

1. Interested institution:



Polibienestar Research Institute – University of Valencia

Postal address:

Edificio de Institutos de Investigación – Campus dels Tarongers
c/ Serpis nº29, 46022 Valencia (Spain)

<http://www.polibienestar.org>

2. Brief Description of the Institution

Polibienestar (www.polibienestar.org) is a Public Research Institute belonging to the University of Valencia (Spain), led by Jordi Garcés, Full Professor at the University of Valencia and Prince of Asturias Distinguished Visiting Professor at Georgetown University (Washington DC, USA). It is specialized in research, innovation and social technology, technical advice and training in the field of public policies. Its team develops interdisciplinary research applied in social sciences. This interdisciplinary perspective is necessary to respond to the complexity of welfare systems and allows Polibienestar to develop, from innovative and classic research, effective analysis and solutions for new social challenges. In this line, Polibienestar advises the Administration and private entities in the design, planning and implementation of social welfare policies and services.

Polibienestar is composed by an interdisciplinary team with 34 senior and 24 junior researchers with national and European experience from the departments of Preventive Medicine and Public Health; Didactics and School Organization; Educational Sciences; Personality, Assessment and Psychological Treatment; Applied Economics; Marketing; Labour and Social Security Law; Commercial Law; Social Work and Social Services; Sociology and Social Anthropology; Architecture; or Engineering, from eight Spanish Universities (Valencia, Castilla-León, Murcia, Castellón, Madrid, Castilla-La Mancha, Extremadura and País Vasco).

In the last ten years Polibienestar has developed more than 40 R&D projects and 40 contracts and has produced 68 ISI articles, 37 indexed to different networks, 23 book chapters and 13 books. Among the projects, Polibienestar has participated and coordinated regional, national and European projects funded by the regional programme for research groups of excellence Prometeo; different Spanish Ministries, as the Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness under different plans and programmes (as CENIT and Influye) and the Ministry of Industry, Energy and Tourism; and European programmes like 6th and the Framework programme (FP6-2005-SSP-5º-044359; FP7-2008-HEALTH-223037; FP7-2012-SSH.2012.1.3-2-320121; FP7-ICT-2013-10-6120096), the AAL Programme (AAL-2010-3-041), the III Daphne Programme (JLS/2012/DAP/AG/3086; JUST/2010/DAP3/AG/1059-30; JLS/2008/DAP3/AG/1275; JUST/2014/SPOB/AG/VICT), the Progress Programme (VP/2010/007/0129), the ENPI CBCMED (nº3/156), the Youth in Action Programme (2010-51016/00/-001 YT7 PDPA7), the Lifelong Learning Programme (540139-LLP-1-2013-1-IT-GRUNTVIG-GMP; 2013-1-RO1-GRU06-29490), the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework (CIP) Programme (CIP-ICT-PSP-2013-7-620978), the Erasmus+ Programme (2014-1-UK01-KA202-001659; 2015-1-UK01-KA202-013710; 2015-1-BE02-KA202-012268; 2015-1-IT02-KA201-015417), the II and III Health Programme (529881; 533157; 664689; proposal number 710033) and the COSME Programme (proposal number 699512).

3. Please tick the areas of research (as established in Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chemistry (CHE) | <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Sciences and Geology (ENV) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social Sciences and Humanities (SOC) | <input type="checkbox"/> Life Sciences (LIF) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Economic Sciences (ECO) | <input type="checkbox"/> Mathematics (MAT) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Information Science and Engineering (ENG) | <input type="checkbox"/> Physics (PHY) |

4. Research / Project Description

Nowadays, one of Polibienestar main lines of research is **“Social Tourism accessible for all and the building of age-friendly and disability-friendly environments with relevant role to ICTs”**. It is focused on studies and R+D projects on social tourism accessible for all, line in which Polibienestar has been awarded with the first prize “Accessible Tourism Award” of the University of Nebrija and ACS Foundation. In this field, Polibienestar has been compiling a wide know-how that provides the following capacities:

Accessibility evaluation and advice:

One of the main objectives of Polibienestar is to support free movement and equal opportunities for disabled, elderly and dependent people. In this line, Polibienestar has achieved a deep knowledge about the accessibility needs of elderly, dependent and disabled people in the build environment and in the provision of services. Also, Polibienestar has established a self-assessment model that allows entities to evaluate their accessibility conditions and know the keys to become accessible. Moreover, Polibienestar participates in the Action Group D4 of the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing that tries to build age-friendly cities and in the COST Action IS1204 “Tourism, Wellbeing and Ecosystem Services” that links research on wellbeing provided by ecosystems and their use via tourism, leisure and recreation activities.

Thus, Polibienestar has collaborated in public initiatives to evaluate the tourism accessibility conditions of different Spanish regions (Menorca, Valencia and Canarian Islands) and lead and participate in European, Spanish and regional projects that try to increase the knowledge in accessible social tourism and support the free movement and social participation for all.

