



Housing and Services



IT-based property bank

SUBPROJECT: Housing and Services

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**Northern
Periphery
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Innovatively investing
in Europe's Northern
Periphery for a sustainable
and prosperous future



European Union
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Background

An aging population and fewer in production is a problem concerning all countries in Europe, but more so in the Northern Periphery. The sparsely populated area in the Northern Periphery represents a problematic environment; to provide elderly service in this area is both difficult and expensive.

“Our Life as Elderly” (OLE, 2004-2006) was a transnational collaborative project between the City of Luleå in Sweden, the Municipality of Bodø in Norway, the Faroese Association of Municipalities, the Centre for Rural Health in Scotland and the Municipality of Lieksa in Finland as well as other organisations.

OLE was actively focusing on developing elderly care based on the citizen’s needs, demands and wishes. This was done through active citizen’s dialogue targeting people that will be in need of care in 10 to 15 years. The dialogue with citizens through interviews, questionnaires and focus groups showed both similarities and difference between the participants. An overall conclusion and confirmed wish was clearly to stay in one’s home as long as possible. To facilitate this demand a number of development areas needed strong attention. Suggestions for the future were among others to plan, prepare and create a strategy for increasing the number of adjusted housings and to establish an overview of housing alternatives – a “housing bank”.

Findings from OLE has been transferred to the EU project OLE2, which focuses primarily on implementation and a presentation of products that were the result of the project OLE.

IT-based property bank

One of the goals for subproject Housing & Services was to create an IT-based solution that could administrate a municipality-based property bank, concerning adapted housing for senior citizens. We soon found out that Hjälpmedelsinstitutet (Institute of Assistive Technology) in Sweden together with SABO (Swedish Association of Public Housing Companies) were working on such a tool. During the project period they released “TIBB- a tool for taking an inventory of accessibility”. TIBB stands for tillgänglighet i befintlig bebyggelse or in English, accessibility of existing housing stock. ¹ TIBB focuses on surrounding areas and common areas indoors as well as outdoors.

TIBB can be used to gain an insight into the accessibility of existing properties. It may also be used for those who are looking for a new home adapted for special needs, such as accessible by wheelchair or by walker. TIBB is also a useful tool for local housing authorities since it makes it possible to find apartments suitable for disabled or elderly tenants.

¹ <http://www.hi.se/sv-se/Hjalpmedelstorget/Tillgangligt-boende/-/Tillgangliga-bostader/tibb/>

TIBB and can be used in conjunction with existing administrative systems and TIBB offers an educational material that introduces you to the program and how to use the tool.

Conclusion

Since we found out about an already existing IT-based tool that can be used to create a property bank we didn't put so much effort at this task. TIBB is a tool that perfectly matches the project goal and if someone is interested in subscribing the program they can get more information from www.tillgangligtboende.se/tibb or email tibb@hi.se

References

<http://www.hi.se/sv-se/Hjalpmedelstorget/Tillgangligt-boende/-/Tillgangliga-bostader/tibb/>