



I. Project News

■ Transnational meetings

From the 18th to 20th March 2015 was organized the fourth transnational meeting of WeDO2 in Warsaw, Poland.

The meeting aimed at exchanging experiences on additional training activities partners organised, finalise the training guide short and long version, plan for the 'after' WeDO2 and prepare the final event.

Partners exchanged very interesting ideas on how to ensure the spreading and use of the training material after the project ends. As an example, Poland is planning to organise a coalition meeting and to develop, with the support of municipalities, trainings in schools ; Austria plans to get an agreement with the Ministry of Labour and Social affairs to train trainers in each of the regions, in order to get contact centers in each region ; Belgian and Greece plans to include the WeDO training in its educational programme (social gerontology and nurses) ; in the Netherlands, the work of WeDO will fit into a recently created 'ethical committee' on the rights of users in care. AGE will finally organise a training for its member organisations and encourage its member to use, spread and translate the training.



The final EU event will be organised in Slough (the UK) on the 18th June 2015, around the World awareness day against elder abuse. The event will aim at bringing to the participants this dynamism and learning experience from the project. The participants also planned dissemination activities to mark the 29th April, EU day for solidarity between generations.

Our Austrian partner Bernhard Hofer kindly prepared videos based on pictures taken during the transnational meeting. You can see them at the following link: <http://wedo.tttt.eu/wedo2-meeting-and-visits-athens-october-2014>.

■ Study visits

The study visits 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'.

● Fourth study visit: Hoogeweyk dementia village in the Netherlands

The Dutch team invited the WeDO2 partners for a visit in the Netherlands to the Hoogeweyk village for persons with dementia, on 9 february 2015. This concept of a dementia village is a design concept including: common and familiar building blocks lifestyles built from a social approach, based on a analysis of day to day life and the need to create conditions for the



residents so that they are challenged by recognizable incentives to remain active in daily life. In the nursing home groups residents with shared interests and backgrounds live together in a lifestyle-group. The design and decoration of the homes and surroundings is tailored to the lifestyles.

Brigitte Paetow, member of the German regional senior citizens' advisory council Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, was part of the visit. "I was very curious to see if and what difference would I recognize in the care for older people with limited everyday skills. My pooled conclusion: The starting point of the concept is respect for the dignity and the maintenance of well-being of older people in need of support in the difficult phase of life of the disease with dementia. To make these people's lives as normal as possible so far, is not only a medical problem, but requires an understanding of the whole society. So I decided to make this concept Hoogewyk also known in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern, a German region which is currently working on a plan entitled "Growing old in Mecklenburg-Vorpommern". Long-term care will play a dominant role in this plan. In addition, I've also used seniors conferences and newspapers to activate many multipliers for this topic and so far as to always get feedback affirmative resonances. Since I already have reached the age of 75 years, it is not excluded that such cases of illness also can affect even me. Then I would like to be cared as in Hoogewyk."

A video on the village is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LwiOBlyWpko>

- **Fifth study visit: Ministry of Labour and Social affairs and Alzheimer Center in Warsaw**

The WeDO2 partners had the honour to take part to a specific meeting on long-term care and quality in Poland, in the premises of the Ministry of Labour and Social affairs. The meeting enabled project partners to get acquainted with current initiatives happening in Poland to improve quality care services, by the Ministry, and by social services and NGOs.

Key initiatives that were introduced were the following:

- The Polish Long-term senior policy 2014-2020, elaborated in cooperation with older people organisations, as well as the comprehensive strategy on long-term care in the framework of the EU Progress funding programme. (link: <http://www.senior.gov.pl>)
- A programme of assessment of social investment policies was presented. This programme aims to support policy makers by assessing the cost of inaction on the short, medium and long-term. The programme is being tested in the sector of Pruszkow in the area of social care for older people.
- Examples of services provided to older people were given, with warm and positive examples of what is good quality of care in old age, including for persons with dementia.

On the second day, the participants went to visit the **Alzheimer center in Warsaw**. The center is in the middle of a green area but in the city of Warsaw. It is both a day care center and a residential care home. The center includes a very wide variety of services including: rehabilitation services (wellness and physical activities) and leisure and arts activities (dance, art, cooking), all with therapeutic objectives. The visitors appreciated particularly the empathy



and warm relationships between the staff and the residents. The Alzheimer center management team was committed to improve quality of care for the residents.

■ Belgium organizes an additional training in a nursing home

The Belgian French-speaking partner Espace Seniors organized last 26 February a session in Brussels to test activity 1 “Pictures as Symbols for Quality Care” of module 1 “VISION”. This session was hosted by Mara Barreto and organized at the retirement home “*Les jardins d’Ariane*” in Brussels. The session was scheduled to last for 1 hour and it was attended by 12 residents. The mean age of this group was 85 (maximum of 94 and minimum of 72). Most were female. Two staff psychologists also attended the session.



