

Community Nursing in Austria - a Step towards Integrated Community Care

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Purpose

The aim of community nursing is to increase and strengthen the health literacy of the population and improve their well-being with a special focus on providing elderly with the opportunity to remain in their homes while receiving the necessary care. Since the beginning of 2022 around 120 community nursing pilot projects have been rolled out in all federal states across Austria. An estimated 50,000 people are expected to be reached annually and to profit from this health and care service.

Context

In Austria, the role of community nurses is to provide low-threshold, demand-oriented and population-based care on a community level. In addition to identification of the unmet needs within the population, and having these addressed by nurses, the strategic purpose is to ensure an efficient, quality-assured, and sustainable implementation.

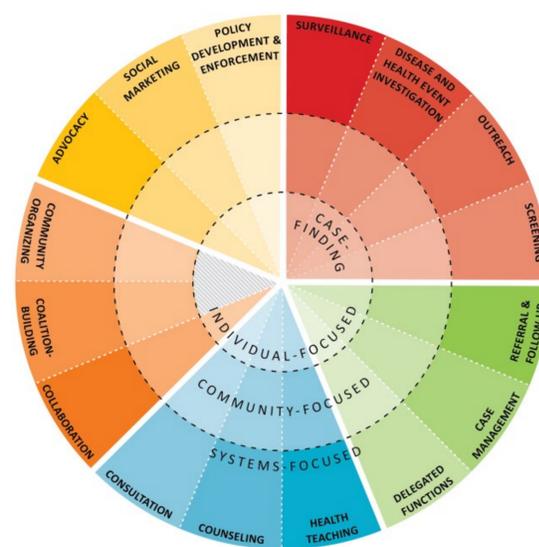
State of the Art

These projects are funded through the Recovery and Resilience Facility (NextGenerationEU). The Austrian Federal Ministry of Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection is responsible for and administers the pilot projects at the national level. The Austrian National Public Health Institute is responsible for the implementation, funding process, networking, educational activities, coordinating and project reporting. Thereby, through continuous close support and monitoring, a standardized approach for all regions across the nation is ensured.

Statements for Debate

Community nurses actively bridge the gap between the social and health sector, thereby increasing access to these services and facilitation thereof.

- What are the experiences in other countries, especially regarding implementation pitfalls?
- Are these pilot projects an effective solution in driving efforts towards integrated care?



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References

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