

Intergenerational care relations: Challenges and potentials for reconciliation of education and care in ageing knowledge societies (InterCare)

Initiative: Herausforderungen für Europa

Ausschreibung: Challenges and Potentials for Europe: Intergenerational Futures

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The focus of this project are the intergenerational care arrangements and the potential of young caregivers in education (YCE) in this context. Due to the demographic change, young caregivers between the ages of 18 and 30 years formally engaged in education (e.g., as university students or apprentices) are providing an increasing share of care for older adults. This bears both positive potential, such as building new competencies like compassion and resilience and the strengthening of intergenerational relations, and negative potential, such as physical and mental health issues, stress and time constraints, financial problems and decreased care quality, even elder abuse. This project explores these potentials in order to develop practical support measures that improve both the situation of the young people providing care and the older adults for whom they provide care. Based on a participatory mixed-methods design in which quantitative and qualitative methods are triangulated and contrasted across three countries (Germany, Poland, UK), the project aims to: (1) enhance the country-comparative knowledge about intergenerational care arrangements with a focus on YCE, (2) explore ways to harness the potential of intergenerational care arrangements by raising awareness and improving the situation of YCE and older care recipients across Europe in a participatory manner, (3) establish a European research network and equip early career researchers (ECR) with sound methodological knowledge and innovative participatory tools for researching intergenerational relations.

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