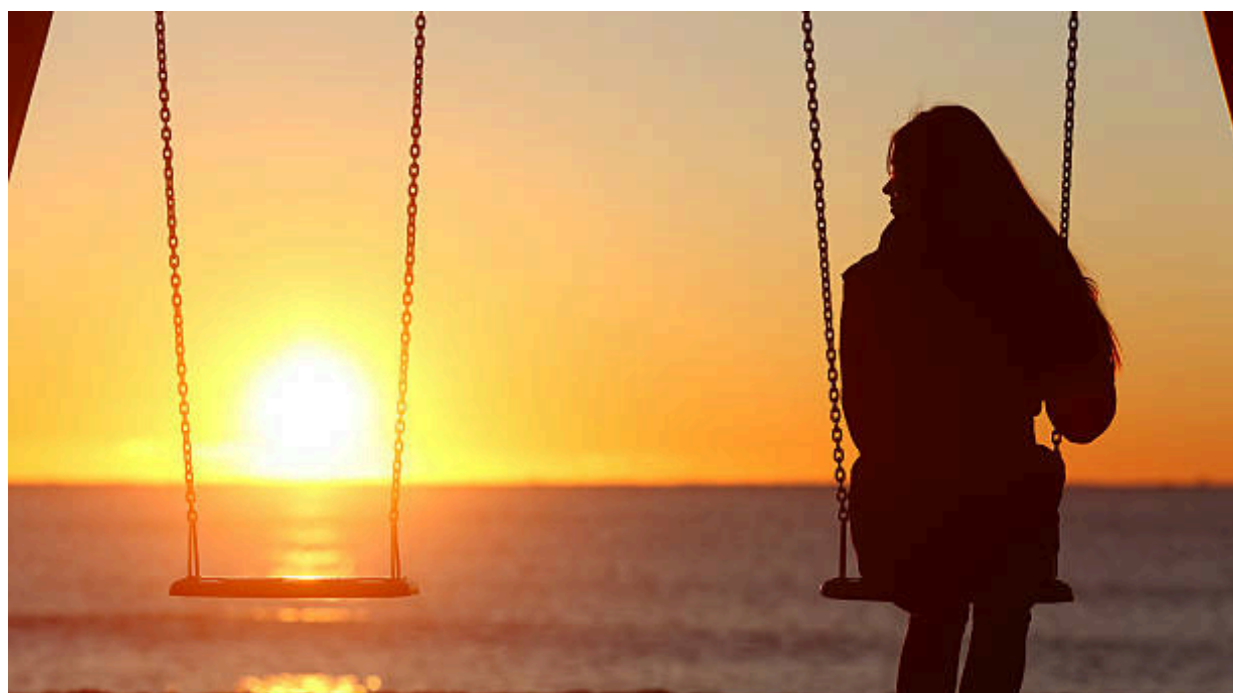


January 2022 | Newsletter 1

PROJECT AURORA@COVID19-EU

*Articulating a Unified Response to the COVID-19 Outbreak Reconstruction
After Loss in Europe*



**Funded by
the European Union**

An International Erasmus+ Project
(2021-1-PT01-KA220-VET-000033092)

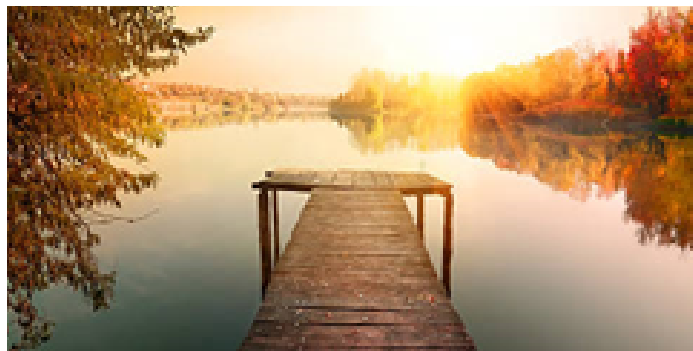


Background

The Coronavirus-19 outbreak has raised huge societal challenges worldwide and Europe is no exception. As a result, an estimated 9 million people have been affected by loss as a result of COVID-19. In addition, thousands of people may suffer from complicated grief reactions.

