



WESHARE WECARE

Memento on Intergenerational and Intercultural Homesharing

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WHAT IS IT FOR US?

“ INTERGENERATIONAL HOMESHARING ”

It refers to cohabitation between a senior and a young person, at the senior's home.

The cohabitation agreement is based on mutual solidarity: the older person hosts the student for a cost significantly below the market price, and the student supports the older person, sharing time on a day-to-day basis.

Behind every intergenerational homesharing, there is a local association involved, making sure that everyone is comfortable at every stage.

Intergenerational homesharing started more than 30 years ago. A significant part of the intergenerational homesharing is intercultural. As a fact, in 2021, about half of the young people involved in intergenerational homesharing are coming from a foreign country, in France (33% in Cohabilis), Spain (70% in Convive) and Belgium (48% in 1toit2ages).



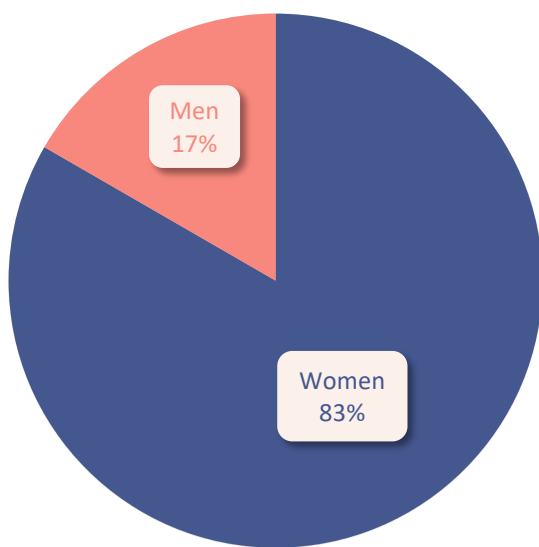
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WHO ARE THE PEOPLE HOMESHARING?

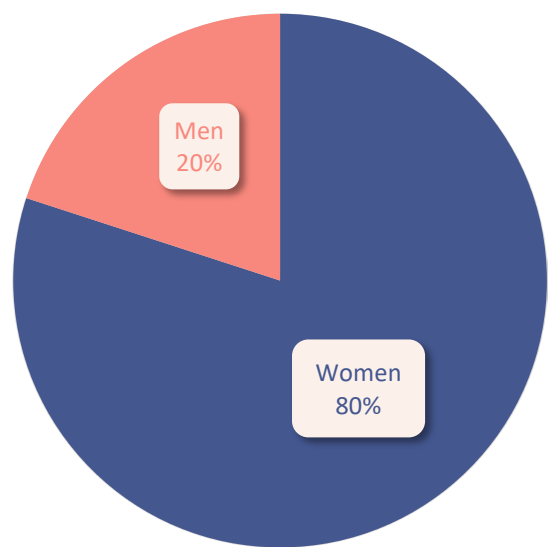
Intergenerational homesharing is happening between seniors and young university students.

We asked people engaged in homesharing in 11 European countries about their vision of intercultural and intergenerational homesharing.

