

J.E.M.H. VAN BRONSWIJK, J. KNIES, I.J.A. DEKKERS. *From health profiles to dynamic Aging-in-Place. Gerontechnology 2010;9(2):268; doi:10.4017/gt.2010.09.02.177.00* **Purpose** Aging of society and the associated increase in care costs and variation in care needs has led to the use of health profiles in policy documents concerning the 3rd and 4th phase of life. The profiles arise from longitudinal aging studies and can be used to derive the user needs in the process of Aging-in-Place. In this contribution, the health profiles are used to improve housing for Aging-in-Place. **Method** Starting from the health profiles of the Netherlands, scenarios are devised to follow the changing spatial needs through the 3rd and 4th life phase. These scenarios are analyzed for the needed adaptability and flexibility of the spaces in and around dwellings. Results are checked in the virtual renovation of one selected type of dwelling production. **Results & Discussion** The Dutch aging population is spread over 6 different profiles. Since older persons may change health profile during life, their individual housing needs and aspirations can be even more diverse than those within a single profile. General needs and aspirations, and the drive of older persons to Age-in-Place, are taken from the geron(tech)nologic literature (*Table 1*). The resulting scenarios may span as much as 85% of the Dutch aged population. The project is still in the pilot phase and needs expansion to other construction processes and the health profiles of other regions.

References

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Address: Eindhoven University of Technology, Netherlands; E: i.j.a.dekkers@student.tue.nl

Table 1: Aging in the 6 health profiles of the Netherlands; Data are based on 2 cohorts¹⁻⁴

Characteristic	Health profiles											
	I. Cancer		II. Other chronic disease		III. Cognitively impaired		IV. Multimorbidity / Frailty		V. Cardiovascular disease		VI. Healthy aging	
	♀	♂	♀	♂	♀	♂	♀	♂	♀	♂	♀	♂
Life expectancy at 65 yrs	20.2	14.0	23.6	16.4	23.4	15.7	7.7	4.2	16.2	11.0	21.7	16.9
Course of aging	- Temporal discounting - Physical limitations - Depression		- Temporal discounting - Specific restrictions		- Decreasing cognition		- Temporal discounting - Physical limitations - Decreased cognition - Depression - Hearing problems		- Temporal discounting - Diabetes - Low vision		- Temporal discounting - Slow decrease of functions	
Aging-in-Place drive	+++		?		+		++		++		+++	
Aspirations & needs	- Diverting activities - Meaningful activities - No training for new activities		- Diverse, depending on type of chronic condition		- Diverting activities - Meaningful activities		- Diverting activities - Special support - No training for new activities		- Meaningful activities - Diverting activities - Special support - Increasing care need - No training for new activities		- Meaningful activities - Leisure, travel - Communication - Low care need - Increasingly less training for new activities	