



Our Life as Elderly

Current solutions for care of the elderly are based largely on ideas and procedures from the 50's, 60's and 70's. Hence, there is a need for innovative development that looks at the 'whole picture' and which takes into account the demographic changes that have occurred in recent years, particularly with relevance to the Northern Periphery area. Through an interactive and continuous dialogue with the citizens of the partner areas, this project aims to determine the needs, wishes and requirements for the future care of the elderly in the next 10-15 years. Based on this dialogue, and through a number of sub-projects, the project will help prepare local authorities and municipalities, and offer concrete tools to help meet common challenges faced by all partner regions. A focus will be placed on areas such as staff recruitment and development, technical support, organisational systems, and the consequences of a growing number of over 65s coupled with a corresponding fall in birth rates (meaning fewer young people to support those in retirement). This project aims not only to improve care for the elderly in northern areas, but also to enhance the competitive edge of these sparsely populated regions, in order to attract more inward investment. An important element of the project is the issue of care for the elderly in extreme rural areas, and through this dialogue it is hoped that a reasonable standard of social welfare can be achieved irrespective of population density.

Objectives

Our Life as Elderly aspires to prepare municipalities and develop concrete tools to meet common challenges in terms of staff recruitment and development, technical support, organisational systems etc, caused by elderly people and fewer young people to support them. A better care for our elderly aims not only to meet the challenge, but also to enhance the competitive edge of these sparsely populated regions to attract more inward investment.

Project activities

The project's main phases are as follows:

- Formation of project groups
- Establish a comprehensive picture of current position in each concerned field
- Establish understanding of best practice (during an intensive citizens dialogue)
- Analysis of current position in relation to desired position
- Determine effects and consequences from desired position in relation to current
- Producer modus operandi and time plan intended to implement findings
- General evaluation of project results and cost

Expected results

- new organisational models for management and operations
- establishment of models for national and trans-national co-operation between groups concerned
- new networks for mutual benefit established and operating
- new technique for the care of elderly established and well spread
- co-operation between participating regions on a regular basis; common through all fields of elderly care
- working models for care of the elderly in smaller settlements and extreme rural areas
- increased attraction of these municipalities in relation to other regions and in a national comparison



Partners

The Faroese Association of Municipalities (Føroya kommunufelag) - Faroe Islands
Municipality of Bodö, Department of health and social care - Norway
University of Aberdeen Business School - Scotland
City of Lieksa, Dept. of Social services - Finland
City of Oulu, Social and Health care Service - Finland

Project website

<http://www.ourfuture.se>

Measure

3.2

Total Budget

1 228 495

NPP Award

706 311

Project Period

01/01/2004 - 31/12/2006

Countries Involved

Sweden, Scotland, Norway,
Finland, Faroe Islands

Lead Partner

Organisation

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