



TRAIning and recognition of informal Carers sKills

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Feasibility Study: Roadmap for the roll-out of TRACK
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Background: dementia and care



- WHO: 47.5 mio people have dementia; 7.7 mio new cases/year
- UN: Need for long-term care is expected to grow
- Approx. 80% of people requiring long-term care receive care from spouses, relatives, friends
- Informal carers are indispensable for health & social care systems

Fotos: Hannah Maria Müller

Background: need for training

- WHO & EC: informal carers of dementia patients need practical guidance & training to support the health & social care system
- Policies for supporting informal carers differ within the EU: some countries have implemented effective support systems, others just are beginning to pay attention to informal carers' needs
- Informal caregivers face a broad range of difficulties, e.g.:
 - _ physical & psychological stress
 - _ lack of financial support
 - _ lack of cause-related ad hoc information
 - _ missing exchange of experience with other informal carers
 - _ missing flexibility in their work
 - _ lack of time for personal recreation
 - _ skills (health related, transversal) are often not recognised ...

Feasibility Study: main purpose

Clarifying for all partner countries (AT, DE, ES, FR):

- Which roll-out perspectives exist for the TRACK blended learning offer (roadmap)?
- How can the TRACK learning offer be promoted and made available best for the target group?
- Which role can the TRACK certificate play in raising the (self-) awareness of competences acquired by informal caregivers?
- Which possibilities for recognising the TRACK certificate exist with regard to VET offers in the field of care?
- Can the TRACK training be a 1st step for continuous VET in the field of care?

Feasibility Study: methodology

- Desk top research and literature review
- Reviewing 25 good practice projects at national and EU level
- Interviews with 6 national & 2 international certification experts
- 3 national validation workshops (in DE, ES, FR) to collect input and feedback from more than 60 experts:
 - __35 informal & professional caregivers & health professionals
 - __11 policy representatives, decision makers, validation experts
 - __10 VET professionals and information providers for the elderly
 - __5 PES, recruitment agencies and enterprises

