De-institutionalization as a challenge for the development of community-based care for older people

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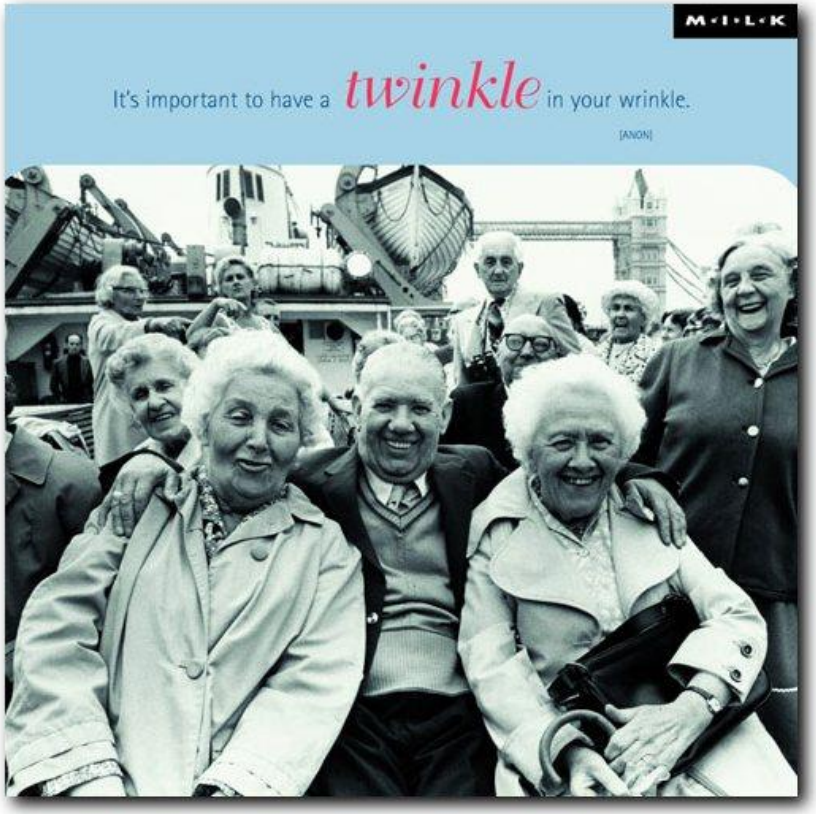
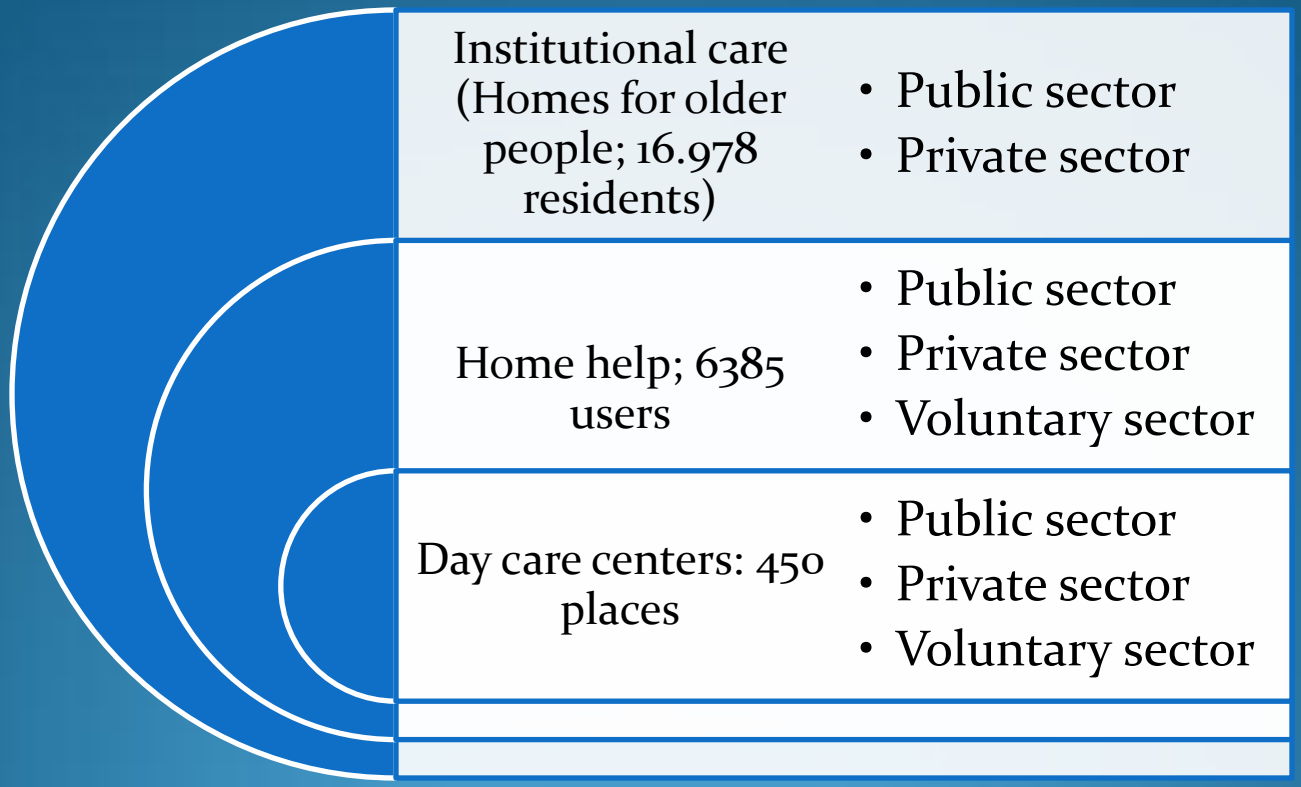
Some facts about care for older people in Slovenia

