Study supporting

Inclusive Growth Network on "Healthy and Active Ageing" in EU Cooperation Programmes 2014 - 2020

Study by Ecorys for INTERACT Valencia

Full report

INTERACT
EUROPEAN UNION

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Service supporting Inclusive growth network on the topic of "Healthy and active Ageing" in EU Cooperation programmes

Client: INTERACT Office Valencia

Sound analysis, inspiring ideas

Madrid, 29th July 2022

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Task 2: Benchmarking and identification of project chain possibilities

The aim of this task is to identify project chain possibilities between what is already being financed by Interreg and what could be financed in a complementary manner by other sources of funding. The concept of a project chain is related to the idea of complementarity among projects financed under different Interreg programmes (transnational, cross-border, interregional, IPA, ENI) or other funds having in mind a common strategic objective in the same territory. In order to carry out this task, we analyse what has been financed under Interreg 2014-2020 and the project chain possibilities with other European funds.

EU programmes tackling healthy and active ageing are shown just below. The programmes for the 2014-2020 period are shown first, followed by those of 2021-2017, although some programmes have kept the same denomination for both periods.

- Interreg
- ESF / ESF+
- Horizon 2020 / Horizon Europe
- 3rd Health Programme / EU4Health
- Erasmus+

Figure 1 shows an overview of the most relevant EU funds in the field of healthy and active ageing, providing further information about their territorial scope and further themes they fund[1]. Figure 2 displays the territorial scope of each EU Fund.

Figure 1

Overview of the most relevant EU Funds

Programme (2014-20 / 2021 - 27)	EU Fund	Scope	Theme
Interreg	European Regional Development Fund	Territorial NUTS 2 and NUTS 3 30 countries (Eu 27, CH, GB, NO)	European territorial cooperation
ESF / ESF +	Eropean Social Fund	Individual 28 countries (EU 27, GB)	Employment Education Public Services
Horizon 2020 / Horizon Eur ope	Horizon Europe	Scientists, researchers and businesses 44 countries (EU 27, AL, AM, BA, CH,FO, GE, GB, IS, IL, MD, ME, MK, NO, RS, TN, TR, UA)	Research Innovation
3rd Health Programme / EU4Health	Health Fund	Public institutions, health organisations and NGOs 28 countries (EU 27, GB)	Health
Erasmus+	Erasmus+	Individual Organisations 34 countries (EU 27, GB, IS, LI, MK, NO, RS, TR)	Education Youth Sport

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[1] Regarding the territorial scope, it should be noted that the United Kingdom (GB) was present for the 2014-2020 programming period, but not for the 2021-2027.

