

Age.Vol.A.

Ageing, Volunteers, Assistants. Multilingual tools for assisting the ageing

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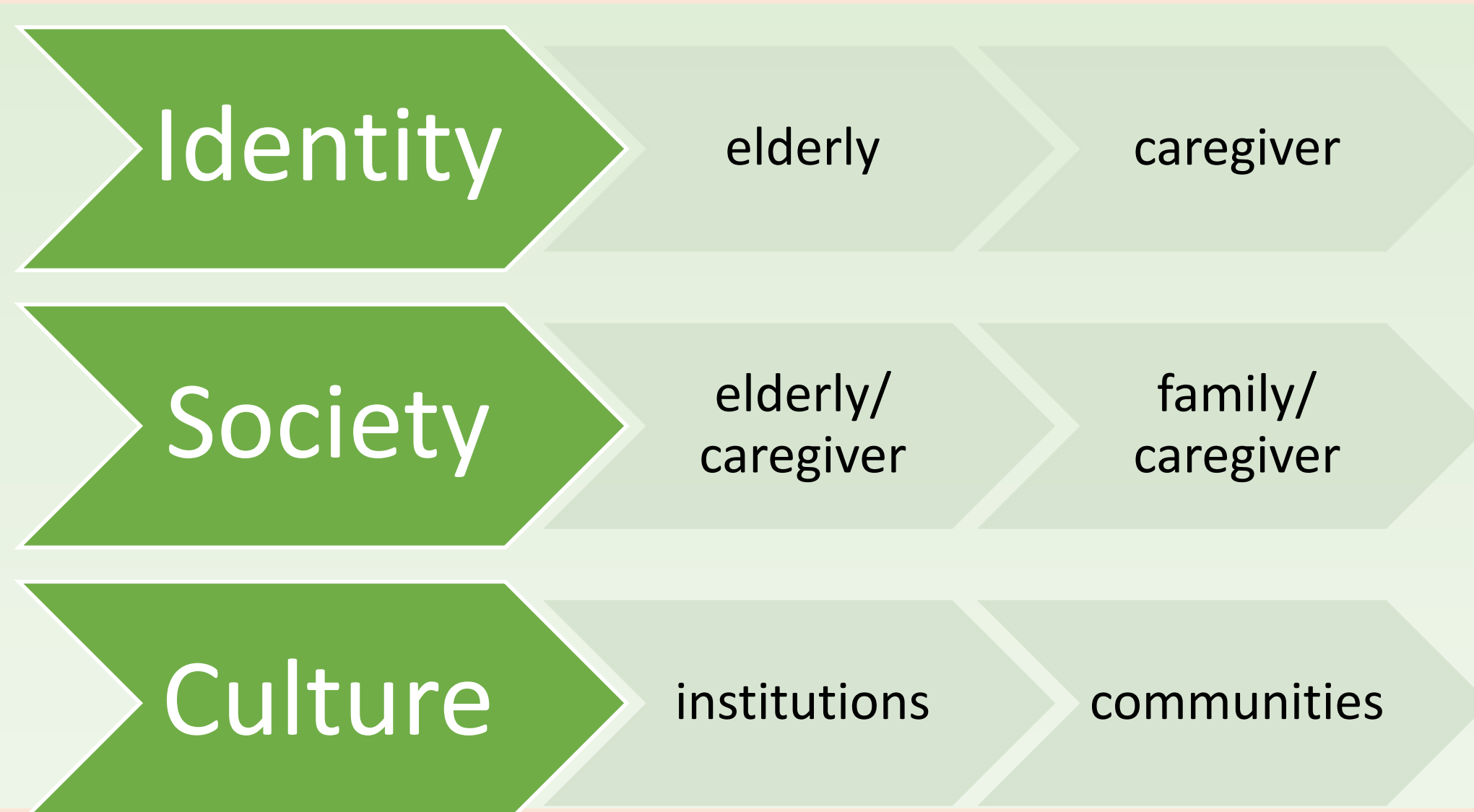
INTRODUCTION

“By 2030 Italy will be the fourth oldest country in the world” (Euromonitor International 2015). Domestic workers employed by Italian families are expected to reach 2,151,000 in 2030, of whom 77.3% are foreign and 60% work for seniors as caregivers. This population of foreign domestic assistants to seniors is itself ageing, and is expected to increase the already growing number of over-65s, who might in turn need assistance in the future. Varese is an 80,000-inhabitant city in North-West Italy, north of Milan and just south of the Swiss border; 13% of its population is over 55; and foreigners represent over 8% of the province’s population, a significant proportion of whom is employed as caregivers to assist elderly people in their homes.