- Care is expressly institutionalized
- The rigid system of institutions which do not meet the needs of the explicitly heterogeneous group of older people



Some facts about care for older people in Slovenia

- Access to help is a special problem; help is often inaccessible in both urban and rural areas.
- Data needed for quantitative and qualitative analyses of care for older people is not available in Slovenia

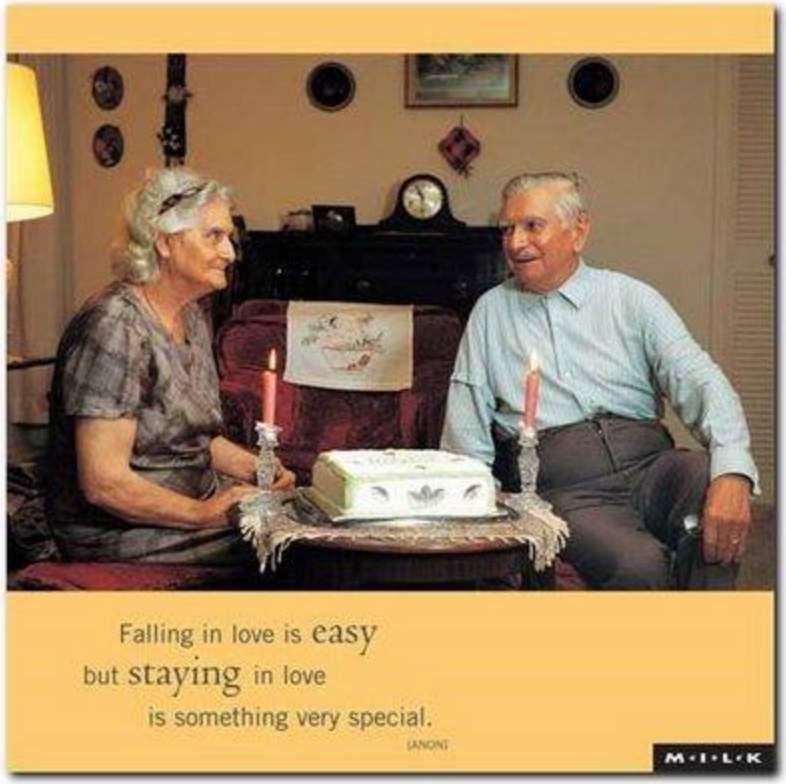

Institutional care (Homes for older people; 16.978 residents)
• Public sector
• Private sector
Home help; 6385 users
• Public sector
• Private sector
• Voluntary sector
Day care centers: 450 places
• Public sector
• Private sector
• Voluntary sector

