

PRESS RELEASE

October 2021

Aarhus EU_SHAFE 3rd Intense Sharing of Good Practices for inter-regional learning meetings

(29th – 30th September 2021 in Aarhus, Denmark)



The first physical meeting since the project kick-off was attended by more than 20 EU_SHAFE partners and stakeholders from the Basque Country, Slovenia, Ireland, Portugal, Germany, Holland and Denmark. The event was hosted by two Aarhus municipality officials: **Anna-Karin Johannsen**, project manager of the department of Assisted Living technologies and **Benedikte Kruise Lindvig**, coordinator of the Public Private Innovation Fund for Assisted Living Technologies.

The event was opened on Wednesday the 29th by **Ivan Kjær Lauridsen**, head of Assisted Living Technologies, Aarhus municipality. Ivan spoke about the health and care work's framework and about the challenges the municipality is facing due to the increased number of older people, many of them affected by chronic diseases, and to the shortage of care staff. The department of Assisted Living

Technologies is in charge for researching, testing and implementing technologies and aids that can alleviate the current and future needs among the municipality's older citizens.

At DokkX, the municipality's assisted living technology exhibition, the project manager **Mikkel Svindt Fransgaard** shared the facts and figures behind DokkX's success as an experience, learning and innovation space. At DokkX, citizens can get advice and guidance to adopt suitable technological solutions and aids to support an independent and active life. DokkX is also a space for innovation, in which education and research institutions, business and industry, the municipality and the citizens of Aarhus can collaborate in the development of technological solutions for the future. The partners and stakeholders were given a hands-on tour of the current exhibition, *Culture Powering Up Your Health* which focuses on the interplay between art, culture, health and technology.

DokkX was selected as Aarhus' good practice in the EU_SHAFE project's Communication and Information domain 3, and it was highly satisfying for both hosts and visitors to finally see a good practice live. Showcased by videos, the other project's partners presented the following good practices: Basque Country (SP) the Interdisciplinary Research Platform Ageing and Wellbeing, Caritas Coimbra (PT) the IDOVIS project, Hamburg (D) the Billstedt/Horn Health Kiosks, Louth (IE) the ALONE's Healthy Ireland Information Technology Programme, and Slovenia (SI) the Sopotniki project. The partners' physical presence in the room allowed an interesting and lively discussion with a number of comments and questions from the partners about the presented good practices highlighting the value of knowledge sharing within the EU_SHAFE project.

The day ended with a visit to SPARK, where **Ole Mygind**, Project Director at Marselisborgcentret, Municipality of Aarhus and the Central Region of Denmark, gave a tour of the park and a presentation of the co-creative process and innovative development behind SPARK.

The purpose of SPARK is to create a new, living urban space in and around the Marselisborg Center, which partly meets the need for outdoor rehabilitation activities for the center's users, and partly the need for a fully-fledged climate adaptation effort in the area. These needs are united by the construction of a new public park, which also has the potential to increase social inclusion by creating meetings between the users of the Marselisborg Center and the many residents in the district. SPARK will strengthen the citizens' health, well-being and quality of life - both for citizens in the immediate area and for citizens who participate in a rehabilitation effort at the Marselisborg Center.

The event's second day was opened by **Ina Bøge Eskildsen**, chief consultant with responsibility for organisational and management development, Aarhus Municipality. Ina presented the Compass of Aarhus, the new framework for leadership, management and development of welfare in the municipality. The Compass concept is about a theory of change, based on three principles:

- Turning up the focus on value – a shift in perspective in which there is less focus on quantitative effects and more focus on how value appears in the eyes of citizens; new starting point; new evaluation criteria
- Turning up the use of co-creation and co-production – more creative thinking about mobilization of resources in development of welfare; who can contribute, when and how?
- Turning up the knowledge-informed approach to leadership, management and professional practice – expanding the definition of knowledge (from quantitative data to relevant knowledge of all kinds); introducing a stronger learning culture to supplement the highly professional management regime.

The presentation was an inspiring approach to the following workshop on the EU_SHAFE project impacts' creation and action plans. The partners briefly presented their policy instruments and the status of the action plans under development. Divided into working groups, the partners discussed the challenges they faced improving their policy instruments, what impact they wear aiming at achieving, how to measure this impact and presented the planned next steps. All project's partners agreed that discussion and exchange of experiences had within the working groups was very valuable for the preparation of the action plans.

Relevant to outline has been the presence in Aarhus of key stakeholders from Slovenia and Louth, interested in visiting new models of nursing homes. Two are the examples showed to them: the House of Generations and the nursing home Skovvang.

The House of Generations is a unique housing project where the community is the focal point. People of all ages with different abilities and in different life situations live there. Children, young people, adults and the elderly live and share everyday life together in the house, which has daycare for children and housing for students, families, people with disabilities and the elderly with and without the need for care.

Skovvang is a new nursing home for people with dementia consisting of 105 assisted living facilities, 20 facilities for short-term stays and a day center. All the structures have a view on green areas and the nursing home has a garden where elderly people can move around safely without the risk of getting lost. Close to the accommodations there are the dining and living rooms with the possibility of common lunches, activities and relaxation. In Aarhus alone, about 4,000 people are living with dementia. Skovvang offers a fantastic setting for citizens with severe dementia and has the best expertise in the field of dementia in terms of its professional staff and its facilities. The entire place is designed as energy class 2015, which means that sustainability and energy / environment-optimized solutions are incorporated in the project, including an optimized building design, green roofs and approx. 150 m² solar panels.

The stakeholders found the visits inspirational and came back with a number of ideas which could be transferable to their home environments. The feedback from both the partners and the stakeholders on the 2-day visit in Aarhus has been highly positive. The participants have gained detailed insight of work done in the municipality's health and care sector and learned a lot about its successes stories and faced challenges.

The Aarhus EU_SHAFE 3rd Intense Sharing of Good Practices for inter-regional learning represented a very fruitful occasion for all the EU_SHAFE partners to learn about different approaches to local development, strategies to create value for citizens and to get inspiration for future work at project's level to be translated into local actions.

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