

Learning From Each Other/ Working Together

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About this Project

The Combat Elder Abuse Project is the coming together of organisations from four countries under a GRUNDTVIG Learning Partnership to share knowledge, training materials and further develop tools to raise awareness of elder abuse and its prevention.



Irish national advocacy and representative NGO for older people, whose mission is to empower older people in securing their human rights



Italian NGO working in the field of social innovation, including training and support to family carers, informal and formal carers



Finnish NGO whose goal is to raise awareness of elder abuse amongst decision-makers, professionals and citizens, and assist victims of abuse.



Romanian organisation providing training to homecare workers and junior geriatricians focusing on prevention and identification of elder abuse

Aim of the project

To develop innovative training material for volunteers, informal carers and/or older people on the prevention of elder abuse.

Methods

National policy for addressing elder abuse is absent in many European countries. Elder abuse awareness raising and training also varies between countries so the methodology adopted, focused on the participation of the partners in transnational meetings where

- Knowledge and expertise are shared through seminars
- Workshops and field visits are undertaken to learn about different programmes that reduce the risk of elder abuse
- Using the data collected similarities and differences are extracted
- The data provides the foundation for the development of innovative elder abuse training material aimed at informal carers.

Helsinki – Sharing knowledge on addressing Elder Abuse

COUNTRY	Key Findings
 IRELAND	-National Policy, 'Protecting our Future' -Addressed within Health and Social Care Framework -Dedicated elder abuse case work service -Elder abuse training is obligatory for nursing home care workers, HSE and private homecare providers (providing care on behalf of HSE)
 ITALY	-No national policy, municipalities implement own programs. -There are no official protocols or dedicated services - Elder abuse training is not a statutory part of training for health and social care providers
 FINLAND	- No national policy - Addressed within a domestic violence framework - Action Plan for Improving Safety of the Elderly (2011) includes recommendations for prevention of elder abuse such as training of professionals
 ROMANIA	-No national policy -At a societal level awareness is very low - Home care agencies and residential facilities have a duty to ensure staff and clients are informed about procedures for the prevention and identification of abuse, support reporting and keep a register of abuse allegations and measures to manage them - No formal requirements to include elder abuse training in the curriculum for social care workers

Field Visit – Kampii Service Centre

- 1200 clients per day
- Open 8am to 8pm and covers 4 floors and includes auditorium, pottery room, restaurant, fitness room
- total paid workers is 15 (including cleaners)
- 200 volunteers run activities, 40% are run on weekly basis.
- Memory clinic on premises run by Alzheimer's association, anybody can avail of assessment.



Visit highlighted importance of supporting older people to remain socially engaged reducing risk of elder abuse

Dublin – Developing the Training Material

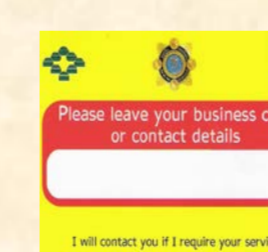
Presentation of Case Studies from each country

Case studies illustrating incidences of elder abuse, possible responses were developed and the issues each case highlighted were outlined. This data was collated and common themes identified.

Themes	Finland	Ireland	Italy	Romania
Impact of dementia/ mobility on personhood		X	X	X
Dependency on family member or home help for daily activities		X	X	X
Family member's dependency on older person (income, place)	X	X	X	X
Carer stretched/stress	X	X	X	X
Domestic violence Partner/ adult children	X	X		X
Failure to access support	X	X	X	X

Workshops and Field Visits Explored

- Training for older people that builds confidence (Age and Opportunity)
- Training and 'way out' in saying 'no' to bogus callers (Gardaí)
- Keeping control of finances model
- Elder abuse training for formal carers (HSE)
- Raising awareness and transforming relationships through socio drama (Gaiety School of Acting)
- Building awareness amongst volunteers (Senior Helpline and Age Action)

