

The European Foundations' Initiative on Dementia (EFID) launches the European Awards:

"Valuing the expertise of people living with dementia"

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A group of foundations, composed of the Robert Bosch Stiftung, The Atlantic Philanthropies, the Fondation M d ric Alzheimer, the King Baudouin Foundation and the Genio Trust launch the European Foundations' Initiative on Dementia (EFID) Awards "Valuing the expertise of people living with dementia" in order to reward initiatives that give people living with dementia a stronger voice and value and respect their autonomy and citizenship.

By rewarding the best local initiatives that promote social inclusion, through a Europe-wide awards scheme, EFID wishes to encourage context relevant projects aiming at creating the conditions and opportunities for:

- Listening to people with dementia, valuing their expertise and empowering them as individuals living with the condition;
- Respecting the dignity, autonomy and the right of self-determination of people with dementia at all stages of dementia;
- Supporting people living with moderate and/or severe dementia to express their own interests and wishes regarding treatment and care;
- The emergence of a stronger voice and participation of people with dementia at all levels (eg. within their personal life, in a city or neighbourhood, in a hospital, in the community, in a nursing/care home);
- The organization and support of peer-support groups of people living with dementia.

Up to 10 projects will be funded with up to € 10.000.

Numerous clich s concerning dementia inhibit spontaneous communication in communities, to the extent that people with dementia have been described as being one of the most marginalised and stigmatised group in society. Decisions about their social engagement, care path, services or needs are often made FOR them and not BY them. Foundations are conscious that meaningful participation of people with dementia in society is crucial to change the perception of the condition and to make their priorities heard by stakeholders, decision-makers, researchers, business, etc.

Recently, groups of people living with dementia have emerged, creating a collective voice for people with dementia who share the strategies they put in place (peer support) and express their care preferences, their wishes regarding the organization of dementia services, and their opinion about the changes needed in society in order to be more inclusive.

So as to contribute to a better quality of life for people living with dementia, EFID encourages civil society to participate and take responsibility for the way people with dementia are supported, listen to, empowered and integrated into the society.

The application and selection process will take place in two steps: firstly, applicants submit a concept note **by 28th May 2017** to info@efid.info. Secondly, shortlisted applicants will be invited to submit a full application written in English.

The full call for awards and application form are available on the EFID website: www.efid.info.