

CHAPTER 1

DEFINITION OF EME AND GENERAL EUROPEAN PRACTICES

Empowering Marginalized Elders
SPAIN



UNIVERSIDAD DE ALMERÍA

Grupo de Investigación
Intervención Psicológica en
Desarrollo, Educación y Orientación



1. 1. ELDERLIES IN EUROPE PROFILE

The percentage of people aged up to 14 years old decreased from 25 per cent to 16 per cent in the 25 European Union countries between 1960 and 2004

The proportion of the population aged 65 and over rose from 10 to 12 per cent during the same period and is expected to rise to 30 per cent by 2050

The biggest population increase affects those aged over 80 years, , the number of whom is expected to double by 2050 to 51 million citizens (Eurostat, 2007)

Women account for 59 per cent of the population aged 60 or over in Europe and for 70 per cent of the oldest-old.

**THIS INCREMENT OF THE AGE IS STRONGLY
CORRELATED WITH THREE NEGATIVE AND
CONFLUENT PROCESSES**

**Biological degradation
Economical degradation
Social exclusion**

(Compan & Sanchez, 2005).

ELDERLY POPULATION HAVE NEEDS

Of feelings of love and care

To be known from a deep perspective (feelings, believes, wishes, thoughts, etc.)

Care with humanity and dignity rather than taking them away from their families

To be respected as free citizens,

That can take own decisions and not as old children

That older people experience more disability, dependency and morbidity,

To be more at risk of living alone

constitute the majority of those with health problems in developed countries

(Grundy & Sloggett 2003; Institute of the Elderly and Social Services, 2006).

1. 2. EME DEFINITION

“Social marginalization” (Cury, 2009) might be defined as a process through which a society rejects to a group of persons through indifference, repression, auto-marginalised by own individuals by rejecting values and social rules.

**SOME REASON FOR MARGINALIZATION OF ELDERLY
DEPENDS OF ECONOMY, EDUCATION, CULTURE AND
HEALTH COULD BE**

Change in family relationships (difficultness for co-living
and breaking of family groups).

Lost of the hegemonic role that elderly used to have in the
past.

Mythicization of the consuming society (praise endless
youth)

Hedonistic view of life (searching always for satisfaction).

-Emigration from the family (children and grandchildren).

“Social exclusion” might be defined as living in conditions of deprivation and vulnerability

such as poverty

inadequate access to education, health and other services

lack of political influence

civil liberties, and human rights

geographic isolation

environmental exposures

racism or historical trauma

disruption of social capital and social isolation

exposure to wars and conflicts

alienation or powerlessness

SETTINGS WHERE MISTREAT IS PRODUCED

Socio-cultural

Domestic or family

Institutional.

1.3. General European practices

Community empowerment:

- community psychology
- education and health promotion
- liberatory adult education
- community development
 - social work

SOME INITIATE MEASURES AND DEVELOPS

Training of the staff directly involved in the
social services

Develop programmes of communitarian
education

Development of the programmes in the families

Establish shelters and temporary assistance for
elderly

THE PUBLIC ADMINISTRATIVE LOCAL AUTHORITIES HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY TO

- Assure the participation of the elderly in the social, public, economic, political, cultural community life through establish and support clubs or recreation centres for elderly;
- Organize social and cultural events where our target group could be actively involved;
- Offer consultancy to the elderly associations in order to develop programmes and local projects for them;
- Develop the voluntarism of elderly people;
- Facilitate the e-communication, assures the access to the IT equipments and internet services.

"The most immutable barrier in nature is that
between the thought of a man
and that of another. "
(WILLIAM JAMES)

