

Conference abstract

Experiences from regional public funding agencies

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Abstract

Introduction: There is an increasing demand of social and health services by persons with long-term care (LTC) needs. On the other hand the devolution process has shifted governance and funding to regional agencies in many EU countries. Regional agencies are getting an increasing role in funding LTC. Knowledge transfer (KT) plays a key role in the development of regional funding agencies, as they should cooperate with both local and national agencies as well as several European organisations and companies operating in their regions. The communication barriers between social and health services play a particular role at regional level.

Description of care or policy practice: In Spain the 17 regions have full government autonomy in health and social care. These regions have developed different approaches to coordination of care and KT. Andalusia is the larger region in Spain. In order to coordinate provision and planning, the regional government has developed a network of cross-sectional agencies in specific areas such as Mental Health (FAISEM), Social Services in Ageing, Disabilities, Poverty and TICs (FASS), Emergency care (EPES), care related to gender (Instituto Andaluz de la Mujer), Health Care for the Elderly in the community (Living Lab and IAVANTE Foundation) or innovation in new technologies applied to social care (I2BC); among several others. A number of these public organisations are privately run.

Discussion: Coordination and links across these organisations as well as funding issues are discussed here. The relationship or coordination agencies with citizens and other stakeholders deserve special attention as well. Andalusia provides an interesting case of cross-sectorial coordination within the European context.

Keywords

knowledge transfer, social and health services, e-services, funding agencies, long-term care and support, assisting living services, efficiency, dependence, elderly people, persons with disabilities

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