



BUILDING ICT COMPETENCIES IN THE LONG-TERM CARE
SECTOR TO ENHANCE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR OLDER PEOPLE
AND THOSE AT RISK OF EXCLUSION

PRESS RELEASE

17 February 2014, Brussels

Experts to discuss challenges for care-workers in the digital age

„The ICT and e-Skills for Social Care Conference“ is organised by the CareNET project in the Brussels Press Club on 26 February 2014. It brings together social care professionals with policy-makers striving for responsive, competence-based and needs-oriented care systems.

We invite the press to this event where experts from around Europe will meet and discuss what are the ways to open up the care-sector in the brave new world of digital inclusion.

Care-workers in home care and older persons are exposed to the risk of social exclusion as they are both often at the margins of society and likely to be the victim of exclusion in the fast-changing digital world. The acquisition of digital skills is essential for both those in the care sector and families. In response to these pressing needs, the careNET project has identified key digital competences to support inclusion of care-workers in a new world of professionalisation and led on-the-job experiments with household carers in partnership with older people. It is now time to discuss current challenges and solutions in this field.

The Conference will open with keynote speakers elaborating on the role of (ICT) skills and competences in social care. The entire conference will be streamed live online via Adobe Connect and available online to the public. The conference keynote speakers include Mme Marie-Béatrice Levaux, President of the European Federation for Family Employment (EFFE), and Stephanie Carretero, Scientific officer at Institute for Prospective Technological Studies- Joint Research Centre, European Commission who will talk about the policy and research perspective of technology in European social care. Further discussions include ICT acceptance – the perspective of older persons by Nena Georgantzi,(AGE Platform Europe), Supporting carers through the web: by Areti Efthymiou, (Eurocarers Association) and many more.

Registered delegates will have access link of the online stream via e-mail.

The press will have the chance for live interviews with Mme Marie-Béatrice Levaux, President of the European Federation for Family Employment (EFFE) and speakers of the conference. For inquiries, please, contact: Mrs Eva Suba (Communication and Networking, EDEN – European Distance and E-learning Network) via suba@eden-online.org

Participants will have the opportunity to learn about European research related to the effect of technology-based services in care at home and new skills and knowledge for health care and social care staff as background. Relevant similar initiatives in various countries (UPCARING project, INNOVAGE, DISCOVER4U) on this field will be also presented, while the careNET project

national cases including a showcase summary on working with care workers in France and Spain will be also elaborated. To support networking and to create a possibility for other initiatives to collaborate, the careNET showcase will be mixed by presentations and discussion of other similar initiatives' results.

Coffee breaks and buffet lunch will be provided. Both on-site and online participants will have the chance to interact with the speakers and each other.

Date: 26 February 2014 at 10:00-16:30 CET

Venue: Brussels Press Club, Brussels, Belgium

Conference web: <http://www.carenetproject.eu/final-conference-call-ict-and-eskills-for-social-care/>

Registration (no fee): <http://www.carenetproject.eu/registration-form/>

Background information

In the careNET project (co-funded by the Lifelong Learning Programme of the European Commission), we focus on social inclusion through the development of ICT (Information and Communication Technologies) competences for care recipients above the age of 65 years in long term domiciliary care and care workers. Care workers' care for elderly people goes beyond helping with cleaning, cooking and other daily tasks. Care workers need their vocational competences to be developed, competences in relation to enabling care recipients use ICT. In the context of the everyday life in domiciliary care, careNET has explored in seven partner countries if and how care workers support the elderly as care recipients in handling their lives with the use of ICTs. In the care services provided for elderly people, the focus could be on care workers help with and teach the use ICTs and Internet. The care recipients can be empowered by the care workers through being able to use ICT in their everyday lives. By supporting the care recipients to use ICT, the care workers support the care recipients in becoming more independent and the care workers can perform their care work with greater proficiency.

In the family employment sector we find over half of all private individual employers aged 60 years old and over, and low-skilled women representing the majority of household employees. In response to pressing needs in the field, the careNET project has identified key digital competences to support inclusion of care-workers in a new world of professionalisation and led on-the-job experiments with household carers in partnership with older people. As the project comes to its end, the partners share their experiences and results to start a dialogue among similar initiatives and organisations active in the field.

Read more: [careNET project website](#) | [careNET on Facebook](#) | [Newsletters & articles](#)

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