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Capacity development in palliative and hospice care through decentralized cooperation

Ukraine Project Edegem (Belgium)

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Due to the worldwide economical crisis, social service providers were the first victims of budgetary austerity. On the other hand we can see a worldwide willingness to solidarity. This paper will focus on the question how the capacity development in palliative and hospice care can be facilitated through decentralized cooperation. Capacity is about resources, instruments and structures, relationships, knowledge and skills. Capacity refers to the skills to perform tasks and produce concrete output, identify and solve problems and make informed choices. The capacity of an organization is affected by factors that operate at three levels: individual, institutional and organizational. Decentralized cooperation on the other hand is a supportive partnership between foreign local and regional sub-national organizations. Its main aim is to promote common prosperity and consolidate local development. Decentralized cooperation is considered as any project, initiative, or partnership among at least one foreign and one Ukrainian sub-national organization (public authority, semi public, NGO, educational institute...) in order to promote

sustainable capacity development. Besides other necessary measures to develop palliative and hospice care in Ukraine, this paper explores the potential of decentralized cooperation. The paper highlights bottom-up approach methods such as social investment, asset based work, participatory health care and empowerment. Inspiring and promising practices, based on collaborations between Belgium and other countries such as Poland and Romania, design a pathway for translocal collaboration based on the principle of equality of the partners and mutuality. By way of conclusion, because finances are important, the paper will give examples of funding instruments and European project lines. The last ones will give food for thought for future cooperation initiatives. The input for this paper is building further on the outcomes and the Belgian participation at the conference in 2011 and the first national congress in 2012. Ultimately, the result is to foster bottom-up approaches, thereby promoting democratization and local ownership resulting in a new Ukrainian Belgian decentralized cooperation.

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