

1. Interested institution:



Polibienestar Research Institute – University of Valencia

Postal address:

Edificio de Institutos de Investigación – Campus dels Tarongers
c/ Serpis nº29, 46022 Valencia (Spain)

<http://www.polibienestar.org>

2. Brief Description of the Institution

Polibienestar (www.polibienestar.org) is a Public Research Institute belonging to the University of Valencia (Spain), led by Jordi Garcés, Full Professor at the University of Valencia and Prince of Asturias Distinguished Visiting Professor at Georgetown University (Washington DC, USA). It is specialized in research, innovation and social technology, technical advice and training in the field of public policies. Its team develops interdisciplinary research applied in social sciences. This interdisciplinary perspective is necessary to respond to the complexity of welfare systems and allows Polibienestar to develop, from innovative and classic research, effective analysis and solutions for new social challenges. In this line, Polibienestar advises the Administration and private entities in the design, planning and implementation of social welfare policies and services.

Polibienestar is composed by an interdisciplinary team with 34 senior and 24 junior researchers with national and European experience from the departments of Preventive Medicine and Public Health; Didactics and School Organization; Educational Sciences; Personality, Assessment and Psychological Treatment; Applied Economics; Marketing; Labour and Social Security Law; Commercial Law; Social Work and Social Services; Sociology and Social Anthropology; Architecture; or Engineering, from eight Spanish Universities (Valencia, Castilla-León, Murcia, Castellón, Madrid, Castilla-La Mancha, Extremadura and País Vasco).

In the last ten years Polibienestar has developed more than 40 R&D projects and 40 contracts and has produced 68 ISI articles, 37 indexed to different networks, 23 book chapters and 13 books. Among the projects, Polibienestar has participated and coordinated regional, national and European projects funded by the regional programme for research groups of excellence Prometeo; different Spanish Ministries, as the Ministry of Economy and Competitiveness under different plans and programmes (as CENIT and Influye) and the Ministry of Industry, Energy and Tourism; and European programmes like 6th and the Framework programme (FP6-2005-SSP-5º-044359; FP7-2008-HEALTH-223037; FP7-2012-SSH.2012.1.3-2-320121; FP7-ICT-2013-10-6120096), the AAL Programme (AAL-2010-3-041), the III Daphne Programme (JLS/2012/DAP/AG/3086; JUST/2010/DAP3/AG/1059-30; JLS/2008/DAP3/AG/1275; JUST/2014/SPOB/AG/VICT), the Progress Programme (VP/2010/007/0129), the ENPI CBCMED (nº3/156), the Youth in Action Programme (2010-51016/00/-001 YT7 PDPA7), the Lifelong Learning Programme (540139-LLP-1-2013-1-IT-GRUNTVIG-GMP; 2013-1-RO1-GRU06-29490), the Competitiveness and Innovation Framework (CIP) Programme (CIP-ICT-PSP-2013-7-620978), the Erasmus+ Programme (2014-1-UK01-KA202-001659; 2015-1-UK01-KA202-013710; 2015-1-BE02-KA202-012268; 2015-1-IT02-KA201-015417), the II and III Health Programme (529881; 533157; 664689; proposal number 710033) and the COSME Programme (proposal number 699512).

3. Please tick the areas of research (as established in Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chemistry (CHE) | <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Sciences and Geology (ENV) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Social Sciences and Humanities (SOC) | <input type="checkbox"/> Life Sciences (LIF) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Economic Sciences (ECO) | <input type="checkbox"/> Mathematics (MAT) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Information Science and Engineering (ENG) | <input type="checkbox"/> Physics (PHY) |

4. Research / Project Description

Polibienestar Institute has a wide experience in R&D in the field of health and social policies, with special emphasis in the integration of services aimed to provide a comprehensive answer to the requirements of people with special needs and in complex situations.

At this regard, they developed and validated the Sustainable Socio-Health Model (SSHM) that consists of a joint reorganisation of health and social systems. Within this model, Polibienestar is performing a deep research in the area of **health and social care at the end of life (Palliative Care and End of Life care)**. In particular, **the main aim** of the research team is to analyse the dynamics of several aspects of the palliative care in a cross-national perspective, including the cultural and legal framework and to identify key aspects to guarantee **dignity at the end of life**. Indeed, the main objective of the research is to design a model for palliative care at the end of life allowing dignity in a holistic perspective, including the perspective of the patients, family, carers, the health and social systems, governments and the society in general.

