

Elderly Care Vocational Skill Building and Certification [ECVC]

Assuring quality at workforce level www.ecvc.eu

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Main objective for Management and Leadership

- LTC staff need to be comprehensively trained, qualified and supported, so that specific functions and tasks can be fulfilled by designated people, teams, groups or partners (departments) with different roles, responsibilities, expertise and competences.

Key-issues addressed

- Shaping the job profile of LTC workers and providing the means for standardised certification (“ECV Certificate”)
- Establishing competence regarding theory and practice of care work, including preventive and rehabilitative LTC
- Establishing competence for informal carers and linking the formal and informal care sectors in the shared aim of improving quality of care for older people

Status

PILOT PROJECT TERMINATED	PILOT PROJECT ONGOING	PROJECT TERMINATED	PROJECT ONGOING	IMPLEMENTED PRACTICE RESTRICTED AREAS	WIDELY SPREAD PRACTICE ROLLED OUT
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Why was this project developed/implemented?

- The ECVC project was developed
 - to address the needs of the Care of Older People sector in Europe for vocationally skilled workers
 - with a common level of competences and certified recognition by the partners who provide education,
 - which could lead to an accepted EU level qualification.

Main features of the example

- The ECVC project is a vocational education, e-training and certification programme (VET - ISCED 4VOC) for caregivers of older people, developed in 3 phases (2005-2011) and implemented in CY, EL, ES, HU, LT, (CZ, NL)
- The Greek programme is managed by the Piraeus Chamber of Commerce and Industry, which supervises, monitors and adapts the theoretical and practical training programme, together with the training institute and two selected residential care homes; it is responsible the processes of assessment and certification
- The programme can also be used by informal caregivers and was promoted by the Greek Institute of Social Welfare and Solidarity (IKPA) through piloting training seminars for formal, informal and migrant caregivers in 3 areas of Greece

What are/were the effects?

- 50 care workers were trained during the pilot phase in 5 MS (until October 2010)
- 20 Greek care workers have been trained, examined and certified in two 6 monthly programmes during the subsequent implementation phase - continuing
- Retention of care workers in the two delegated training Care Homes has increased, with higher job satisfaction and improved reported satisfaction with the quality of care by the residents' relatives

Strengths and limitations

- A uniform programme of supervised training, certification and standardised quality of care (Leonardo da Vinci), developed in 6 languages and piloted (2008-2010) and running in CY, EL, ES, HU, LT
- Responsibility for funding the training programmes may limit the planned expansion in Greece e.g. to Local Authority Home-care services, during the current financial crisis

Conclusions

- For practice, EU funded education and training programmes can be successfully used as the basis for upgrading care work and improving quality in the care sector in different MS
- For policy-makers, the use of self-training electronic methods can provide the means to achieve common education and care standards in countries with different care systems
- For European age-related research (FUTURAGE), projects that successfully link theory and practice must also address the issue of continued, sustainable funding
<http://futurage.group.shef.ac.uk/>