

Organising Care Work Together - Implementing Care Councils

A care council brings together different people from a region, town or neighbourhood to collaboratively find good solutions to issues and challenges related to care.

Developing sustainable solutions to current care challenges requires collaboration between a diverse range of stakeholders. Care councils are a good way to bring these actors together at a local or regional level to find solutions together. Such actors can include professionals from nursing, social work or other related areas; people in need of support; citizens and local residents or also political decision-makers. Care councils also aim to involve actors whose roles might be less directly related to care – whether these are neighbours, well-connected people within a community or professionals who might not be conventionally thought of as care workers, but who often have privileged insights into local situations due to the work that they do (e.g. hairdressers, bus drivers or teachers). Importantly, care councils seek to include those who might be less visible or who may be harder to reach (e.g. people with migratory backgrounds).



Care-Council Groß-Siegharts, Sept. 2024

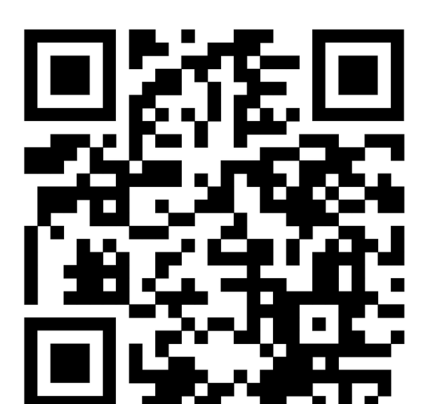
The first care councils in Austria took place in 2023 and 2024 in the municipalities of Kaltenleutgeben, Groß-Siegharts and Ottendorf.

A care council takes elements of classic citizens' councils and social network conferences and combines these with other participatory and democratic problem-solving methods (World Café, Future Workshop...).

Depending on context and needs, participants can be invited on the basis of their roles as key actors or local multipliers within a given context and/or selected at random. In a series of pilot projects we have been trying out different models.

A toolkit with information on the concept, procedures, methods and processes for municipalities and civil society initiatives will be available online Mid-2025:

<https://research.fhstp.ac.at/en/projects/careraete>



- Are you working in your community or neighbourhood on how to take good care of one other?
- Are you interested in initiating a care council?
- We look forward to hearing from you and sharing ideas!

Project Leads:

Emma Dowling
University of Vienna
Department of Sociology
emma.dowling@univie.ac.at

Michaela Moser, FH St. Pölten
Ilse Arlt Institute for
Social Inclusion Research
michaela.moser@fhstp.ac.at

and colleagues



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