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### **Improving hearing care for seniors in Germany**

In early 2025, the first nationwide interdisciplinary project (HearForFuture), funded by the Joint Federal Committee (G-BA), was launched with the aim of analysing structural, procedural and situational barriers to the provision of hearing aids in Germany.

The project employs a mixed-methods approach, combining data from the AOK with data from focus group interviews, data from more than 500 patients and healthcare providers across Germany, as well as information on satisfaction in daily use and audiometric measurements from hearing aid users. Patients also have the opportunity to take part in an ecological momentary assessment (EMA). In addition, audiometric data such as speech intelligibility will be recorded and real-ear measurements carried out among a smaller group of hearing aid users. Another component of the project is a series of participatory workshops aimed at developing a forward-looking care concept, including a needs-based care pathway to improve care for people with hearing problems, in close cooperation with hearing care professionals, ENT specialists, patient associations and health insurance funds. The project and the initial results of the questionnaire analysis will be presented at the EUHA conference.