

The Helpcare Project

Aiming to professionalise the Helpcare workforce across the European Union



About our Project

It is excellent news that many more people are living into old age across the European Union. However, the increasing number of older people whose families are too busy to provide all the care they need has led to a requirement for more home care to be provided by non-family members.

We know that even small amounts of quality support can transform the lives of adults. Homecare is assistance with day-to-day tasks and activities that many older people need to help them remain in their own homes and local community. Having reliable and professional domestic care in the home is essential to promote the service users dignity, independent assisted living and to avoid unnecessary and premature transitions to long term residential or nursing care settings depending on individual needs.

Families and especially older people need assistance with washing, dressing, feeding, and medication or even just with more physically demanding tasks such as shopping, cleaning or gardening need reliable and professional carers to help them.

The Care Problem

In the UK alone, it is predicted that over 1 million new care workers will be needed by 2025. The problem we face is that companies find it difficult to recruit people, and once recruited to care work, many care workers often leave after a short period of time, leading to a high staff turnover.

The roots of this problem are complex. Issues include low pay and low status, lack of training and recognition, and no clearly identified career pathway for carers. The good news is that employers are becoming increasingly keen to improve training and to develop a more professional workforce. However, there are still improvements that can be made around the availability of high quality training, best-practice training materials, a good working practice of the legal framework, health and safety issues, and ethical practice, all that hampers this process.



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 qualifications that will help professionalize care

Our Team

The Helpcare project team is led by Carolyn Downs of Lancaster University, with partners in the UK (Lancaster and Morecambe College), Bulgaria (Zanie Organisation), Greece (SEERC), Poland (University of Lodz) and Italy (Comunie di Ortona).

Get Involved

The Helpcare project team would love to hear from you if you are a carer for an older person, a family member or if you are employed to provide care. We are looking for volunteers to help us with the project, so please get in touch if you are interested.



Contact us

Lancaster University +44 (0) 1524 510939
Bailrigg c.downs@lancaster.ac.uk
LA1 4YG www.helpcare-project.eu



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