

# THE PARTNESHIP

## *(Poland)* **Akademia Humanistyczno-Ekonomiczna w Łodzi**

University of Humanities and Economics in Łódź is an accredited higher education institution and provides bachelor, master, postgraduate, PhD studies and courses for various target groups. The university focuses on educational research, innovative teaching and e-learning.

## *(Romania)* **Ordinul Asistentilor Medicali Generalisti, Moaselor si Asistentilor Medicali din Romania Filiala Iasi**

The organization has more than 12,000 members - nurses, midwives and medical assistants, among which more than 8000 active members who practice in Iasi county. The activity of the organization consists in the control and supervision of the of nurse and midwife professional practice.

## *(Italy)* **Anziani e non solo Società Cooperativa Sociale**

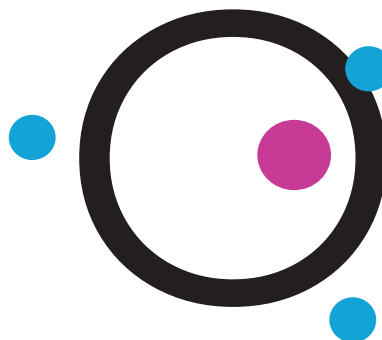
Is a non-profit organization working since 2004 in the field of social innovation, with a specific focus on management of projects and realization of services and products in the field of welfare and social inclusion.

## *(Lithuania)* **Klaipėdos Valstybinė kolegija**

Klaipėda State University of Applied Sciences has a lot of experience in creating course curriculums, updating study programmes, preparing documentation for accreditation of courses, teaching students, training adults.

## *(Sweden)* **Kristianstad University**

Kristianstad University was founded in 1977 and offers over 40 programs and 450 courses to approximately 14000 students. Among the four faculties (Business, Health Sciences, Natural Sciences and Teacher Education) the most active fields of research are biosphere, health/sustainability, food- and health science.



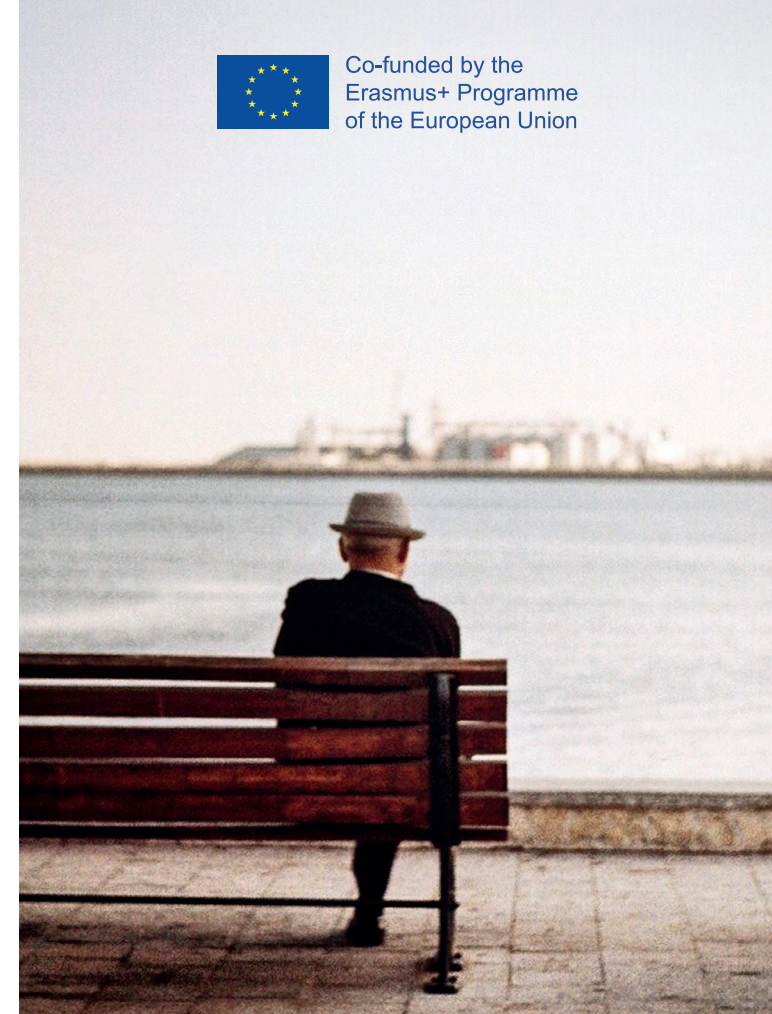
**LONELINESS IS A COMPLEX CONCEPT  
THAT ALSO INVOLVES PHYSICAL AS  
EXISTENTIAL DIMENSIONS**



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**INNOVATIVE HEALTH PROFESSIONALS  
TRAINING PROGRAM ON EXISTENTIAL LONELINESS  
AMONG OLDER PEOPLE**

**ALONE**

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Loneliness among older people is a growing issue globally, even if the numbers are difficult to estimate as loneliness most commonly is measured as social loneliness only. Social loneliness embraces social aspects needs for human relationships and is often measured in the form of the number of contacts someone has, how extensive the social network is, cohabitation or not, etc.

Even if other people surround you, you can experience profound loneliness in its existential form. Existential loneliness is usually described in association with death, dying, and cancer when questions about the meaning of life come to the fore. Studies involving health care staff (physicians, registered nurses, assistant nurses, social workers, physio- and occupational therapists) shows that the staff's encounter with older people's existential loneliness was experienced as both meaningful and challenging.

## THE PROJECT

**ALONE** project addresses the substantial need for the development of high quality work-based vocational education and training in the healthcare sector that facilitate the approach of vulnerable groups, older people affected by existential loneliness, in an efficient and structured way.

**ALONE** project will also raise awareness and contribute to a social dialogue about discrimination and social exclusion for patients that belongs to vulnerable groups in the partner countries.

### THE TARGET GROUP

The target group of ALONE project are: nurses and other professionals.

### ALONE PROJECT HAS TWO MAIN OBJECTIVE

- Educate nurses about the different dimensions of loneliness to be able to detect and recognize loneliness in all its forms among older people;
- Encourage nurses and strengthen their ability to encounter loneliness in general and existential loneliness in particular.

The aim of the project is to develop a best practice collection in coping with older persons loneliness and a training package for nurses and other health care professionals who currently have limited or no training in how to cope with older persons affected by existential loneliness provide qualified and integrative care to this vulnerable target group. The training material to be adopted across Europe, will be developed by using a transnational project approach, a collection of good practice and pedagogical guidelines that take into account the European social and cultural diversity in various healthcare facilities for older people.

By increasing knowledge and awareness about these aspects among partners and their networks, the project will also promote a broader health and social dialogue about the need to have adequate training on dealing with loneliness among older people in order to provide better patient care.

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*Loneliness in its existential form runs much deeper than social and physical loneliness and is described as an unavoidable condition of humanity*

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