Piloting Community Nursing in Austria

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Background

Demographic Challenges

- Population ages
- Ratio young:old shifts
- 2022: 19.6% 65+ y/o vs. 2050: 27.7% 65+ y/o (Statistik Austria 2022)

Staff shortages

- Forecast 2030: 76,000 professional care staff lacking (Rappold et al. 2019)

Informal Carers

- ~950,000 informal carers (Nagl-Cupal et al. 2018)
- In need of low-threshold support
Approach to a solution

Vision
- Supporting family caregivers
- Enabling healthy aging
- Preventing/delaying the need for care

Measure
- Implementing Community (Health) Nursing
- Duration: 3 years with the intention of being transferred to regular financing
- Costs: 54.2m € funded by the EU Resilience and Recovery Facility (RRF)
Role profile of the Community Nurses

- The Public Health Intervention Wheel as a theoretical basis
  - Adapted by GÖG and reviewed by experts from theory and practice
  - 5 Wedges
    - Assessment and Monitoring
    - Education and Counselling
    - Advocacy and Lobbying
    - Nursing Intervention, Coordination and Networking
    - (Social Marketing)

→ Linchpin in the healthcare system – counselling and referring, training on site, workshops, preventive home visits, advise local politics etc.
Implementation of Community Nursing - Role of GÖG

• Developing the role profile of the CN
• Handling of the funding call → 145 applications - 123 met criteria – 110 started
• Technical and content-related support of the nurses
  – Virtual meeting every 2 weeks with emphasis on different topics (1 hour)
  – Virtual webinar every month with emphasis on Community Nursing (3 hours)
  – Conference every year with emphasis on several topics (2 days)
  – Tour through federal states every year with emphasis on networking (1 day each)
  – Starting 2023: Lecture series in cooperation with educational institutions
  – Throughout the project: providing the CN with literature recommendations and quickstarter videos, forward relevant events, being available for questions
Challenges I

Organisational

• Unexpected scaling up of the project (due to funding of RRF)
• Different kick-off times of the ~120 projects

Personal

• Diversity in the nurses’ backgrounds (education, experience, professional understanding etc.)
• Unfamiliar working condition (less routines, more autonomy etc.)
• New contents – from disease treatment to health promotion
Challenges II

Population

- Terminology: “Community Nurse”
- Lack of awareness for health promotion

Political and legal issues

- Change of responsible persons
- GDPR
- …
References

Minnesota Department of Health 2019; Minnesota Department of Health 2019. Public Health interventions: application for public health nursing practice (2nd ed.)


Thank you for your attention!

Feel free to ask questions or share your experiences!

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