Figure 2

Funding programmes coverage
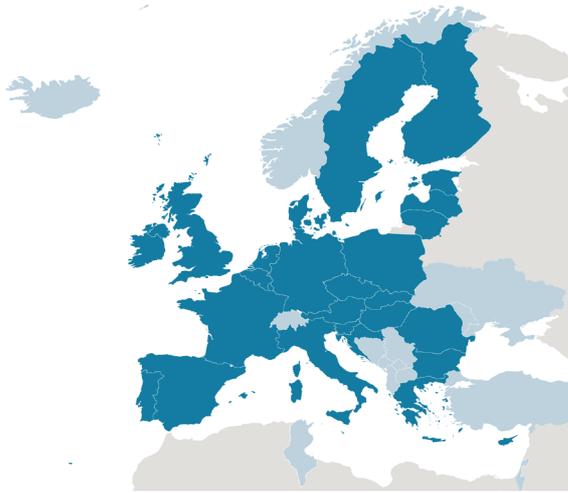
European Social Fund | Health Fund
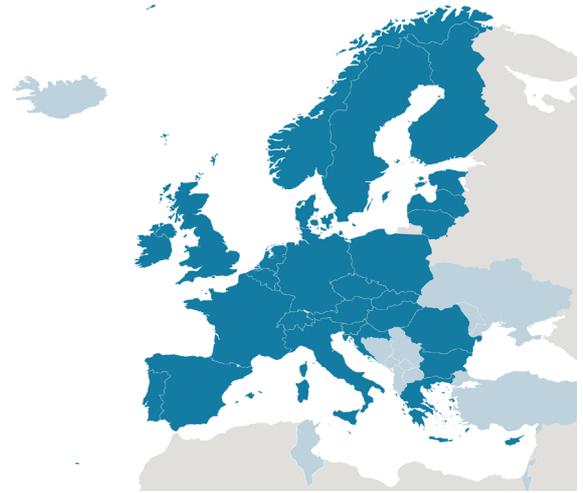
European Regional Development Fund
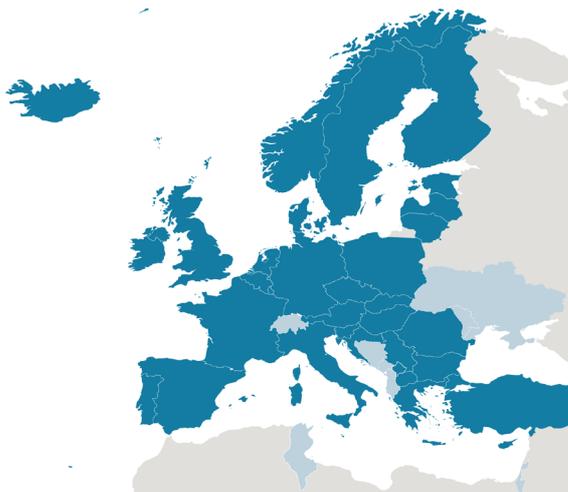
Erasmus+
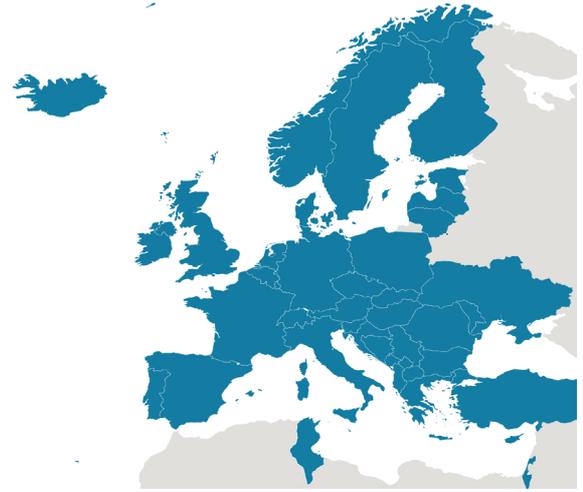
Horizon Europe

How have each of these programmes approached the area of healthy and active ageing?

Interreg[2]

In light of ageing societies, Europe faces increasing and territorially different demographic challenges that Interreg aims to alleviate. Interreg is the EU's main instrument supporting European Territorial Cooperation in reduce disparities across Europe's regions and to find shared solutions in fields such as health, environment, research, education, transport, sustainable energy and more. Interreg is organised under multiple strands:

- cross-border (Interreg A),
- trans-national (Interreg B),
- interregional (Interreg C),
- outermost regions' cooperation (Interreg D)

Interreg also contributes to EU external border cooperation programmes supported by the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA) and the European Neighbourhood Instrument (ENI).

2014-2020
Interreg 2014-2020[3] was one of the two goals of the EU Cohesion Policy and it was funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) with a budget of €10.1 billion. For the programming period 2014-2020, Interreg followed the 11 thematic objectives set up by the Cohesion Policy and the investment priorities established by the ERDF[4]. Among the objectives, some were particularly relevant for the promotion of healthy and active ageing. For example, "Research, technological development, and innovation", "Employment and labour mobility", "Education, training and learning" and "Public administration efficiency" constitute almost 40% of the total Interreg budget and represent a funding opportunity for activities such as healthy active ageing.

Active and healthy ageing is a subject covered across the Interreg programmes, which have an important territorial and cooperation component. For example, Interreg Europe[5] funds the initiatives provided below. Further examples funded by other Interreg programmes are provided throughout the report.

- EU_SHAFE focuses on smart and healthy age-friendly environments,
- HoCare aims to deliver innovative solutions for Home Care,
- ITHACA aims to deliver better policies to foster active and healthy ageing of the population.
- InnovaSPA aims to promote innovative cures and care solutions in the thermal sector.
- TITTAN aims to improve the quality and performance of the European regional healthcare systems for active and healthy ageing.

2021-2027
For the programming period 2021-2027, the budget of Interreg amounts a total of €9 billion from the Cohesion policy budget[6]. During this time, Interreg will focus on achieving the EU five policy objective, which aim to make Europe smarter, greener, more connected, more social, closer to its citizens. In addition, Interreg has two new specific objectives: a better cooperation governance through capacity building as well as a safer and more secure Europe. healthy and active ageing across European regions is encompassed in the objectives "a more social and inclusive Europe", in the form of education, social inclusion, and health care; and "a smarter Europe", in the form of research and innovation, digitisation, and SME competitiveness. The five Interreg projects described above continue in a second version during this new programming period.

