

# Actifcare Team

Actifcare brings together partners from across Europe, with the specific mix of expertise essential for delivering this project.

## Dementia research expertise:

Maastricht University; Martin-Luther-University Halle-Wittenberg; Bangor University; University College London; Norwegian Centre for Ageing and Health, Oslo; Dublin City University; Faculdade de Ciências Médicas, Universidade Nova de Lisboa, Lisbon

## Health economic research in dementia:

Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm

## Dementia clinical expertise:

Martin-Luther-University Halle-Wittenberg; Dublin City University; IRRCS Centro San Giovanni di Dio Fatebenefratelli

## Project management & administration:

Maastricht University

The project also benefits from the active input of a team of international leaders in dementia, who engage in our scientific and consumer advisory boards.



MARTIN-LUTHER-UNIVERSITÄT  
HALLE-WITTENBERG



PRIFYSGOL  
BANGOR  
UNIVERSITY



Ageing and Health  
Norwegian National Advisory Unit



FACULDADE DE  
CIÊNCIAS  
MÉDICAS  
UNIVERSIDADE  
NOVA DE LISBOA



Actifcare is an EU Joint Programme - Neurodegenerative Disease Research (JPND) project. The project is supported through the following funding organisations under the aegis of JPND - [www.jpnd.eu](http://www.jpnd.eu)

- Germany, Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung (BMBF)
- Ireland, Health Research Board (HRB)
- Italy, Italian Ministry of Health
- Netherlands, The Netherlands Organization for Health Research and Development (ZonMW)
- Norway, The Research Council of Norway
- Portugal, Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia (FCT)
- Sweden, Swedish Research Council (SRC)
- United Kingdom, Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC)

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or visit

[www.actifcare.eu](http://www.actifcare.eu)



# Actifcare

ACCESS TO TIMELY FORMAL CARE

ANALYSING THE PATHWAYS TO CARE FOR  
PEOPLE WITH DEMENTIA AND THEIR FAMILIES  
TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THE REASONS FOR  
INEQUALITIES IN ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

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## What is Actifcare?

### Actifcare

will compare healthcare systems, individual pathways to care, and associated costs across eight EU countries to identify best practice pathways to formal care and to better understand the reasons for inequalities in access to healthcare.

In the absence of a cure that can alter the course of dementia diseases, a timely diagnosis is important. It opens the way to future care and treatment, and can help people take control of their lives and plan ahead.

Many EU countries have adopted strategies to promote timely recognition of dementia. Timely access to dementia care services, such as home care, is important for increasing independence and quality of life, and for reducing health costs by postponing nursing home placement.

Despite these developments, people with moderate to severe dementia and their carers are often not receiving services of the type, quality and timing that they need. Actifcare aims to better understand the reasons for this mismatch between the need for, access to, and use of formal care services.

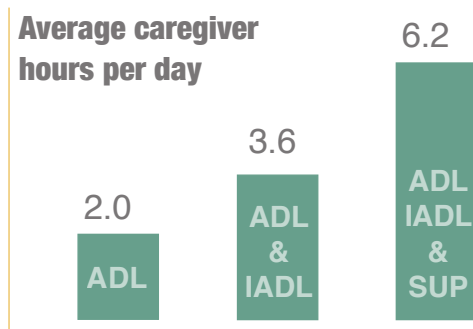
### What is timely access to care?

- NOT TOO SOON
- NOT TOO LATE
- PERSONALLY TAILORED
- IMPROVES QUALITY OF LIFE
- COST EFFECTIVE

## What is the impact of dementia support?

Dementia diseases pose a significant health, social and economic challenge. It is estimated that 9.9 million people in Europe have dementia<sup>1</sup>, accounting for over 28% of the total number of people with dementia worldwide. As a result, the World Health Organisation has made dementia a public health priority.<sup>2</sup>

A person with moderate dementia (PwD) will need increasing amounts of care and support from social care services as they start to lose the ability to perform everyday tasks.



**ACTIVITIES OF DAILY LIVING NOT SPECIFIC TO DEMENTIA (ADL); ACTIVITIES INSTRUMENTAL TO DEMENTIA (IADL); AND GENERAL SUPERVISION (SUP)<sup>1</sup>**

Two thirds of PwD are living in the community either alone or with a family member, and significant care, support, and supervision is provided by unpaid family carers; over 70% of PwD in Europe currently receive unpaid care.<sup>3</sup> These informal carers can experience high levels of stress, depression, social isolation, and physical health problems<sup>4</sup>.

1) Wimo, A. & Prince, M., (2010). World Alzheimer Report 2010 The Global Economic Impact of Dementia. Alzheimer's Disease International. Sept. 2010.  
2) WHO & Alzheimer's Disease International (2012). Dementia: A Public Health Priority, Geneva.  
3) Wimo, A. (2006). The worldwide direct costs and costs of informal care of dementia. 10th International Conference on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders. 2006 Madrid.  
4) Bobinac, A. et al., (2011). Health effects in significant others: separating family and care-giving effects. Medical decision making, 31(2), 292-298.

## How will Actifcare identify best practice?

- 1) Actifcare will assess and compare health care systems giving access to formal home care across eight EU countries (Germany, Ireland, Italy, The Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, and the United Kingdom).
- 2) Actifcare will assess the access to and use of formal care services by PwD and their carers in these eight EU countries, and examine how this relates to their (un)met needs and quality of life.
- 3) Costs, consequences, and two novel specific outcome measures will also be evaluated.
- 4) The results of this research will enable Actifcare to identify best-practice pathways to formal care, in terms of efficiency and cost-effectiveness.



Actifcare

