Interreg
CENTRAL EUROPE
European Union
European Regional
Development Fund

I-CARE-SMART

INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM FOR SMART ELDERLY CARE

WHAT WE DO

According to Eurostat data, 17.4% of Europeans are 65 years old and over. Increasing life expectancy means that the EU's population will be ageing intensively in the coming years. These demographic processes represent a major social and economic policy challenge for the European Union as a whole and for individual Member States.
The international project (I-CARE-SMART) is part of this trend of support for older people. I-CARE-SMART aims to bring innovation closer to senior citizens by introducing innovative products and services with the active involvement of users and boost the silver economy.

13 PROJECT PARTNERS

7 REGIONS

7 COUNTRIES

2.1 MILLION EURO ERDF

2.6 MILLION EURO PROJECT BUDGET

TAKING COOPERATION FORWARD

WHO WE ARE

Partners from seven central European countries responds to the region's challenges regarding an ageing population and insufficient provision for senior citizens. It seeks to build and strengthen cooperation with organizations that are able to provide state-of-the-art technology in health and social care for the elderly, including the use of IT.

Austria
City of Graz
NOWA Training Counselling Project management

Czech Republic
Social Services Prague 9
SPEKTRA, manufacturing cooperative

Germany
University of Applied Sciences for Economy, Technics and Culture

Hungary
Municipality of Újbuda (Budapest, 11th district)
Budapest University of Technology and Economics

Italy
Liguria Region
SI4life Science and Business together to improve the quality of life for Seniors and People with Disabilities

Poland
Lodzkie Region
Medical University of Lodz

Slovakia
European Grouping of Territorial Cooperation
Via Carpatia
Technical University of Kosice

Who funds us

Our project is funded by the Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE Programme that encourages cooperation on shared challenges in central Europe.

With 246 million Euro of funding from the European Regional Development Fund, the programme supports institutions to work together beyond borders to improve cities and regions in Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia.

DISCOVER MORE ABOUT I-CARE-SMART

www.interreg-central.eu/I-CARE-SMART

Contact Us

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- Municipality of Ujbuda, Hungary

f www.facebook.com/icare.smart.ue

in www.linkedin.com/showcase/i-care-smart/

t www.twitter.com/ICARE_SMART

I-CARE-SMART

The project activities have been structured to maximize opportunities for cooperation and the pooling of experience and ideas at the transnational level.

FACTS AND FIGURES
I-CARE SMART IN NUMBERS

13   Project partners

19   Outputs planned until 2022

2.593.039,34   Total project budget

ACTIVITIES AND OUTPUTS

In I-CARE-SMART

we bring together the Research & Development sector, Business sector, Health & Social Service Provider sector, the Elderly Community under the coordination of the Local Municipality to start a long-term co-creation and cooperation in order to integrate the identified needs of both the elderly as individuals and the elderly (health & social) service providers as institutes into each phase of the innovation cycle for SMART solution (planning, developing, prototype, validation, marketing and follow-up).

Based on the developed toolset PPs launch a quadruple helix based co-creation process going through 4 stages:

1) Co-creation based needs assessment;
2) Scouting innovative solutions that meet real user needs (SilverStar Challenge);
3) Development of solutions with user involvement (co-creation and living lab pilots);
4) Transnational collaboration with open innovation methods (SilverStar Platform).

STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS

Regional Action Plans will be drafted after public consultations, endorsed by local/regional public authorities. RAPs ensure that the quadruple-helix based co-creation process is sustained and embedded in the regional innovation ecosystem. They include policy recommendations to scale up the process and potentially roll-out to other smart specialisation sectors, thus boosting the implementation of Smart Specialisation Strategy (S3).

Project Partners elaborate the strategy of the I-CARE-SMART Network to further enhance the linkages among innovation actors within and beyond their regions. The Strategy outlines future actions, i.e. organising the SilverStar Challenge regularly, participation in one another's events, and involving additional Networks and Platform members (with objectives similar to S3).

7   Target number of project strategies and actions plans

TRAINING

Training of project partners on Senior&Business Engagement Tools and Co-Creation&Open Innovation Methods. 3-day-long training session organised on the basis of tools and training materials developed in the project. The practice-oriented training prepares project members to launch and implement the quadruple-helix-based co-creation process in their regions. The joint training (instead of regional ones) allows mutual learning and networking opportunities, contributing to strengthened linkages among key actors of regional innovation ecosystems.

1   Target number of training courses to be implemented

TOOLS

Toolbox for Senior Engagement
PPs explore and develop senior engagement techniques, which help them to effectively raise awareness and interest of seniors to engage in the co-creation of smart care solutions.

Toolbox for Business Engagement
PPs explore and develop business engagement techniques, which help to effectively raise awareness and interest of businesses, to engage in the co-creation of smart care solutions.

Handbook on Co-Creation & Open Innovation Methods
It offers methods applicable to the specificities of the elderly care sector, i.e. co-creation at the regional and transnational level, and in "real life" and "virtual space".

SilverStar Platform
The SilverStar Platform offers virtual collaboration tools allowing innovators to set-up transnational collaboration teams.

5   Number of tools implemented

PILOT ACTIONS

Regional pilot actions to test co-creation methods promoting user-focused innovation in elderly care.
The peak of the regional co-creation process is reached when diagnosed unmet needs of the elderly are matched with innovative solutions submitted to the SilverStar Challenge. Quadruple-helix-based co-creation sessions and living-lab-type real-life tests allow direct interaction between innovators and representatives of the target group, thus paving the way for the development of smart care solutions with high market potential.

Pilot actions are implemented in 2 stages: the first round is accompanied by monitoring and evaluation, the conclusions of which feed into Follow-up pilot actions for further co-development of smart solutions in each partner's region.

6   Regional pilot actions