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[2] About Interreg. https://interreg.eu/about-interreg/
[3] Interreg 2014-2020. https://interreg.eu/about-interreg/
[4] European Commission. Regional policy. Priorities 2014-2020. https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/policy/how/priorities/2014-2020/
[5] Active and healthy ageing. https://www.interregeurope.eu/find-policy-solutions/stories/active-and-healthy-ageing#:~:text=Interreg%20Europe%20projects%20have%20identified,ageing%20require%20age%2Dfriendly%20infrastructures.
[6] Cohesion policy budget allocation for 2021-2027. https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/stories/s/2021-2027-EU-allocations-available-for-programming/2w8s-ci3y/

ECORYS

ESF and ESF+

ESF/ESF+ is dedicated to enhancing social cohesion and economic well-being across the regions of the European Union. In particular, ESF/ESF+ is Europe's main instrument for supporting employment, social, education, and skills policies in the Member States.

2014-2020[7]
During the 2014-2020 programming period, the ESF focuses on supporting jobs, helping people get better jobs and ensuring fairer job opportunities for all EU citizens. The ESF had a EU budget of €100 billion[8], mostly invested in supporting sustainable and quality employment, educational and vocational training, in social inclusion as well as in fostering crisis repair and resilience. In this sense, it played a crucial role in meeting Europe's goals, and in mitigating the consequences of the economic crisis – especially the rise in unemployment and poverty levels.

Among ESF priorities, we can find some related to healthy and active ageing (listed below). These objectives are not only essential for older people to age actively and healthy, but also to stay included in society.

- Better work balance, access to childcare and active healthy ageing
- Lifelong learning, up- and re-skilling
- Education & training systems
- Access to quality and inclusive education and training

In relation to active ageing and under the framework of the ESF, an Active Ageing Index (AAI)[9] was launched in order to provide national and European policy makers a way to measure the untapped potential of seniors across the EU Member States and beyond. The AAI measures the extent to which older people can realise their full potential in terms of employment, participation in social and cultural life and independent living. It also measures the extent to which the environment they live in enables seniors to lead an active life. Furthermore, a European Innovation Partnership for Active and Health Ageing[10] was established to foster innovation with the objective of raising healthy life expectancy.

2021-2027[11]
For the current programming period 2021-2027, the ESF+ brings together four other funds, which worked separately until this programming period: European Social Fund (ESF), Youth Employment Initiative (YEI), Fund for the European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD), and the Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI) programme[12].

With an EU budget of €99.3 billion, the ESF+ remains EU's main instrument for investing in people, by addressing the socio-economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, promoting high employment levels, building social protection, and developing a skilled and resilient workforce ready for the transition to a green and digital economy. All of these areas are closely associated with active and healthy ageing. Active ageing means helping people to remain independent as they age and, when possible, to contribute to the economy and society. Therefore, by ensuring equal access and permanence in the labour market as well as fair working conditions, the ESF/ESF+ contributes to promote active ageing. In the same sense, given that ESF/ESF+ supports social inclusion and health and social protection, it also assists in ensuring healthy ageing.

This funding stream is where we expect to find most projects related to active and healthy ageing, due to its alignment with Interreg, so the majority of research resources will be devoted to this stream. Interreg addresses the common European challenges by focusing on its territorial component, while the ESF/ESF+ mainly concentrates on the socio-economic component. Accordingly, both funds are highly complementary.

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[7] European Social Fund 2014-2020. https://ec.europa.eu/esf/main.jsp?catId=35&langId=en

[8] Cohesion policy budget allocation for ESF in 2014-2020. https://cohesiondata.ec.europa.eu/funds/esf

[9] Active ageing index. https://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=89&newsId=1837&furtherNews=yes

[10] European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing. https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/eip-aha

[11] European Social Fund Plus 2021-2027. https://ec.europa.eu/european-social-fund-plus/en

[12] Policy brief on the ESF+ for 2021-2027. https://nws.eurocities.eu/MediaShell/media/Policy_brief_on_the_ESF_.pdf

