**Introduction**

The problem: termites a serious urban pest

Drywood termite is an insect pest that causes great damage by consuming an entire house wood infra-structure. In the Azores it is dangerously well established and its impacts are increased when combined with the region’s regular seismic activity.

The pest is mainly established in the historical city centers, mostly composed by old housing and inhabited by aged citizen with low socioeconomic, literacy and physical mobility resources.

**T-SQUADS**  
Active aging and intergenerational cooperation in volunteer work: a pilot intervention on termite pest control in the Azores (Portugal)

**Objective**

1. Uncover the meanings, motivations and expectations of the elderly on participating in this intergenerational volunteering intervention;
2. Assess the interventions impact from the elderly point of view:  
   a. gains and achieved satisfaction towards well being and quality of life in the aging process;
   b. improvement measures

**Methodology**

1. Focus group interview conducted with 6 elderly participants;
2. Descriptive-interpretative analyses of collected data;
3. Thematic-categorical content analysis with a posteriori analytical grid building;
4. Concept mapping

**Results**

**Elder’s benefits**  
from participating in the T-Squads:

- acquiring knowledge
- social bonding
- feeling useful

**Elder’s volunteer profiles** taking into account previous experiences:

- empowering
- bonding
- mental training
- caring

**Elder’s motivations to participate in the T-Squads**

- spatial, temporal awareness
- continue to help other
- contribute to the elderly in social need
- plan identified area of mobility

**Discussion of Results**

Focusing on the elderly’s satisfaction and representations the T-Squads showed great potential in the promotion of intergenerational principles:

1. Quality of life through an active aging process
2. Strategies of getting closer and contact different generations and geographizing of mutual benefits
3. The solving of a social problem, despite demanding
4. Interventions’ scope enhancement to other communities in order to guarantee its offening, and not betraying the participants expectations
5. Incorporation of the participants suggested measures

**References**


**Innovative and Cutting-Edge**

- **T-Squads**  
  Intergenerational pilot intervention
  - teams of volunteers help risk area residents in the assembling of traps in the context of their home.
  - **method of implementation:**
    - Multidisciplinary and decentralised approach, allowing intersectoral cooperation among various agencies and institutions
  - **interventions typology:**
    - “Older adults and youth collaborating in service to community” Hatton-Yeo (2009)
  - **objectives & principles:**
    - 1. Mutual benefits: Recognise retired’s spare time as an added value and useful resource to the society & promote elderly well being and quality of life in the aging process;
    - 2. Challenge gerontophobia: by gathering dynamic, energetic, highly motivated aged citizens;
    - 3. Promote active citizenship by participating in the control of a public health and environmental problem;
    - 4. Strengthen the bonds in the community.

- In a 3 day intervention 610 houses were visited by: 39 volunteers (organized in teams of 4 to 5 elements being the older one the coordinator):  
  - 6 adults (average ages 66.5 and 55.0 years)
  - 33 youngsters (average ages 17.5 ±2.3 years)

- Implemented only in 5 parishes of 1 island later to be replicated in the remaining 12 parishes of other 5 Azorean islands also defined as risk areas.