

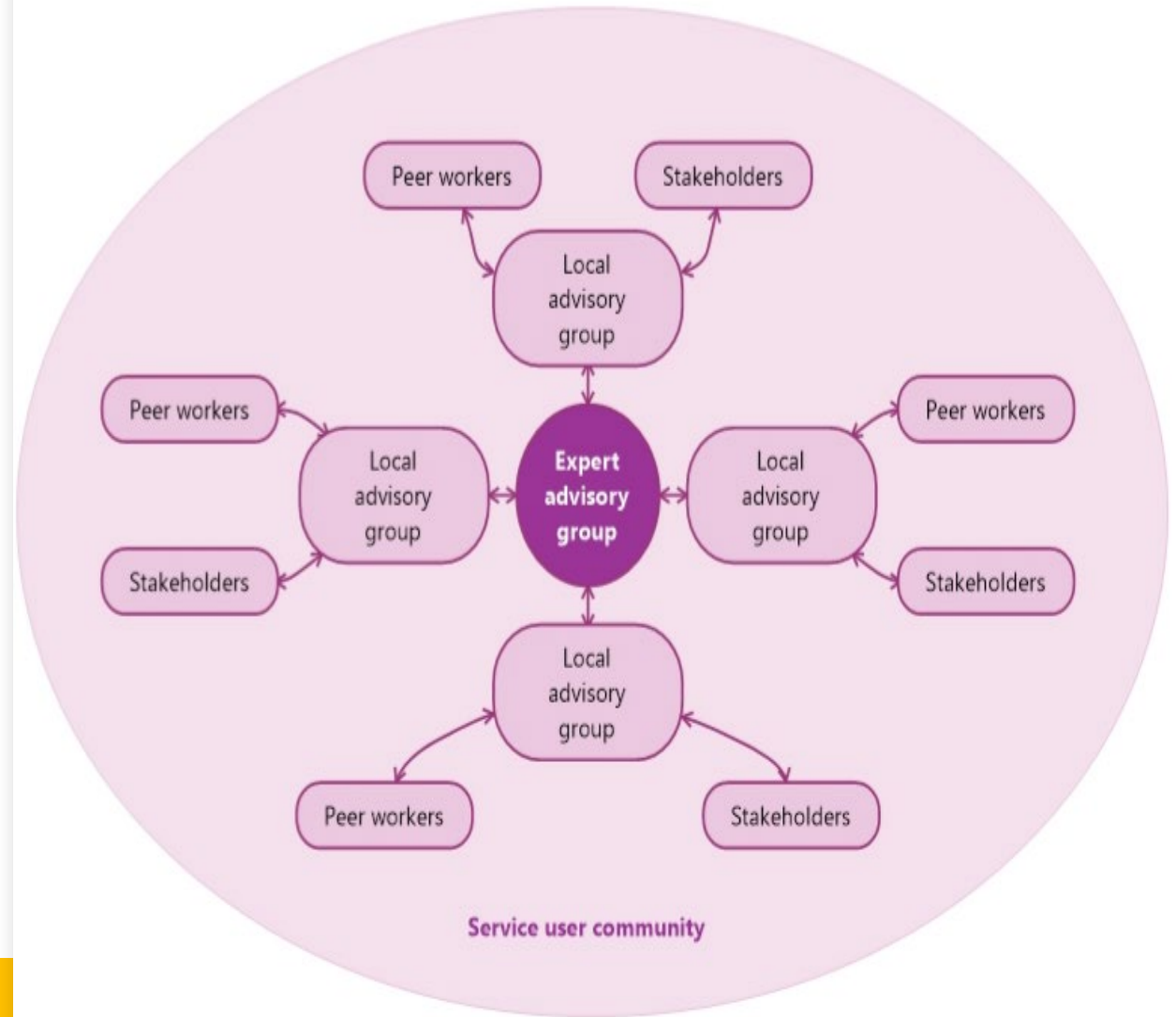
FALCO

Fighting Addictions, improving Lives: COmprehensive drug rehabilitation with music

- Long-time effect of music therapy in substance use disorder (SUD) treatment
 - «The FALCO project aims to reduce the individual and societal burden of disease arising from SUD and related comorbid conditions (mental health) and sequelae (social and medical consequences) in a diverse group of people across a wide range of age (from adolescents to older adults), gender, socioeconomic, and cultural background».
- Big study: 20 partners (led by NORCE), 600 participants in 7 countries (Norway, Austria, Spain, Italy, Israel, Poland, Switzerland), 24 work packages (WP), project period 2025-2029
- Work packages 16-18: User/stakeholder involvement

User/stakeholder involvement in the FALCO research project

- **Objectives:** Facilitate user and stakeholder involvement throughout all phases of the FALCO study.



