

STAR | Skills Training and Re-Skilling
for Carers of People with Dementia

Report on 6.1. Online communities

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1. Summary

The STAR online course is supported by online communities that allow the participants of the course to discuss dementia related topics with peers and professionals. There is also a general international Facebook page of the project where project members and other persons interested in the course can communicate. Also, STAR has its own LinkedIn page where discussion can be started and questions can be asked in the field of dementia care.

Furthermore, each pilot country has a Facebook page for participants of the course and other interested persons. Participants are informal carers, volunteers and professionals.

This report provides an overview of the international communities and the national communities.

2. Access to the online communities

The online communities of STAR – both international communities and national communities- can be accessed via the home page of the STAR course. These communities are accessible at different places of the homepage, see Figure 1.

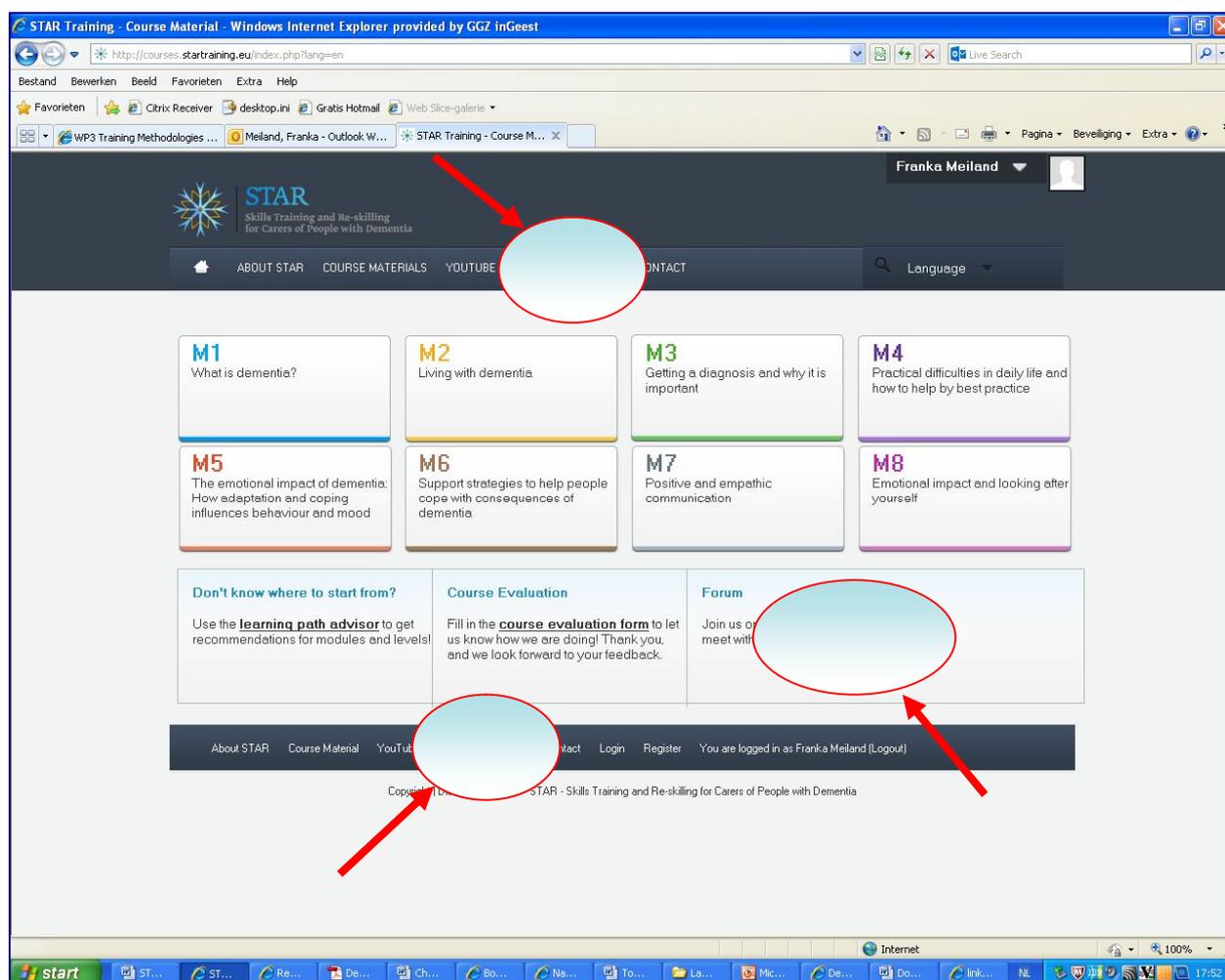


Figure 1. Screenshot of the STAR course page with access to the STAR communities

The international online communities on LinkedIn and Facebook are explained in chapter 3 and the national Facebook pages in the four pilot countries are presented in chapter 4.

3. International online communities

The STAR project has two international communities: a LinkedIn page and a Facebook page. The STAR linkedin page can be accessed via http://www.linkedin.com/groups/Dementia-Care-Online-Training-4811608?trk=my_groups-b-grp-v, see also Figure 2.

