



ProFouND: Prevention of Falls Network for Dissemination

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ProFouND : The Prevention of Falls Network for Dissemination

The Prevention of Falls Network for Dissemination (ProFouND) is an European Commission, Competitiveness and Innovation Framework Programme, funded thematic network working with the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing to bring about the dissemination and implementation of best practice in falls prevention across Europe.

ProFouND comprises 21 partners from 12 countries, with associate members from 10 countries. ProFouND aims to influence policy to increase awareness of falls and innovative prevention programmes amongst health and social care authorities, the commercial sector, NGOs and the general public in order to disseminate the work of the network to target groups across EU.

Specifically ProFouND's objective is to embed evidence based fall prevention programmes for elderly people at risk of falls by using novel ICT and effective training programmes in at least 10 countries/15 regions by 2015 to facilitate widespread implementation. ProFouND will achieve this in three main ways.

- First, by collating evidence-based resources to inform the development and content of a novel state-of-the-art online web-based expert system; the ProFouND Falls Prevention Application (PFApp). The PFApp will enable the creation of tailored, customised, up-to-date best practice guidance, that can be context and individual specific. For example, a Falls Prevention practitioner in assessing the needs of an elderly patient would ask a series of questions to inform the inclusion of best practice guidance from a database of predefined evidence-based articles. This advice, on aspects of health would be presented in an easily understand and attractive printable leaflet, branded with institutional logos, contact information and other bespoke information according to what is available in the local area.
- Second, ProFouND, in collaboration with Later Life Training, will provide a cascade model training programme using face to face and e-learning approaches to create a cadre of accredited exercise trainers across Europe to implement exercise regimens that have been proven to reduce falls amongst older people. The idea here is that once trained, these trainers would then in turn train instructors to deliver classes directly to people who need this kind of intervention.
- Third, ProFouND will also create an "ICT for Falls Forum" to identify evidence based solutions that can help reduce falls and engage with industry to promote development and adoption of these solutions. This forum will run events and reach out to promote MHealth capabilities and European competitiveness in the sector.

The ProFouND consortium partners are:

1. University of Manchester (GB)
2. Glasgow Caledonian University (GB)
3. Robert Bosch Gesellschaft für medizinische Forschung (D)
4. Norges Teknisk-Naturvitenskapelige Universitet (N)
5. Later Life Training Ltd (GB)
6. EuroSafe European Association for Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion (NL)
7. Osteoporosis Betegek Magyarországi Egyesülete (H)
8. Swiss Council for Accident Prevention bfu (CH)
9. Instituto de Salud Carlos III (E)
10. Azienda Unità Sanitaria Locale 11 Empoli (I)
11. National Center for Scientific Research "Demokritos" (GR)
12. European Connected Health Alliance CIC (GB)
13. Instituto de Biomecánica de Valencia (E)
14. Fundacio Institut Catala de l'Envel·liment (E)
15. Hellenic Scientific Physiotherapy Society (GR)
16. Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe in Österreich (A)
17. Istituto Nazionale Riposo e Cura Anziani (I)
18. Regionförbundet i Västerbottens län (S)
19. Jyväskylän Yliopisto (FIN)
20. Veiligheid (NL)
21. Achmea B.V. (NL)

