

## An internet based educational program for Police Officers in Austria

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### Background

Including persons with dementia into community life as long as possible is one of the major goals of National Dementia strategy (Scotland National Dementia Strategy 2013 – 2016)<sup>1</sup>. Awareness training for different professions involved in community services is crucial (Shanley et al, 2004)<sup>2</sup> in order to arrive at a societal approach to dementia care. Police Officers are frequently confronted with difficult situations, for example when persons with dementia are

- Wandering and getting lost
- Having problems to understand instructions
- Getting agitated as a result of unmet needs

Teaching all Police Officers in face to face training courses is expensive and extremely time consuming and maybe not as sustainable as continuous training via Intranet. Therefore we designed a project for the development of an internet based teaching program for Police Officers working at all levels in the Police Service.



### Method

Three different focus groups will be organized with

- Persons with Dementia
- Experienced Police Officers working in the Police Academy (SIAK Linz, Austria)
- Family support providers and caregivers

With the results of the focus groups, different important scenarios will be identified. From these „Scenarios“, real life problems solving teaching modules will be created. A usability test will be performed within the Police Academy training Officers.

### Goal

After a successful test run, the program will be implemented into the Austrian-wide Police Intranet.

Literature:

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Health/Services/Mental-health/Dementia/DementiaStrategy1316>

<sup>2</sup> Shanley, C. et al.: Working with organizations to implement dementia awareness training for public contact staff. American Journal of Alzheimer's Disease and Other Dementias. 2004; Volume 19. Number 3.