Abstract Details

Title:	Linguistic and cultural minorities also have the right to quality care in matters related to dementia
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Aim: To improve the quality of memory services so that the offered service meets the starting points and needs of persons from linguistic and cultural minorities.

Background: In order the aging population of minorities will reach memory services equally, we need more practical tools, education, and share information between policymakers and organizations. Often, the language skills, health literacy, and knowledge of dementia/ memory disorders of a client belonging to a linguistic and cultural minority are not sufficient.

Services related to memory disorders must meet the diversity, starting points and needs of the aging population belonging to minority language and cultural groups. In our experience, dementia care providers often lose their professional skills when they meet minority elders. The cause of the lack of competence and understanding the target group needs of services.

This is a human rights issue, as everyone has the right to receive help. The UN Human Rights Council Independent Expert also paid attention to the lack of suitable services in their report to the Finnish government.

Methods: MUKES has developed a video "Many Faces of Multicultural Memory work" to give visibility to culturally sensitive memory work. It explores awareness services and understanding of their accessibility from professionals and the target group. The video conveys views on how customers belonging to linguistic and cultural minorities fare in the current service system. In the video, an Arabic-speaking elderly with memory disorders, a Russian-speaking caregiver, a neurology specialist and a coordinator of memory work, are interviewed.

To appeal to a larger audience, the video has been translated into English.

Results: MUKES video highlights challenge and needs for further action to improve dementia care among minorities. The tool highlights the challenges and needs for further action and can be used to discuss diversity education among dementia industry players.