



„Neue Rollen für die Zivilgesellschaft in einer „Caring Community- Innovative Bildung für mehr Lebensqualität und Selbstbestimmung im Alter“

Short report June 2017

Two tailor made trainings in the Netherlands and one job-sharing with SAGE in Ireland looked to the interfaces between the participation of clients, active citizenship and quality in care. The trainings were directed at German participants from the adult education sector - active in various sectors and fields of volunteering and informal care. Strengthening the internationalisation of organisations the programme supported 40 participants to transfer their international experiences into their own work.

Core of the project were two 3-day trainings provided by the Dutch organization LOC - Zeggenschap in zorg, known for its successful development, description and transmission of new educational methods for volunteers in care for many years. LOC's work for the participation of clients in care is based on the vision of a value based long term care and a strong role of older people in need of care. Each 3-days programme in the Netherlands was aimed to build an international understanding about European values and initiatives toward ageing in dignity and the translation into innovation in education for volunteers active in the field of care. Focussing on their experiences with client councils in the Netherlands LOC's training concentrated on educational concepts, methods, instruments and tools - easy to transfer into various fields of informal care and volunteering. 37 Participants discussed how to implement the LOC Vision of value based long term care into innovative education- based on a participatory approach to organize life in dignity in old age (methode „Het zorg Leefplan“). They experienced the use of the educational material of the GRUNDTVIG Project “WEDO II For the Wellbeing and Dignity in Old Age” (2013-2015) in an intercultural setting. They also tested new methods used by the local community to support older people in need of care- involving family , friends and volunteers in the process (f.e. method “Keukentafelgesprek”)

Visiting Sage-Support and Advocacy Service for Older People in Dublin was very inspiring for three experts from BAGSO. The great variety of presentations and discussions with staff and professional experts provided knowledge about Sage's work towards individual assistance for people receiving care by enhancing the abilities of vulnerable older persons to speak for themselves and mediating in situations of conflict of interests. The participants learned a lot about “assisted decision making” and new communication methods -introduced by law in Ireland. In addition they experienced the new SAGE trainings 2017 in which recipients of both residential and home care are matched with volunteer visitors in various “roles” f.e. to

facilitate and report any concerns they have about care to the SAGE that coordinates the services and provides training for professional advocates and volunteers in various roles. Hearing about the organisation of a “Forum” (a model for direct political participation), and the implementation of the “Senior Help Line” to fight loneliness in old age (Third Age) was quite instructive, as well the discussion about the progress – and barriers – towards an age-friendly Ireland.