


Foundation Compassion Alzheimer Bulgaria

Name of the organisation	Foundation Compassion Alzheimer Bulgaria	
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Type of organisation:

SME School University Public Authority
 Training No Profit NGO

Other (Specify)

Fields of action :

SMEs Youth Universities Public Authorities
 Equal opportunities Schools Unemployed

Other (Specify)

Description of the organisation

Foundation Compassion Alzheimer Bulgaria is a non-governmental organization, established by people living with Alzheimer and their families in 2004. Our mission is to improve the quality of life for people living with Alzheimer and Dementia in Bulgaria, by changing the current attitude and practices towards them and providing access to treatment and social support. The organization was established in Varna and has a representation, team and an office also in Sofia (since 2007). The organization is member of Alzheimer's Disease International (ADI), EFID network and National Patient organisation. Current activities: provision of innovative social services for families with patients with Alzheimer/Dementia (legal, psychological consultations for families and patients, including e-mail and telephone consultations), music-therapy, non-pharmacological methods of prevention, Alzheimer café, information campaigns for prevention of the disease, lobbying in Bulgaria for improved services, accessible treatment of Alzheimer and services and policies for patients and carers.

Experience of the organization in previous European projects

Foundation Compassion Alzheimer Bulgaria has implemented successfully more than 15 projects and in 2012 received the award of Network of European Foundations – NEF (European Foundations initiatives on Dementia) «Living well with Dementia in the community». In 2016 thanks to an exchange project Foundation Compassion Alzheimer Bulgaria implemented a study visit to another NEF awardee – Diaconia Valdese Rifugio Re Carlo Alberto in San Giovanni, Italy and obtained valuable experience about the functioning of a Day care center and the specificities of residential care. The organisation became recipient of a second award «Valuing the expertise of people living with Dementia» for the project «Together we respect, promote and act - Inclusive society for all ages and all stages of Dementia.» In the period July 2020-July 2021 the organisation implements in partnership with Civic Association Alzheimer-Bulgaria the project “Advocacy campaign for proposal, adoption and dissemination of a Concept for specialised Day care center and other related services in the community for people with Alzheimer's disease and other forms of Dementia”, supported by Active Citizens Fund – Bulgaria, operator of the EEA Norway grants”.

Experience and Expertise of the organization in the project's subject area

Current activities: provision of innovative social services for families with patients with Alzheimer/Dementia (legal, psychological consultations for families and patients, including e-mail and telephone consultations), music-therapy, non-pharmacological methods of prevention, Alzheimer café and groups for support, information campaigns for prevention of the disease, lobbying in Bulgaria for improved services, for accessible treatment of Alzheimer's and services and policies for patients and carers.

In 2012 Foundation Compassion Alzheimer Bulgaria organised and conducted, together with experts from St. Andrews University (Scotland), a training for dementia caregivers from the Nursing homes for adults with dementia in Bulgaria. The training was about special skills and knowledge for provision of qualified, specialised and person-centered care and was based on the method person-centered care.

In 2019 the team of Rifugio Re Carlo Alberto conducted a training in Varna, Bulgaria on the issues related to the functioning of a day care center.

Foundation Compassion Alzheimer Bulgaria will participate in the elaboration of a Concept for specialised Day care center and other related services in the community for people with Alzheimer's disease and other forms of Dementia.

Contributions that can be provided to the project

The organisation can provide its expertise and good practices from national and European networks and partner organisations. We would like to contribute to the inclusion of the concepts and practices related to person-centered care, dementia – friendly communities and inclusive communities within the content of the MOOC and recommendations.

Reasons of involvement in the project

The project Move your Hands for Dementia (MYH4D) aims to support adult and senior educators in extending and developing competences on dementia health literacy training to adults. The training will equip them with knowledge, know-how, skills and competences. We support the project goals and believe in the project philosophy that health and family literacy about dementia has an impact at individual level. Foundation Compassion Alzheimer Bulgaria has experience in trainings on person centered care and in services provided by the day care centers and would like to contribute to the preparation of the MOOC and to the policy recommendations. It is an honour for us to be part of the project team, composed by prominent and experienced organisations from Europe.

Contact Person's Experience and Expertise

The project manager is involved in the work of the organisation since 2007 and is responsible for the preparation and implementation of projects and networking. She is political scientist, has another Bachelor degree diploma in Public Administration (both from Sofia University "St. Kliment Ochridski") and has a MA (Third-cycle diploma) in "National policies and European policies of the EU member states". In 2021 will complete a Master's degree in Health management. Has experience in the NGO sector and in projects, researches and initiatives related to human rights, social rights, community development, health advocacy.