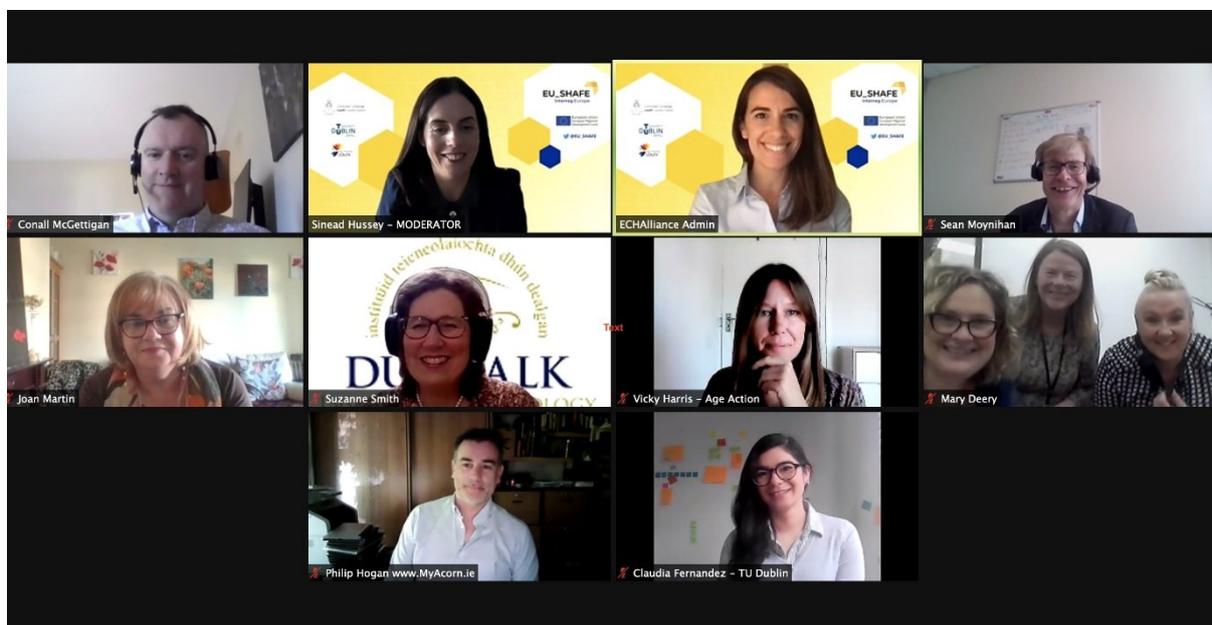


## PRESS RELEASE

30<sup>th</sup> May 2021

### Louth EU\_SHAFE 2nd Intense Sharing of Good Practices for inter-regional learning meetings

(27<sup>th</sup> May 2021, on-line)



#### *Louth EU\_SHAFE 2nd Intense Sharing of Good Practices for inter-regional learning meetings – Speakers' overview*

On Thursday the 27<sup>th</sup> May, Louth EU\_SHAFE hosted a webinar, “Can IT unITe us”?, which was attended by the EU-SHAFE partners, politicians and age friendly activists from Ireland and across Europe. The webinar was moderated by **Sinead Hussey**, RTE’s North East Correspondent and was an engaging and interesting event with a mix of videos and presentation with over 150 participants.

The event, opened by **Joan Martin**, CE, Louth County Council and President of the Covenant of Demographic Change, foreseen three main sections: good practices in social participation from Ireland and the other EU\_SHAFE European partners, analysis of social participation policies across the partner regions and a look at the next Regional Operational Programme in Ireland and a panel discussion featuring panellists from the technological sector, NGOs and Local Governments.

Drogheda and District Support 4 Older People, as the Louth EU\_SHAFE nominated good practice was highlighted by a video and an evaluation presented by **Suzanne Smith**, Centre Manager, Netwell/CASALA, Dundalk Institute of Technology.

Presentations of projects from Ireland using technology to advance social participation, highlighting the good work already being carried out on the ground, was made showcasing to the public 5 videos: ACORN, ALONE, SuperConnectors, Hands on SHAFE and Isaac.

The central highlight of the day was the panel discussion, “How do we advance social participation through technology”? The panellists were **Joan Martin**, **Sean Moynihan**, CE of ALONE and **Vicky Harris**, Head of Programmes, Age Action Ireland and **Philip Hogan**, Cliffrun Media and **Declan Murphy**, Isaac and myhomecare. The depth of experience of the panellists in the field of social participation provided for an interesting and lively discussion with a wide range of questions from Covid-19 and social participation to how policy can best aid social participation among older people. Joan Martin, CE Louth County Council, stated “The most important policy measure that could be implemented in the space of Smart Health Age Friendly Environments by authorities is that the age friendly concept should become a mindset”.

**Claudia Fernandez Rivera**, Technological University Dublin, presented to the public the way policy instruments address social participation analysing and comparing the policies from all of the EU\_SHAFE partner regions and **Conall McGettigan**, Northern and Western Regional Assembly, focused on future Irish policy in relation to the Regional Operational Programme in Ireland.

Before the closing remarks, space has been given to the EU\_SHAFE partners chosen good practices in the area of social participation. Showcased by videos, the Basque Country (SP) presented the Friendly Cities for everyone initiative, Caritas Coimbra (PT) the IDOVIS project, Hamburg the Neue Mitte – newly lived inclusion model project, Aarhus the Local centres in the Municipality, and Slovenia the Simbioza Giba project.

The full workshop recording can be found [here](#).

**#EU\_SHAFE**