



SPECIAL EDITION **NEWSLETTER**



A I 4 H O P E

SPECIAL EDITION NEWSLETTER

WHAT IS IN THIS SPECIAL EDITION?

In this special joint edition, the In-Touch and AI4HOPE projects outline the rationale behind their collaboration, share key updates, explore the role of responsible AI in supportive and palliative care, and highlight upcoming opportunities to engage with stakeholders across Europe.

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GETTING TO KNOW

IN-TOUCH PROJECT

The In-Touch project, funded with €7.5 million from the EU, aims to enhance quality of life for individuals with advanced dementia. Led by University College Cork (UCC), a research group of 13 institutions across the EU, UK, and Canada, will investigate a comprehensive, non-pharmacological intervention for dementia.

This study will be trialled in 56 care homes across seven countries, focusing on palliative care, staff training, and improving well-being, through tailored, multi-sensory activities for residents and their families.

[READ MORE](#)



GETTING TO KNOW

AI4HOPE PROJECT

The AI4HOPE (Artificial Intelligence Based Health, Optimism, Purpose, and Endurance in Palliative Care for Dementia) project is a Horizon Europe research and innovation initiative that aims to transform dementia care by developing an AI-driven digital system for palliative care. Bringing together 16 partners from across Europe, the project focuses on creating innovative and trustworthy digital health interventions that support people living with dementia and their caregivers. Key developments include an Advanced Care Planning Decision Support System and multisensory solutions for emotion regulation and pain management, designed to improve well-being, reduce distress, and enhance quality of life. By integrating technologies such as digital platforms, virtual reality, and AI-based analytics, AI4HOPE seeks to enable more patient-centred and accessible care while also generating evidence to support improved clinical practices for dementia care across Europe. [READ MORE](#)



MEET THE PROJECT LEADERS

Nicola Cornally

Nicola Cornally is the In-Touch project Co-Principal Investigator, with Suzanne Timmons. She is a senior academic and registered general nurse at the School of Nursing and Midwifery at University College Cork (UCC) in Ireland, whose research and leadership focus on dementia, palliative and end-of-life care, advance care planning, and healthcare quality for older adults, including coordinating multi-national projects such as a Horizon Europe trial on non-pharmacological palliative interventions.



Riku Klén

Riku Klén is the AI4HOPE Project Coordinator. He is an associate professor and researcher at the University of Turku's Turku PET Centre in Finland, specialising in medical imaging, imaging instrumentation and quantitative image analysis, combining a strong mathematics background with applications in positron emission tomography and related technologies.



MORE ABOUT

IN-TOUCH

THE IN-TOUCH TRIAL

The project is coordinating a large-scale trial across 56 nursing homes in seven countries to assess impacts on comfort, social engagement and quality of life, supported by nine work packages covering adaptation, ethics, cost-effectiveness and knowledge transfer. It delivers person-centred care, training for healthcare providers, and tools for families, with multilingual materials and strong patient involvement.

[Read more.](#)

WHAT IS NAMASTE CARE?

Namaste Care is a person-centred approach for people with advanced dementia, focusing on comfort, sensory stimulation and meaningful human connection. In the In-Touch project, it is adapted and supported by digital tools to better identify needs, enhance care delivery and support decision-making. [Read more.](#)

LATEST RESULTS AND UPCOMING MILESTONES

We are pleased to share the latest In-Touch publication, now available online, and invite you to explore further project outputs on our Zenodo channel. InTouch will also be featured at the Alzheimer's Europe Conference in Dublin in 2026. [Read more.](#)

ABOUT IN-TOUCH CONSORTIUM

The InTouch consortium brings together 13 partner organisations from across Europe, the UK and Canada, including universities, healthcare institutions and research networks working in dementia and palliative care. Coordinated by University College Cork, the partnership combines clinical, academic and patient expertise to develop and test innovative, person-centred care approaches for people with advanced dementia. [Read more.](#)



IN-TOUCH

DISCOVER IN-TOUCH IN ACTION

Watch our short video to learn how the InTouch project is improving dementia and palliative care through person-centred, innovative approaches across Europe.



IN-TOUCH EARLY CAREER RESEARCHER COMMITTEE



The In-Touch Early Career Researcher Committee (ECRC) is an international network of early career researchers in dementia and palliative care, fostering collaboration across countries and study sites. Through regular meetings, presentations and specialist workshops, it promotes knowledge exchange while supporting joint publications and professional development via mentoring with senior experts. Watch their video here.



MORE ABOUT

AI4HOPE

THE LATEST AI4HOPE PROJECT STUDY

The latest AI4HOPE study, published in JMIR Publications, explores how digital monitoring can improve pain recognition in people with dementia addressing critical gaps in assessment and treatment.

[Read more](#)

AI4HOPE REPRESENTATIONS IN CONFERENCES

AI4HOPE was showcased at key international conferences in the Azores, Madeira and Marbella, highlighting its work on digital tools and AI-driven approaches for pain detection in people with dementia. [Read more](#)

AI4HOPE REPRESENTATIONS IN CONGRESSES

AI4HOPE was presented at the 17th World Congress of Bioethics in Ljubljana, highlighting the importance of human-centred AI in dementia care. [Read more](#)



ABOUT AI4HOPE CONSORTIUM

The AI4HOPE consortium brings together 16 partners from 13 countries across Europe, including universities, healthcare providers, research centres and industry actors working jointly to improve dementia care through digital innovation. Together, they share a common ambition to develop human-centred, AI-driven solutions that enhance quality of life for people with dementia and their caregivers.

