

Voices from the Field | Fundación Pilares para la Autonomía Personal — Spain

At Fundación Pilares, we work from a simple conviction: that dignity, autonomy and quality of life are not privileges to be granted to older people and those dependent on care, but rights to be actively defended. Based in Madrid and Alicante, we operate across Spain — and in Latin America — as one of the leading advocates of the Integrated and Person-Centred Care Model (AICP), working with public administrations, civil society organisations, universities and research centres to transform how care is understood and delivered.

Joining LeTs-Care has been a natural extension of that mission. The project brings together a genuinely pluralistic mix of actors — public authorities, trade unions, social organisations, third-sector bodies — and we see it as an ideal platform to contribute our expertise and participate in the generation of shared knowledge. These are exactly the kinds of multi-sectoral spaces where we believe real change becomes possible.

Our vantage point into the Spanish care system is both broad and deeply grounded. Through the AICP School — a specialised training centre that has become a benchmark for professionals and organisations — we sit at the intersection of research, policy and frontline practice. Our community programmes bring us into direct contact with older people, family carers and care workers, giving us a first-hand understanding of where the system falls short and where transformation is possible.

Within LeTs-Care, we contribute on three fronts: sharing evidence and lessons from our own programmes with the Spanish research team; participating actively in national workshops; and bringing the AICP School itself into the project as a concrete case study of how person-centred principles can be embedded in real care contexts through training and capacity-building.

What we hope to take away is a solid, shared body of knowledge that strengthens the case for more humane, community-based care models — and fosters genuine dialogue between policymakers, professionals and the public.

"The national workshops have been the most significant aspect for us. These forums have fostered honest and constructive dialogue, in which our perspective on long-term care has been integrated and enriched by the contributions of other key players in the Spanish care ecosystem."

— Pilar Rodríguez Rodríguez, President, Fundación Pilares para la Autonomía Personal