



## Welcome to the first newsletter of the WeDO2 project!

WeDO2 is a European project started in September 2013 which aims to **improve quality of care for older people in Europe**. Coordinated by the Vrije Universiteit Brussels (Brussels), it aims in particular to develop and test **easy-to-use educational tools** in 7 countries: Belgium, Germany, the UK, Poland, Austria, Greece and the Netherlands. It also aims at improving learning of experiences between the countries and facilitating cooperation between services.

Trainings will be tested on different groups, i.e. care professionals, older persons, policy makers and service providers, volunteers, informal carers and use a train-the-trainer approach.

WeDO2 is the follow up of the first WeDO project which developed a European Quality Framework of long-term care services:



It is funded by the European Commission Grundvig-learning partnerships programme.

**You can find more information on the WeDO website at the following link:**

[www.wedo-partnership.eu/wedo2](http://www.wedo-partnership.eu/wedo2)

**You can also contact**

Liesbeth De Donder, Project coordinator

Email: [liesbeth.de.donder@vub.ac.be](mailto:liesbeth.de.donder@vub.ac.be)





## I. Project News

### ■ Transnational meetings

Until now, two transnational meetings were organized: the first in Brussels on 6-7 November 2013, and the second in Bonn/Cologne on 18-20 March 2014.

The first meeting aimed at getting all partners know each other and start 'brainstorming' on a first version of the train the trainer module on quality of care. For that purpose, each partner introduced a good practice related to training on quality of care.

The second meeting aimed at testing among the partners a first version of the train the trainer module, improve it and start the preparation of the first tests in each country.

Each meeting was organized back to back with a study visit (see below).

The next one will take place from 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> October 2014 in Athens, Greece.



### ■ Study visits

The study visit are part of the learning experience. They create a space for creative and innovative ideas, and offer a wide diversity of knowledge and experience on what can be meant by 'good quality care'.

- **First study visit: Domaine de Rièze de de Sarts, Stay-together Home for elderly adults at Couvin (Belgium, November 2013)**

The Domaine is a senior citizen's home with a strong focus on humanity and warm-heartedness. The core idea is mutual respect and autonomy of the resident. Mr. Dominique Bignerion (director of Domaine) illustrated this by several stories and anecdotes during the study visit.

The values and functioning of this Domaine are adapted as much as possible to the needs and wishes of the residents, which means:

- Consider the routines of their previous life
- Maintain their aptitudes as much as possible in collaboration with them
- Offer them an actual room for freedom
- Respect the right to express their will on the subjects concerning them
- Give them the chance to enjoy a social, cultural and spiritual life
- The opportunity to share their skills and interests

You can read more on that visit here: [Study visit Belgium](#)





- **Second study visit: Cologne initiatives for older adults (Germany, March 2014)**

The participants had three ‘visits’ in Cologne.

They visited first the “[Paul Schwellenbach Haus](#)” where they were introduced the organisation “Kölner Seniorennetzwerke” (Cologne Senior Citizens Networks) aiming to encourage personal participation, autonomy and solidarity, and to find opportunities to be active in the neighborhood.

They had a presentation on the “[Dementia-Service Centre Region of Cologne and the Southern Rhineland](#)” aiming to initiate, support and network low-threshold assistance and care. One very successful project initiated by the service is the Dancing again! Project, where people with dementia and their relatives are dancing in dance clubs all over Germany.

Finally, they had a guided tour for people with dementia in the Museum Ludwig by the association “[Dementia and Art](#)” who cooperates with the educational service of the museum. The main aim during such a tour (5 museums are connected) is improving the cultural participation of people with dementia.

You can read more on that visit here: [Study visit Germany](#)

- **29 April 2014: WeDO care for intergenerational solidarity!**

On the 29 April, EU Day for intergenerational solidarity, the WeDO2 wanted to remind the importance for all generations to care for each other and see their complementarity.

They shared on that important day a short video called “What is that?”

- [Link to the video](#)

- **First test of the train-the-trainers module in Poland**

The first Polish meeting (test of the trainings) took place on 8 May, at the Intergenerational Volunteer’s Center in Lublin (160 km southeast from Warsaw). 22 women of age 50-72, participated in the workshop.

Elzbieta Iwanicka, the moderator, started with film “Ada” from which she concentrated on dementia issues, followed by cards with different pictures. The presentation was finished by the short movie “[What is that?](#)” All participants stated that the last film was great, very topic orientated and very message clear and that it should be shown to everybody at any age.

The most important issue for all women was to “feel safe in a friendly, loving and family driven environment”. “I want to be like this tree guarded by two lions”, said one of them pointing at a picture showing a big, strong tree with two lions comfortably lying on both sides. Comfort, freedom of choice, safety, dignity and respect were words used in this workshop. Furthermore all agreed that such workshops should be held for young people to make them realize that they should start thinking about their future earlier in their lives in order to make wise decisions.

Due to profound interest in the topic Elzbieta decided to hold a second test of the trainings on 6 June (Lublin). This time there will be young and old volunteers discussing the issues of long-term care as well as the rights of older people in need of care and assistance.





## II. News from the WeDO partnership

At the end of the first WeDO project, it was decided to continue exchanging good practices. Twice a year, the broader WeDO partnership (WeDO 1 and WeDO 2 project partners) meet to share experiences and information on the use of the European quality framework and on news/events on quality care in their countries.

The coalitions continued their activities through awareness raising campaigns (like in [Sweden](#)), through the development of tools based on the Quality framework (like in [Austria](#)), or by using directly the Quality framework as a reference document in ongoing and future reforms or policy debates on long-term care (like in Slovenia, in Finland or in Greece). At EU level, WeDO is mentioned in several key reference documents on care such as the OECD '[A good life in old age](#)' publication (2013), or the [European Commission Staff working document on long-term care](#) (2012).

### ■ Successful event in Belgium

On 18 February 2014, The Belgian WeDO coalition organised a successful seminar on the WeDO project and the European quality framework for long-term care. Four Belgian Ministers participated to the event.



The European Quality Framework for Long-Term Care and its principles were illustrated with "good practices" from Belgium and questions like how the European quality framework can be translated into practice and what are the advantages and obstacles that we encounter in practice as a caregiver or older person were discussed.

You will find more information here: [Link to the Belgian event](#)

### ■ WeDO in Spain: Awards on person-centred care

WeDO is also active in Spain thanks to the Foundation for person-centered care and the catalan organisation FATEC, who started in 2013 the launch on a Spanish coalition of organisations committed to promote the EU quality framework for long-term care services. Several events were already organized and many stakeholders already know about WeDO in Spain. One key update is the fact that on 3 June will take place the Day on person-centred care. On that day, Awards on Person-centred care practices will be introduced and debates and reflections on quality care will be held. It will take place in the Ministry for Health, Social services and equality. More information [here](#) and on the Spanish coalition [here](#).

More information on the WeDO movement: [www.wedo-partnership](http://www.wedo-partnership)