Promotion of active and healthy ageing through tourism and leisure activities:

Polibienestar conducts research on ageing and the promotion of personal autonomy. In this sense, it evaluates the benefits of elderly participation through leisure and touristic activities in terms of contribution to reduce their sedentary lifestyles and enhance their level of physical activity. On the other hand, Polibienestar identifies and analyses good practices and initiatives in the field of active ageing, connections between formal and informal care, homecare, independently living, etc. along Europe.

ICT tourism devices:

One of the main fields of Polibienestar’s research is addressed to improve the quality of life of dependent people using ICT devices. In this sense, Polibienestar analyses the usability, points of view, needs and requirements of end-users and tourists with special needs (usability of devices, age and disability-friendly environments, accessible spaces, etc.). Also, Polibienestar identifies and analyses ICT solutions that contribute to improve the health, active ageing, and independent living for elderly and disabled people. Moreover, Polibienestar considers the ethical aspects of the use of ICT systems.

In this field, Polibienestar participates in tourism projects giving guidelines to design an easy-to use tourism devices and software adapted to the needs of elderly, dependent and disabled people, and defining and identifying new technologies that help tourists with special needs.

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Training and designing training in accessible social tourism:

Polibienestar has a large experience in training because its team is composed by researchers and professors belonging to eight Spanish Universities, where they teach in different graduate, post-graduate and master programmes. Regarding accessible social tourism, the Polibienestar team has introduced accessible tourism as a transversal issue for professionals in the field of social and health care.

In this framework, Polibienestar has participated and coordinated regional, national and European **projects** and has advised to administrations and private companies. As example of our large scientific carrier, Polibienestar participates and coordinates the following European and national projects:

- 2016-2017 **PLEASE**, Please Let Enjoy a Seniors Experience, funded under the COSME programme of the Executive Agency for SMEs (proposal number 699512). The aim of the project is to develop a tourism product concept applied to 4 Member States for senior travelers involving older people visiting the 5th leading a participant Member State.
- 2014-2016 **AFE-Innovnet**, Thematic Network Innovation for age-friendly environments in the European Union, funded under the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme (CIP) (ref.: 620978). The overarching goal of this project is to set up a large EU wide community of local and regional authorities and other relevant stakeholders who want to work together to find smart and innovative evidence based solutions to support active and healthy ageing and develop age-friendly environments.
- 2014-2016 **CAP4Access**, Collective Awareness Platforms for Improving Accessibility on European Cities Regions, funded by the 7th Framework Programme (ref.: 612096). The objective of CAP4Access is to develop and pilot-test methods and tools for collectively gathering and sharing spatial information for improving accessibility.
- 2011-2013 **HOST**, Smart technologies for self-service to seniors in social housing, funded under the Ambient Assisted Living Programme (ref.: AAL-2010-3-041), contributing at 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 elderly.
- 2011-2013 **SOCIALTOURISM**, Research for the improvement of the knowledge in social tourism accessible for all in Spain, funded by the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation (ref.: CS02010-15425). With this project Polibienestar tries to promote accessible social tourism for all through the building of accessible environments that promote active and healthy ageing for older and disabled tourists.
- 2010-2013 **THOFU**, Technologies for the future hotel, funded by the Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness (ref.: CEN—20101019), developing guidelines to promote efficiency and energy savings through accessible and easy-to-use technologies adapted to the needs of elderly and disabled.
- 2009-2013 **Thinktur**, the Spanish Technological Platform of Tourism, funded by the Spanish Ministry of Sciences and Innovation (ref.: INF-2011-0011-410000). In Thinktur Polibienestar promotes the tourism for all in projects and knowledge to more than 750 entities, in consortium with Segittur, ITH and AMETIC relevant tourist organism in the Spanish tourism sector, and coordinates the Accessibility working group.
- 2007-2009 **LivingAll**, Free movement and equal living opportunities for all funded by the 6th Framework Programme (ref.: FP6-2005-SSP-5-A). Polibienestar has led the project with the aim of support free movement and equal opportunities for disabled people.

5. Who can apply?

At the deadline for the submission of proposals (14/09/2016), researchers (*):

- shall be in possession of a doctoral degree or have at least four years of full-time equivalent research

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experience;

- must not have resided or carried out their main activities in the country of Spain for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to the abovementioned deadline;
- should have good level of English and experience in European projects;
- should have research experience with quantitative and qualitative methodologies; and
- should have interest in the lines of research proposed in this document.

6. Contact person

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7. Applications: documents to be submitted and deadlines

Required documents:

- Full CV (Europass format)
- Letter of motivation

Deadline for submission: 15th July 2016

Please note that:

- Deadline of the next call for proposals for Marie Skłodowska – Curie Individual Fellowships is **September, 14th 2016**.
- Oficina Europea is only responsible for the display of the expressions of interests received by the institutions; further contact and information requests will take place directly between the host institutions and the interested researchers.

(*) Further details on the Call and additional eligibility criteria can be found at the [Participants' Portal](#)