

What is DEAL?

DEAL – Dementia, Education, Approach, Life – was a 2-year European project, which aimed to improve the competences of teachers and caregivers and to extend the cooperation between educational institutions and caregiving organizations.

The project was carried out internationally to exchange experiences and best practices among very different ways of caring for people with dementia in different countries – including differences in the approach to the person in need of care.

The project started in November 2018 and ended in December 2020.



DEAL's aims

- To improve the competences of teachers and trainers who educate and train caregivers with regard to dementia
- To improve competences of the care givers with regard to dementia
- To extend and qualify the cooperation between educational institutions and caregiver organizations
- To elevate the status of care for people with dementia as it is a low-status area in the field of care
- To give suggestions and recommendation to the decision makers in the field of basic health care education

Partners

The program was successfully implemented by 8 partners from Denmark, Greece, Italy, Netherlands & Spain. The project partners work in the field of education, training and/or care of people who are in a vulnerable position by suffering from dementia.



DEAL's outputs

- Online training program for caregivers of people with dementia
- Video for caregivers of people with dementia
- Policy paper for decision makers



Training program for caregivers

The piloting of the training program of the DEAL project was implemented in Denmark, Italy, Holland and Greece. The training material consists of eight modules:



1. Dementia and brain functioning
2. The person-centered approach
3. How to communicate with people with dementia, with their families and with colleagues
4. Behavior challenges of people with dementia and how to cope with it
5. Non-pharmacological interventions and sensory stimulation
6. Dementia friendly environment
7. How to be a caregiver of a family member with dementia
8. Work stress and burnout of caregivers
9. For the ENGLISH and DUTCH Version: Practical Learning: Gildeleren in Drenthe, NL



In Denmark, the piloting of the training program took place from 13th of January until 5th of March 2020. Three different implementation methods were piloted. The first group tested the 4th module, the second group tested the 3rd and 6th module, and the third group tested all modules. In total, fifty-one students participated in the piloting of the training program in Denmark.



In Italy, the piloting of the training program was implemented in 3 phases, the first one on 12th of February 2020, the second one on 17th of February 2020 and the third one on 24th of February 2020. Thirty students and professional caregivers participated to the piloting and tested the first five modules.



In Holland, the piloting of the training program was implemented in 3 phases, the first one on 24th of February 2020, the second one on 2nd of March 2020 and the third one on 9th of March 2020. Twenty-one students participated to the piloting and tested the 3rd, 4th and 6th module.



In Greece, the piloting of the training program was implemented online on 11th, 12th and 13th of May 2020. Thirty-eight professionals & non-professionals caregivers and students at medical schools participated in the piloting and tested all the modules. The presentations of the speakers were combined with open debates and discussions with the participants.



Video for caregivers

The project partners created a video promoting the care work for people with dementia. This video aims at elevating not only the status of the care for people with dementia, but also the status of basic care and basic care education in general. The video shows that it is meaningful and rewarding to work with people with dementia in spite of all the difficulties.

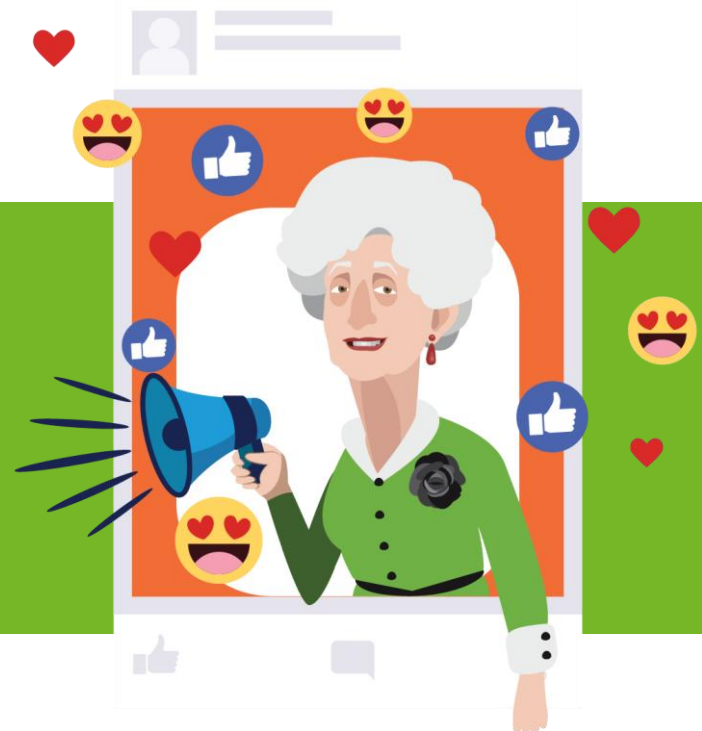
The video contains examples and interviews from professional caregivers from all involved countries. Caregivers present how it is to work with people with dementia and why you should choose it as his job. They express how they feel by doing this job and they describe moments where they feel special by helping people with dementia.

It is available on English, Danish, Italian, Dutch, Spanish and Greek. The video is uploaded on the project's [website](#).

Policy paper for relevant stakeholders

The last output of the project is a policy paper for relevant stakeholders, in the field of education at national level. It consists of a general part containing the results of DEAL project and sections containing the national recommendations.

Each partner contributed to its creation by providing their national sections with recommendations to their national bodies in the field of education and training of caregivers. The recommendations are based on the results of the project in each country.



Multiplier Events

In the framework of the dissemination of the project results, four Multiplier Events were conducted in Denmark, Italy, Holland and Greece. The aim of those events was that partners should inform people about the DEAL project, its aims and results and the training program for caregivers in partners' countries. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Multiplier Events in Italy and Greece took place as online events.

In Denmark, the Multiplier event took place on 21st of September 2020. In spite of COVID-19, the Danish partners decided to have it as a face-to-face event, as it would give better opportunities for discussion with the participants. Ten persons from education, trade union and municipalities took part. The DEAL project was presented and among others, it was discussed how to ensure in the best way that the DEAL material will be used in the future. Also, the dilemma videos from the Danish part of the program, were shown to the audience and received a very positive feedback.

In Italy, a webinar with title "Training caregivers of people with dementia: the person behind the illness" was held on 10th November 2020. The event was introduced by Giulia Mugnai, mayor of the municipality of Figline and Incisa Valdarno and by the Italian coordinators of the project, who presented the objectives of DEAL and what has been achieved so far. More than 70 people, among which professional caregivers, volunteers, medical staff, social workers, teachers and students of courses in care work, took part in the webinar.

In Holland, the Multiplier Event took place on 6th of February 2020. During the event, teachers, students and healthcare professionals shared their knowledge about dementia, with a central demand for care focused on the Meppel region. A dementia-friendly society and awareness of the impact of dementia on society and family emerged as an important subject. The councilor of the municipality of Meppel participated to this event and highlighted the increase of the amount of people with dementia and the need for support. The participants have already made arrangements on the spot to raise even more for optimal care about dementia.



In Greece, a webinar took place on 7th of December 2020. The title of the webinar was "Policies about dementia in the community". Speakers presented the DEAL project to the participants, its aims, its results and the training program, which had been developed for caregivers of people with dementia. Speakers also analyzed what dementia is, what the role of the caregivers is, how dementia affects the quality of life and how important the education on dementia is. Finally, they presented the policy report, the final output of the project and an extensive discussion between speakers and participants followed.