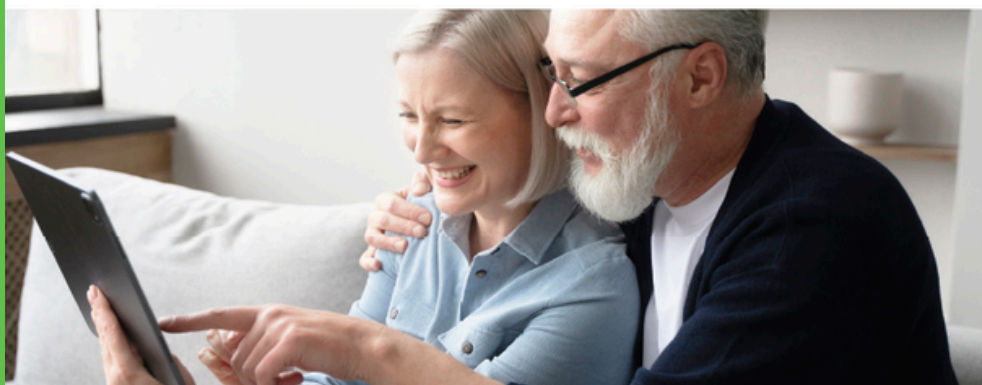
[Read More](#)



AI4HOPE



AI AND CO-DESIGN TO SUPPORT DEMENTIA: LESSONS FROM A FIRST CO-CREATION SESSION



Ana Ferreira, Joana Muchagata, Marteyn van Gasteren, Lukas Radbruch, Diana Marques, Rosa Almelda, Izidor Mlakar, Muhammad Irfan, Holger Brunsch, Kseniya Simbirtseva, Luisa Castro, Pedro Vieira-Marques and Francisca Rego

AI AND CO-DESIGN TO SUPPORT DEMENTIA: LESSONS FROM A FIRST CO-CREATION SESSION

Take a closer look at the poster our team presented: “AI and Co-Design to Support Dementia: Lessons from a First Co-Creation Session.”

We share key insights from our first co-creation session exploring how AI and participatory design can support people living with dementia.

CHALLENGES

- Dementia affects: memory, cognition and daily activities
- Non-cognitive symptoms: anxiety, depression, delusions and pain
- Reduced quality of life and increased caregiver dependence

OBJECTIVES

- Design and develop a user-friendly and highfidelity prototype adapted to the needs of people with dementia
- Provide a personalized and user-friendly environment through music, photos, VR and a chatbot to enhance cognitive stimulation, emotional and physical well-being

INCLUSIVE DESIGN

Simple, clear, accessible and intuitive

VR EXPERIENCES

Relaxation, music and multisensory activities to promote well-being



MEMORY DIARIES

Record memories or daily life (audio, video or text) and revisit them anytime

AI CHATBOT

For symptom detection and emotional support

CONCLUSIONS & FUTURE WORK

The positive experience from co-creation sessions allowed us to our prototype refinement and move forward to the app development. Ultimately, we aim to enhance quality of life, confidence and wellbeing for people living with dementia.

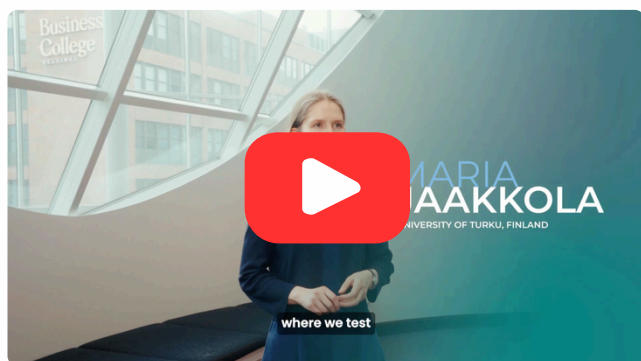
AIMHOPE - Artificial Intelligence Based Health, Optimism, Purpose, and Endurance in Palliative Care for Dementia. HORIZON-HLTH-2023-DISEASE-03-01 (Ref. SEP-210944883). Project - 101136769.



AI4HOPE

AI4HOPE PROJECT VIDEO

Digital Tools and AI in
Dementia Care



INFO SHEET ON PALLIATIVE CARE IN DEMENTIA

A useful information sheet on palliative care in dementia was published by the **AI4Hope project**, in collaboration with Alzheimer Europe and the European Association for Palliative Care (EAPC). View and share the **[info sheet here](#)**.



CROSS-PROJECT PERSPECTIVE

With **Prof Suzanne Timmons**

Suzanne Timmons is co-principal investigator for InTouch and co-investigator for the AI4HOPE project. She sees these as complementary dementia-care initiatives that, while different in approach, share a common person-centred goal: improving care across the full journey of dementia by prioritising communication, comfort, preparedness, and personalised support. **[Read the full article here](#)**.



AI4HOPE



COMING EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE

May 14 - 16, 2026

EAPC 20th World Congress. Palliative Care Research: from strong foundations to new horizons, Prague, Czech Republic.

[More here](#)

June 23 -26, 2026

The 40th ECMS International Conference on Modelling and Simulation. AI4HOPE partners have a conference paper accepted titled “Wearable-Sensor-Based Detection of Freezing of Gait in Parkinson's Disease Using Machine Learning Techniques.”

[More here](#)

October 27 - 28, 2026

The 36th Alzheimer Europe conference, Dublin, Ireland.

[More here](#)

Follow In-Touch and AI4Hope Projects



AI4HOPE