Women are more likely to engage in intergenerational homesharing

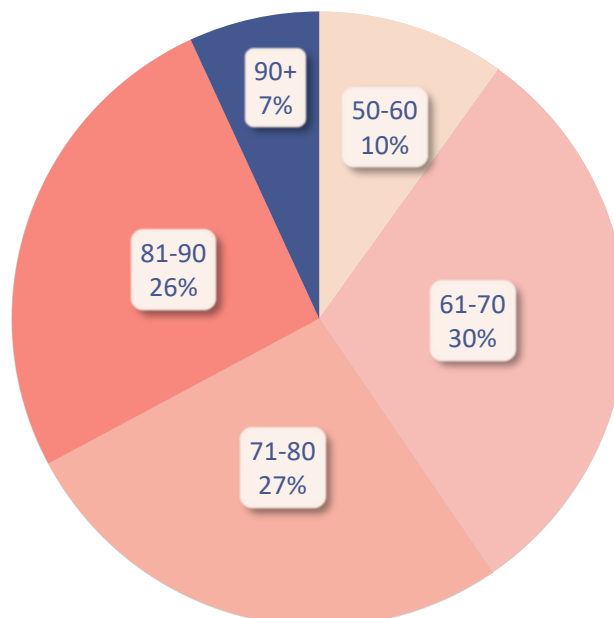


Seniors

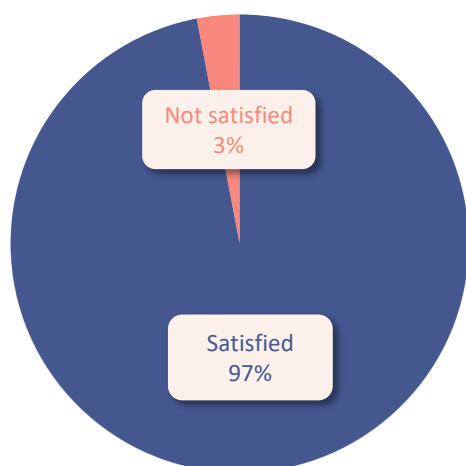


Students

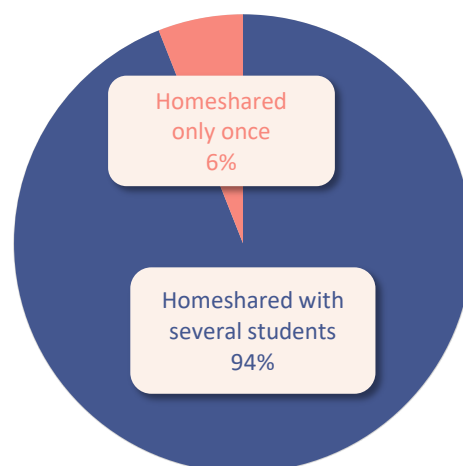
Most seniors engage in intergenerational homesharing after turning 70 years old



