

Programme:	Europe for Citizens Programme - 3.2.2 Measure Networks of Towns
Deadline:	1st of March 2015
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Organisation:	<p>Helsingborg is located in the centre in the Øresund region with about approximately 320 000 inhabitants. The region is situated in the northwestern part of Skåne (Scania). Helsingborg is Sweden's closest point to Denmark, with the Danish city Helsingør clearly visible on the other side of the Øresund. Approximately 135 000 people live in the Municipality of Helsingborg, which makes Helsingborg one of the tenth largest municipalities in Sweden.</p> <p>Swedish municipalities are unique in their wide range of competencies and their constitutional power of taxation. Sweden has a strong tradition of allowing local authorities to play a major role in the society, with a high degree of self-governance and responsibility for different sectors and activities. Each of the 290 municipalities in Sweden is responsible for providing a significant proportion of public services; e.g. schools, emergency services and city planning. They also have a considerable degree of autonomy and have independent powers of taxation. According to the law, the municipalities are responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Childcare and pre-schools • Primary and secondary schools • Social services • Elderly care • Support to people with disabilities • Health and environmental issues • Emergency services • Urban planning • Sanitation (waste, sewage) <p>Helsingborg spends about 5 billion SEK each year to provide services to citizens. The majority goes to schools, elderly care and for the people with disabilities.</p> <p>Elderly and Disabled Care Department</p>

	<p>In Helsingborg, the Elderly and Disabled Care Department (Vård- och omsorgsförvaltningen) is responsible for the care and support to elderly citizens and to citizens with disabilities.</p> <p>In the department, 2100 people are employed, with 90 percent working as care staff; e.g. staff nurses, personal assistance for disabled people, nurses, occupational therapists or physiotherapists.</p> <p>The municipality's elderly care service is for elderly people who are in need of support. The formal home care provides care services and medical health care. In addition, it provides quotidian care as cleaning, buying food or preparing meals and washing clothes</p> <p>There are also other types of support, such as emergency medical alarms, daily activity centres or meeting places where older people can meet with other people and participate in different activities.</p> <p>Older people with explicit weakness caused by old age, serious memory disruption or another serious illness have the opportunity to apply for a place at a nursing home. In order to be able to receive formal care or live in a nursing home, authorized benefit is needed. The benefit system is formalized in the Swedish national law.</p> <p>8 percent of all elderly people (70 years of age or above) live in nursing homes. 19 percent receive formal care at home.</p> <p>Website: www.helsingborg.se or www.helsingborg.se/Medborgare/toppmeny/english/care-and-social-services/ (English)</p>
<p>Project idea: (Aim/objectives/activites)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">The demographic challenges in Europe – How do we develop tomorrow's home care services?</p> <p>Background and aim</p> <p>The Elderly and Disabled Care Department in the City of Helsingborg has identified that one of the main future challenges is the development of home care services. The Swedish care system for elderly with disabilities has for a long time been providing residential care in nursing homes, even though the municipalities have delivered homecare services for many years. The development and the tradition of homecare have existed for a long time in Sweden and Swedish law guarantees the inhabitants' right to homecare service. However, the costs of care for elderly with special needs are constantly increasing and the demographic development in Europe will require an even more effective home care, where the elderly feel safe in their home environment, and where the families get the sufficient support.</p>

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The goal is to create a better and more functional home care by 2020.

The City of Helsingborg is therefore searching for European partners who are interested in participating in a project proposal under the **Europe for Citizens Programme - 3.2.2 Measure Networks of Towns (deadline 1st March 2015)**. The project aims at exchanging experiences and knowledge on how to develop the home care services of tomorrow.

A project within this programme could work with various aspects of the future of home care. Questions to be raised could be:

- What services are available today and what services could be offered in the future for the elderly?
- How could we involve all the relevant and affected stakeholders in this process? How do we create and develop participation and commitment of our citizens in this work?
- What methods and approaches could be developed and adapted to the new/changed services that the future home care requires?
- How do we create a sustainable cooperation with similar European municipalities on this theme?
- How can we work with housing, physical environment and technology to create a better home care?

In order to know what type of home care we are looking for, we need to know what is delivered today, and what the users will request. To be able to reach the best possible results, the project will require a clear and strong civic dialogue, with not only citizens, but also with enterprises, civil society, NGO's, etc. It is important that the expectations and concerns of all relevant stakeholders are taken into account at an early stage, to be able to ensure that they are active participants in the processes that take place in the community. This does not only create input from the users and their relatives; it also allows a discussion with a wider range of people and corresponding players from other countries, which hopefully adds both new perspectives and inspiration.

Managed properly, the project could serve as an inventory and mapping at the same time as it sets up new relevant goals to work towards. By collecting and sharing experiences with partners in Europe, Helsingborg hopes to gain new knowledge on how other European cities with similar assets and conditions have worked progressively with the future of home care services.

An important part of the project will be to create long-term and structured partnerships between municipalities and other stakeholders. It will also encourage active citizenship and help to engage citizens in matters relating to the EU's political agenda, and experience of this is thus also desirable.

Activities foreseen:

Studies, workshops, seminars

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	<p>Creation of a guide or recommendations Lectures by scientists/experts</p> <p>In the project, representatives from the different partner organisations visit each other to attend seminars and workshops on-site. Each workshop will have a specific theme, for example technical support, collaboration with the NGOs, memory loss/amnesia, future staff training and education. They will connect to the overall aim of the project and should illustrate a good example from each situation. It could be a method, process or any other type of initiative.</p> <p>Results: The project will result in a shorter final paper with good examples/recommendations on how to develop tomorrow's home care services. Based on the paper and recommendations, the partnership will, at the end of the project, also have a plan for how to continue, develop and deepen their future cooperation.</p> <p>If you find this proposal interesting, please do not hesitate to make contact for further details at latest the 15th January 2015.</p>
<p>Partners searched:</p>	<p>Helsingborg is seeking collaboration with partners in Europe who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have experience in developing home care services adapted to future challenges. • Could showcase a method or good example on how they are dealing with this challenge today - especially through active involvement of residents and the local community. • Are committed and have the capacity to work with this issue from a long term perspective with European partners. <p>Helsingborg is particularly interested to collaborate and share knowledge with other local authorities in Europe who are or have been in the same situation and have experience in developing home care services.</p>
<p>Project period:</p>	<p>September 1, 2015 - March 31, 2017 (18 months)</p>