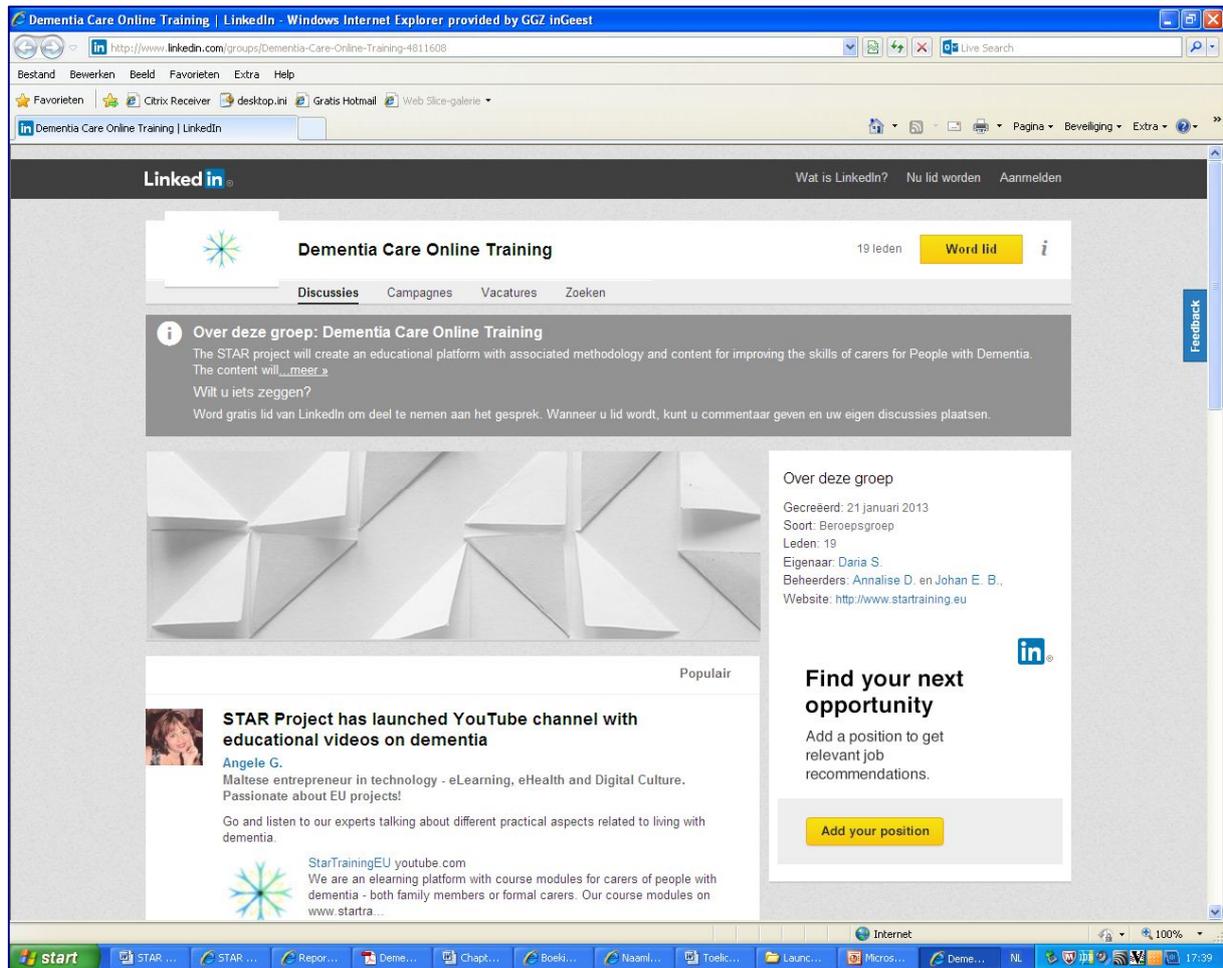


Figure 2. Screenshot of the STAR LinkedIn page

The international Facebook page can be accessed via

<https://www.facebook.com/startraining.eu?fref=ts>

See also Figure 3.



Figure 3. Screenshot of the international STAR Facebook page

4. National online communities

The STAR pilot is executed in the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Italy and Sweden. The course is also translated in Romanian but this is not a pilot country.

In each of the pilot countries STAR Facebook pages have been created. This is an open page where course participants and other interested persons can post messages, share experiences and ask others for advice on dementia related topics. All persons that are following the course in the pilot phase are actively invited to join the Facebook page if they have a Facebook account. If not, people are invited to join Facebook, and receive instructions how to do so. However, it is of course their own decision to join Facebook, participants are not obliged to join Facebook when they follow the course. Persons may also access the national community via the STAR course home page of their own language, see Figure 1 in chapter 2.

In the sections below, the different national Facebook pages are presented.

4.1. The Netherlands Facebook page

The Dutch Facebook page can be accessed via:

<https://www.facebook.com/STARCommunityNL>

See Figure 4 for a screenshot of this page.



Figure 4. Screenshot of the Dutch Facebook page with the online community

4.2. United Kingdom Facebook page

The UK Facebook page can be accessed via: <https://www.facebook.com/STARCommunityUK>, see also Figure 5.



Figure 5. Screenshot of the UK Facebook page with the online community

4.3. Italian Facebook page

The UK Facebook page can be accessed via: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/STAR-Italia-la-formazione-online-nella-cura-della-demenza/527566263994831>



Figure 6. Screenshot of the Italian Facebook page with the online community

4.4. Swedish Facebook page

The Swedish Facebook page can be accessed via:

<https://www.facebook.com/demenskurs>



Figure 7. Screenshot of the Swedish Facebook page with the online community

5. Conclusion

Participants who follow the STAR course and other interested people and professionals are facilitated with various online communities. There are international LinkedIn and Facebook pages of STAR and for each pilot country separate Facebook pages are created, allowing participants to communicate with each other, to share experiences and to ask questions and provide advises. These communities are currently available in Dutch, English, Italian and Swedish.

The surplus value of these communities will be evaluated in the STAR pilot. The pilot results will be ready in February 2014.