With significant restrictions to the social and cultural practices that normal bereavement usually relies upon, and the limitations on social support in grief and end-of-life situations, it is expected that the impact on the mental health of bereaved individuals will be significant.

This situation is particularly problematic in countries like Portugal, Spain and Italy, where there is no national, public health strategy to address grief and bereavement issues and an absence of an educational culture about death and dying that prevents these issues from being adequately addressed, even in the training of health professionals (and other professionals indirectly involved).



Aurora Goals

AURORA directly addresses societal challenges related to mental health, social equity, and community development by focusing on the needs of vulnerable, bereaved individuals.

The “AURORA@COVID19-EU” project aims to facilitate an articulated response to support bereavement and grief in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. The project will develop training resources for clinical psychologists, formal and informal agents, as well as a best practice guide.

These health professionals will intervene directly with bereaved people with the support of their national health systems, thus becoming agents for the dissemination of good practice in partner countries and across Europe. The project also foresees a community strategy to reach the bereaved population, particularly the most vulnerable, thus enhancing access to appropriate intervention responses.



- GOAL 1** Disseminating Clinical Knowledge and Good Practices: Promote evidence-based practices in grief and bereavement interventions to enhance support systems and address specific challenges and risk factors due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- GOAL 2** Creating Training Opportunities: Develop and provide accessible training tools for individuals interacting with bereaved people, in formal or informal capacities.
- GOAL 3** Reinforcing Good Practices Internationally: Foster an exchange of experiences among partners to strengthen grief support systems and disseminate these practices internationally.

Partnership

The distinct COVID-19 situations in European countries in terms of direct deaths, justify accurate intervention and motivated the development of this strategic Partnership for Cooperation between 4 countries:

- University of Maia (UMAIA - ISMAI hosted by Maiêutica) - is a private university in the North of Portugal.
- CHUSJ – Psychology Service from Hospital São João is a public university hospital in the North of Portugal.
- University Pontificia of Comillas - is a private university in Madrid, Spain.
- University of Salento - is a young dynamic university in Lecce, Italy.
- The Danish National Center for Grief (DNCG) – is increasingly engaging and cooperating with the bereavement community internationally.



Project Activities

Project dissemination

We've created a website with resources on bereavement in several languages (e.g. English, Portuguese, Spanish, Italian and Danish) for direct stakeholders (health professionals, educators or other professionals who work with bereaved people) and indirect agents such as family and friends (general population).

Several videos and information leaflets will be distributed in the community through social media.

A network of involved institutions will be created as associated partners to increase dissemination and reach the necessary target groups.

Pilot phase: training and professional intervention

Following the development of three training manuals for psychologists, other professionals (direct agents) and the community at large (indirect agents), these groups will have the opportunity to receive training sessions (through face-to-face and online training) in order to respond to the needs of bereaved people.

The AURORA project also aims for a group of trained clinical psychologists to conduct and implement a clinical trial adapted to COVID-19 issues, to prevent and alleviate complicated bereavement reactions.



First Kick Off Meeting

The Kick-Off Meeting hosted by UMAIA - MAIEUTICA took place virtually due to concerns about Covid-19.

The meeting was structured in two half-day sessions: the first session took place on the morning of January 18, 2022, while the second session took place on the morning of January 20, 2022.

All the partners were represented by some of their members: UMAIA, CHUSJ, Comillas, Unisalento and DNCG.

Modes of action and responsibilities were outlined, bringing together the efforts and knowledge of each partner to achieve the project's goals.



Grief support is a responsibility of all!

Follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/auroragriefcovid19.eu
Project Website: <https://auroragriefcovid19.eu/>

Associated Partners



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