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Conference Abstract

## Prevention and rehabilitation for older people within Long-term Care in seven European countries –overarching topics and the meaning of social participation

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### Abstract:

**Introduction:** European and national public and political debates focus on the potential of prevention and rehabilitation (P&R) for older people. Increasingly the debate extends to P&R potentials for older people already in long-term care (LTC) processes. Non-medical perspectives emphasize the importance of social inclusion as central for their health and well-being.

**Methods:** In the EU (FP7) project INTERLINKS seven research teams investigated this topic in their countries, looking at political debates, scientific evidence, legislative and institutional contexts and good practice examples.

**Results:** In several countries this topic is in an initial state in policy, research and practice; in some, relevant approaches can be found. Some common issues were identified across countries: aspects of governance as promoting or compromising integrated pathways; inequalities in access; cultural issues promoting or inhibiting preventive and rehabilitative orientations; self-determination and self care as normative orientations. Non-medical intersectoral and integrated approaches to P&R, especially those addressing social inclusion, were under-represented. Still, some interesting examples demonstrate P&R approaches enabling also social participation for older people in LTC.

**Discussion and Conclusion:** P&R in LTC need further research and development in order to improve the evidence and identify effective elements for strategies in policy and practice

### Keywords

prevention, rehabilitation, long-term care, social inclusion

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**Presentation** available at <http://www.integratedcarefoundation.org/content/31-long-term-care-project-interlinks>