



## **EU Research Project on the Implementation of Chronic Care Improvements**

The EU has commissioned the researchers to:

- Seek expert views to answer the key question: *What research is most needed to speed the implementation of different types of changes that would improve chronic care and support services?*
- Define priorities for future EU funding of research to speed the implementation of chronic care improvements.
- Build a network of organisations and individuals to cooperate in implementing improvements.

This abstract describes the scientific methods and frameworks of the project to,

1. use a systematic method to define the implementation research needed (part 1 below) and,
2. develop implementation networks in each European country to cooperate with researchers and others (part 2 below)

in order to accelerate and make more effective improvements in care and support for people with long term illnesses.

### **1) Formulating the implementation research agenda**

The method first seeks 25 core experts' views about the knowledge most needed to assist implementation of proven ways to care for and support people with long term illnesses. It combines this with an overview of the research and experience on implementation to produce a survey of a wider group of 300 EU experts on the subject. The answers to the survey are systematically analysed to define priorities for research using the 'Expert Lens' method.

### **2) Implementation network creation and development**

The method to develop the network in each country, for stakeholder cooperation for implementation chronic care improvements and using research to do this is as follows:

#### *Institutional*

- Agree on one lead network coordinator per country acceptable to stakeholders (Country Network Organisers (CNO)).
- Enlist the stakeholders at each level of the health system who need to cooperate if wide-scale and significant improvements are to be achieved.
- Organize initial meetings to agree first projects to be funded and how to develop proposals to the EU and others for project funding and sustainability.

#### *Individual*

- Invite experts to join the Expert Panel and from that position contributing to IMPLEMENT,
- Have experts apply to contribute to the knowledge that is gathered by IMPLEMENT through the Expert Lens survey.

### **What this project leads to**

Funding priorities for EU research, and networks of the key parties and individuals required for conducting this research and implementing improvements at each level of the health system. During the project, network members will contribute to defining the priorities and research agenda. This enables members to prepare proposals for future EU funding. Network members are from established organisations which researchers can cooperate with to study implementation and to develop funding proposals. Such partnerships will be increasingly required for relevant research and as a precondition for research and development funding (Riley et al 2013, Øvretveit et al 2013).



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