WP 16: User/stakeholder involvement: preparation

- **Objectives:** Facilitate user and stakeholder involvement throughout all phases of the FALCO study – preparation phase. Develop strategies to involve users with diverse backgrounds and expertise (by experience) in conceptualization, implementation, recruitment, assessment, co-provision of interventions, communication, dissemination and exploitation.
- **Establish an Expert Advisory Group (EAG)**
- **Map user involvement**
- **Establish Local Advisory Groups (LAGs)**
- **Courses for peer workers**
- **Webpage for users/stakeholders**

WP17: User/stakeholder involvement: implementation

- **Objectives:** Facilitate user and stakeholder involvement throughout all phases of the FALCO study – implementation phase. Implement strategies to involve users with diverse backgrounds and expertise (by experience) in conceptualization, implementation, recruitment, assessment, co-provision of interventions, communication, dissemination and exploitation.
- **Provide strategies and workshops for peer worker recruitment.** Based on results from T16.2, provide strategies and workshops to partners to facilitate recruitment of peer workers who will support staff at clinical sites in recruitment of patients and assessments and may act as co-providers of interventions. (D17.1)
- **Coordinate peer workers' and LAG members' co-research activities.** Complement the peer workers' activities with other research activities involving users as co-researchers, such as user-interviewing-user interviews, co-creative methodology, etc. at participating sites. Analysis of the generated data material will also be conducted together with members of the LAGs.

WP18: User/stakeholder involvement: dissemination

- **Objectives:** Facilitate user and stakeholder involvement throughout all phases of the FALCO study – dissemination phase. Disseminate results and findings from the involvement of users with diverse backgrounds and expertise (by experience) in conceptualization, implementation, recruitment, assessment, co-provision of interventions, communication, dissemination and exploitation.
- **User involvement in dissemination strategy set up.** Develop strategies for user involvement in dissemination activities (oral and poster presentations at conferences, co-writing of scientific articles, but also more user-relevant forms of dissemination, such as popular science posters or other visual materials).
- **User involvement in dissemination actions.** Implement user involvement in dissemination activities across participating countries based on strategies developed and training provided.
- **Update webpage for users/stakeholders.** Continuously update the dedicated webpage for stakeholder and user involvement (part of the FALCO website) with user-relevant content as it emerges throughout the project's lifespan.

Recovery and user involvement in research

- The perspective of Recovery and how users are met by «the system»
- Research project of using Recovery in context (communal housing)
- Introduction of the project for the user and further involvement
- The importance of making the user «shine».
- How the user is rewarded for their contribution
- My view on participating and moving on after the completion of the research proejct

«Planting seeds...»



Active user involvement in research

- User involvement in health research is needed and required as mandatory. This is not something you can overlook.
- User involvement in research requires meaningful collaboration at both the system and individual levels, including organizations, communities, and healthcare users.
- User involvement entails a democratization of health research and can help to ensure that users' perspectives, needs, and experiences are reflected in the research. User involvement in research should be an active and equal collaboration between peer support workers and researchers from the very beginning of a research project.
- Challenges: Many users feel their role lacks influence. Clear roles, shared expectations, and continuous dialogue are essential to foster genuine collaboration across individual, clinical, and system levels.


User involvement and cultural differences

- Awareness of differences in culture regarding:
 - User involvement traditions in the involved countries
 - Treatment traditions and health policy in the involved countries
 - Research traditions in the involved countries
 - Music therapy traditions in the involved countries

Stages of a research cycle



Tokenism

- Tokenism refers to “the practice of making only a superficial or symbolic effort to be inclusive of members of minority groups” (Wikipedia, 2024).
- How to avoid tokenism:
 - Resources: time (be involved from idea to evaluation), money
 - The importance of building trustworthy relations – create safe spaces for critical discussions
 - Clarification of expectations: Roles, what to do and when to do it
 - Complementary knowledges: User based knowledge, Research based knowledge, peer-worker/practitioner based knowledge  Evidence based practice