



*Development of a transcultural, social-ethical care  
model for dependent population in the Mediterranean  
Sea Basin*

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## **STATEMENT ABOUT THE PROGRAMME:**

“The 2014-2020 ENI CBC Mediterranean Sea Basin Programme is a multilateral Cross-Border Cooperation (CBC) initiative funded by the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI). The Programme objective is to foster fair, equitable and sustainable economic, social and territorial development, which may advance cross-border integration and valorise participating countries’ territories and values. The following 13 countries participate in the programme: Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Lebanon, Malta, Palestine, Portugal, Spain, and Tunisia. The Managing Authority (MA) is the Autonomous Region of Sardinia (Italy). Official Programme languages are Arabic, English and French. For more information, please visit: [www.enicbcmed.eu](http://www.enicbcmed.eu)”.

## **STATEMENT ABOUT THE EU:**

“The European Union is made up of 28 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievement and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders”.

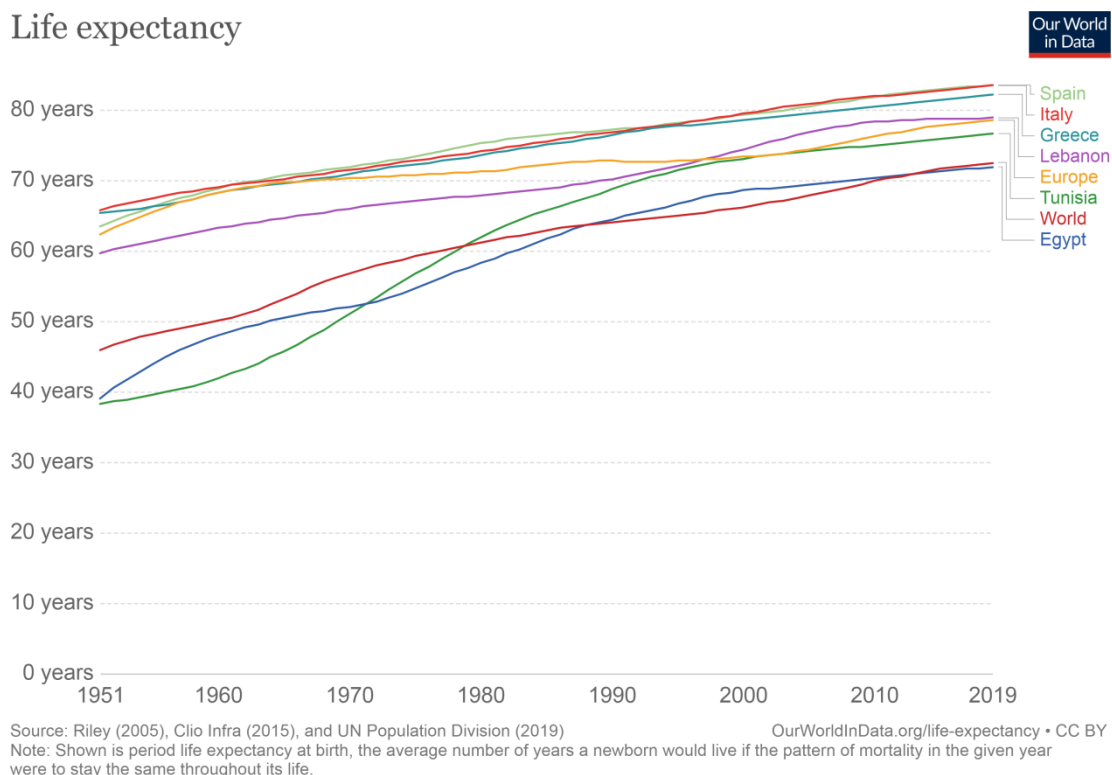
# Origins of the TEC-MED Project

Life expectancy is increasing worldwide (see Figure 1). Accordingly to the World Health Organization (WHO), between 2020 and 2050, the world population over 60 will double. The population pyramid has been reversed, which is a problem for current health systems (World Health Organization, 2017).

The ageing of the population is a phenomenon caused by the decreased of fertility, increased of life expectancy and migration trends.

While the change in the distribution of a country's population towards the older ages began in high-income countries (for example, France had almost 150 years to adapt to a change from 10% to 20%), the pace of aging from the population worldwide is also increasing dramatically.

Locals like India, Egypt or Brazil will have a little more than 20 years to make the same adaptation.



**Figure 1.** Changes in life expectancy from 1950, with projections until 2050, by WHO region and worldwide (Source: ourworldindata – life expectancy).

