

I2M MATCHMAKING: SELECTED NEEDS

LEARNCARE

Solutions to train caregivers of persons with cognitive impairment (in rural areas)

Gerencia de Servicios Sociales de Castilla y León (Spain)

Context

Dementia is a neurodegenerative disease that leads to a significant loss of cognitive abilities. Among the different types of dementia, Alzheimer is the most common, with between 50% and 70% of all cases.

In Castilla y León (Spain), it is estimated that more than 60,000 people suffer from Alzheimer or other dementias. Junta de Castilla y León works closely with associations of relatives of Alzheimer patients for prevention and care of the social needs of both, people with dementia and their families. In fact, public and private organizations that deliver care to people with cognitive impairment include family support as part of their care counselling and training.

However, there is a lack of a systematic approach, based on scientific evidences, about the most effective content and methodologies for the training of caregivers. Specially to cope with the different situations that can generate problems in the interaction between the caregiver and the person with cognitive impairment, which affect negatively to their well-being and generate a risk for the person's permanence at home.

ICT has great potential to respond to these needs, especially in low-population environments with difficult access to resources (eg. rural areas), contributing decisively to obtain evidence to guide interventions and training in the future.

Need description

The challenger is interested in co-creating and validating innovative ICT-based approaches to:

- Help people with cognitive impairment to have a meaningful life, goals, and purposes, make decisions and preserve control over their own lives.
- Guide caregivers about new forms of interaction that contribute to proactive action and to face the disruptive behaviours that people with cognitive impairment may present.
- Develop mechanisms that guarantee respect for the dignity, privacy of the patient, their autonomy and the right to take their own decisions.
- Access to sustainable solutions for rural aging because, frequently, the villages present difficult accessibility to services that have usually been designed for areas of greater population

About us

Gerencia de Servicios Sociales de Castilla y León is a regional administrative body, under the Regional Ministry of Family and Equal Opportunities of the Regional Government (Junta) de Castilla y León. Regional Public Authority is responsible for the design, planning and management of the social services

of Castilla y León. Competences: adoption of measures for the implementation of the policy on social services; regional planning and its development and implementation; creation, organisation, maintenance and management of programmes, services, facilities and resources; promotion, social awareness and dissemination of social services and promotion of the participation of citizens in relation to the social services through associations, volunteering and other forms of mutual aid. Highlighting among all controls the management and programming of care for the elderly, people with disabilities and people in situations of dependency

Commitment to fund this innovation

The intention of the organisation is to implement the solution in the short-medium term.

The Regional Government of Castilla y León is working on a regional program to develop a Plan to support people with Alzheimer from a social and health point of view. One of the Plan action lines of would be to help keeping citizens in their homes. Another one will be to provide support to the caregivers, helping them to reduce their burn-out. For both, the use of (digital) technology is envisaged.

The Plan will have its own funds and implement several pilot actions. The use of Public Procurement of Innovation funds is being currently considered.