The activity consisted on showing several pictures and asking each participant to select the one that represents good care for them. The residents discussed the chosen pictures in group and the ideas were written as key words on a flip chart. The original idea was to avoid giving any advice on how to choose the picture in order to prevent bias. The price to pay was that several participants had never been in such an activity and did not know how to tackle it or where to start from. So, some examples had finally to be given (i.e. “if warmth is a key component of quality care for you, then, you should chose a picture with fire or similar”). At the end of the discussion the group chose 5 key words from the assembled list that best represented quality care to them. Their wrapping up was the following:

- Restful in calmness
- Trust in the others
- Well-being = freedom/relax
- Feeling at home, in safety

At the end of the session, all participants gave their feedback. Written evaluation was done once the activity was finished and during their daily tea break. Questionnaires were filled in with the help of two psychologists (i.e. to write down spoken answers). The original questionnaire was reduced to 3 questions to improve the ascertainment rate, as it would be easier for this particularly aged population. About 3/4 of the residents said they were satisfied. Regarding the outcome of the open questions, half of the participants answered at least partially and the rest did not provide any answer to this section. Almost everyone enjoyed having to choose pictures and specially to agree at the end of the session the words that defined the best quality care for the group.

■ Save the date! Final conference of WeDO2 on 18 June 2015

Save the date! On 18 June 2015, the WeDO2 project partners will hold the final conference in Slough, UK. The conference will aim to bring and exchange experiences related to the WeDO2 project from learners, trainers and from the project partners through the study visits.



International and UK experts will be invited to give their views on how to build the way forward. For registration and more information, please contact Maude Luherne maude.luherne@age-platform.eu and Christine Cowap Christine.Cowap@ageconcernsabe.org.uk.

■ Elder Abuse meeting in Belgium

On the 23th of March 2015, the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (Belgian Ageing Studies) and Espace Seniors organised a WeDO-meeting about Elder Abuse. This meeting was organised on request of the Belgian WeDO coalition. They had the feeling that a lot of expertise existed on elder abuse but not everybody knew what or where to find it.



During the afternoon of the 23th of March, the Belgian centres of expertise on elder abuse introduced their organisations, their training materials, etc. This Belgian Centres of expertise on elder abuse were Respect Seniors, Vlaams Ondersteuningscentrum Ouderenmis(be)handeling (VLOCO), Service d'Ecoute pour Personnes Agées Maltraitées (SEPAM), Familiehulp and Brussels Meldpunt Ouderenmis(be)handeling.

Mara Isabel Barreto (project manager Espace Seniors) and Prof. Dr. Liesbeth De Donder (BAS - VUB) also explained some modules of the European WeDO2 training, namely the modules related to elder abuse. After this presentation the Belgian coalition could give their input and ideas.



The meeting was very successful. 21 WeDO partners attended the meeting and gave feedback, which was rich in information, and many questions were asked. Thanks to the meeting the Belgian partnership nowadays has a global view on the elder abuse expertise in the Belgian coalition and knows about the elder abuse information given in the WeDO2 training.

II. News from the wider WeDO partnership

■ 15-16th June: Save the date! World awareness day against elder abuse and two-day event in Brussels

On 15th and 16th June, AGE Platform Europe co-organises together with the Council of Europe, the European Commission and the European Network for National Human Rights Institutes a joint event to mark the 10th World Elder awareness abuse day. The event will aim to introduce key instruments at international and UN level which can be used to tackle elder abuse, and analyse with national and regional actors how they are used in practice. The event will also aim to exchange innovative practices in the field.



The event will take place in Brussels, on 15th June in the Council of Europe and on 16th June in the Committee of the regions. For more information, please contact Maude Luherne at maude.luherne@age-platform.eu.

■ **Outcomes of WeDO in Sweden: a strategy to prevent elder abuse and a standard on quality of care for older persons**

The WeDO Swedish coalition launched a campaign called ‘abuse does not retire!’. As a result the Swedish government released in June 2014 a **national strategy on violence against older people in health care**. The strategy is part of the government's commitment to support a structured and long-term continuous quality improvement in health care for older people. It is meant to inspire communities to a higher level of ambition and quality improvement of efforts to prevent, detect and manage elder abuse happening in health care . The strategy aims both to raise awareness about the prevalence of violence against older persons, and provide practical support in the municipal organisational planning and development. See [here](#) for more information.

In addition, a national standard for quality eldercare was recently released. The standard prepared by the Ministry of Social affairs, regulates the ‘**Quality of care , service, care and rehabilitation for older people with high support needs in regular and special housing**’. This standard “aims to ensure a good and safe care, support, care and rehabilitation based on users needs. This standard is intended for use in quality assurance, monitoring, evaluation and development of such services, and can be used as a basis for procurement, training, supervision and certification. More information [here](#).

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

www.wedo-partnership.eu/wedo2