur, ITH and AMETIC; and the *Technological network of Accessible Tourism*, which is currently part of Thinktur.

In addition, **POLIBIENESTAR** has evaluated the accessibility of touristic resources in different Spanish regions (Menorca, Valencia and Canary Islands) and developed communication strategies and tools to informed disabled.

Finally, researchers from **POLIBIENESTAR** have been recently awarded with a prize of Accessible Tourism given by University of Antonio Nebrija and Fundación ACS. The research awarded reveals the health benefits for elderly people caused by their tourism participation. This participation is possible thanks to the accessibility environments. Thus, accessible cities contribute to the health of elderly and achieve a potential reduction in health and social cost due to this health improvement.

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