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PRESS RELEASE

European Foundations' Initiative on Dementia (EFID) takes on dementia with a community approach

Dementia is one of the biggest challenges to European societies. More than 7 million people live with dementia in Europe, growing to 15 million in 2050. In the absence of a cure, other methods of addressing the challenges the condition presents must be implemented.

The European Foundations' Initiative on Dementia (EFID) is convinced that the answer to managing the challenges of dementia lies in the community. Changing attitudes and perceptions of dementia in communities will not only allow people living with dementia to live well in the place they call home, but will enable them to take part in society as active citizens.

In the well-known 'dementia friendly' city of Bruges, EFID will host a workshop to support practitioners from all over Europe who endeavour to make their communities a better place for those living with dementia.

The workshop, entitled 'Exchange of Practice and Development of Indicators to Capture Change', will be at the College of Europe, Bruges, on the 10th and 11th of May. Going further than just capacity development, the event will offer stimulating networking and learning space to reflect on how to demonstrate the impact of different dementia-friendly initiatives around Europe.

At the event, the brand new research report 'Mapping Dementia Friendly Communities (DFCs) across Europe' will be launched. Alongside the mapping report, there is a "Collection of dementia-friendly community case studies" which is an online tool that aims to share notable dementia-friendly initiatives in Europe. The report and the online collection offer an insight into the diversity of DFCs throughout Europe and how they have changed to be more sustainable, inclusive and supportive for people living with dementia and their carers.

In 2012 and 2014, EFID supported 20 organisations in 11 countries with the awards 'Living well with dementia in the community'. 35 representatives of the organisations that received an EFID award will attend the workshop, as well as people with dementia and representatives of the foundations engaged in EFID (The Atlantic Philanthropies, the Fondation Médéric Alzheimer, the King Baudouin Foundation, the Robert Bosch Stiftung, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, the Genio Trust and the Life Changes Trust).

As recently stated by the Dutch EU Presidency, "The time is right to combine the numerous activities in every member state into an overarching view: how to tackle all aspects of the challenges dementia poses to us" (Minister of Health, Welfare and Sports, NL Council Presidency).

Although the European Union has carried out work on dementia, there is no Europe-wide initiative that supports the community approach to tackle the challenges linked to dementia. EFID is the most significant pan-European programme that promotes social inclusion through a Europe-wide awards scheme. Over the past years, EFID has made awards to local projects in various European countries that work on improving the life of people with dementia and their carers.

Visit www.efid.info to download the executive summary of the report 'Mapping Dementia Friendly Communities (DFCs) across Europe' in Dutch, German, Spanish, French, Italian, Portuguese, Bulgarian, and Japanese.

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