

RHAPSODY

Research to Assess Policies and Strategies for Dementia in the Young

Dementia is 60 times less common in people aged below 65 years than in older adults. However, when dementia occurs at a relatively young age it imposes a particularly severe burden on patients and families.

RHAPSODY attempts to improve the management of young-onset dementia across Europe. The project starts with an analysis how health and social care structures in 6 countries (England, France, Germany, The Netherlands, Portugal, Sweden) affect access to service and care for people with young-onset dementia.

Then RHAPSODY assesses the individual needs of these patients and how these needs are met in the different health and social care environments. Next, RHAPSODY uses this information to design an intervention aimed at supporting people with young-onset dementia and their carers. An internet-based e-learning format of program delivery is employed to overcome barriers related to low prevalence, geographical spread and reduced mobility.

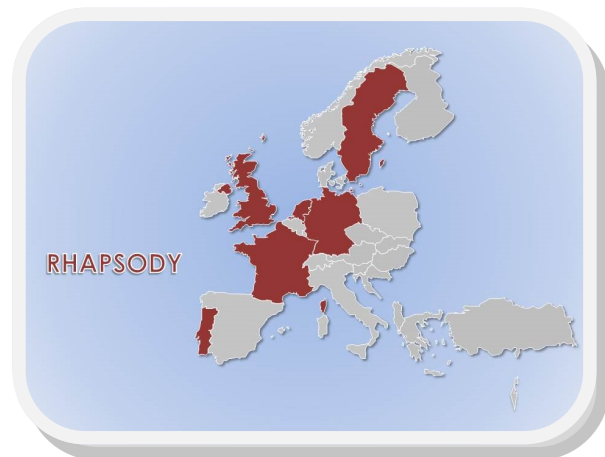
Finally, RHAPSODY tests this intervention in a pilot study with regard to feasibility, acceptance and cost-effectiveness in 3 countries. The results will be made available through educational materials for various user groups including family carers, patient and carer organisations, healthcare professionals, service providers as well as nursing home and day care staff.

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