



# TRANSNATIONAL FORUM ON INTEGRATED COMMUNITY CARE



A FORUM TO FOSTER INTEGRATED COMMUNITY CARE  
IN EUROPE AND BEYOND

## Supporting communities to build their models of care

The Transnational Forum on Integrated Community Care (TransForm) is a joint initiative of Foundations in and beyond Europe that aims to put the community at the centre of primary care and integrated care. It seeks to combine strengths-based and needs-based approaches to enabling communities to develop their own models of caring for their people.

Integrated community care (ICC) engages people and communities as co-producers of care. It implies a shift in traditional thinking based on problem-based, disease-oriented care to a goal-based, person-centred care aiming at enhancing the quality of life of vulnerable individuals and improving population health amongst communities. This entails the development of new forms of collaborations across diverse contexts and settings.

A key to such collaborations is the role of people in the community and in how service users (individuals, carer and families) become engaged and empowered as an integral part of integrated community care delivery.

TransForm envisages to identify and explore notable practices in Europe and beyond that have put in place an integrated community care model and learn from their successes and shortcomings.

## The Transnational Forum on Integrated Community Care

The focus of TransForm goes beyond the common interpretation placed on integrated care (i.e. integration of health and social care provision). Integrated community care is an approach that seeks to engage people and communities as co-producers of non-institutional care within trans-disciplinary and cross-sectoral partnerships. It seeks to improve primary care, home and community care.

The overarching aim of the project is to trigger the interest of and inspire policy-makers and practitioners to foster integrated community care through conferences, site visits and case studies dissemination. The ultimate goal is to mobilise change at policy and practice level.

Although there is evidence as to the benefits of ICC, these are not always understood or acknowledged by policy-makers and practitioners designing and delivering care today. There are many challenges to understanding how best to design new ways of working and also in supporting the effective implementation of integrated community care in practice. This is particular so given the predominance of funding to support more traditional disease-based and institutionally-led approaches to care.

## How will the Forum work?

At the start of the project, and continuing throughout its development, TransForm is undertaking a mapping exercise of promising practices in the area of ICC that will serve as a source of evidence and the basis for developing a series of conferences and site visits. This exercise is being supported by an Advisory Group composed of experts from different backgrounds.



From September 2018 to March 2020, four transnational conferences - with accompanying site visit programmes - are being organised in Europe and Canada. The conferences will be based around expert lectures, illustrative case studies and theme-based workshops through which delegates will be able to debate and discuss key issues and so make observations and recommendations related to how such issues might best be taken forward in practice. The study visits to ‘promising practices’ of ICC will provide insights into different approaches to ICC that have been put into practice in various settings and the issues and challenges these practices face in organising and sustaining their activities.

## Transnational conferences

The first conference **“Making the case for Integrated Community Care”**, grounded in both evidence and practical experience, makes the compelling case for investment in integrated community care as a policy priority to support effective, high-quality and sustainable care.

The second conference **“Towards people-driven care: engaging and empowering individuals, carers and families through integrated community care”** will focus on examining the essential elements related to engaging and empowering people in the management of their own health and welfare in the context of where they live. This would include a focus on aspects that help people understand their talents and needs (e.g. health and care literacy, self-care, and access to health records).

The third conference **“Engaging local communities through integrated community care”** will focus on how to engage communities as pro-active co-producers of their health and how care systems can support an assets-based approach to community development. Specifically, the conference will examine how to enable the participation and engagement of communities in decision-making, including an examination of responding to different cultural contexts and the building of social capital.

The final transnational conference “**Making integrated community care a reality**” will seek to assess how the spread and sustainability of integrated community care can be supported to achieve change at scale. It would also examine issues related to more effective evaluation methods to both demonstrate impact, but also to provide the essential information that can support quality improvements over time to enable integrated community care programmes to grow and mature.

TransForm will bring together the findings from the mapping exercise and the experience documented across the four transnational conferences in a **final synthesis report**, to be published at the end of the project. The study will examine the overall key lessons and markers for success in integrated community care for policy and practice. Furthermore, it will include a cross-cutting analysis of the research evidence to find common elements in the promising practices identified in the mapping.

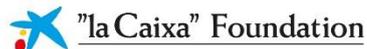


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