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SHARING ECONOMY FOR SENIORS

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Further steps of SHES project

In the last weeks SHES project partners have been working on the translation of SHES' introductory study report. The leading partner E-seniors provided a summary of national sharing economy reports, with a focus on best practices in each country and its benefits and use by seniors.

Due to the virus outbreak the project partners, who are in contact by email, AdminProject platform and Skype calls, agreed to postpone certain activities, which cannot be implemented now and to adapt the work plan accordingly.

Sharing economy in the times of coronavirus outbreak

The coronavirus outbreak has changed our lives and affected many industries and services, also the ones based on sharing spaces, vehicles, services and objects. Social distancing and lockdown measures reduce the virus spread but consequently also prevent us from sharing – each other's company, but also spaces and services.

Many basic sharing services are closed: libraries, public transport etc. Even the modern ones, enabled by sharing economy on-line platforms, such as car-share and carpooling, short-term tourist stays and other services, are in a limbo. Some had to close down temporarily or for good, others reduced their offer or tried to adapt by releasing safety guidelines for customers and employees.

On the other hand, some innovative platforms have emerged: because of the restrictions in mobility, as people cannot leave their homes (or this is very limited) to purchase services and goods, these come to people's homes.



Home delivery became one of the most flourishing services in corona times: food from supermarkets, meals from restaurants, tools and devices etc. can be bought on-line on platforms or companies' websites and delivered to customers' homes.

For example: in Slovenia, as the supply of fresh farm-grown vegetables and other local products is currently limited, new local platforms appeared, where one can purchase vegetables, eggs, home-made bread etc., order home delivery and pay, all on-line. Certain platforms and social networks also enable volunteers' help and assistance for people in need. All the above mentioned online platforms and services are especially beneficial for the most vulnerable group in the time of corona crises - older people, who are also in the focus of our SHES project.

But more than ever, the current pandemic has shown how uncertain and precarious some initiatives of sharing economy are especially for those who work in it, what has also been observed and stressed by partners in their national reports.

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