97% of the seniors were satisfied with their cohabitation with a young person

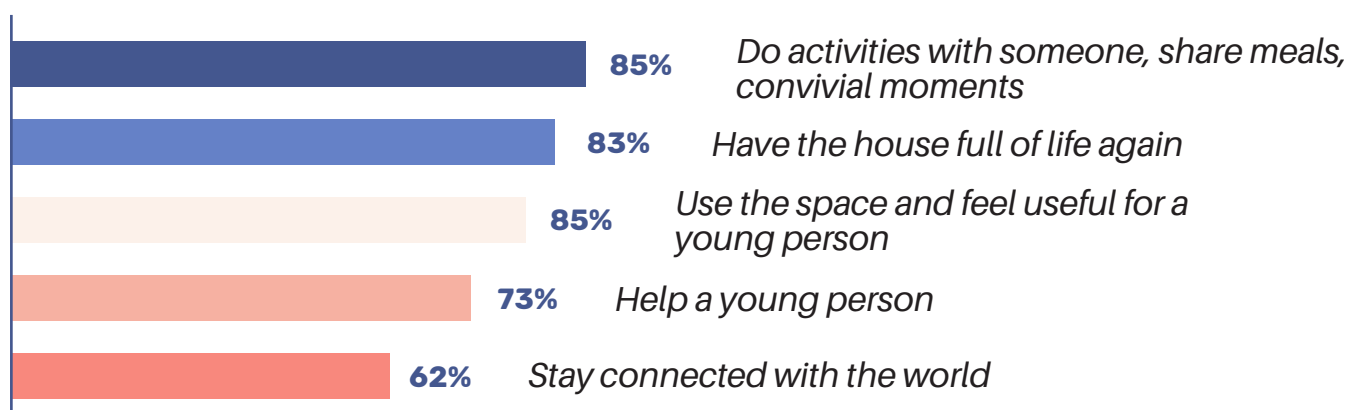


94% of them repeated the experience with another student

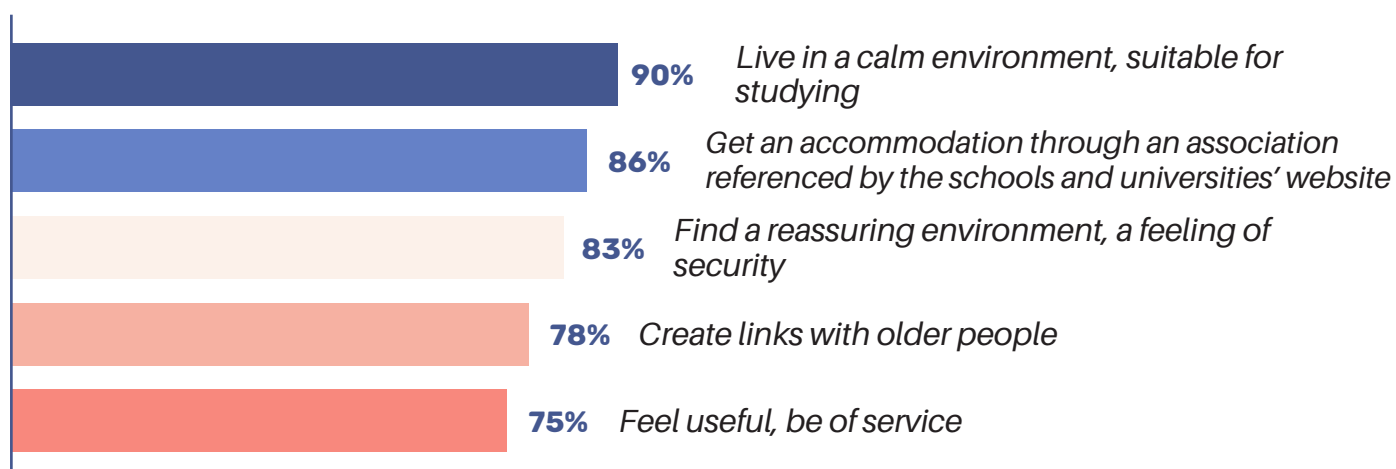


Their main motivations for homesharing are :

For seniors



For students



Find out more about the experience of both seniors and students with homesharing, and also about the perception of seniors and students who have not experienced homesharing.

VIEW THE FULL 2ND SURVEY REPORT
Levers and brakes of intergenerational homesharing

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WHY IS SOLIDARY HOMESHARING IMPORTANT?

We interviewed 22 organizations representatives from 4 European countries about Intergenerational and intercultural Homesharing. Here are the main conclusions of why it is relevant to them:

First of all, intergenerational and intercultural homesharing allows a **reconnection between different generations** in despite of a widening gap. It contributes to **social cohesion in our societies**. It allows a **transfer of competences** and of European historical memory.

For the elderly, it **allows a longer stay at their home and not aging alone**. Also, hosting someone younger is a cognitively and physically **stimulating experience**.

For the students, apart from **giving them access to a decent accommodation** to study, intergenerational homesharing **tackles loneliness and isolation**, a real issue in Europe these days. It also allows foreign students to **be welcomed by the local community**.

From both groups, we can observe that the generations are learning from each other during the homesharing experience. This learning is very varied, depending on the expectations and experiences of each "match". In every case, **the sharing of common activities is key for this mutual enrichment**. Also the intercultural and intergenerational homesharing is considered as a very important factor in the integration of the young person.

In our point of view, the intergenerational and intercultural homesharing is a solidarity initiative that makes **our European societies more resilient and socially sustainable**.

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CHALLENGES FOR DEVELOPING INTERGENERATIONAL & INTERCULTURAL HOMESHARING IN EUROPE

Developing intergenerational homesharing is about changing mentalities :

1. At individual level
2. At societal level in Europe

It is key to :

- Fight against ageism
- Fight about any prejudices against seniors and young people
- Tackle individualism and promote solidarity
- Get municipalities more involved and committed

When it comes to deterrents to participate in intergenerational homesharing, the reasons differ between students and seniors. For the former, the reasons are mainly linked to their wish for independence and the burden of the responsibilities in the context of intergenerational homesharing. For the latter, their reasons involve fears about the ability to get along with the student's lifestyle.

