

Dementia calls for competence ... as people need more than care in everyday life

Implementation of **Qualified Everyday Companions**
as a new professional group in care for older people suffering
from dementia in care homes and at home

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in cooperation with
IQA - Innovative Qualification in Everyday Assistance



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In everyday life people need more than care



EVERYDAY ASSISTANT



Dementia calls for competence!

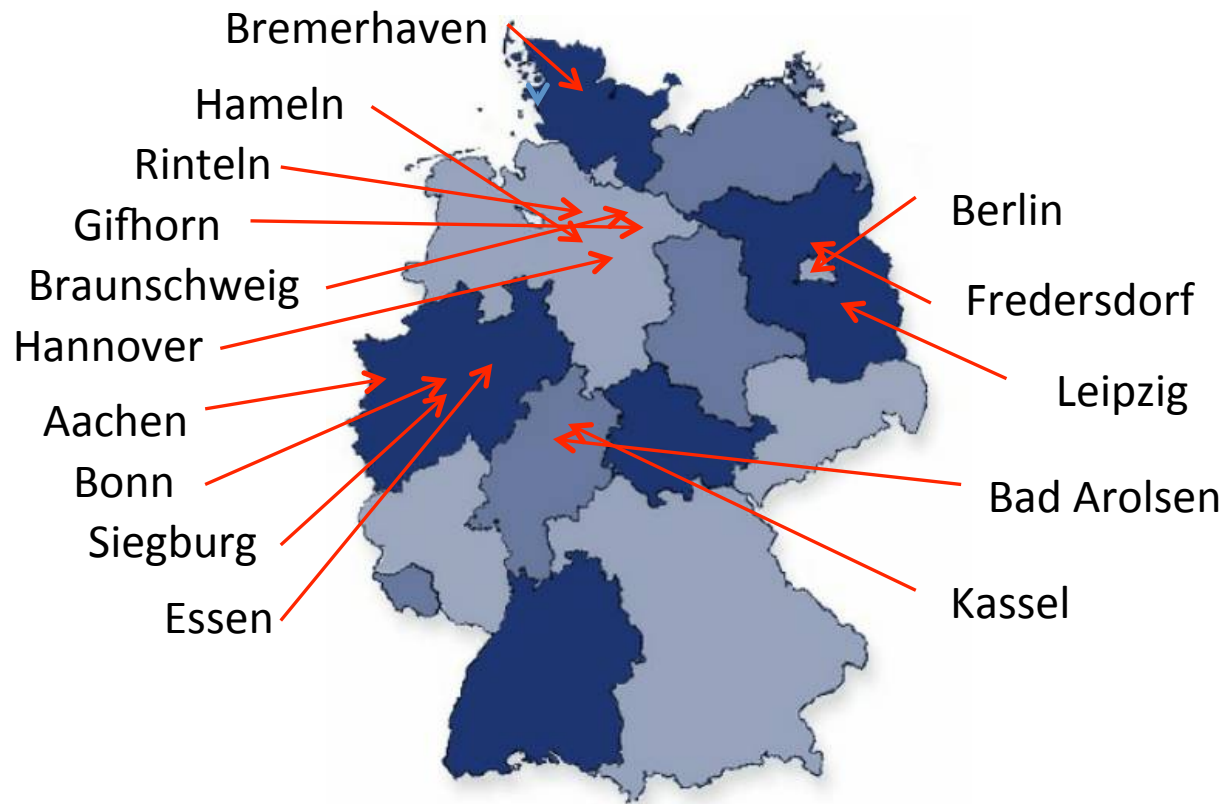


About 800 Everyday Companions have been trained since 2002 of which

- **80% are working in care homes**
- **10% in community care services**
- **10% in private practice (self-employed)**

Since 2007 the training of Everyday Companions is provided by the Institute for Innovative Qualification – IQA

