

## D-Care Labs

### Developing Labs to Facilitate Home Care Innovation and Entrepreneurship in the Danube Region

#### Project data:

Programme: Interreg Danube Transnational Programme

Project start date: 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020

Project end date: 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022

Duration: 30 months

Project total budget: € 2,515,895.12

ERDF Co-financing: € 2,079,076.46

IPAI Co-financing: € 334,833.33

ENI-MD Co-financing: € 101,985.33

#### The status quo and challenges:

In the Danube Region, fundamental needs of home care beneficiaries are not satisfied by current social service providers. There are extensive requirements to fulfil needs e.g. as proper medical therapies and support for body hygiene (basic needs), provision of adequate home facilities to prevent falls (security needs) and measures to enable social inclusion of needy people into the local community (social needs). In Austria and Germany, especially poor people and rural areas lack of proper services. In Central and Eastern European countries, even essential services are often not provided. Staff shortages, financial restrictions and insufficient use of new digital technologies are part of the problem in the whole Danube Region. Social entrepreneurial trainings and few recently established social innovation labs aim to facilitate innovation of new services/products in the Danube Region to tackle such societal challenges.

#### Project objective:

Building upon these approaches, the project aims to establish specialized macro-regional D-Care Lab innovation structures to enable social service providers, product developers and social startups to design and implement better and innovative home care services and products for elderly persons, people with disabilities and

children with special needs in 9 Danube Region countries (DE, AT, HU, HR, BG, RO, RS, BiH, MD). Social innovation labs offer social entrepreneurs/intrapreneurs a space for developing practicable and marketable solutions for societal challenges with the support of various actors (e.g. innovation experts, beneficiary groups, public authorities).

Target groups: home care beneficiaries and their caring relatives, social entrepreneurs / intrapreneurs in the field of home care, local, national and regional public authorities, social investors (e.g. foundations, public and private investors).

The project uses methodology to facilitate the design/implementation of community-based home care innovations (regional D-Care Lab as bottom-up, integrative, need- and solution-oriented approach) and methods to encourage interregional collaboration and co-creation (Transnational Lab, community-building approaches). The project uses tools to involve relevant policy-actors of different levels to promote policy-change in the areas of social innovation and home care.

#### Partner Countries:

Germany, Hungary, Croatia, Romania, Bulgaria, Austria, Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Moldova.



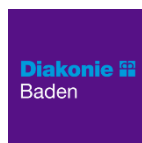
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#### Partnership:

Since 2011, a core of the partners recognised the potential of the strategic EUSDR framework, contributed to the implementation of PA 9/10 and established collaborations. Based on these experiences, the need for initiating transnational social innovation structures was identified and developed with key partners in a 2,5-years process.

**26 public and private partners (project partners and associate strategic partners) from 10 EUSDR countries are involved:**



#### Project partners:

- Diakonie Baden (lead partner, umbrella organization of about 900 social service organizations),
- Grünhof start-up Centre,
- University of Heidelberg (Centre for Social Investment and Innovation),

- Töosz - Hungarian National Association of Local Authorities,
- Croatian ACT Group (Community of Social Entrepreneurs),
- University of Zagreb,
- Romanian Federation of Social NGOs in Transylvania,
- Federation of Social NGOs in Bulgaria,
- Caritas of the Archdiocese Vienna,
- Slovenian Centre for European Perspective (EUSDR Priority Coordinator 10),
- Bosnian Mozaik Foundation,
- Bosnian Partnership for Public Health Association,
- Serbian Network of Organizations for Children of Serbia,
- AGAPEDIA Moldova Foundation.

#### Associated Partners (ASPs):

- Ministry of Social Affairs Baden-Württemberg,
- Hungarian Ministry of Human Resources,
- Hungarian Ministry of Interior,
- Hungarian Directorate-General for Social Affairs and Child Protection,
- Regional Development Agency - Central Region of Romania,
- Agency for Social Assistance Bulgaria,
- Austrian Public Health Institute,
- City of Vienna, Erste Foundation,
- City of Maribor,
- Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction Unit of the Government of the Republic of Serbia,
- Moldovan Ministry of Health, Labour and Social Protection.