PROVINCE OF VARESE

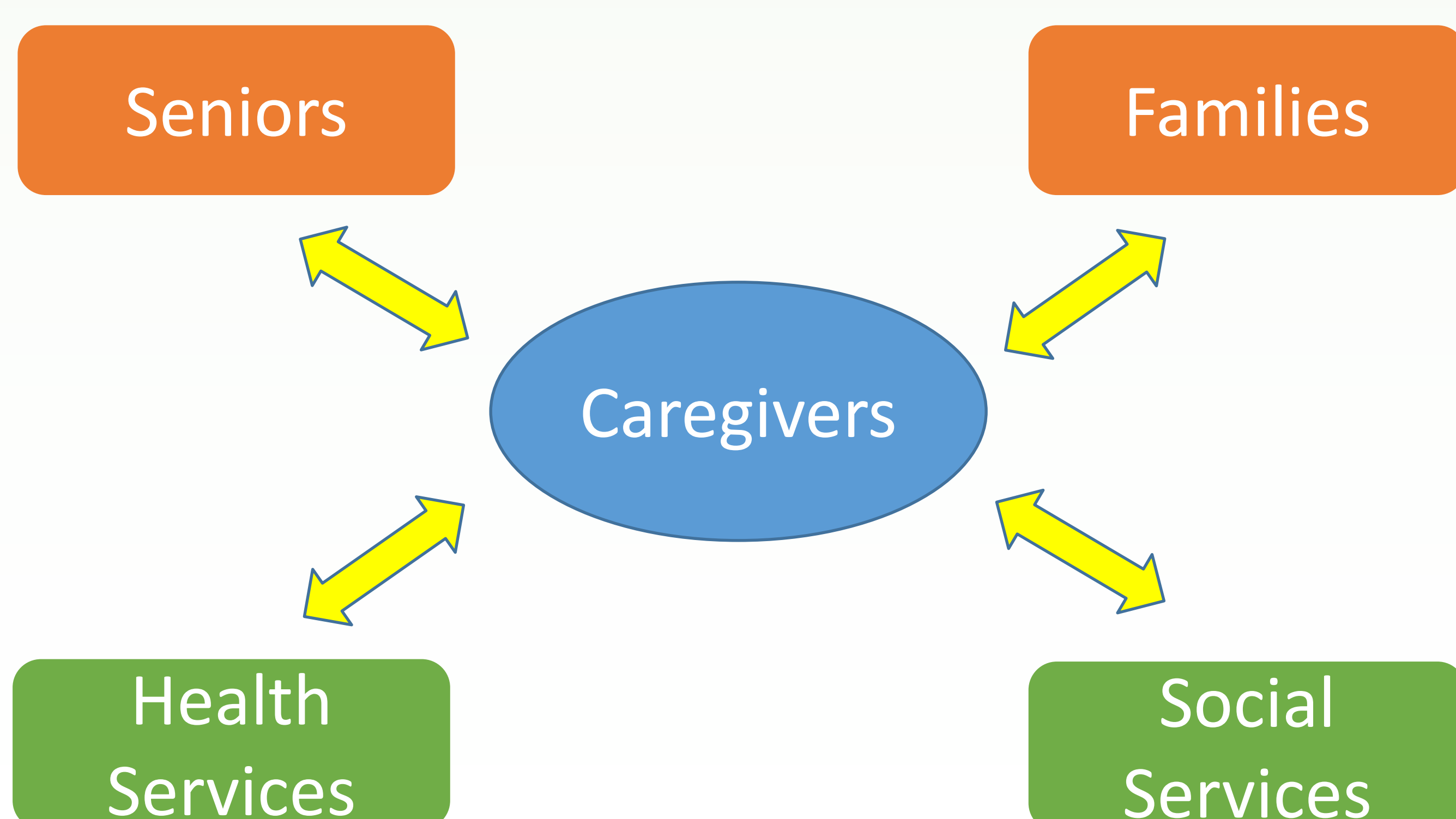


SOCIOLOGICAL DIMENSIONS INVOLVED



OBJECTIVES

The Age.Vol.A. project hypothesises that the linguistic and cultural barrier existing between home-assisted Italian **seniors** and their non-Italian **caregivers** can be removed or at least reduced by creating and introducing **multilingual tools** (a web portal and a smart device application) aimed at providing the caregivers with terminology and practical information related to their assisted and the institutions they usually deal with in the carers’ own language(s).



PROJECT PHASES

Study of senior and caregiver population in Varese

Theoretical models of communication

Design of applications/tools

CONTENTS OF THE TOOLS

Multilingual glossaries	Healthcare information	Physician contacts
Medication reminder	Institutional information	Administrative procedures
Emergency procedures	Family contacts	Social services

METHODOLOGY

The methodology will be primarily based on **Applied Linguistics**, particularly **Critical Discourse Analysis**, domain-specific discourse and Translation Studies (LangComm Unit); secondarily, the study will derive methods from social sciences, **Anthropology**, **Sociology** and **Communication Theory**, especially as regards the quantitative methods to describe the populations considered and for data collection and analysis, and the qualitative methods to interpret their spatial conditions and communicative needs (SocioComm Unit). Preliminary research has been carried out by the research team, especially as regards institutional online healthcare discourse, terminology, lexicography, linguistic and cultural mediation, anthropology and science dissemination. Young researchers will be involved in all the actions of the project, training them in scientific methods and involving them in the project’s dissemination, in order to develop their starting careers.

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