Decentralised training offered by IFA



PILOT PROJECT
TERMINATED

PILOT PROJECT
ONGOING

PROJECT
TERMINATED

PROJECT
ONGOING

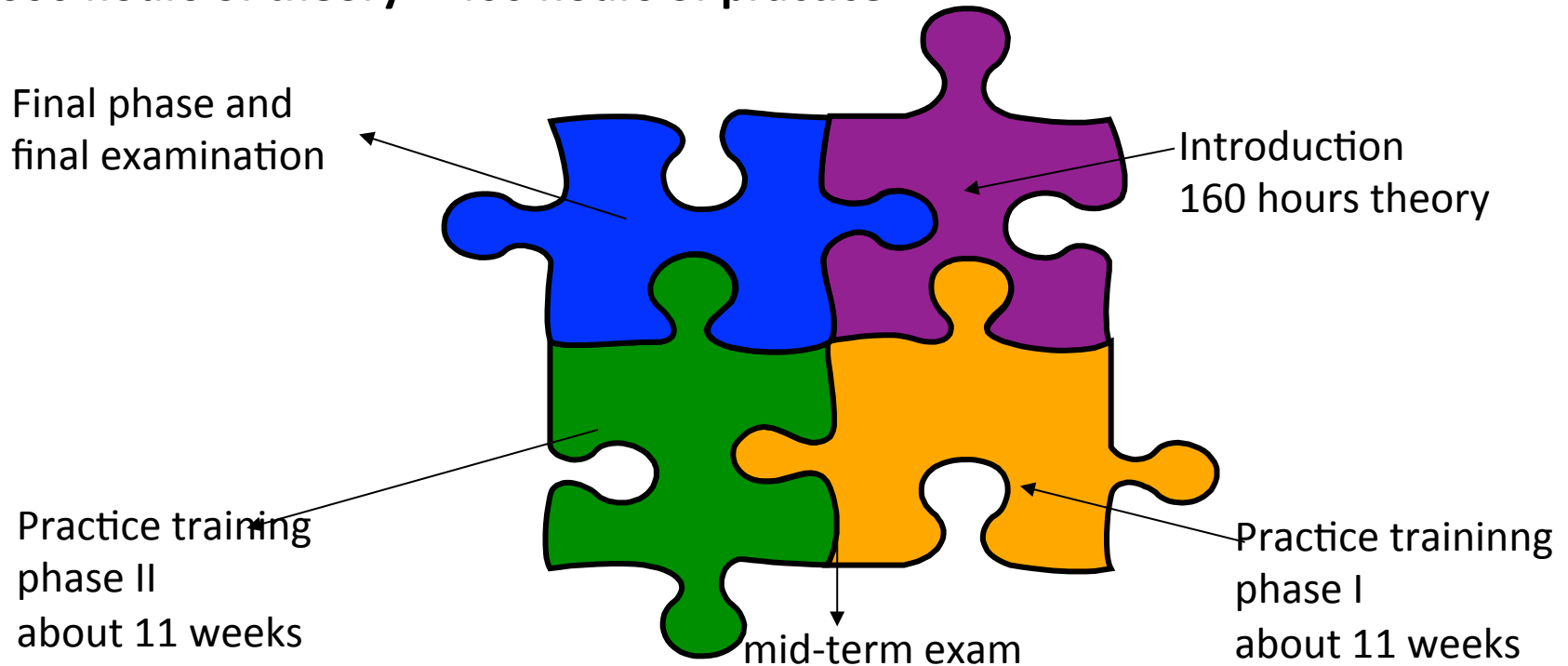
IMPLEMENTED PRACTICE
RESTRICTED AREAS

WIDELY SPREAD PRACTICE
ROLLED OUT

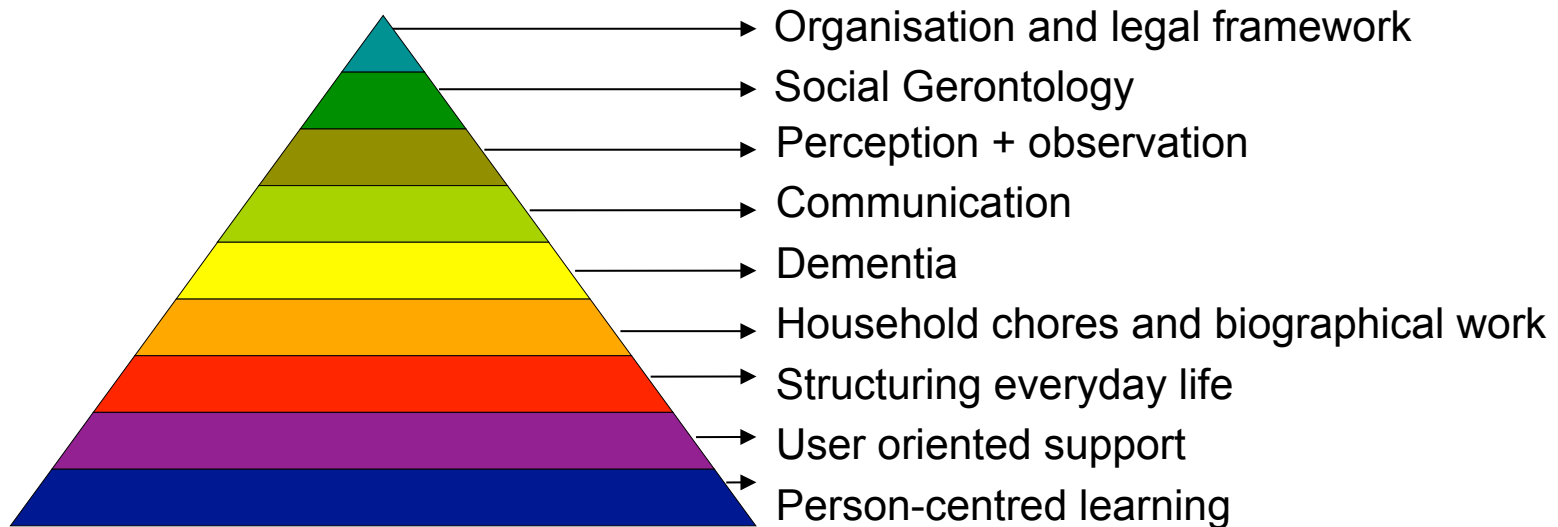
Structure of training

“Everyday Companions of older people with dementia

600 hours of theory - 400 hours of practice



9 areas of learning with 150 topics



Certified competences of Everyday Companions

- mid-term exam
- thesis about personal project
- rating by trainers
- rating of practice work
- Final examination and presentation
- Written exam rated by an independent certification agency



Certified Everyday Companion

The specific tasks of Everyday Companions



To perceive
emotions ...



To provide
orientation ...

Everyday Companions

Health systems and long-term care for older people in Europe. Modelling the interfaces and links between prevention, rehabilitation, quality of services and informal care

interlinks



To accept
uncommon
behaviour ...

Everyday Companions

Health systems and long-term care for older people in Europe. Modelling the interfaces and links between prevention, rehabilitation, quality of services and informal care

interlinks



To recognise
competences ...

Everyday Companions

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interlinks



Everyday Companions

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interlinks



To support
competences ...





To work with
(biographical)
memories ...

Everyday Companions

