

## How can I get involved?

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More information on:

<https://euripa.woncaeurope.org/content/social-prescribing-and-community-orientation>



**SOCIAL PRESCRIBING AND COMMUNITY  
ORIENTATION WORKING GROUP**

## What can I get out of joining?

There are many ways for you to participate.  
For example:

- Meet like-minded people from all over Europe
- Exchange experiences
- Support the development of new ideas
- Take part in our regular meetings to discuss ideas and future plans
- Collaborate in research and on projects

## Who can get involved?

### **Do I have to be a member of EURIPA or WONCA?**

No, you just need to have an interest.

### **Do I have to be a GP?**

No, you can also be a different health professional, connected to a third sector organisation, a Link Worker, a researcher, policy maker or differently connected to social prescribing.



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European Rural and Isolated  
Practitioners Association

A network of WONCA Europe



# Social Prescribing and Community Orientation – Working Group

## Who are we?

In 2018 a group of European rural primary care healthcare professionals came together through their established WONCA\* network EURIPA to share their experiences with social prescribing.

Following a workshop on social prescribing, a pan-European working group was established in 2021 and has since been growing in terms of strength and breadth of expertise, and impact, through collaboration with members from across Europe (both urban and rural).

Through sharing experiences it became clear that social prescribing has the potential to make a big difference to communities and individuals served by their primary care teams. This in combination with a growing evidence base led to the aim to embed social prescribing in primary care and in the community.

\*WONCA - World Organisation of Family Doctors



## What is Social Prescribing?

Social prescribing is a means of referring patients in primary care to activities within their community that could improve their health and wellbeing, often addressing isolation and loneliness.

These sources of support can cover a wide range of activities such as craft groups, exercise programmes, dancing, photography, gardening all of which also enable people to meet with other people on a social basis.

There are other advantages to social prescribing in terms of reduction in practice visits, building social capital, the personal development of individuals, and benefit to the community.

## What is the aim of the WONCA Europe Special Interest Group?

Using the established WONCA networks we aim to connect

- primary care health care professionals,
- their teams,
- the communities they serve and
- community groups/third sector organisations

to support a successful implementation of social prescribing at any stage of the implementation process.

This is done by

- sharing knowledge and best practice,
- supporting social prescribing at an European, national and local level and
- informing good quality research and evaluation.

