

Empowering Integrated Dementia Care

A Needs Assessment of the SACRED Project Across Six European Pilot Sites

Aims

To enhance integrated, non-pharmacological care for older adults with dementia and multimorbidity through the development of an e-learning platform for healthcare students and professionals

Methods Needs assessment

- Conducted across six European pilot sites (Rotterdam, Syros, Flanders, Treviso, Tenerife, and Valencia)
- Mixed-methods approach combining quantitative surveys and qualitative focus groups and interviews
- Sample: 57 professionals, 34 students, and 31 older adults

Results

- Professionals and students generally understand the principles of integrated care
- Significant gaps remain in training related to emotional and behavioral management interdisciplinary collaboration, and psychotherapeutic approaches
- Older adults expressed appreciation for personalized care and involvement in decision-making but highlighted challenges in coordination among providers and occasional feelings of isolation
- Systemic barriers to delivering integrated care, including resource shortages, communication gaps, and limited support for informal caregivers

Education: e-learning

- Need for practical, interactive, and emotionally engaging learning tools
- Modules on integrated care principles, communication strategies, caregiver involvement, psycho-emotional support, and ethical considerations, supported by real-world case studies and simulations
- Next steps (2026-2027): development of the e-learning, testing and dissemination

This study underscores the importance of **tailored, non-pharmacological interventions and interdisciplinary education** to improve dementia care outcomes and quality of life for older adults

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