**Strengthening the Evidence Base to Support Healthy Aging in the Arab region.**

**An International Policy and Experts Meeting**

**Venue: Moataz Al Alfi Hall (Gate 4), AUC, New Cairo Campus**

**February 6-7, 2023**

**The American University in Cairo (AUC), Egypt Ministry of Health and Population (MOHP), and Egypt Ministry of Planning and Economic Development (MPED)** are hosting a strategic meeting during February 6th and 7th to discuss the regional needs for strengthening the evidence base for policies and actions to support healthy aging. The meeting aims to investigate the regional demands to launch an initiative for an aging study modeled on the international and well-acclaimed SHARE experience. Such an experience provided a rich evidence base that successfully contributed to knowledge and influenced policies and actions (e.g. health care, health insurance, pension and social protection, etc.…) in more than 50 Countries in Europe, Asia, and the American Continent.

The meeting is organized by the Institute of Global Health and Human Ecology (IGHHE) and the Social Research Center (SRC) of AUC, in collaboration and with support from the World Health Organization Eastern Mediterranean Regional Office (WHO/EMRO), the National Institute of Aging(NIA), the International Health and Retirement Study (HRS), the Harmonized Cognitive Assessment Protocol study (HCAP), the Survey of Health and Retirement in Europe (SHARE), Global brain Health Institute (GBHI).

The meeting draws on the international experience, the current regional efforts, and the experience of the Egyptian initiative EM-age.

Participants in the meeting include high level actors, scholars and experts from the Arab region. They include: The Minister of Health and Population in Egypt, the Depaty Minister of Planning and Economic Development in Egypt, and high-level representations of actors in the Planning, Health and Social sectors in different Arab countries, and Scholars in different universities.

**Agenda of the meeting**

**Venue: Moataz Al Alfi Hall (Gate 4), AUC, New Cairo Campus**

**Day 1 (Feb. 6): Focused policy level discussion: Do we need aging study in the Arab region?**

**9:30 – 10:00 Welcome:**

* **The AUC President**
* **Minister of Health and Population**
* **Minister of Planning and Economic Development**

**10:00 – 11:00 Session 1: The International Experience**

**Moderator: Hassan El-Fawal (I-GHHE)**

**HCAP: An introduction,** David Weir and Kenneth Langa (PIs HRS and HCAP)

**SHARE/EM-age a model of knowledge transfer,** Axel Boersch-Supan (Director, Munich Center for the Economics of Aging (MEA) and Managing Director of the Survey of Health, Aging and Retirement in Europe)

**11:00 - 12:00 Roundtable discussion**

**Moderator: Noha Mekawy (GAPP)**

**Challenges and Opportunities for having an Egyptian Aging Study Modelled on International Experiences**.

**Panel:** High Level Decision Makers in Egypt

Minister of Health and Population, Deputy Minister of Planning and Economic Development, Deputy Director of Academy of Scientific Research and Technology (ASRT), President of National Planning Institute & Former Minister of Planning and Economic Development, Professor Public Health & Former Minister of Health and Population.

The panel will discuss needs and demands for such a study; resource and capacities; roles and contributions of different bodies; organizational structure; engagement of different stakeholders (scholars, experts, civil society); public access; and sustainability issues.

**12:00 – 12:30 Coffee Breck**

**12:30 – 14:30 Session 2: Regional Efforts and their Evidence Requirements**

**Moderator: Samar Elfeky (WHO/EMRO**)

**Overview of efforts to develop national strategies for aging** (Virtual)**:** Dina Tannir (ESCWA)

**Dignified aging; country profiles and the evidence gaps:** Lina Alqurah (Help Age International)

**Country Experiences:**

**Lebanon:** Abla Sibai (American University of Beirut)**,**

**Jordan:** Khadeejah Alaween (National Council for Family Affairs)**,**

**Qatar:** Hanadi Al Hamad (Ministry of Health),

**Saudi Arabia:** Walid Alkeridy (Ministry of Health)

The session will discuss the level of commitment, engagement and approach to address aging challenges, and the availability of evidence to guide actions.

**14:00 – 15:30: Lunch**

**15:30- 16:30: Session 3: Models of Successful Collaboration**

**Moderator: Mohamed Salama (I-GHHE)**

**GBHI/IGHHE,** Brian Lawlor (Trinity College Dublin)

**NIA model of support for the HCAP and aging studies** (Virtual): Minki Chatterji (NIA)

**Health research prioritization: WHO perspectives:** Ahmed Mandil (WHO/EMRO)

**Day 2 (Fer. 7): How to Ensure Effective Utilization of Data and Findings of Aging Study?**

**Venue: Room P022, next Bassily Auditorium (Gate 4)**

**10:00 – 12:00 Session 1: Detailed Model of HCAP Study and its Knowledge Contributions**

**Moderators: Kenneth Langa (University of Michigan) and Jennifer Manly (Columbia University)**

**key findings from the first wave of the** **HRS-HCAP study** (USA): Jennifer Manly (Columbia University)

**L’SAHA** (Lebanon): Carlos Mendez (Georgetown University School of Medicine) & Monique Chayaa (American University of Beirut)

**TILDA** (Ireland): Ann Monaghan (Trinity College Dublin) and Joanne Feeney (Trinity College Dublin)

**HAALSI** (South Africa): Stephen Tollman (University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg)

The session will discuss experiences from the international HCAP network, harmonization of HCAP studies worldwide, the Language challenges.

**12:00 – 13:00 Lunch**

**13:00 – 15:00 Session 2: The Potentials of the SHARE tool to Contribute to Knowledge and Actions**

**Moderator: Hoda Rashad (SRC/AUC)**

**The SHARE tool and knowledge contribution:** Axel Boersch-Supan (Director, Munich Center for the Economics of Aging (MEA) and Managing Director of the Survey of Health, Aging and Retirement in Europe)

**The potentials of SHARE tool to guide strategies:** Zeinab Khadr (SRC/AUC)

**Social determinants of health equity in analysis:** Sherine Shawky (SRC/AUC)

**15:00 – 15:30 Coffee Breck**

**15:30- 16:30 Session 3: The Egyptian Experience: Potential Knowledge Contributions**

**Moderator: Ramadan Hamed (SRC/AUC)**

**EM-age study. From the pilot study to the next steps**: Sara El Farash (Faculty of Medicine, Mansora University).

**Impact of family support on the cognitive functions of Egyptian elderly:** Sara Aymen (Institute of Global Health and Human Ecology, AUC).

**Falls and Associated Risk Factors in a Sample of Old Age Population in an Egyptian Community**: Abd El Hameed Ebraheem (National Institute of Longevity Elderly Sciences, Beni Suef University).

The session will provide a report on EMage experience and its implications for national study and Illustrative Research.

**16:30- 17:00 Session 4: Closing session**

**Hassan El Fawal,** Director Institute of Global Health and Human Ecology

**Hoda Rashad**, Director Social Research Center

**Axel Boersch-Supan**, Director, Munich Center for the Economics of Aging and Managing Director of the Survey of Health, Aging and Retirement in Europe

**Mohamed Salama,** Associate Professor, Institute of Global Health and Human Ecology and P.I of Egypt Emage Study