Third Health Programme and EU4Health

2014-2020
The Third Health Programme[13] came in place to help EU countries respond to socioeconomic and demographic challenges facing their health systems and enable citizens to stay healthy for longer. The Third Health Programme aims to improve public health, to prevent illness, and to eliminate threats to physical and mental health in European countries. With a total budget of €449.4 million[14], the Third Health Programme had four specific objectives, closely linked to active and healthy ageing:

- Promote health, prevent diseases, and foster supportive environments for healthy lifestyles considering the 'health in all policies' principle
- Protect European citizens from serious cross-border health threats
- Contribute to innovative, efficient, and sustainable health systems
- Facilitate access to better and safer healthcare

For example, under the framework of the Third Health Programme, a Joint Action – Innovative Partnership for Action Against Cancer (iPAAC JA)[15] was launched to develop innovative approaches to advance in cancer control. With the participation of 24 European countries, the iPAAC JA involves cancer prevention, comprehensive approaches to the use of genomics in cancer control, cancer information and registries, improvements and challenges in cancer care, mapping of innovative cancer treatments and governance of integrated cancer control, including a new analysis of National Cancer Control Plans. Therefore, the iPAAC JA addresses the objectives of the Third Health Programme, that is promoting health, preventing diseases and fostering supportive environments for healthy lifestyles taking into account the 'health in all policies' principle.

2021-2027
The newest strand of this programme EU4Health[16] is developed in response to COVID-19 crisis, which is making a significant impact on patients, health systems and medical staff. With a total budget of €5.3 billion, the main objectives of EU4Health are to promote health systems' resilience as well as disease prevention and health promotion[17]. It provides funding to eligible entities, health organisations and NGOs from EU countries, or non-EU countries associated to the programme. Consequently, EU4Health programme is an opportunity for financing disease prevention as well as strengthening health systems to make an impact for promoting healthy active ageing.

Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe

2014-2020[18]
The financial mechanism for the Innovation Union, a major program of Europe 2020 aimed at ensuring Europe's worldwide competitiveness is Horizon 2020. With a total budget of nearly €80 billion, the focus of this program is on research and innovation, it is seen as an investment for the future, having a key role to reach smart, sustainable, and inclusive growth and jobs.

Due to the current health challenges, European research and innovation in health contributes to its conclusion. This investment is not only on health but on a healthy workforce, healthy economy, and lower public health bills. Finding innovative ways to avoid illnesses, creating better diagnostics and more effective medicines, as well as adopting new models of care and new technologies that promote health and wellbeing, are the return on this investment. New technologies have the potential to keep older people active and independent for longer, as well as contribute to the sustainability of European health and care systems.

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[13] Third Health Programme 2014-2020. https://health.ec.europa.eu/other-pages/basic-page/eu-health-programme-2014-2020_en

[14] Third Health Programme 2014-2020. Priorities. https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/programmes/3hp

[15] Innovative Partnership for Action Against Cancer.
https://www.ipaac.eu/#:~:text=The%20Innovative%20Partnership%20for%20Action,innovative%20approaches%20to%20cancer%20control.

[16] EU4Health Programme 2021-2027. https://ec.europa.eu/health/funding/eu4health_en

[17] EU4Health Programme 2021-2027. Objectives. https://health.ec.europa.eu/funding/eu4health-programme-2021-2027-vision-healthier-european-union_en

[18] Horizon 2020. https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-2020_en

Specific research and innovative project examples financed by Horizon 2020 and linked to healthy and active ageing are: The Bionic Hand[19], Micro-scale implants inside the brain to cure Parkinson's Disease[20], Human-machine cooperation in healthcare[21], Alzheimer Disease – Gut Connection[22], and ACTIVAGE[23].

2021-2027[24]
Horizon Europe is the EU's key funding programme for research and innovation in the current programming period 2021-2027 with a budget of €95.5 billion. The programme facilitates collaboration and strengthens the impact of research and innovation in developing, supporting and implementing EU policies while tackling global challenges. It supports creating and better dispersing of excellent knowledge and technologies. It creates jobs, fully engages the EU's talent pool, boosts economic growth, promotes industrial competitiveness and optimises investment impact within a strengthened European Research Area.

Therefore, when it comes to healthy and active ageing, all projects that have an important research or technological component could be financed under the Horizon Europe framework.