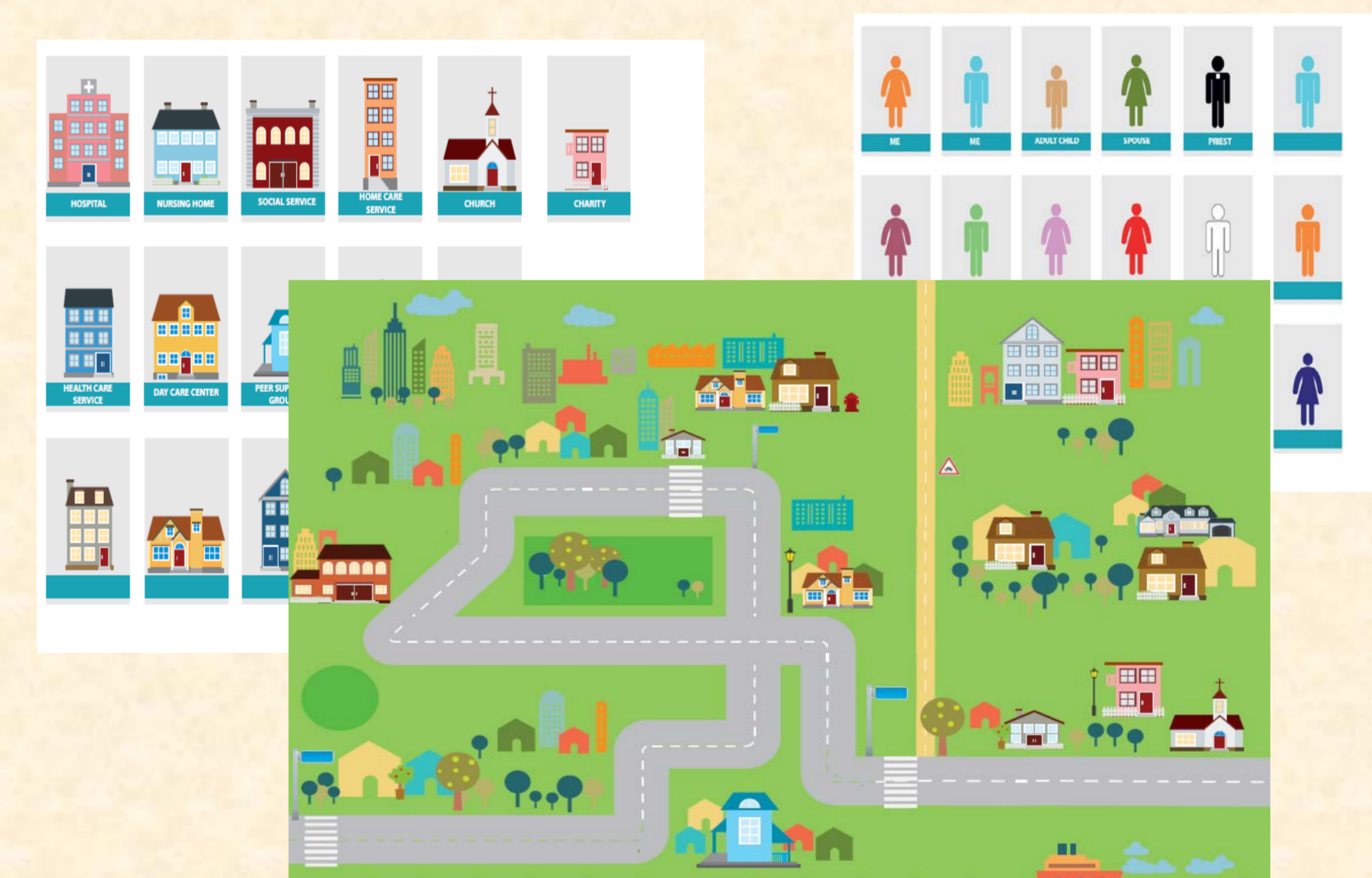


Consensus reached to develop training material targeted at raising awareness and preventing elder abuse within informal care giving relationships.

Bucharest – Piloting the Training Material

Training resource developed

- 2 hour Workshop informed by Biggs and Lowenstein (2011) theory of generational intelligence, the training material has as its basis ways of building empathy by
 - ✓ Becoming conscious of self as distinct from other
 - ✓ Positive value stance towards age diversity
 - ✓ Relative ability to negotiate between generational positions
- Training that incorporates active learning strategies has been shown to engage participants in critical thinking and problem solving, which facilitates the real-life application of knowledge (Fealy et al., 2014).
- The workshop therefore includes an opportunity for role play and the exploration of case studies.
- Role play is effective in facilitating participants to express their views and reflect on their responses. It can highlight situations where older people are constructed as different and not accorded their rights. The aim of the role play is to challenge participants to 'walk in' the older person's shoes
- Biggs and Phillipson (1994) argue that "confronting ageism is central to confronting elder abuse". Following the role play, elder abuse is described and the different types of abuse identified
- Case studies outlining elder abuse situations will give participants an opportunity to actively engage in and explore solutions for addressing situations which may lead to elder abuse. Resources used to facilitate this include:
 - ✓ Discussion mat (based on eco-map) which will assist participants explore situations which may lead to abuse and ways of preventing abuse through accessing support or other resources



Conclusion

- The process of sharing knowledge and engaging in workshops and field visits in the different countries has contributed significantly to the development of this innovative training material around increasing awareness and prevention of elder abuse.
- The collaboration means that the training material can be piloted with groups of informal carers in each of the 4 countries over the next 6 months.
- Changes recommended from this feedback will be incorporated into the final training material
- At the final meeting in Bologna in May 2015, dissemination activities will be drawn up and the training material will be made available to a worldwide audience.

References
 Biggs, S and Lowenstein, A. (2011) Generational Intelligence: A Critical Approach to Age Relations. Routledge: Oxon
 Biggs, S and Phillipson, C. (1994)
 Fealy, G., O'Donnell, D., Patton, D., Downes, C. and O'Connor, T (2014) An Evaluation of the HSE National Training Programme in Preventing Elder Abuse. NCPPOP, UCD