



# 2017 Newsletter

## The Project

Helpcare is working with carers and companies that provide care to identify the main issues affecting recruitment and retention of workers and to develop learning materials and accredited qualifications that will help professionalise care.

The research phase of the Helpcare project is nearly at completion, ready for the work of the team to start improving the recruitment, retention and professional development of care workers across the European Union. This will ensure that those vulnerable in our communities have access to well-trained carers, passionate about providing care. In order to spread the word about the project and help all those affected, we need to let as many people as possible know about our findings, and collectively we can make a difference to the lives of many care givers and those they care for.

The Helpcare team from across the EU, including the U.K., Bulgaria, Greece, Poland and Italy, has made a strong start and this newsletter will provide an update on the efforts of the team.



### Who We Are:



The project is managed by **Lancaster University** in the U.K in collaboration with the following partner institutions:



**Lancaster & Morecambe FE College, U.K.**



**South East European Research Centre (SERC), Greece.**



**University of Lodz, Poland.**



**Znanie Association, Bulgaria.**



**Comune di Ortona, Italy.**

Besides this excellent support from partners across Europe, we have been very fortunate to have a strong support [network](#).

## Helpcare Event

### Training and Professionalization of Care Workers across Europe Event

The launch of the *Helpcare Training and Professionalization of Care Workers across Europe* event within the Health +Care conference and exhibition was a tremendous experience for the project team. We directly engaged with over 200 delegates and were able to disseminate our findings, share knowledge and learn from each other.



Some of the highlights of the two day event were meeting people from a wide range of organisations such as:

- ✚ UKHCA
- ✚ NHS
- ✚ CQC
- ✚ BLUEBIRD CARE
- ✚ HOME INSTEAD
- ✚ NATIONAL CARE ASSOCIATION
- ✚ THE GOOD CARE GROUP

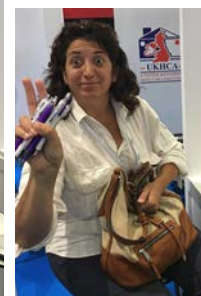


Delegates were keen to learn more about the project and it was reassuring that our findings, outputs & impacts were welcomed and seen as supportive of the sector.

In our launch presentations we were able to show how we used research in the five partner countries to understand the needs of both care workers and employers, as well as the pressures on those that commission care.

The presentations covered our key findings, and recommendations for the future, as well as launching our primary output, the suggested structure for the professionalization of care work.

Our key recommendations for registration, structured training and advanced care practitioners were very well-received. There was also much interest from delegates in the news that the Italian project partners, Commune di Ortona, were working as a consortium with seven towns in their region, to implement the Helpcare recommendations on training and professionalization. This has been one of the significant impacts of the project and was well received by our audience at the event.



A copy of our presentation can be found on our website, and details of the feedback from delegates at the launch and at the knowledge exchange event we ran can also be downloaded from the website.

<http://helpcare-project.org/>

## Helpcare International Project Team meeting, UK, June 2017



In addition to our Helpcare event, the Helpcare international project team also held our final meeting in the UK to complete any outstanding work for the project and also to reflect and evaluate all the research materials, resources and impacts produced as a result of the project.

In the three year period of the project we have been able to conduct extensive primary and secondary research on care work across Europe and written several reports (based on our key findings), related to best practice, barriers to training/professionalization and policy briefings. We have produced a framework for professionalization alongside career mapping tools/ guidelines alongside working closely throughout the project with stakeholders in the care industry. In addition we have also tested and piloted CPD materials that we have developed primarily for helping carers who are currently working at level 3 under the European Qualifications Framework (EQF). These materials will be made available for free access via our website.

Finally, we would like to thank everybody outside the project team involved with the Helpcare project. Without their invaluable input, this project would never have been able to reach a successful outcome. We are currently waiting on approval for our follow-up project from Helpcare called Education, Training & Help for Informal Carers (ETHIC), which is intended to support informal carers in their basic training needs using new ICT methods such as APPS/Mobile Platforms. Hopefully if this is approved, we will be able to build on our successful work achieved through the Helpcare project.

## Information

Information about the project can be found on our website

<http://helpcare-project.org/>

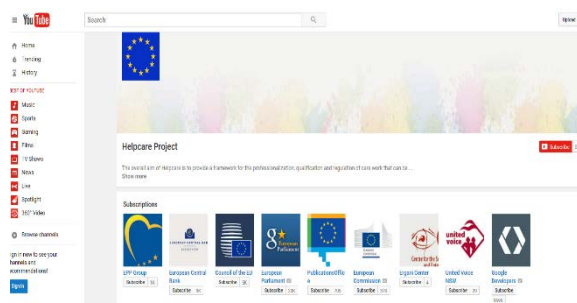


Alternatively you can access the project on Twitter, Facebook & YouTube



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[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYLArY\\_u8G6QoDIryclZSgq](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYLArY_u8G6QoDIryclZSgq)