Erasmus+

2014-2020[25]
Erasmus+ offers mobility and cooperation opportunities among Europe in the fields of higher education, vocational education and training, school education, adult education, youth and sport. With a budget of €14.7 billion for the period 2014-2020, Erasmus+ contributed to the Europe 2020 strategy for growth, employment, social equity and inclusion, as well as to the EU's strategic framework for education and training.

Some components of the Erasmus+ programme are particularly linked to healthy and active ageing. In terms of healthy ageing, Erasmus+ funds a large number of projects related to active ageing[26], in the fields of adult education, innovation, mobility and sport. One example is the Vivifrail project[27], which is based on the idea that health in older people should be measured in terms of its function and not as a disease determined by life expectancy, quality of life, and resources or needs. The objective is to maintain a level of functionality to achieve the highest degree of autonomy possible for the elderly.

Active ageing involves prolonging working lives. To foster this active ageing participation, the EU's main vehicle is the Erasmus+ programme, which funds opportunities for adult education and life-long learning programmes for older citizens. Within the framework of Erasmus+, the TRACEUS project[28] intends to expand digital learning opportunities and materials for older adults. Moreover, active ageing also refers to staying active even beyond working age. The contribution of older people is valuable in volunteer work, in coaching and mentoring of companies or entrepreneurs, in caring for grandchildren or family members and in many other community initiatives. For example, the Active 80plus project[29] aims at developing a research-based training for care staff and volunteers, enabling them to function as coaches who will support older people in developing and realizing their own ideas of learning and active citizenship.

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[19] The Bionic Hand project. https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/886229

[20] Micro-scale implants inside the brain to cure Parkinson's Disease project. https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/micro-scale-implants-inside-brain-cure-parkinsons-disease

[21] Human-machine cooperation in healthcare project. https://ec.europa.eu/research-and-innovation/en/projects/success-stories/all/human-machine-cooperation-healthcare

[22] Alzheimer Disease – Gut Connection project. https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/686271/es

[23] ACTIVAGE project. http://www.activageproject.eu/

[24] Horizon Europe. https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe_en

[25] Erasmus+ 2014-2020: https://www.eacea.ec.europa.eu/grants/2014-2020/erasmus_en

[26] Erasmus+ projects. https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/projects/search/search?page=1&sort=&domain=eplus2021&view=&keyword=ageing&searchType=projects

[27] Vivifrail project. https://vivifrail.com/

[28] TRACEUS project. https://traceus.eu/

[29] Active 80plus project. http://www.act-80plus.eu/

2021-2027[30]

Erasmus+ continues in the 2021-2027 programming period, with an increased budget of €28.4 billion[31]. It is specially focused on social inclusion, green and digital transition, and promoting youth participation in democratic life. However, Erasmus+ (2021-2027) continues addressing issues related to healthy and active ageing, as for example promoting adult vocational education and training programmes.

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[30] Erasmus+ 2021-2027. https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/about-erasmus/what-is-erasmus
[31] Erasmus+ 2021-2027 budget. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1326

How do these programmes compare to what Interreg has financed in the healthy and active ageing domain?

Interreg

The mapping exercise carried out yields the following clustering of INTERREG projects focused on healthy and active ageing, in addition to the territorial and regional development component which is horizontal to all the themes:

1. Supporting enterprises operating in the Silver Economy, to produce goods and services related to population ageing and its specific needs. Other than supporting elderly needs, this type of project aims to improve SME competitiveness as well as to create new job opportunities for the regions.
2. Innovative solutions for the elderly living alone to enhance their quality of life through improved quality and accessibility of customised care in targeted areas (i.e. rural areas, given the territorial focus of Interreg). This category also includes R&D projects to provide innovative technologies for disease
3. Active ageing to prevent the social exclusion of older people by improving information about existing voluntary work for seniors and developing of new opportunities.
4. Enhancing the competences and skills of professionals providing healthcare and assistance to the elderly to increase their collaboration and coordination, improve the quality and delivery of services, and foster the development of innovative care facilities and business models in the regions.
5. Specific diseases, often for preventive actions and early diagnostics.

In terms of the themes covered, almost half of the identified projects are related to strengthening research, technological development and innovation, and also promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination, enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and efficient public administration through actions to strengthen the institutional capacity and the efficiency of public administrations and public services related to the implementation of the ERDF, and in support of actions under the ESF to strengthen the institutional capacity and the efficiency of public administration, promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility, and investing in education, training and vocational projects for skills and lifelong learning by developing education and training infrastructure.

