

Fighting Loneliness

Society is challenged by a growing number of ageing people that live longer and age in place. A growing group of elderly is living alone and not receiving support. The lack of relationships combined with an increasing need of support leads not only to a decrease in empowerment, but also to loneliness.

Project overview

Many interventions have been developed to address loneliness. It is though hard to select a suitable one in an unique situation and to implement it. In addition the conditions to be able to implement the interventions matter: It depends on the type of loneliness and the motivation to participate socially. Furthermore service providers are expected to make the transition to community-based services. This has an impact on the different roles professionals must play.

Professionals need to know which interventions can be implemented, what their role is and what the required skills are to carry it out. Hence, we want to exchange good practices for the innovation of approaches of social inclusion, with the aim of improving the skills and competencies of students and professionals in the field of care and welfare.

Results of this project

- Overview of interventions for alleviating loneliness, categorized in the typologies of loneliness
- Analysis of the methods to alleviate loneliness including the required roles of professionals to implement them and their necessary skills to carry it out.
- Evaluation of the good practices and learning practice on their strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats.
- Collection of recommendations for organizations working with lonely elderly on potential interventions and the required roles and skills of the professionals.
- Collection of existing (innovative, experimental) vocational training methods to deal with loneliness among elderly.
- Paving the way for first ideas of joint international education programs around loneliness among elderly.







Events

International meetings

- October 2017: kick off Rotterdam the Netherlands.
- February 2018: Nacka Sweden.
- lune 2018: Crete Greece.
- November 2018: Marseille France.
- February 2019: Venice Italy.
- June 2019: Final dissemination meeting: Roeselare and Brussels.

Partners

- Rotterdam University of Applied Sciences the Netherlands, Elin Koppelaar, e.koppelaar@hr.nl
- Zorgbedrijf Roeselare- Belgium, Laurens Deboeuf, laurens.deboeuf@zbroeselare.be
- Region of Crete- Greece, Katerina Vlasaki, avlasaki@crete.gov.gr
- Nacka Municipality- Sweden, Kerstin Seipel, kerstin.seipel@nacka.se
- Centre Communal d'Action Social de Marseille- France, Amandine Morelli, a.morelli@ccas-marseille.fr
- CO.GE.S. Don Lorenzo Milani, Società Cooperativa Sociale-Italy, Lisa Leonardini, lisaleonardini@cogesdonmilani.it
- The city of Rotterdamthe Netherlands, Karel Haga, kh.haga@rotterdam.nl
- European Network of Social Authorities-Italy, Elena Curtopassi, elena.curtopassi@regione.veneto.it

Associated: Veneto Region Brussels's Office https://www.regione.veneto.it/web/sede-di-bruxelles valentina.faraone@regione.veneto.it