



Dementia in Cultural Mediation

NEWSLETTER # 6



Newsletter Dementia in Cultural Mediation #6 July 2022



The End

Right now you are reading the last and final newsletter from Dementia in Cultural Mediation project.

After 3 years of work the project has reached the end on August the 31th 2022.

The last activities in the project has taken place in May and June in the partner countries. As you can read below all partners have arranged a Multiplier Event all aimed at spreading the results and outputs of the project to a wide range of stakeholders.

While the project ends in August the DCUM Toolkit and Facebook pages will remain open and available, and we hope that a lot of cultural mediators and other stakeholders will continue to use all the materials and inspiration found on the online platforms.

Visit the Toolkit here: www.dementiainculturalmediation.eu

Visit DCUM-Facebook page here: <https://www.facebook.com/DementiaInCulturalMediation>

Multiplier events

One of the last activities in the DCUM-project is the Multiplier events, where all partners presented the project for a relevant audience in their own network. We are proud to say, that all the events were tremendously successful.

BELGIUM

A lot of enthusiasm and inspiration during the Belgian multiplier event 'Culture and dementia in connection – an art'





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On Friday, May 6, the study day 'Culture and dementia in connection - an art' took place in the Provincial House of Leuven. The event was fully booked with more than 120 participants who learned more about the achievements of the international partnership 'Dementia in Cultural Mediation' (DCUM), with partners from four countries: the Netherlands, Denmark, Spain and Belgium, including the Flanders Expertise Center on Dementia and the Vrije Universiteit Brussel, who organized the study day together.



The project partners jointly developed a multisensory online toolbox on art and dementia for cultural mediators, professional caregivers, informal caregivers and people with dementia. The accessible toolbox goes hand in hand with brand new didactic training material and recommendations. The study day was a unique opportunity to learn more about planning and organizing activities for people with dementia.

During interactive workshops from various artistic angles (visual arts, photography, theater and literature), the participants engaged in conversation and exchanged ideas at the intersection of art, culture and inclusion of people with dementia. The enthusiastic reactions during and after the study day showed that the theme of 'Dementia in Cultural Mediation' is close to the heart of many. To be continued!

DENMARK

In Denmark we had the opportunity to place our Multiplier event where we could get the most attention, namely, at the DemensDage2022 (=DementiaDays2022). It is the biggest event for people connected to or working with citizens living with dementia, so when they invited



us to give a speech on DCUM we accepted in a split second. We also decided to have a stall where the audience attending the conference could have a chat with us about the project. Approximately 1000 people attended the conference and 300-400 of these chose to attend our speech, so it was quite successful.

HOLLAND





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On Monday, June 20, was the dementia meeting 'Art & Culture: cultural activities for people living with dementia'. This was organized by HANNN in Sint Nicolaasga, a village in the province of Friesland in the northern part of the Netherlands. A atmospheric location was the setting this afternoon with plenty of space to set up the various DCUM activities as a carousel.



Upon entry, participants received a coloured card with a number on it, this was their starting point for the carousel. A wide and divers audience was present from different domains. People who already organize activities for people with dementia but also those who would like to start doing so. People with loved ones with dementia also attended to hear more about possibilities and ways to interact meaningfully. From the more than 60 participants we heard many positive reactions and beautiful stories were shared. With great pleasure we look back on this successful, sunny and inspiring day!

Quote from a participant:

"I HAVE LEARNED SO MUCH IN SUCH A SHORT TIME ALREADY, THIS IS SO VALUABLE"

SPAIN

Matia organizes a pioneering conference on art, culture, and dementia at the Donostia Aquarium

On 8th June, the event "Art and culture, a window to the meaning of life in dementia" took place in Donostia, which brought together people from different communities in Spain in the auditorium of the Aquarium, where the results and materials generated within the framework of the project 'Dementia in Cultural Mediation' (DCUM) were presented.

Iker Arrue, dancer and director of the company AiDoProject, said at the end of the event: "I believe that we have



managed to transmit the essence of the work that we develop, through music and movement, in the Invisible Beauty project."

The conference also featured the participation of David Viñuales, founding partner of Instituto 8 and lecturer at the University of Barcelona, who shared some of the keys to his methodology of using images to work with people affected by Alzheimer's and other dementias.





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During his presentation, attendees were able to see and test how a simple photograph can become a surprising tool to break down communication barriers and address vital changes.



More info:
<https://www.matiafundazioa.eus/en/noticias/matia-organises-pioneering-conference-art-culture-and-dementia-donostia-aquarium>



Partners most positive experience in the project?

I am inspired by some of the beautiful films on the website and I like the PDF files very much. Some are very good, others a little too scientific. I mostly like the practical materials and tools that are available. For instance, the PDF about 'communication' is my favorite and how I like materials to be. Behind the scenes, a lot of work is done. Thank you all for that.

Inspiring that the lead partner was a library. In working with people with dementia it is not common, but it indicates that dementia is a normal part of our society that is challenging. Professionally I feel this big added value, strong ... and replicable in other countries/places. I like to work together in EU-context because it broadens my perspective, and I learned a lot from other countries.

The collaboration with old and new partners. Getting to know each other and each talent and being inspired by sharing stories and experiences.

Professionally: Seeing the result. (encyclopedia), how everything came together. And meeting new work partners, inspiring.

Cool partners in the project. Ability and willingness to carry through the project despite covid. Excellent project results!

Knowing experiences from other EU countries. Contribute to the development of initiatives that could help people with dementia. Meeting people that work with/for people with dementia.





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Networking with cultural mediators: great!
Kamilla's support with budget issues etc.:
Top! Getting to know different practices: is
amazing! International collaboration.

*The different approaches from very diverse ...
(music, dance, literature, art). Personal contacts:
It helped in developing our project and new ideas.
The community ...*

*I got to know a few inspirational projects.
I learned how to look differently at
projects. Met some great people. Enjoyed
international fellowship and the future,
making for people with dementia.*

Very interesting balance between focus on cultural
perspectives and the scientific perspectives. I have
been impressed by many of the creative events
and felt the scientific depth very interesting.

*To see similarities and differences in approaches
from country to country and from
institution to institution. Sharing ideas, and
knowledge, but also inertinities and difficulties
are the key.*

*Connecting with other people result in new ideas.
Publication of the research. By comparing the research
of other disciplines (e.g., music). It revealed the lack
of research about the visual arts. It made clear that
there is still plenty of added value and possibilities to
discover or use images and photographs (self-production)
for people with dementia.*

*The sharing with artists and mediators. Energy and stereoty-
pe-free approaches to dementia are so different from the broad
society/medical point of view. Foreseeing an open future for
these kinds of initiatives.*

*In my personal experience I very much
enjoyed discovering the activities that
are going on. For me, it is a pleasure and
it surprises me to see that there are a lot
of things here in Spain, and of course in
other countries. Also, a nice opportunity
to know people working in this field.*

*The fact that we made it! Despite challenges. Meeting energetic,
professional, and knowledgeable people. Getting to know all the persons from
partner organizations. Inspiration from cultural activities can be used in other
projects on culture and health. Experience in an international corporation and
project management and project development.*

**Inspiration from the different cultural
forms. The unformal way of conveying
and exchanging methods.**

*The activities we have seen. The nice and
very professional people we have met from
the partner countries.*

*Getting to know inspiring projects, driven people, and learning
from the open ... Always exiting ... the LLT-mo-
ments, both online as well as live in Groningen.*

