

PROJECT INITIATOR

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PROJECT-PARTNERS

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MISSION DEMENTIA

**KNOWLEDGE IN COMMUNICATING WITH PERSONS WITH DEMENTIA
AN INTERNET BASED LEARNING PROGRAM FOR POLICE OFFICERS IN AUSTRIA**



HOW TO DO

Creating and implementing an internet based learning program for police officers in Austria (interactively)

WHY POLICE OFFICERS ARE FIRST POINT OF CONTACT?

They are very often the first group who gets in contact with people suffering from dementia in a situation of crisis. The knowledge and competence of policemen in dealing with people with dementia are added value for society.

STATISTICS

130.000 people suffering from Dementia in Austria. This number will double by 2030. Nearly every family will be directly or indirectly affected in Austria. Someone in the world develops dementia every 3 seconds. Dementia is a syndrome that affects memory, thinking, behaviour and ability to perform everyday activities. Dementia is overwhelming not only for the people who have it, but also for their caregivers and families. There is lack of awareness and understanding of dementia in most countries, resulting in stigmatization, barriers to diagnosis and care, and impacting caregivers, families and societies physically, psychologically and economically (WHO 2017).

OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT „MISSION DEMENTIA“

- ❶ 20.000 police officers are currently working in Austria and will become informed about dementia. They receive a working tool for solving difficult situations involving persons with dementia
- ❷ Police Stations as part of the network and contact point for persons with dementia and their caregivers (regional contacts)
- ❸ Make Dementia a societal topic and work towards the integration of Persons with Dementia into our society
- ❹ to certify all police departments

Module 1: Basic Information about Dementia

Module 2: Security through competence

Module 3: Understand people with dementia

Module 4: knowledge check

(random system chooses from 50 questions/situations answers via multiple choice options)

CERTIFICATION PROCESS

- 70% of Police Officers in a given Police Unit (Station) finish the E-learning tool
- Prove of a regional network (for example regular participation in regional meetings with care organizations/nursing homes)
- The police station can submit an application and will receive the designation :
"Dementia friendly police Station"

IMPLEMENTATION:

Financial partners: Fonds Gesundes Österreich , Versicherungsanstalt öffentlich Bediensteter (BVA) and SIAK

Based on focus group interviews with Police Officers, Persons with Dementia and Caregivers, the project team developed 3 learning modules. Within the interviews the most relevant situations for all three groups were identified. It was important to pay attention to the police resources (financial, time, personal).

The internet based learning program can be accessed at any time, the learning time is about 15 minutes per module, the Police Officers are allowed to learn during their working hours.

The famous Austrian actor and ambassador of the MAS Alzheimerhilfe, Adi Hirschal took on the acting and speaking of the educational film of Module 1.

PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

PHASE 1 – DEVELOPMENT

- ▶ Creating and implementing the E-learning platform (defining the content and the educational concept, the filming, technical implementation) accompanied by the feedback from the Police Officers in practice.
- ▶ “Mission Dementia” started in 2016 through the Learning Management System of the SIAK Campus.

PHASE 2 – IMPLEMENTATION INTO DAILY PRACTICE

Within the Police, an initiative was started to join “Mission dementia” by sending out motivational communications. Creating a motivational system and to make the initiative visible, we created a certification process which is concluded with the Award “Dementia Friendly Police Station”. Additionally the successful conclusion of the E-learning modules “Mission Dementia” is credited for continuing education within the Police.

The Award is issued by the, the Centre for Dementia Studies of the Danube University, MAS Alzheimerhilfe and the SIAK.

Adopting the learning-tool to the best possible practice-quality. Public relation work has been started and the internal acquisition-process has been started to get more and more police stations involved. Simultaneously we pushed building networks and finding partners.

SUCCESSSES

A The Award Ceremony of the first 25 police stations was celebrated in the Ministry of Inner Affairs in January 2018.

The principles of this project could be applied to other areas of society (such as blue light organizations and trading companies) in an effort to include persons with dementia into our society.

1 STATISTICS

End of 2017	2018 / January
• 4.651 Policemen- and women worked with the Online-Tool	• 4.980 Policemen- and women worked with the Online-Tool
• 3.624 positively concluded the course	• 3.900 positively concluded the course
• 25 “Dementia Friendly Police Stations”	• 51 “Dementia Friendly Police Stations”

2 IMPACT OF THE PROJECT

SHOWN BY AN EXAMPLE OF THE REGIONAL BOARDS OF STYRIA (DEUTSCHLANDSBERG)

Better achievements by networking:

Building a network is an important pre-requisite for obtaining a certificate. The safety officers are the contact person on the part of the police stations. In the region Deutschlandsberg, they started cooperations with the emergency services (Red Cross, Green cross, men trailing dogs, fire department) and started an information exchange and a common sensitization of employees initiative involving experts on dementia (Social Club Deutschlandsberg), political County Head (Bezirkshauptmann), Head of the security unit (Leiter des Sicherheitsreferates), Head of the State Hospital, Fire chief, Rescue commander (Red cross, green cross), Representatives of mobile and inpatient care services and the Safety officers of the police stations.

3 Mission Dementia (E-learning platform) is a fixed element in the education of police cadets since 2017.

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