Health systems and long-term care for older people in Europe. Modelling the interfaces and links between prevention, rehabilitation, quality of services and informal care

interlinks



To carefully
offer help ...

Everyday Companions

Health systems and long-term care for older people in Europe. Modelling the interfaces and links between prevention, rehabilitation, quality of services and informal care

interlinks



To strengthen
self-esteem ...

Competent everyday assistance ...

- ... animates all senses
- ... provides physical activation
- ... works with the social environment
- ... operates socially (me-you relation)
- ... works with emotions (responds to emotions of the person with dementia and triggers emotions)
- ... works biographically (using elements from the biography and relates it to the present)
- ... questions usual norms of civilisation

Evidence for a direct impact on the quality of life of people with dementia

- less fear
- less stress
- more trust
- more vitality
- more smiles
- better nutrition
- more social contacts
- less pharmaceuticals
- less hospital stays

Challenges

- Qualified Everyday Companions are not yet an acknowledged profession
- Funding and low payment
- Difficulty to delineate care and everyday assistance (use of Everyday Companions for care tasks)

Conclusions

- For practice: defined division of labour between care professionals and Everyday Companions
- For policy: implementation of a one-year education with statutory accreditation
- For research: effects of Everyday Companions' work in dementia care on health costs



Dementia
calls for
competence ...

... that's what we are working for!

Thank you very much
for your interest!