

## W46

### **Chronic care model – are there differences between rural and urban areas in Europe?**

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**Background:** Ensuring a high quality of life (QoL) for healthy and chronically ill citizens is a major goal of both governments and local communities. This goal can be achieved by means of a well-organized health care system that meets not only clinical requirements but, more importantly, patients' social needs and the needs associated with their living and working environments. Chronic diseases and their related disabilities determine the level of well-being of people worldwide. Results of the Global Burden of Disease Study of 2013 show that people are living longer, but with multimorbidity and increased disability. However, the literature lacks reports on the differences in the management of chronic diseases between rural and urban areas, as well as on differences in disease prevalence and mortality in rural and urban Europe. Moreover, a comparison of existing results does not allow unambiguous conclusions to be drawn regarding the influence of the living place on the QoL of patients with chronic diseases. It is necessary to conduct further research on this group of patients.

**Aim:** To explore the possibility of collecting data from different studies on urban–rural differences across Europe and to establish an EU project to investigate this issue.

**Method:** Existing data and conclusions from finished projects will be presented and a SWOT analysis will be carried out on the proposed EU project on chronic disease management in European rural areas. This will be followed by small-group discussions on the possible approaches and domains of the project. Results Our workshop will allow for the identification of problematic domains in the EU project on chronic disease management in European rural areas. The project will provide useful insights into perceived priorities.

**Conclusions:** The workshop may inspire participants faced with the challenge of chronic care management to tackle the differences between rural and urban areas.