Graph 1
Total budget of healthy and active ageing projects

€ 317.230.124

67%
EU contribution
€ 211.604.417

33%
Other contribution
€ 105.625.708

Graph 2
Distribution of projects and budgets per cluster

Enterprise support — 15% / 23%
Social inclusion — 28% / 39%
Innovative solutions — 22% / 16%
Healthcare skills — 24% / 17%
Disease prevention — 10% / 14%

Projects   Budgets
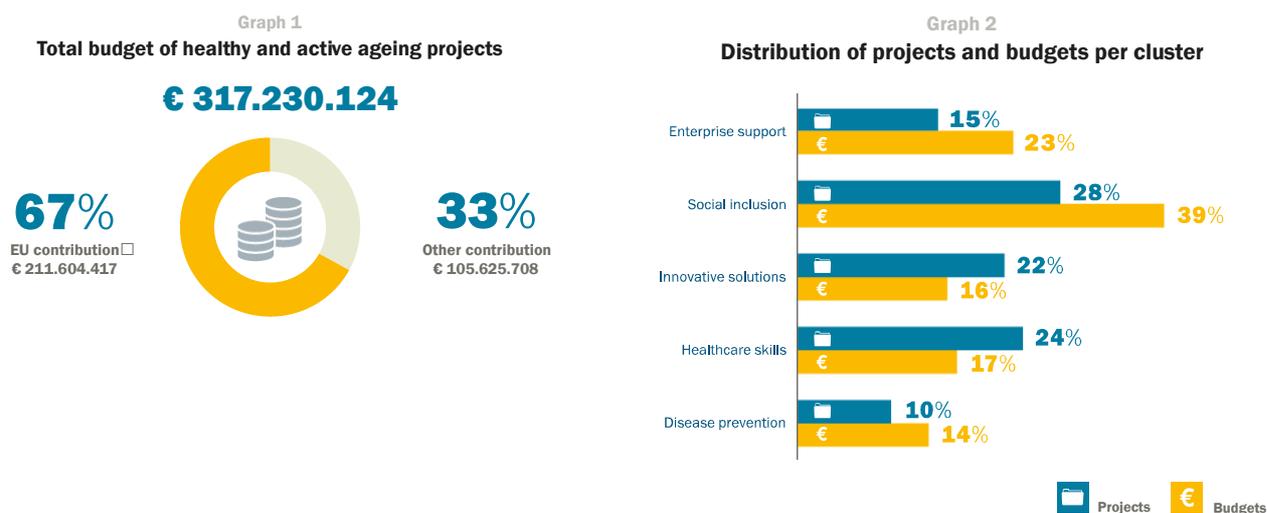
Linking Interreg to other funding streams

Healthy and active ageing projects funded by Interreg a priori exhibit clear links and complementarities with other EU funding streams, through the identified clusters and Thematic Objectives, as it is depicted in the table below:

Table 1

Relation between identified clusters and potential funding through other streams

Cluster	Most related INTERREG theme	Most related programme (non-INTERREG)
1. Silver economy enterprise support	• Enhancing the competitiveness of SMEs	ESF
2. Active ageing and social inclusion	• Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility. • Promoting social inclusion, combatting poverty and any discrimination	ESF, Erasmus+
3. Innovative solutions for the elderly	• Strengthening research, technological development and innovation.	Horizon 2020
4. Healthcare professional skills	• Investing in education, training and vocational training for skills and lifelong learning by developing education and training infrastructure	ESF, Health Programme, Erasmus+
5. Disease prevention and diagnostics	• Strengthening research, technological development and innovation • Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and efficient public administration through actions to strengthen the institutional capacity and the efficiency of public administrations and public services related to the implementation of the ERDF, and in support of actions under the ESF to strengthen the institutional capacity and the efficiency of public administration.	Health Programme

Typology of healthy and active ageing projects identified and subject to being funded by other streams

Most projects being funded by Interreg related to healthy and active ageing include innovative healthcare initiatives, research and innovation activities, development of local action plans, and improving public services. Also, they address specific references to vulnerable groups: people at risk of social exclusion, people living in rural or peripheral areas, people with severe mental illnesses and unemployed people. Moreover, some of all identified projects in Interreg highlight "improved cooperation" as their main activity. This makes them directly linkable and offers numerous value chain possibilities with projects in other funding streams, such as ESF+ and Horizon Europe.

