



# Barriers and facilitators of intergenerational relationships and of nine initiatives promoting the development of healthy, safe and welcoming living environments

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## INTRODUCTION

In a context of demographic aging, older adults are and will be many wishing to remain as long as possible, in their community<sup>1</sup>.

To live in a healthy, safe and welcoming living environment is, for them, an important concern<sup>2</sup>.

## OBJECTIVE

Identifying and better understanding the barriers and the facilitators of relationships and of nine intergenerational initiatives promoting the development of such environments.

## METHOD

This descriptive and comprehensive study, is based on the Contact Theory<sup>3-4</sup> and the Social organization perspective, community capacity frameworks and on qualitative methods.

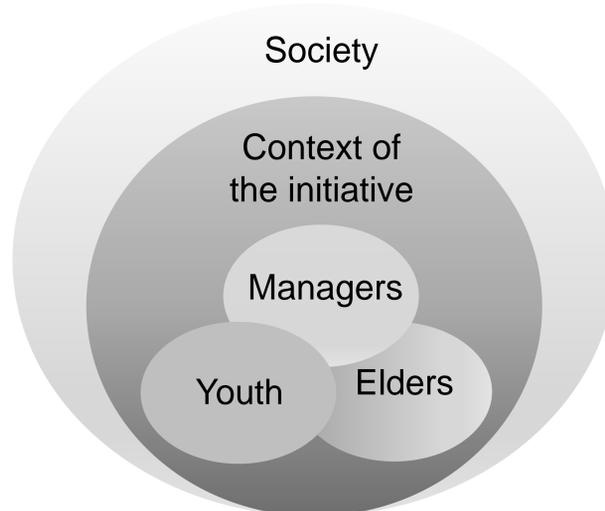
Nine out of the 444 initiatives inventoried on the Web (ex.: Résotâges) were selected according to three criteria: bidirectional relationship; innovative characteristic of the initiative; feasibility of its implementation and evaluation.

Individual and group interviews (n=18) with their manager and actors involved, and an analysis of mixed thematic contents are carried out.

## COLLABORATEURS

- Association québécoise de défense des droits des personnes retraitées et préretraitées Centre-du-Québec
- FADOQ – Région Centre-du-Québec
- Institut sur le vieillissement et la participation sociale des aînés de l'Université Laval
- Intergénération Québec
- Table régionale de concertation des personnes aînées du Centre-du-Québec

## PRELIMINARY RESULTS



A factor can represent a barrier or a facilitator of relationships and of the intergenerational initiatives according to the context in which it intervenes.

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Individual factors

**Young and older adults – Seeking contact with the other**  
“I only have one grandmother [...] which made me want to get close to someone of that age, to see what it was like” (young 4)

#### Managers – Persevere

Even if there are some parents saying “No, I am not interested in visiting old people in a residence”, well, there are others saying “I want to go”. Keep looking, even if there is a negative response (manager 2).

### Organisational factor

#### Preparing to meeting the other

“It’s to prepare them to this: to be there, in the presence of another person, to simply get to know that person. [...] When people are in this welcoming mood, it can only go well [...] it’s to be in the right state of mind” (manager 1).

### Interpersonal factors

**To be attentive to the harmony between the people according to their personality, values and interests**

“It’s fun to be matched with someone who has the same personality as you, you do the same things, you talk more. But, at times, it’s not as fun with people who are very quiet, like me, [...] they speak less” (young 2).

### Social factor

#### To be separated by a wall

“Here, this is a school and, there are many old people around but it feels like there is a wall in between these two age groups. It was interesting to be able to connect with these people because we do not see them often” (young 4).

## CONCLUSION

Despite the growing enthusiasm for the intergenerational initiatives, few writings are about their evaluation, resulting in little knowledge about their barriers and facilitators.

Over the next two years, three of the documented initiatives will be implemented and evaluated in the region of the Centre-du-Québec (region 17, Québec).

These will have previously been selected by young people and older adults.

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