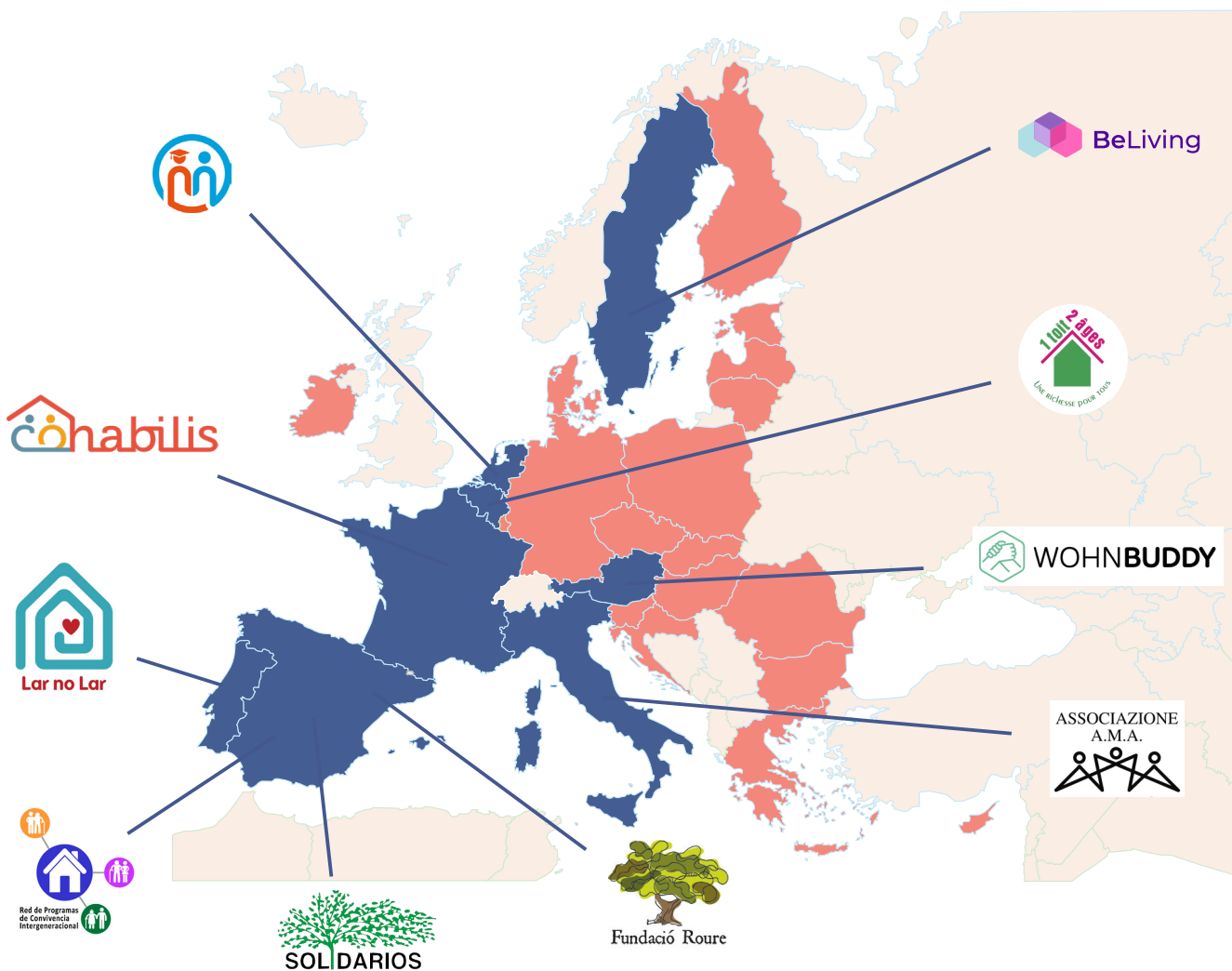
VIEW THE FULL FIRST SURVEY REPORT
Developing intergenerational & intercultural homesharing

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WHO ARE THE ACTORS INVOLVED IN INTERGENERATIONAL HOMESHARING IN EUROPE?

