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**INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPATION IN RESEARCH**

**Exploring informal carers' gendered experiences as shaped during the care of older individuals in need of rehabilitation**

**Invitation**

This document invites you to participate in a research project as participants. Before you decide to participate, it is essential that you have understood the purpose of this research project and what processes it involves and concerns you. Please read the following information carefully and do not hesitate to ask me if you need more details or do not understand something. Please make it noticeably clear that you are not obliged to participate in the proposed research. We encourage you to agree to participate only if you wish so.

**What is the purpose of the research?**

My name is Zygouri Ioanna and I am a researcher at the Department of Medicine of the School of Science and Health of the University of Ioannina. The research will be done under my PhD and it is funded by the European program HORIZON 2020. Research will seek to contribute to the understanding of the way in which gender is associated with informal care. Some of the primary research questions will be about how gender affects the way care is offered and experienced and what is the way in which gender identities and gender roles formed through the provision of care. It will also seek to understand the importance of supporting informal caregivers in a way that protects their persona health and well-being as well as the dignity of older people in need for rehabilitation.

**Why choose to participate in the research?**

Individuals invited to participate must experience the research phenomenon and therefore be able to provide detailed and rich descriptions of their experiences regarding caregiving. Participants will be informal caregivers of an older individual (over 65 years old) family member, men and women over 18 years of age. Participants must speak and read Greek and be able to give informed consent for participation in the research.

**Am I obliged to participate in the research?**

Your participation in the research is voluntary and not mandatory, therefore, you can withdraw your participation at any time and without any consequences. If you do not wish to answer any questions or a question makes you feel uncomfortable you can leave it unanswered but also to interrupt the continuation of the interview.

**What will happen if I participate in the research?**

The methodological approach of the research will be qualitative aiming to explore in depth the experiences, perceptions, participants' emotions, behaviors, and attitudes. The collection of qualitative research data will be made through personal semi structured interviews with the researcher. During the personal interviews you will have the opportunity to narrate the experiences and share your feelings about the phenomenon under study. The interviews will take place at a space of the University of Ioannina. The duration of the interviews will range in about an hour. The data will be recorded with note production and recording.

**Will I get paid?**

There is no payment other than soft drink or water if requested by the participant.

**Is there a risk of my involvement in the research?**

There is no expected risk as it is simple exchange of views and recording of personal experiences. In case that at some point you feel uncomfortable due to the interview, the interview process will be stopped immediately without any consequences for you.

**What is the benefit of my participation in the research?**

You will have the opportunity to express your thoughts and talk about your experiences. In addition, you will be involved in a research process thus gaining an understanding of how a research project is conducted. Your voluntary participation is expected to expand this research area as the results of the research will help create new models of support for informal caregivers that are gender sensitive.

**What If I want to complain about an unpleasant event during research process?**

You can express any complaint to me in person or officially. If this does not work, you can do so to the Program Manager and Associate Professor Dr. Stefanos Mantzoukas  , tel . 2651050787, email: smantzoukas@uoi.gr. If that does not work to satisfy you, you can contact the Ethics Committee and Ethics of Research, of University of Ioannina.

**Will be confidentiality and anonymity of the data?**

The data material will be safely stored on a computer that is protected by code and the document material will be stored in a secure space at the University of Ioannina also in a locked and protected area with code. Only I and the Manager of the Program and Associate Professor Dr. Stefanos Mantzoukas will have access to the material. I will strictly adhere to the participants' identity files in accordance with the relevant legislation. If there is a publication based on these the data, their identity is covered by secrecy. The data after 5 years will be destroyed. The data will not be used for purposes other than those mentioned in this letter. Finally, it should be noted that in the case of criminal acts found during the collection of the data, only then the anonymity be raised.

**What will happen to the results that will be obtained from the collected data?**

The data will be used to write my Doctoral Thesis. The data may be published in National and International Scientific journals and be presented at Scientific Conferences.

**What will happen if I stop participating at some point in the research?**

You can discontinue your participation at any point of the research process, without accountability and without any consequences. The data collected up to the point of departure if the participant agrees may be used for the analysis of the research. If the participant won't agree with that, the data will be destroyed and won't be used.

**Who can I contact if I need more information?**

You can contact me for more information. If you are not satisfied, you can contact the Program Manager and Associate Professor Dr. Stefanos Mantzouka ,  email: smantzoukas@uoi.gr).

Warm thanks for the time and effort to read this informative memorandum. I hope you decide to get involved in the research.

Yours sincerely

Zygouri Ioanna

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