# Challenges of Our society

A longer life provides opportunities, not only for the elderly and their families, but also for societies in general. 1. Additional years provide the opportunity to participate in new activities, such as higher education, a new career or the search of a forgotten passion 2. Older people also contribute in many ways to their families and communities. However, the scope of these opportunities and contributions depends largely on one factor: health. The aging of the population therefore requires an integrated public health response, taking into account political priorities and models of welfare systems.

*“Each second, two persons around the World celebrate their 65<sup>th</sup> birthday” (UNDESA, 2013)*

## What is the TEC-MED Project about?

The countries of the Mediterranean Sea basin are showing a common pattern of declining social support and the need for innovative models of ethical-social care for dependent elderly people. The TEC-MED Project will be implemented in six countries of the Mediterranean basin (Spain, Italy, Greece, Lebanon, Egypt and Tunisia), developing a cross-cultural model that favours the inclusion and integration of people, taking into account cultural factors such as their identity ethnicity, gender and religion; socio-economic factors such as professional career and place of residence; and ethical factors such as respect for the physical and mental health of the person for aging, dependent people with lack of family support.

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<sup>1</sup> International Longevity Centre Brazil (2015): Active ageing. A political framework in the face of the longevity revolution. Andalusia School of Public Health.

<sup>2</sup>John Beard & Simon Biggs & David E. Bloom & Linda P. Fried & Paul R. Hogan & Alexandre Kalache & S. Jay Olshansky, 2012. "Global Population Ageing: Peril or Promise?," PGDA Working Papers 8912, Program on the Global Demography of Ageing.

# Approach and methodology of the TEC-MED model

For the development of the TEC-MED Model, a methodology of involvement of key agents and participation of the target population has been taken into account. A multidisciplinary and cross-cultural approach will be taken into account with a special emphasis on social, gender, ethical and religious aspects.

The main objective of the project is to create a transcultural, ethical and social model for the care of the elderly dependent population in the Mediterranean basin.

In addition, three secondary objectives have been established:

- ❁ Support the key actors in the development of the TEC-MED Model.
- ❁ Train stakeholders from a multidisciplinary perspective.
- ❁ Implement the TEC-MED platform to foster a coherent framework, accessible and cooperative.

## MISSION

The mission of the TEC-MED Project is to promote dignified, trans-cultural, and quality social-care services for dependent elderly populations in the Mediterranean Sea Basin.

## VISION

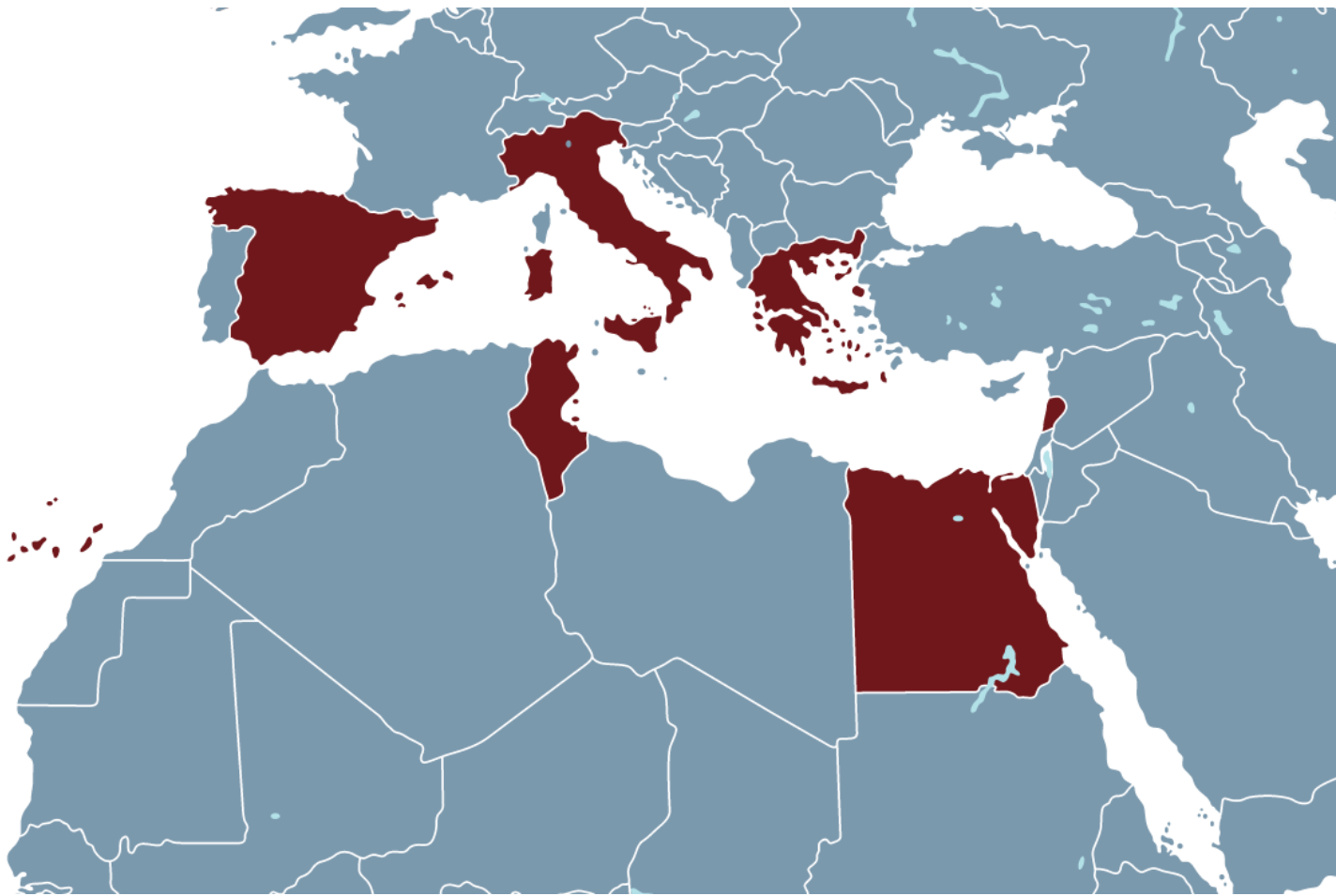
Elderly populations in the Mediterranean basin region have access to high quality and efficient care services based on transcultural social-ethical care model used by all practitioners and social care professionals.

