

Peaceful societies for all ages: preventing and addressing violence against older persons

Training for employees: Vulnerabilities in Older Adulthood

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Anzjanità Attiva u Kura fil-Komunita'
Active Ageing & Community Care

Why was it developed?

- ▶ Developed as part of the implementation of the National Strategic Policy for Active Ageing.
- ▶ It is a known fact that older persons are often victims of different types of abuse and very often it goes unreported and undetected.
- ▶ Employees who participated include:
 - ▶ Handyman workers
 - ▶ Home Help supervisors
 - ▶ Later adapted to:
 - ▶ care workers of the Dementia Intervention Team
 - ▶ Care workers at Commcare

Vulnerabilities in older adulthood

- ▶ Programme developed in collaboration with the University of Malta.
- ▶ Training of staff to:
 - ▶ Foster lifelong learning and continuous professional development of employees in close contact with older adults.
 - ▶ Sensitize participants to issues, problems and limitations encountered by the older adults, such as material poverty, social exclusion, abuse, cybercrime, domestic and interpersonal violence.
 - ▶ Enhance knowledge of employees in close contact with older adults about the main available support services.
- ▶ 2 groups were held:
 - ▶ 2021/2022 - 31 employees
 - ▶ 2022/2023 - 11 employees



How was the training delivered?

- ▶ Training delivered in person for the first cohort of employees. Some employees from the second cohort preferred to join online and therefore training was delivered as hybrid.
- ▶ Duration: 22 hours (11 sessions x 2 hours / session).
- ▶ Delivered at the Active Ageing & Community Care premises.
- ▶ Course was adapted to the abilities of the participants and therefore included discussion within the class.
- ▶ The assessment was an oral discussion, and all sessions were held in Maltese language.



What is the content of the training:

The content of the course emerged from the fact that experience of ageing is strongly affected by the physical, psychological, social, cultural and financial status. The training included the following topics:

- ▶ Old age and quality of life in older adulthood
- ▶ Material poverty and social exclusion
- ▶ Social inequality
- ▶ Gender, sexuality, sexual orientation, ethnicity
- ▶ Abuse and domestic violence
- ▶ Interpersonal violence and victim support
- ▶ Cybercrime



Results

- ▶ Positive feedback especially from the Home Help section;
- ▶ Handyman employees were more reluctant to participate in this training but preferred the sessions by the police because they were more practical rather than theoretical.
- ▶ Scaling up:
 - ▶ Series of seminars to older persons in residential homes, older persons in the community and seminars for employees who work with older persons.
 - ▶ The seminars focus on financial abuse and include as speakers: social workers, Victim Support Agency, police officers, Guardianship Board, and the Malta Information Technology Agency.



Photo credit: Active Ageing and Community Care Malta