Behind every homesharing, there is a local association involved, making sure that everyone is comfortable at every stage of this human adventure.

The associations are the main actors, as they are managing and running the solidarity intergenerational homesharing schemes. They work locally directly with the people, so they are often organised in networks to better communicate and coordinate their actions. For example:



In Spain:

- Solidarios para el Desarrollo ("Convive", Madrid)
- Fundació Roure ("Viure i conviure", Barcelona)
- Red de Programas de Convivencia Intergeneracional (National)

In France:

- Cohabilis (Network of 39 associations)

In Belgium:

- 1Toit2Ages

In Italy:

- Associazione A.M.A (VIVO.CON)

In Sweden:

- BeLiving

In Portugal:

- Lar no Lar

In Austria:

- Wohnbuddy

In the Netherlands:

- Match Maastricht

Worldwide :

- Homeshare International : international network dedicated to solidarity homesharing in general, that includes intergenerational homesharing.

MUNICIPALITIES

Municipalities, through their departments dedicated to senior citizens, should have interest in collaborating with intergenerational homesharing schemes. Some municipalities are already funding and disseminating the intergenerational homesharing schemes to citizens in their local contexts.



Madrid municipality is a *Convive* partner (supporting the scheme with funding and informing the local seniors).



Barcelona municipality is a *Viure i conviure* partner.



CNAV: implementing partner of *WeShareWeCare* project.



Madrid remote assistance services (to older people): they inform seniors about intergenerational homesharing.

SOCIAL SERVICES

Dedicated to the people who might have needs, they definitely have an interest in preventing the effects of isolation for older people or students, and promoting mutual solidarity.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

They are dedicated to facilitating student's everyday life. They are concerned about possible issues students can be confronted with, such as isolation/loneliness, lack of affordable accommodation, lack of resources to have a proper environment to study, etc.

HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS (HEIS):

They have to ease the access to accommodation for their (international) students. However, in most European countries, HEIs are not particularly involved in homesharing programmes.



Erasmus Student Network (ESN): implementing partner of *WeShareWeCare* project.



European University Foundation (EUF): implementing partner of *WeShareWeCare* project.



HEIs in **Spain** are actively engaged.
The University of Alicante has its own intergenerational homesharing scheme.

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THE QUESTION OF THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK : WHERE WE ARE

Intergenerational Homesharing is legally recognised in only one European country: France.

In this case there is an ad-hoc legal framework that guarantees people's rights while cohousing under certain conditions.

In the rest of European countries where there is no dedicated public policy, the associations adapt to the national property law/renting law, to make intergenerational homesharing possible, without harming to participants' social rights and benefits.

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HOMESHARING ORGANIZATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE FUTURE

Intergenerational and intercultural homesharing is meant to be a practice of solidarity for social cohesion:

- The schemes should maintain the spirit of a tailor-made activity, developed at the local level to ensure human proximity.
- They should also ensure that the students' economic contribution remains below market prices as well as being a mutual-sharing component.

Intergenerational and intercultural Homesharing as a cross-sectorial issue:

- It must involve the public bodies, especially the municipalities at the local level.
- Ensure multi-sectorial collaborations, as in intergenerational and intercultural homesharing.

The importance of awareness-raising for sustainable societies:

- European stakeholders stress the importance of developing lobbying campaigns to raise the interest of decision-makers and get public policies to support intergenerational and intercultural homesharing in Europe.

WeShareWeCare is a project about **local European senior citizens** inviting **young people in mobility** to **share their home and spend time together**, for their mutual benefit.

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