

BELGIUM

Local development

Location

Pont-à-Celles

Programming period

2014 – 2020

Priority

P6 – Social inclusion and
local development

Measure

M7 – Basic services & village
renewal

Funding (EUR)

Total budget 29 273
EAFRD 11 709
National/Regional 17 564

Project duration

2016 – 2018

Project promoter

Maison Médicale Cella Santé
asbl

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The Walloon RDP supports the provision of quality healthcare services for ageing inhabitants of rural areas in Belgium.

Summary

In Wallonia, a 'Maison médicale' is a primary healthcare centre delivering first line primary care with a multidisciplinary approach.



In 2017, there were 176 medical centres in Belgium, caring for more than 360 000 inhabitants; in Wallonia, there were around 65 certified medical centres, with a growth rate of 15% per year. The medical centre of Pont-à-Celles was created in 2015. It is a small facility with 3 full-time staff. RDP support helped it to purchase office and IT equipment and thus improve the quality of the services it offers.

Results

Between September 2016 and March 2018, the medical centre saw the daily average number of patients grow from 10 to 14 and the number of supported residents has nearly doubled.

Healthcare activities gather between 5 and 10 persons per session.

Lessons & Recommendations

- ❑ The promotion of health care is of crucial importance for ageing inhabitants in rural areas.
- ❑ The self-management principle and the all-inclusive fee method are 2 original features of Belgian medical centres. Self-management means that a group of workers co-manage the entity without the intervention of a third party. Since funding is based on the number of registered patients, the consolidation of the activity can take several years. Public financing for office equipment operates in a similar way to SME start-up funding.

Context

In Wallonia, a 'Maison médicale' is a primary healthcare centre delivering first line primary care with a multidisciplinary approach. In 2017, there were 176 medical centres in Belgium, caring for more than 360 000 inhabitants. In Wallonia, there were around 65 certified medical centres, with a growth rate of 15% per year. The target is to have a medical centre for every 10 000 inhabitants. These medical centres provide ambulatory services that include primary healthcare based on a holistic approach. They treat the patient based on his/her personal history and integrate treatment into the family, professional and socio-economic environment. This integrated approach aims to prevent illness either for individuals or a targeted population. Continuous care is provided by ensuring the synthesis, control and monitoring of information related to all the health problems of the patient.

Since 2010, 'Maisons médicales' must be approved and certified by the Walloon government. Each medical centre is an entity that is self-managed and operates either on a 'fee for service' basis, or on an all-inclusive fee. Instead of paying for individual visits to the doctor, the patient registers with the medical centre by paying an all-inclusive fee covering medical care, nursing and physiotherapy. The monthly fee varies for each patient according to his/her fiscal status and based upon the average health expenditure in Belgium.

The municipality of Pont-à-Celles is located between Charleroi and Nivelles. It includes the villages of Buzet, Liberchies, Luttre, Obaix, Pont-à-Celles, Rosseignies, Thiméon and Viesville, a combined population of 16 927 inhabitants according to the 2013 census. The medical centre was set up in 2015, and it employs 2 general practitioners, 1 physiotherapist and 1 nurse, equating to 3 full-time equivalent staff.

Objectives

The public funding aimed to help raise the quality of the services offered by the medical centre of Pont-à-Celles by making the premises better organised, with more efficient equipment.

Activities

Daily usage of the medical centre of Pont-à-Celles was steadily increasing and it needed to improve the quality of services offered to its patients. The centre opened with second hand office equipment that needed to be replaced, especially its computer infrastructure. Support from the Walloon Rural Development Programme helped it to purchase computers, printers and other office equipment, such as a reception desk, chairs and cupboards, as well as an alarm system.

As of 2019, the medical centre is working with the local social centre (in French: Centre Public d' Aide Sociale - CPAS) for the medical care of refugees and patients without health insurance. Staff at the medical centre would like to develop partnerships with the municipal library for storytelling workshops and with other local community associations and / or inhabitants to support health and wellbeing aspects of some of their activities.

Main results

Indicators for monitoring the medical centre's activity are the daily average number of patients, the volume of new general medical files, inhabitants' participation rate in healthcare activities (i.e. sophrology, gym, stretching, etc.).

Between September 2016 and March 2018, the medical centre saw the daily average number of patients grow from 10 to 14 and the volume of medical files has nearly doubled.

Health care activities gather between 5 and 10 persons per session.

Key lessons

The promotion of health care is of crucial importance for ageing inhabitants of rural areas.

- ❑ The self-management principle and the all-inclusive fee method are 2 original features of Belgian medical centres. Self-management means that the group of workers co-manage the entity without the intervention of a third party. Since funding is based on the number of registered patients, the consolidation of the activity can take several years. Public financing for office equipment operates in a similar way to SME start-up funding.

Additional sources of information

<http://televisiondumonde.be/tam-tam-sante-et-ruralite/>

<https://www.maisonmedicale.org/>