Mixed-method case studies were conducted in 9 sites, Germany, Greece, Italy, Poland, Portugal, (Spain) Catalonia, Sweden and (United Kingdom) Scotland and Northern Ireland, mapping the structures, processes, and outcomes of policies and practices at the institutional, regional, and local level.

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<th>Phase I</th>
<th>Desk Review</th>
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<td>Evaluating economic, political, and cultural context;</td>
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<td>Checklist of complex interventions.</td>
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<th>Phase II</th>
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<td>Assessing development and implementation strategies.</td>
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<td>Participants included: Primary care and hospital pharmacists, hospital geriatricians, primary care and hospital managers, health system administrators.</td>
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<td>Validating interim report findings with focus group of primary care pharmacists, hospital and primary care geriatricians, hospital manager and health system administrator.</td>
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To learn more about Project SIMPATHY and polypharmacy and adherence in the elderly across Europe contact:

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Other case studies
GREECE · ITALY · POLAND · PORTUGAL · (SPAIN) CATALONIA · SWEDEN · (UNITED KINGDOM) NORTHERN IRELAND · (UNITED KINGDOM) SCOTLAND

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This leaflet is part of the SIMPATHY project (663082), which has received funding from the European Union’s Health Programme (2014-2020).
The Polypharmacy Case Study

Why do we need to change medication management practices?

- Free access to all primary care doctors with high consultation rates;
- Doctors are the only prescribers. Medication tends to add up with every visit and every doctor;
- Doctors prescribe, pharmacists issue medicines;
- A doctor resumes responsibility only for medication that he/she prescribes;
- No legal requirement to perform medication reviews. Currently no legal mandate for pharmacists to fulfill this role.

What is the polypharmacy programme about?

ATHINA is a voluntary training programme enabling community pharmacists to undertake medication reviews.

The standard intermediary review entails checks for patient adherence, duplication of drugs, side effects, interactions and potentially inadequate medication.

Pharmacists undergo 16 hours of training, perform 4 reviews under supervision, and are offered ongoing webinars.

ATHINA is a programme for community pharmacists. Since its launch in 2014, 500 out of 5000 pharmacists participated in the state of Lower Saxony.

What facilitates/impedes implementation?

**MANAGEMENT LEVEL**

- Managing pharmacists deliver their vision of performing reviews convincingly. Performing medication reviews will enhance the status amongst health care professions.
- Performing medication reviews is meaningful for pharmacists.
- Performing medication reviews will bring into health care the under-utilised competencies of pharmacists.
- Performing medication reviews will pave the way for a new source of income for pharmacists.

**COMMUNITY PHARMACISTS** face barriers:

- Pharmacists need to legally establish their role of reviewing medications.
- Doctors and pharmacists have competing interests.
- The “E-Health-Law” needs to be in place for medication data to be exchanged electronically between professions.

**INSTITUTIONAL LEVEL**

- Community pharmacists welcome the programme. ATHINA... enhances job satisfaction.
- Community pharmacists welcome the programme. ATHINA... facilitates a safe learning environment.
- Community pharmacists welcome the programme. ATHINA... requires little training time.

Performing the reviews in routine practice entails problems:

- Low demand from the paying customers.
- No medical patient records for reviews.
- Results of the review are merely for the customers.
- Reviews create time management issues.

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1 Population Survey DEGSI (2008-11)