Providers of home help by sectors in 2009

Public sector	Number of providers	Number of users
Homes for older people	16	1730
Centers for social work	45	2997
Independent institution	3	1116
Private sector		
Homes for older people	6	182
Social service	4	282
Voluntary sector		
Pensioners' association	1	9
Others	1	69
Total	77	6385

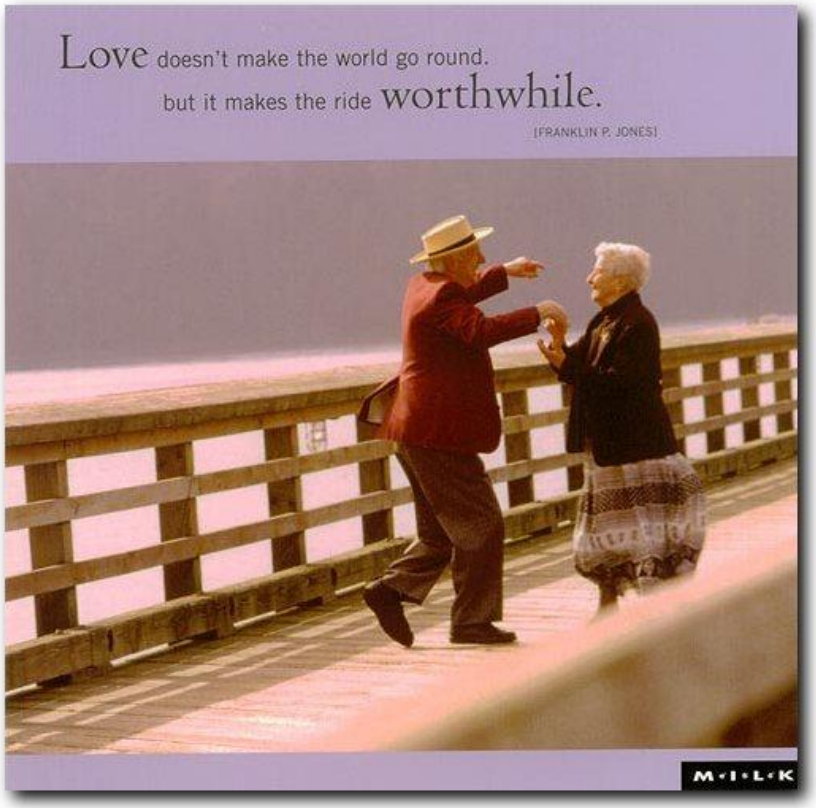
The importance of de-institutionalization processes

- Of the total number of 400,000 people over 60 in Slovenia, around 100,000 need some help, while around 40,000 of them regularly need relatively extensive care



