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SAVE

SCREENING FOR ABUSE VICTIMS AMONG ELDERLY

NEWSLETTER



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WHAT IS SAVE ABOUT?

SAVE is an EU project that intends to improve the adoption of screening programmes for elder abuse in health and social care settings, by providing training and support to professionals on how to use implement them effectively.

Elder abuse is a widespread phenomenon worldwide. In a systematic review and meta-analysis of research until 2015 (Yon, Mikton, Gassoumis, & Wilber, 2017), it was found that the prevalence of elderly mistreatment worldwide that included 28 countries globally, showed that in communities, almost one in six older persons 60 years or over had been victims of emotional, physical, sexual and financial violence and neglect in the past year.

The average prevalence rate globally in communities was 15,7%. There were geographical differences globally, which in Europe were between 2,2% to 61,1%. For Europe, the estimated prevalence rate was 15,4%. We know that elder abuse is under-reported: big part of it may not be diagnosed. There are many reasons for this, including fear of

SAVE – SCREENING FOR ABUSE VICTIMS AMONG ELDERLY

Improving identification and intervention on violence against older persons in social and health care settings



consequences, not recognizing being a victim but also the fact that social and health care providers are inadequately trained in how to recognize violence and support older victims of domestic violence. On the other hand, early identification of abuse is important as it may prevent future violence and reduce risk of future health impacts resulting from violence.

Using screening tools for identification is helpful to support professionals to recognize and assess violence and neglect of older persons, however it is still rare across EU. That's why the partnership will work to contribute to the adoption of screening practices within the partner countries with the goal to:

- increase knowledge of screening tools and their suitability in identification of violence against older persons in social and health care services
- improve capacity of social and health care professionals to identify and intervene and support and refer the cases of violence against older persons to relevant services
- develop educators' competences to teach professionals how to deal with violence against older persons and to support and mentor them
- produce an interactive training program for improving active and innovative learning of social and health care teachers, trainers and professionals in identification and intervention in case of violence against older persons.



WHAT IS SAVE GOING TO RELEASE?

SAVE will produce a number of outcomes which will be practically usable by our target group, which includes:

- social and health care professionals working in home care, residential care facilities, health centres and hospitals
- social and health care teachers and trainers
- local/regional social and health care decision makers in the community

Upon accomplishment of the project, interested parties will be able to freely access:

- a literature review about the number and quality of screening instruments for older adult's mistreatment.
- country specific recommendations for the use of screening instruments referring to Poland, Italy, Portugal, Finland and Cyprus
- a training curriculum and material on identification and intervention on violence against older persons to be implemented face-to-face
- an online course to mainstream project results to a wider audience

WHO IMPLEMENTS THE PROJECT

The SAVE project is implemented by an international partnership, coordinated by PCG Polska, an integral part of Public Consulting Group, a global firm specializing in professional services and project management for institutions and companies

operating in the public sector. Founded in 1986 in Boston, PCG launched its operations in 2009 in Poland. PCG has vast experience within 4 sectors: K-12, higher education, health, and human services. SAVE includes two Italian partners, ANS and Cadiai. ANS is a non-profit organization working since 2004 in the field of social innovation, with a specific focus on ageing and quality of care. ANS is one of the leading organization in Italy in the field of elder abuse prevention. CADIAI is a category A social cooperative, registered ONLUS (non-profit social organization). It was founded in Bologna in 1974 by 24 women coming from domestic and precarious work experiences, with the aim to protect and qualify the work of the people and to affirm its professional content and social value. Cadiai provides social, healthcare, and educational services mainly to the public (often in cooperation with public bodies), but also to private clients, and healthcare surveillance, occupational health services, and safety training programmes. The partnership also includes two academic institutions. The first is the University of Minho, in Portugal, whose mission is to create, spread and put knowledge into application, with free thinking and pluralism as its core values. The University participates in the project with the department of Nursing and Psychology. The second is Cyprus University of Technology, established in 2007, is Cyprus' youngest one of only two state funded Universities. CUT consists of 14 Departments in five Schools, one which is the School of Health Sciences that is actively involved in the project through the Department of Nursing.

Last but not least, our Finnish partner VoiVa. VoiVa – Empowering Old Age Coop was established in 2016 as a national non-governmental organization focusing on preventing violence and abuse of older people. VoiVa cooperative acts as an organization carrying social responsibility in the society. Its mission is to protect older people from violence and abuse and to support older people and their families to become free from violence.

KICK OFF MEETING

The COVID-19 prevents us from travelling, but not to meet to plan our upcoming activities.

The kick off meeting took place on February the 24th 2021 on Zoom. It was a great opportunity to get familiar with the project and its activities, to plan upcoming tasks but also to get to know each other and do team-building.



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