

INTRODUCTION

'Dementia in Cultural Mediation' (DCUM) is a transnational project driven by the increasing number of people living with dementia in Europe. The initiative is based on the great potential of cultural and artistic activities as an innovative and dynamic approach to achieve social inclusion of people with dementia in local communities and to improve their quality of life. Through learning from the rich body of knowledge and experiences in the field of arts, culture and dementia care that the involved partners from Belgium, Denmark, Spain and The Netherlands* have, the project has a clear ambition: *to reach out and engage local and regional cultural institutions, health and social authorities and end-user groups that want to embrace dementia in a more holistic way through cultural activities in order to create more dementia-inclusive communities.*

"Art makes life more enjoyable and helps us to still be involved in society. I am also convinced that art and culture can help to raise awareness on dementia and communicate about it in an open discussion without taboos. However, the cultural experience should be more tailored to the person with dementia if necessary. For example adjusting the explanation to the pace of the person with dementia during guided tours and enhancing the accessibility of the infrastructure are still challenges to address."

(Paul Goossens, living with dementia and member of the 'Flemish working group of people with dementia')

DELIVERABLES

The 'Dementia in Cultural Mediation' initiative will deliver *three main outputs*: an **opensource digital toolkit** of good practices shared through a customized website, audiovisual productions and social media, accompanying **didactic training material**, **a set of recommendations to contribute to future European efforts in the field of cultural mediation for people with dementia**. The recommendations are based on the project experiences and results which are continuously reviewed by a European reference group consisting of highly experienced experts in the field of dementia, research and the arts and representatives of the end-user group (informal caregivers and people living with dementia).



NEXT STEPS

The 'Dementia in Cultural Mediation' website will be made available in March 2022, with the wide range of good practices in arts, culture and dementia care presented through videos, digital project descriptions and online training material about different methods, frameworks and tools. To reach their overall purpose the project will increase the competencies of cultural mediators working in cultural institutions such as libraries, museums and civil society organizations but also healthcare professionals and policy stakeholders through exchange of tools and learning of new ways to practice cultural mediation aimed at people with dementia. The lived experience and valuable knowledge from people with dementia and their caregivers offers the guidance and quality check throughout the whole project development process.

"It is of course important to adapt cultural activities to the daily reality of people with dementia, but on the other hand people with dementia who still want and are able to do so must also be encouraged to take initiatives themselves. This not only concerns artistic activities with fellow people living with dementia, but also opportunities to remain active in regular cultural activities. Also in artistic and cultural activities, a good balance between stimulating capacities and understanding limitations of each person with dementia is vital to respect our autonomy and dignity."

(Jan Van Gils, living with dementia and member of the 'Flemish working group of people with dementia')

GET IN TOUCH!

Are you active in an inspirational artistic initiative or do you want to share ideas on the topic of the 'Dementia in Cultural Mediation' project? Get in touch with Olivier Constant: olivier.constant@dementie.be. Make sure to follow the project's social media updates on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/DementiaInCulturalMediation> and Twitter: <https://twitter.com/dcumproject>, before the official website launch in March 2022.

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Erasmus+



Dementia
in Cultural Mediation

PROJECT CONSORTIUM

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