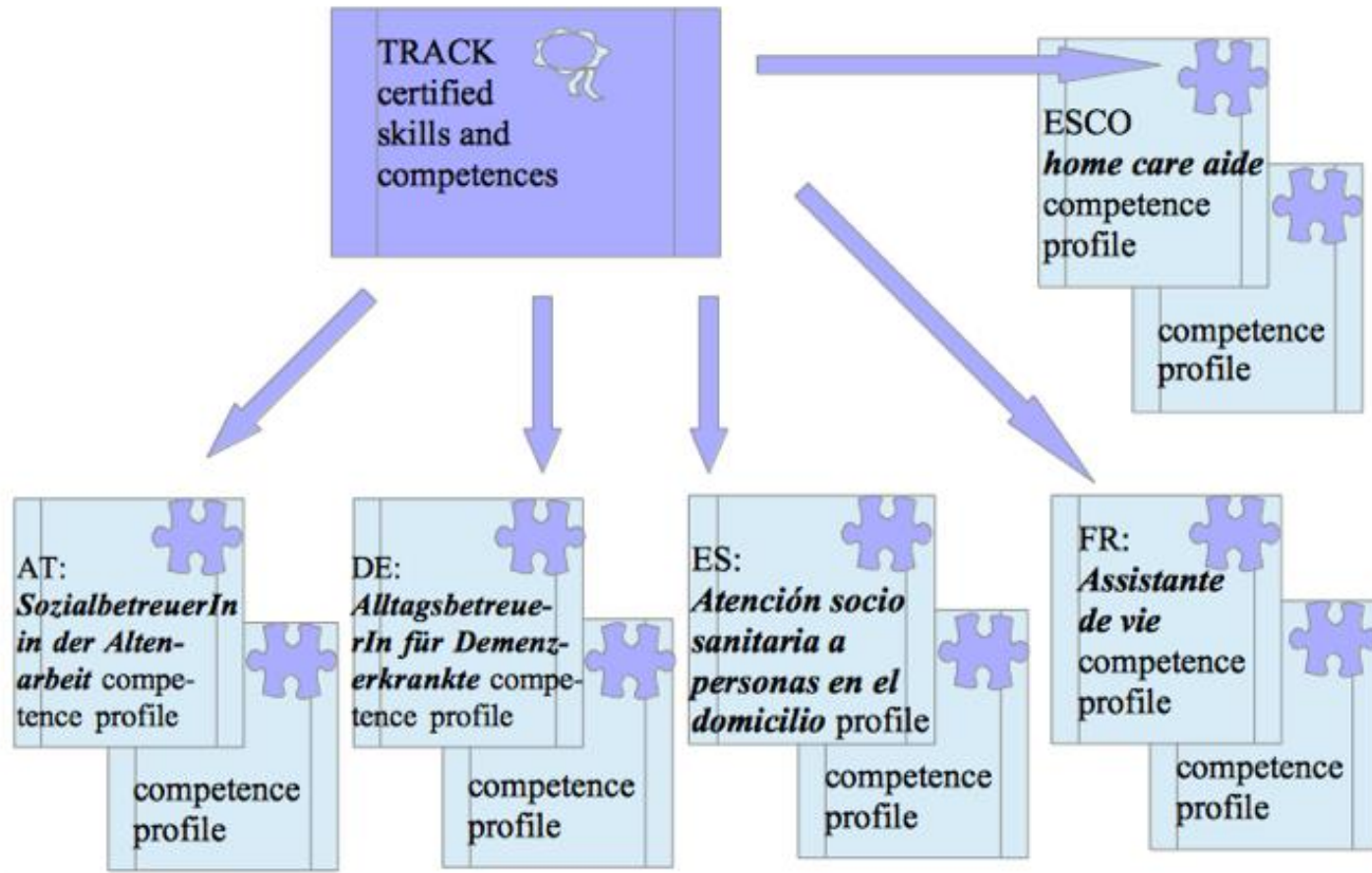
TRACK roll-out: challenges

- Reaching the target group
- Missing awareness for informal caregivers' needs
- Different legal situations & policies regarding the support of informal caregivers and the recognition of their skills
- Different approaches to qualifying informal carers for health or social care professions > training of informal carers is not equally well established in all countries
- Acceptance of certificates from other countries/training providers is low
- Validation & recognition procedures for non-formal learning (such as TRACK) or prior learning are not equally well developed

TRACK roll-out: multiple aims

- Training and support of informal caregivers
- Empowerment of informal caregivers
- Raising awareness for informal caregivers' skills
- Encouraging (lifelong) learning of informal caregivers
- Offering additional career perspectives
- Encouraging the recognition of informal caregivers' skills and competences at European level

TRACK certificate & care professions



Roadmap for piloting countries I

TRACK could be:

- offered by
 - __training providers
 - __associations supporting informal carers or dementia patients
 - __social care organisations (as add-on qualification)
 - __self-help groups ...
- promoted via
 - __family doctors
 - __"mobile" nurses
 - __self-help groups
 - __dementia information networks
 - __regional administrations concerned with social care...

Roadmap for piloting countries II

Co-operations with the following institutions are possible:

- professional care associations
- certifying bodies
- national initiatives and/or regional administrations
- public employment services
- trade unions
- Ministries of Health
- the social security system
- selected European initiatives ...

TRACK: possible EU co-operations

- **ECC, European Care Certificate:** possibility to distribute the TRACK training in several EU countries; TRACK could be a kind of initial training for the further certification offer of ECC.
- **ECVC, Elderly Care Vocational Certificate:** ECVC follows a similar approach to TRACK's; TRACK might be linked to the ECVC as a module focussing on the care of dementia patients.
- **DISCOVER:** could help to train informal carers' digital skills before starting with TRACK. DISCOVER services such as the “e-Portfolio Pack” could be used to document skills acquired via TRACK.
- **KEYFORA:** offers training of core competences and a Self-Assessment Skills Audit tool; the TRACK and the KEYFORA training could complement each other.

TRACK: caregiver perspectives

- **Option 1:** caregivers pass the TRACK training and receive a certificate; they can document acquired care competences by using a national skills audit tool.
- **Option 2:** caregivers go for further training, e.g. a follow-up training for informal caregivers; the certificates proof the acquisition of competences.
- **Option 3:** caregivers use the TRACK training to apply for recognition of prior learning at VET providers that offer training for relevant care professions.
- **Option 4:** caregivers with long-term care experience may apply for official validation of their care competences (FR, ES); TRACK could be used as preparation for applying for a full or partial qualification or to document part of the skills acquired.

Requirements at policy level



- Raising awareness for the needs of dementia patients and their caregivers at national and European level
- Encouraging the training of informal caregivers by providing structural support and funding
- Supporting information exchange between care professionals and informal caregivers to ensure the quality of home care
- Supporting projects that trigger comparison of national conditions and developments in EU member states



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Thank you!

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