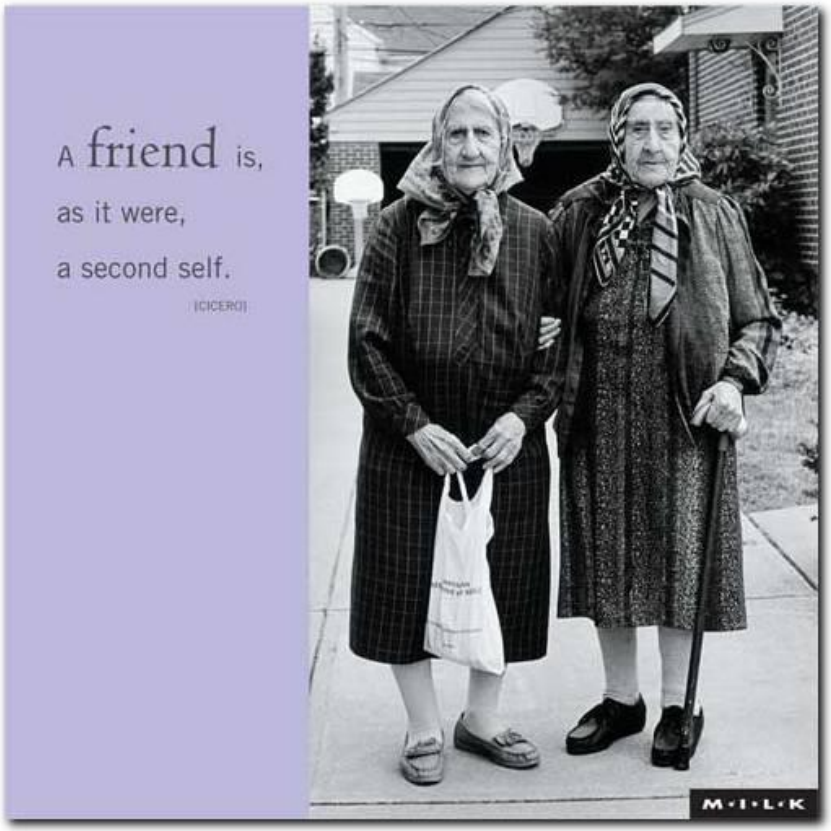
Old people's homes as total institutions

- the main goal of the institution - care for a multitude of people living in one place – is in the forefront, so life is governed by rules and bureaucratization.



Old people's needs and response to them

- instead of an institution; dwelling; employment – work and money; everyday life; discontent in interaction; social contacts; institutional career; disembededness and affiliation.



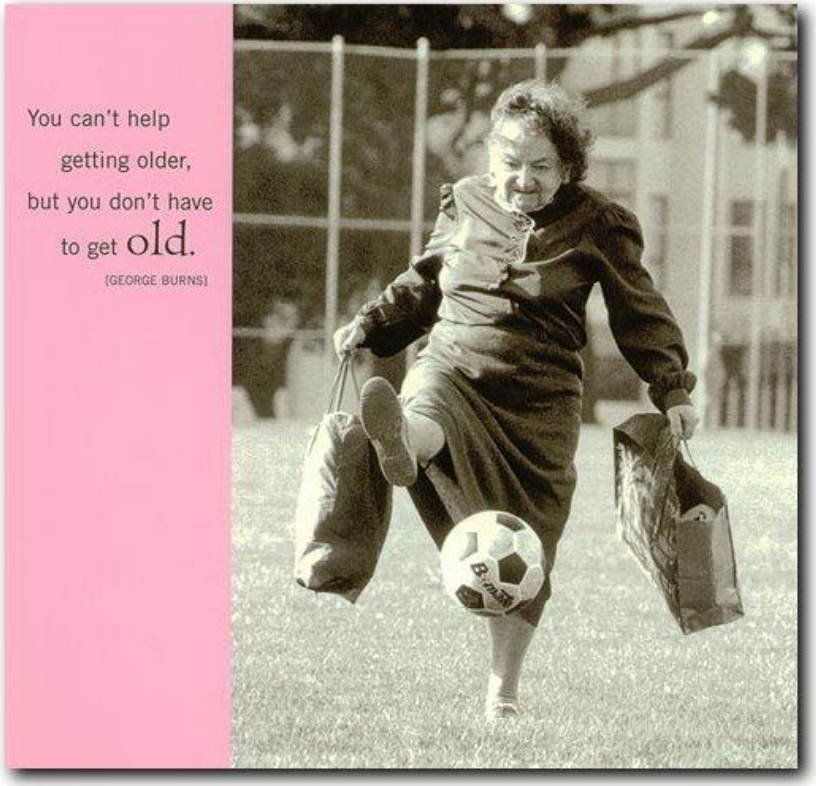
The implementation of de-institutionalization processes