# Innovative aspects:

- ❁ Transcultural, social-ethical care model for elderly people in situation of dependency.
- ❁ An online platform that creates the basis for learning and development on the care model.
- ❁ Generation of a large database in Mediterranean countries for the care of dependent elderly population.
- ❁ Creation of Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) indicators at the international level, specific to the countries of the Mediterranean Sea Basin.
- ❁ Development of action guides and a White paper to improve and adopt the development of social care and care policies that will be implemented in cooperation with public administrations in the participating countries.

The Lead Beneficiary together with 9 institutions from 6 countries of the Mediterranean basin will develop the creation of the TEC-MED Model. This is a pioneering Project with an economic endowment that exceeds three million euros (3.331.225,33€).

**Figure 2.** Map of the countries participating in the project.



# Project Partners and Associates of the Project

Project Partner: Black  
Associate: Red

## Spain:

- (BEN) University of Seville – Lead Beneficiary.
- (PP1) Magtel Operaciones, SLU (Project Partner).
- Seville Town-hall (Associate).
- Hospitaller Order of Saint John of God (Associate).

## Italy:

- (PP2) New Social Cooperative Society ONLUS (Project Partner).
- Municipality of Millis (Associate).
- Health Residency San Giuseppe (Associate).

## Greece:

- (PP3) VIDAVO, S.A. (Project Partner).
- (PP4) Merimna Therapeutic Educational Centre of Patras for People with Intellectual Disabilities (Project Partner).
- 6th Region of Health of the Peloponnese, Ionian Islands, Epirus and Western Greece (Associate).

## Lebanon:

- (PP6) DQS Lebanon (Project Partners).
- (PP7) Institute for Development, Research, Advocacy and Applied Care (Project Partner).
- Lebanese Ministry of Social Affairs (Associate).

## Egypt:

- (PP8) Academy of Scientific Research and Technology (Project Partner).
- (PP9) SEKEM Development Foundation (Project Partner).
- Central Directorate of Health Research and Development (Associate).
- Ministry of Health and Population (Associate).

## Tunisia:

- (PP5) National Institution of Nutrition and Food Technology (Project Partner).
- National Institute of Health (Associate).

# Expected results:

New professional careers for Training Agents (TA) employed in Government Organizations (partners). Under the proposed framework, TAs will act as promoters of social assistance interventions in their country and as facilitators of the cross-border application of the TEC-MED framework. TA will promote the framework in two ways:

- 1) Train apprentices of NGOs that will have to provide social assistance at home based on the TEC-MED framework to age people with chronic diseases;
- 2) Supervise and train NGO staff in the patient's home. Thanks to this intervention, we hope to train 6 TA per country (36 TA in all).

# What do we expect?

From the organization of the European project TEC-MED, it is hoped to strengthen and develop a good collaboration with the City Council of Seville and with the Order San Juan de Dios. The key points to consider are:

- Social and cultural support (facilities, activities, etc.).
- Scientific support (collaborating professionals, workers, etc.).
- Support in communication (participation in press, conferences, etc.).

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