The palliative care starts from the time of diagnosis while the End of Life (EoL) care refers to the terminal phase of illness and it is integrated in the palliative care. In this sense, EoL care refers to the latest phase of life and it is aimed at allowing a good quality of death to patients and families; it implies an adjustment of treatments and interventions according to the new scenario and includes medical end-of-life decisions. Medical end-of-life decisions, in principle, include: whether to withhold or withdraw potentially life-prolonging treatment—eg, mechanical ventilation, tube-feeding, and dialysis; whether to alleviate pain or other symptoms with, for example, opioids, benzodiazepines, or barbiturates in doses large enough to hasten death as a possible or certain side effect; and whether to consider euthanasia or doctor assisted suicide, which can be defined as the administration, prescription, or supply of drugs to end life at the patient’s explicit request.

Given the strong controversy related to many of the processes mentioned, the developed model might have major **implications on national policies** that are relevant for its feasibility and sustainability and those need to be also studied. This research takes indeed into consideration also the aspects related to the governmental framework of end of life decisions, allowing the research team to assess public policies in the area of Palliative Care and End of Life care.

This research relies on a wide expertise of Polibienestar in the field of health care, and the research on end of life care uses **sound references**. In fact, Polibienestar has a large trajectory studying the social sustainability of the European social protection systems and has 23 research lines, from which the following related to health issues shall be highlighted:

- **Sustainability, ICTs and social innovation in long-term care systems.**

Polibienestar conducts researches on ageing and promotion of personal autonomy to design and develop new technologies of management and financing of social protection systems, with cost-benefit models. He has advised the government and private organizations on sustainability, feasibility, efficiency, social and economic rationality, management and exploitation of healthcare resources.

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- ***Phycology, social welfare and health.***

This research line addresses psychosocial factors related to health and disease that have direct consequences on the welfare and quality of life of people.

- ***Health economy.***

This research line has the overall aim of the evaluation of health technologies. The studies from this research line have a significant impact on the administration, society and market, improving the efficiency of health systems, the establishment of standard indicators and the knowledge of the temporal evolution of health systems.

Furthermore, Polibienestar has participated and coordinated several European, national and regional **projects in the field of health and social care**, as the following:

- 2015-2018. “*APPCARE, Appropriate care paths for frail elderly patients: a comprehensive model*”, funded under the Third Health Programme of the European Commission (ref.: 664689).
- 2014-2017. “*UHCE, Urban Health Centre Europe: Integrated health and social care pathways, early detection of frailty, management of polypharmacy and prevention of falls for active and healthy ageing in European cities*”, funded under the Second Health Programme of the European Commission (ref.: 533157).
- 2014-2016. “*ASSEHS, Activation of Stratification and Results of the interventions on frail patients of Healthcare Services*”, funded under the Second Health Programme of the European Commission (ref.: 529811).
- 2014-2016. “*Strengthening the nurses and health care professionals’ capacity to deliver culturally competent and compassionate care*”, funded under the Erasmus + Programme. Strategic Partnerships Key Action.
- 2011-2013. “*HOST, Smart technologies for self-service to seniors in social housing*”, funded under the Ambient Assisted Living Programme (ref.: AAL-2010-3-041).

5. Who can apply?

At the deadline for the submission of proposals (14/09/2016), researchers (*):

- shall be in possession of a doctoral degree or have at least four years of full-time equivalent research experience;
- must not have resided or carried out their main activities in the country of Spain for more than 12 months in the 3 years immediately prior to the abovementioned deadline;
- should have good level of English and experience in European projects;
- should have research experience with quantitative and qualitative methodologies; and
- should have interest in the lines of research proposed in this document.

6. Contact person

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7. Applications: documents to be submitted and deadlines

Required documents:

- Full CV (Europass format)
- Letter of motivation

Deadline for submission: 15th July 2016

Please note that:

- Deadline of the next call for proposals for Marie Skłodowska – Curie Individual Fellowships is **September, 14th 2016**.
- Oficina Europea is only responsible for the display of the expressions of interests received by the institutions; further contact and information requests will take place directly between the host institutions and the interested researchers.

(*) Further details on the Call and additional eligibility criteria can be found at the [Participants' Portal](#)