

December 2015

# MeetingDem Newsletter

No 2-2015



## Good progress in MeetingDem project

The MeetingDem project is a great success! By now, already six new Meeting Centres for people living with dementia and their carers opened their doors: one Meeting Centre in Droitwich Spa, UK and already four (!) in Italy: two in Milan, one in Bologna and one in Rimini. In Wroclaw, the first Polish Meeting Centre opened in September 2015. There is more exciting news: the Polish MeetingDem partner plans to open two new Meeting Centres the coming year and in January a second Meeting Centre will be opened in Leominster in the UK.

## Opening Meeting Centre in Wroclaw, Poland

The opening ceremony of the first Meeting Center in Poland took place on 3 October 2015. The Meeting Centre is running as a part of a new built Day Care Home "Na Ciepłej" (which means On the Warm Street) for elderly and mentally disabled people. The centre was opened by the President of Wrocław City Rafał Dutkiewicz, the Director of Social Department of Wrocław City Jacek Sutryk, the Director of Wrocław's Welfare Organisation Anna Józefiak – Materna, the Rector of the Wrocław Medical University prof. Marek Ziętek and the leader of the MeetingDem project in Poland prof. Joanna Rymaszewska. Local authorities, members of the Polish parliament and members of Initiative Groups of Wrocław's Meeting Centre were also hosted. The launch was connected with the local community picnic. Children could take part in outdoor games. For adults, little cafes and restaurants were open.



During the day the guests could listen to many local folk music bands and watch the theatrical arts played by children from kindergarten. It was a lovely celebration!

Click [here](#) to see some pictures of the opening ceremony of the Meeting Center in Wroclaw.

## Official Launch of UK's Droitwich Spa Meeting Centre

Droitwich Spa's exciting new Meeting Centre project for people living with dementia was officially launched on Friday 20th November by Henry Sandon MBE of Antiques Roadshow with over 100 attendees.



The Meeting Centre opened in September 2015 and has been building momentum and interest in the local community. A host of speakers were introduced by a rousing summons from the Droitwich Spa Town Crier before Henry Sandon MBE cut a celebration cake with one of the Centre's members to officially declare the Centre open. Following this, representatives from a wide range of organisations, who have been involved in planning the establishment of the Centre in Droitwich Spa, signed a pledge of ongoing support.

Click [here](#) to read more about the official opening.

## Prof. Rose-Marie Dröes visits Worcester and Droitwich Spa Meeting Centre

On Monday 2 November, professor Rose-Marie Dröes gave a presentation about the Meeting Centres Support Programme at the 2015 Seminar Series of the Association for Dementia Studies in Worcester. In her presentation prof. Dröes explained the reason for the development of the programme, its theoretical background and content as well as the effects achieved with it in the Netherlands. On Tuesday 3 November prof. Dröes visited the Droitwich Spa Meeting Centre, the first Meeting Center in the UK. Click [here](#) to read more about the visit.



[Participants and staff in front of the Droitwich Spa meeting center with Rose-Marie Dröes \(in the middle\)](#)

## Internship at Fondazione Don Gnocchi

Marcelle van der Sanden, a master student in Health Sciences of the VU University in Amsterdam did her research internship at the Fondazione Don Gnocchi in Milan, Italy. She investigated the facilitating and impeding factors in the preparation phase of the implementation of the Meeting Center Support Programme in Milan. She interviewed various key figures involved in the implementation process and analysed the collected data. In September 2015 Marcelle successfully finished her master study! The results of her study will be the basis for an article, which will be prepared to be submitted for publication in an Italian professional journal in Spring 2016.

## What to expect the coming period?

In the coming period in the Meeting Centres in Italy, Poland and the United Kingdom data will be collected among the participants about their satisfaction with the care and support, the outcome variables (depression and quality of life of the person with dementia, competence of carer, stigma) and cost-effectiveness of the MCSP, as well as on the implementation process.

In 2016, in all three countries pioneer workshops will be organized for representatives of care and welfare organizations who are interested in implementing the MCSP in their own region. The aim of the pioneer workshops is to stimulate the national dissemination of the MCSP model in the three countries.

## Where to find the Meeting Centres?

For contact details of the Meeting Centers, please visit our website [www.meetingdem.eu](http://www.meetingdem.eu).

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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*For more information about the MeetingDem project please visit our website [www.meetingdem.eu](http://www.meetingdem.eu), or send an e-mail to: [meetingdem.eu@gmail.com](mailto:meetingdem.eu@gmail.com).*