

# For a culture sensitive dementia care

The Divers Elderly Care project is a practice oriented research project.

Based on the insights of the experience of dementia and dementia care by elders, informal and formal carers, and together with these stakeholders we will formulate practice-oriented approach for a divers sensitive dementia care.

## UNDERLYING CONTEXT

The city of Brussels is ageing fast. The Brussels region currently has 153,000 people over 65 and their number is growing to 165,000 in 2020, and up to 220,000 in 2040. The proportion of elderly people of foreign origin in Brussels currently amounts to more than 27%. The upcoming generation of elderly people is diverse and not only from traditional migration countries such as Morocco or Turkey. By 2020, half of the Brussels elderly have foreign roots.

Recent studies show that the group of the oldest old within these migrant groups is increasing at a higher rate compared to indigenous elders. Age-related conditions like dementia will therefore manifest also within the migrant groups. Dementia is characterized by a progressive decline of cognitive abilities, rational and communication skills. It is known that this condition often remains underexposed and underrated within ethnic minority elders. Different conditions, cultural and healthcare related barriers explain this reality.

## PROJECTS' OBJECTIVES

In Belgium there is very little experience about a cross-cultural approach in dementia care. Given the demographic specificity of Brussels working on a cultural sensitive approach in elderly care in general, and dementia in particular, is needed.

The Divers Elderly Care project aims therefore to generate knowledge about the experience over dementia within ethnic minorities in Brussels as a foundation for culture sensitive ways to address the challenges of dementia within these communities.

This project is unique through its practice-oriented research investing in participation of all stakeholders. Elders, informal and formal carers are contributors and co-creators of how the project is conducted. By doing so, the project wants to ultimately deliver knowledge for a cross-cultural care approach that is relevant for all the stakeholders.