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Intercoalitions event and Steering group meeting

15 November 2012
9.00 – 12.30 and 13.30 – 15.30
Meeting Venue: HUSA
President Hotel, Brussels



Morning session: Intercoalitions event

Introduction by Anne-Sophie Parent (AGE)

Anne-Sophie welcomed the representatives from the national coalitions and thanked them for their participation in the WeDO final conference which was very successful. The aim of the meeting is now to see how together we can build on the WeDO outcomes and discuss we can continue the wonderful work done in the project at EU and national level.

At EU level, many opportunities are available at the moment.

- 1) The **European Innovation Partnership on active and healthy ageing** (EIP AHA) is a process in which AGE is actively involved. In particular in the action group on 'age-friendly environments'. This is a work requiring the involvement of national, local and regional authorities, service providers and researchers. AGE has created a virtual network for age-friendly environments in which every organization willing to develop age friendly environments can share experiences across Europe. The outcomes of the WeDO project will feed into this process.

- 2) Linked to this network, AGE is also lobbying for the launch of a **Covenant on demographic change**. Such a structure already exists for climate change. This Covenant would gather local and regional authorities around the topic of demographic change and would allow them to work together. There is a growing interest and support for this proposal at EU level.
- 3) The upcoming research programmes will include a lot of references to active and healthy ageing, etc.

Now the European Commission is convinced that demographic change is an area where money needs to be invested, and we are lobbying with other NGOs to ensure that demographic ageing is included as an objective in cohesion funds as well.

A call for proposal is opened at the moment by DG EMPL (2012/VP/007) targeting public authorities to develop social experimentations. That would be a good way to approach your public authorities and convince them to propose a project based on WeDO. The call is 80% co-funded by the EU.

In parallel AGE will anyway continue to follow the implementation of the WeDO quality framework as part of its regular policy work.

Summary of the national strategies by the 13 national and EU coalitions and follow up strategies for the WeDO project by Maude Luherne

- [Link to the power point presentation](#)

Discussions after the PPT

The French coalition is in a difficult position but they will continue to work with the Ministry of Social Affairs and see if a foundation would be interested to support the French coalition and finance a transnational meeting.

The Italian coalition will continue to work together. Prevention of elder abuse was considered as a common interest to all members. They still lack funding, as in Italy LTC is decentralized, but also of policy makers support. They will try to involve them more in the work the coalition is doing and better involve the different levels of decision makers.

The Finnish coalition will seek to influence a 'reformation' work based on the WeDO quality framework at policy level. They are quite optimistic of the impact this can have in Finland.

The Dutch coalition will continue to work in others already existing groups on LTC. The coalition will seek for new contacts and continue to get inspired by each other and inform on each other's progress, and team up to implement the principles.

The German coalition will do the same as in the Netherlands: a lot is already going on so the German coalition will be included in several policy processes in Germany.

The Greek coalition is looking for ideas, especially for funding. They learned a lot through WeDO, and especially that they can do much more by working together. They will launch a networking webpage including the members of the coalition and encourage other organisations to join the coalition. There will be a search engine with key words to find each other. The coalition is a good opportunity to work with the ministry as well and they will ask them to include an amendment in the law concerning older people to include the EU charter and the EU quality framework.

The Slovene coalition will try to work more outside the capital city, in rural areas and will work on three items: education, providers in health, and judiciary system. The European Quality framework and EU Charter should become mandatory, Marjan said.

Breaking-out sessions

Objective: propose follow up strategies on how to continue the WeDO Partnership virtually and exchange experiences on national strategies

The participants were divided into 4 groups around two main questions:

- What do you think of the proposed follow up strategy/do you have any ideas on how to continue the transnational work of the WeDO project?
- Do you see any obstacle to implement your national strategy? Do you see solutions to overcome these obstacles?

Results

- What do you think of the proposed follow up strategy/do you have any ideas on how to continue the transnational work of the WeDO project?

1) Disseminate the EU quality framework

- Use AGE Platform Europe to disseminate results
- Organise events at national level, as foreseen in some coalitions: EDE board meeting, event on active ageing in Finland, dissemination among occupational therapists in Greece
- German and Italian websites will be kept updated, development of a Greek website
- Contact MEPs and the European Commission and inform them on the EU quality framework
- Include regular update on follow-up activities of WeDO partners in Coverage (AGE monthly on-line magazine)
- Use email alerts to invite people to come to see the website
- Organise side events at conferences in which some WeDO partners will be participating
- Send a WeDO 'delegation' in conferences
- Ask conference organisers to give a timeslot for WeDO partners to speak about the project
- Contact other EU projects working on the same topic

- Objective: EU quality framework should become a reference document

2) Use it as a tool for a 'common vision' in policies, at EU level but also at national/local level

- Lobby all relevant policy processes at national and EU level using the WeDO EU quality framework
- Support contacts between groups (NGOs, local authorities, etc.)
- Ask the SPC to refer to the WeDO EU quality framework in their work on quality of LTC.