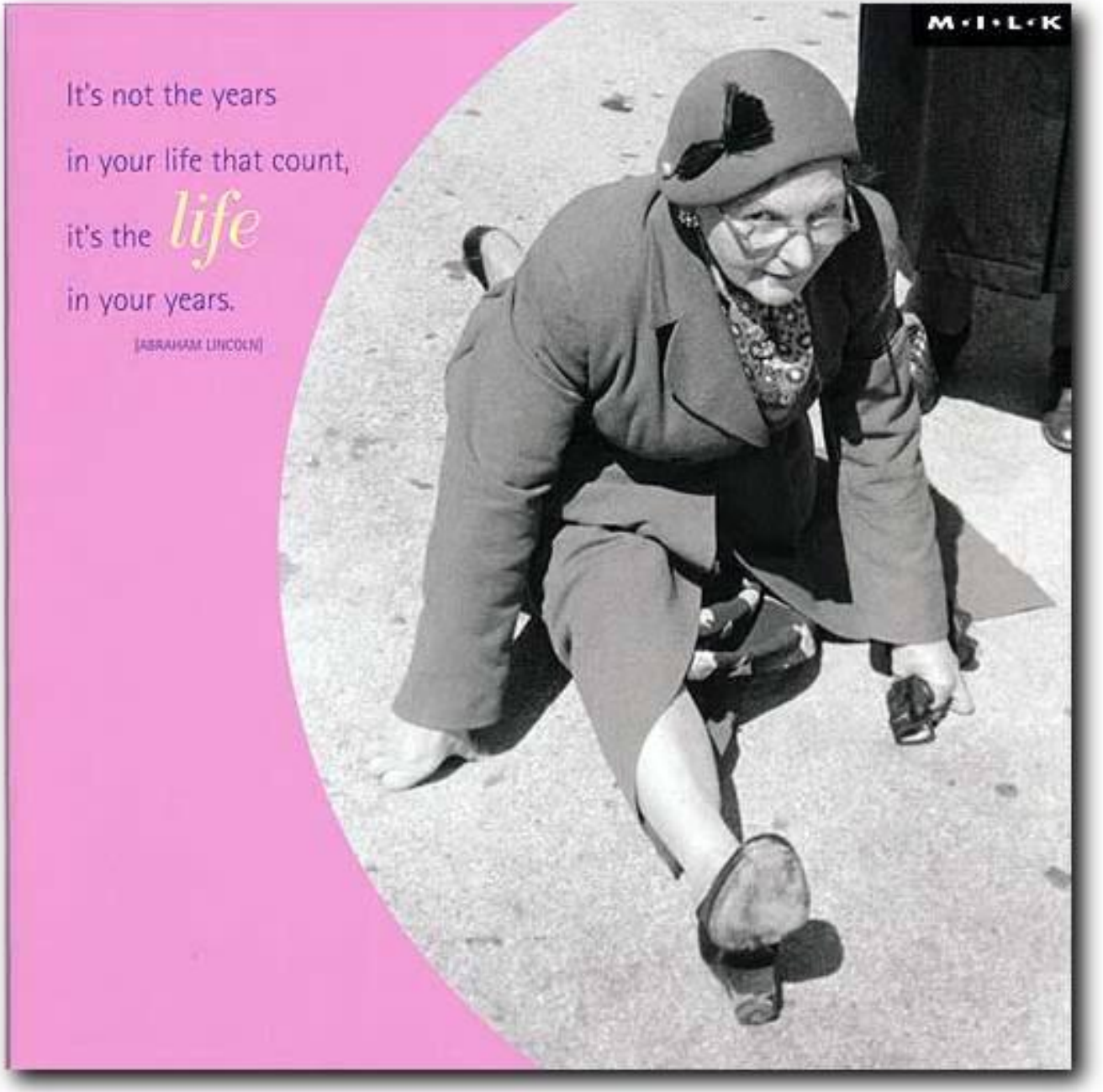
- Changes on three levels:

Micro level: the right to live in a community
Macro level: the development of individualized care for older people
Mezzo level: relevant legislation

The implementation of de-institutionalization processes

- De-institutionalization presents a challenge leading to the collaboration and establishing of connections among educational institutions (faculty for social work, higher medical schools and faculty of medical sciences), individual sectors (the Ministry of Labor, Family and Social Affairs and the Ministry of Health), and professionals on the practical level.




It's not the years
in your life that count,
it's the life
in your years.
[ABRAHAM LINCOLN]
M·I·L·K