



Compassionate Brugge

Organisation(s):		Public Centre for Social Welfare (PCSW) Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB)
Country:		Belgium
Contact:		policy@esn-eu.org
Theme: <i>Choose at least one option</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Ageing & Care <input type="checkbox"/> Asylum & Migration <input type="checkbox"/> Young People <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Support for Children & Families <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community Care <input type="checkbox"/> Integrated Care & Support <input type="checkbox"/> Co-Production <input type="checkbox"/> Disability <input type="checkbox"/> Housing & Homelessness <input type="checkbox"/> Artificial Intelligence <input type="checkbox"/> Digitalisation <input type="checkbox"/> Quality Care	<input type="checkbox"/> Labour Market Inclusion <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social Inclusion <input type="checkbox"/> Technology <input type="checkbox"/> Workforce and Leadership <input type="checkbox"/> Social Benefits <input type="checkbox"/> EU Funding <input type="checkbox"/> Social Service's Resilience <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mental Health <input type="checkbox"/> Person-Centred Care <input type="checkbox"/> Research & Use of Evidence <input type="checkbox"/> Other, please specify:
Principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights: <i>Check the 20 principles here.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> 1. Education, training, life-long learning <input type="checkbox"/> 2. Gender equality <input type="checkbox"/> 3. Equal opportunities <input type="checkbox"/> 4. Active support to employment <input type="checkbox"/> 5. Secure and adaptable employment <input type="checkbox"/> 6. Fair Wages <input type="checkbox"/> 7. Transparent employment conditions <input type="checkbox"/> 8. Social dialogue <input type="checkbox"/> 9. Work-life balance <input type="checkbox"/> 10. Healthy, safe work environment	<input type="checkbox"/> 11. Childcare and child support <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 12. Social protection <input type="checkbox"/> 13. Unemployment benefits <input type="checkbox"/> 14. Minimum income <input type="checkbox"/> 15. Old age income and pensions <input type="checkbox"/> 16. Health care <input type="checkbox"/> 17. Inclusion of people with disabilities <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 18. Long-term care <input type="checkbox"/> 19. Housing and assistance to homeless <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 20. Access to essential services
Current status of the practice:	<input type="checkbox"/> Concept and Design Phase <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Execution & Monitoring Phase <input type="checkbox"/> Consolidation Phase <input type="checkbox"/> Scaling Up and Transformation Phase <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)	
Context/ Social issues addressed <i>Please explain the problem you attempt to solve.</i>	<p>The initiative addresses several important issues related to death and grieving. Firstly, death is often a taboo subject that people avoid talking about, which can leave those who are grieving feeling alone and unsupported. The initiative aims to break this silence by encouraging open discussions about death and providing a supportive community.</p>	

	<p>Secondly, many people who are grieving struggle with a lack of emotional support, which can make their grief even harder to bear. The initiative helps by creating support networks and organizing events to offer comfort and practical help.</p> <p>Thirdly, in urban areas, people may feel disconnected from their community, especially during tough times like losing a loved one. The project works to strengthen community ties through various activities and events, fostering a sense of togetherness.</p> <p>Additionally, healthcare professionals and caregivers who deal with death may not always have the support or resources they need to cope with their demanding roles. The initiative provides training and resources to help these professionals handle difficult conversations and support their own well-being. Finally, there is often a lack of clear information about end-of-life arrangements, which can add stress to those dealing with loss. The initiative offers resources like a guide on death-related topics to help people with practical aspects of planning and decision-making.</p>
<p>Objectives: Please provide a maximum of three objectives in bullet points.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Foster open conversations about death to break the taboo and reduce stigma, creating a more supportive and understanding community for those experiencing loss. 2. Strengthen community bonds and provide emotional and practical support through organised events, workshops, and care networks to help individuals cope with grief and loss. 3. Provide targeted training and resources for healthcare professionals and caregivers to better manage end-of-life conversations and support both their own well-being and that of their patients.
<p>Activities: Please summarise the activities put in place to achieve the objectives (maximum 300 words).</p>	<p>To achieve its objectives, the City of Bruges has implemented a diverse range of activities involving 27 partners and 44 distinct events. These include concerts, walks, workshops, exhibitions, talks, information markets, and documentaries. The activities are designed to promote open discussions about death, provide emotional and practical support to those affected by loss, and enhance community engagement.</p> <p>Key initiatives include organising public events such as festivals and exhibitions to raise awareness and foster dialogue about death and grieving. Workshops and talks provide educational opportunities for both the public and professionals, including training for healthcare workers on managing end-of-life conversations. The initiative also includes creative activities, like poetry readings at home, to honour and support those experiencing loss in various ways.</p> <p>The City of Bruges plays a central role in this project by setting up the organisational framework, coordinating and negotiating the planning with partners, and managing communication efforts. This involves distributing booklets, creating posters, and engaging with the press to inform citizens about the available services and activities. Lessons learned from the initiative highlight the importance of starting preparations a year in advance with partners to ensure smooth execution. Additionally, printing more booklets and communicating early are crucial to effectively reaching and informing the community about the support available.</p> <p>Overall, these activities aim to create a more connected and supportive community, addressing the challenges of grief and providing valuable resources and information for those affected by loss.</p>

<p>Outcomes: Please explain what the results were/are so far and how you evaluated this.</p>	<p>The initiative has successfully implemented a range of activities to support the bereaved, foster community connections, and enhance awareness about death and grief. So far, the results of the initiative have been:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch of new 'Dead Guide' Bruges: A comprehensive booklet was introduced to help residents with end-of-life planning and support. <i>The first edition has been completely distributed. A copy is, among other things, routinely provided when registering a death with the municipal services.</i> • Creative workshops for children and parents to explore and express their feelings about death in a supportive environment. • Bank Kontakt – Sint-Kruis: more info: https://www.compagniekrak.be/nl/bankcontact • Setting up a network of grieve places + remembrance walk to honour and remember those who have passed, fostering a sense of community and remembrance. Activating a neighbourhood network to better address issues related to grief and loss. <i>We are currently conducting a SOAR analysis on these topics with various stakeholders.</i> • Jump in theatre: Alone or not? - a theatrical production exploring themes of solitude and connection, aimed at raising awareness and providing emotional support. • Workshops on loneliness: Focused on addressing and mitigating feelings of loneliness, particularly for those affected by loss. • From Cure to Care (Howest Research): <i>All information is available online for free: https://vancurenaarcare.be/project/.</i> • Koffie met je buur(t) – Sint-Kruis: A community coffee event designed to foster neighbourly connections and support within the Sint-Kruis area. • Workshops caring neighbors aimed at training and encouraging neighbours to support one another, particularly in times of grief. • Neighbourhood art on the remembrance places to create a comforting and reflective environment for the community.
<p>Links to supporting documents: e.g. website or report of the practice</p>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  EN_13 - Supporting Document 2.pdf </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  EN_13 - Supporting Document 1.pdf </div> </div>
<p>Comments and tips i.e. for people willing to use your Practice</p>	<p>Continuously engaging your network and keeping its members motivated to take action, alongside managing various daily tasks, requires ongoing attention.</p>