3) Monitor the implementation of the EQF

- Fix priorities at EU level to be applied to all national coalitions
- Develop a clear process to monitor the implementation of the EQF, using a template including 3-4 indicators/priority areas to be monitored in each country along the years. This would help to get a roadmap in each country according to different objectives.
- Use a LinkedIn group to share experiences (better than a forum)
- Virtual exchange not enough: need to visit each other to keep the EU dimension alive – Proposal to meet at Age festival in Ljubljana organized beginning of October.
- Skype meetings could work to keep contact
- Use one day (like 15 June) on which the partnership would have a shared commitment to raise awareness of the Quality of care and fight against elder abuse in their country and at EU level.
- Use quantitative measures to follow up the implementation (number of people contacted?)
- One person in each coalition dedicated to follow the progress made and see how the principles are fulfilled

4) Implement the EQF

- Use the 'train the trainer' model developed by the Belgian coalition
- Encourage local/regional authorities to apply for cohesion and structural funds to promote projects around the EQF
- Look for other funding sources (Grundvig for ex., or research project)
- Choose a specific topic (like the fight against elder abuse) and develop pilot projects with companies (Vodafone?) who are sensitive on our priorities

■ Do you see any obstacle to implement your national strategy? Do you see solutions to overcome this obstacle?

- Some feel it is "One more document", and people don't see its added value
- In France, quality is not the competence of only one agency, but several ones, depending from several ministries. They hope that the EQF will help to coordinate these different agencies.
- Time and money : Time given by partnership leaders as volunteers could be limited + impact of austerity measures

Adoption of the joint statement on follow up and conclusions

The joint statement was supported by the participants and signed. Anne-Sophie concluded by stating that the project achieved very good results despite the fact it was difficult to explain at the beginning. There will be funding opportunities in the future and we hope to continue to work together.

Afternoon session: Steering group meeting

Budget issues

The final report should be sent by AGE to the European Commission by the end of February. Maude will send a template to gather all the activity reports. Deadline: 21 December.

We hope that the European Commission will agree quickly on the final report so the last payments can be made to you quickly.

An external evaluator was hired as foreseen in the budget to measure the direct impact of the project. Her name is Agnieszka Krason from Canaletto Research Consultancy. Her evaluation work will be a good first step to help us measure the impact of the EU quality framework in the upcoming years.

Follow up strategy for the WeDO partnership

The creation of 'partnership leaders' was considered as a good idea. Several ideas to ensure the sustainability of their role were proposed:

- Train older volunteers to do the follow up
- Yearly rotation of partnership leadership within the national coalition
- Organisation of 2-3 meetings a year of partnership leaders and members of the coalition
- Select 'experts' to follow specific topics and/or have a 'theme' for one year to follow

Meet again and share experiences: several ideas were discussed:

- The 15th June should be used as a specific day for the WeDO project. We should prepare a common message to be disseminated all over the partnership on that day. This could be used as a common press release.
- Marjan proposed to meet on 1st October in Ljubljana. We should seek funding for travels. The ['learning partnerships'](#) could be a good opportunity to continue our work. Each organisation can apply at national level for funding. The only limit is that funding is limited to national activities and is not available for coordinating these partnerships.

- Anne-Sophie proposed to organize a visit of the European Parliament through an MEP, and to meet on that occasion.
- The LinkedIn group should be opened to everybody. It will be moderated by AGE.
- We should organize a skype meeting around March and around June. A proposal was made to use Adobe connect.

The link to the WeDO website and to the EU quality framework should be made available online on all partners and coalition members' websites. The documents should be made visible.

The choice of indicators was considered as a good idea to follow up progress. They should include the use of a participatory approach.

The Belgian coalition will develop a train the trainer module based on the EU quality framework. A potential project could be to adapt it to different target groups and test it.

All organisations could do like in Ireland: benchmark their own activities against the WeDO quality principles. Ireland will also seek to include the EQF in the service agreement at local level. WeDO could also be used in research work.

END of the meeting.