Graph 3

Typology of activities being financed

Activity	Percentage
Innovative healthcare initiatives	23%
Research and innovation initiatives	22%
Development of local action plans	16%
Improving public services	13%
Creating collaborative partnerships	9%
Promotion of a healthy and active lifestyle	5%
Creation of new products or services	5%
Delivering training	5%
Enhance SME competitiveness	4%
Promotion of innovative policies	3%
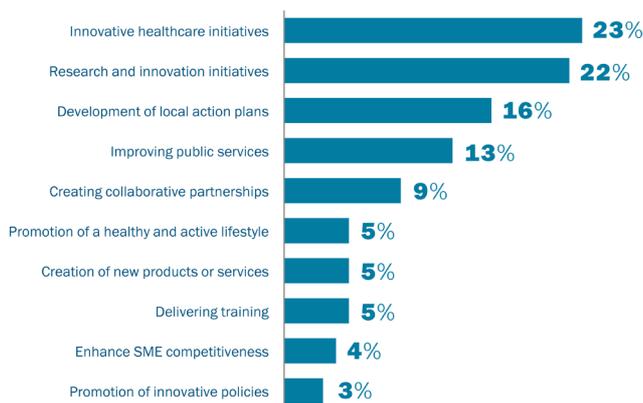
The following table shows the percentage number of projects identified in the mapping exercise that explicitly mention the vulnerable/minority groups in their project descriptions. Specifically, 27% of all projects mention the category of people at risk of social exclusion, and 27% of all projects also cover people living in rural and/or peripheral areas, in line with the territorial focus of INTERREG. 22% of projects target people with severe mental illnesses. The following categories are unemployed people, people with disabilities and people at risk of poverty and social exclusion.

Table 2

Vulnerable groups/minorities specifically targeted in the projects

Vulnerable group/minority	Percentage of projects
People at risk of social exclusion	27%
People living in rural and/or peripheral areas	27%
People with severe mental illness	22%
Unemployed people	8%
People with disabilities	7%
People at risk of poverty and social exclusion	5%
People at risk of poverty	2%
People with low educational level	1%
Women	1%

What is and what can be financed in terms of healthy and active ageing?

After an in-depth analysis of the different sources of funding and their compatibilities with healthy and active ageing projects financed by Interreg, the following visual benchmarking of the different sources of funding and their complementarity is shown below.

Benchmarking exercise

Project typology in the value chain	what can be financed by each programme	Complementarity potential	Themes	Funding Source
• Training projects • Social inclusion projects • Focus on improving quality of life of beneficiaries	Through training of health professionals and improvement of SME competitiveness, ESF+ offers high complementarity with many healthy and active ageing projects financed by Interreg. There is an important focus on vulnerable groups.	High	• Employment • Education • Skills	ESF European Social Fund
• Research projects • Technological innovation • Transfer of knowledge	Research and innovation component of healthy and active ageing is very present. This offers numerous project chain possibilities with Interreg in terms of healthy and active ageing.	Medium/High	• Innovation • Health	Horizon 2020
• Health related projects • Disease prevention • Improving delivery of care	EU Health Programme promotes well-being for all people of all ages, and where people can live, work and age in sustainable and healthy environments. The health component for the elderly is clear, although the active and more social part to ageing is not so evident.	Medium/Low	• Health • Infrastructure	Health Programme
• Adult training • Lifelong learning projects	Erasmus+ supports education, training, youth and sport in Europe. This programme has a Rrelevant focus on active ageing projects in terms of encouraging employment, although not concerning health.	Medium/Low	• Education • Skills	Erasmus+

Complementarity of programmes
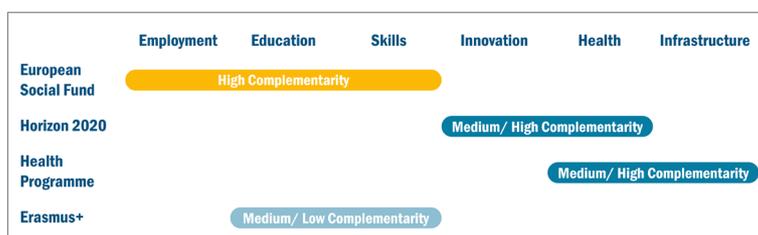
Examples of complementarity

The complementarity between the projects financed by Interreg and other projects financed under other funding opportunities is presented below. These projects show clear value chain possibilities and synergies with existing healthy and active ageing projects financed by Interreg, not only in terms of to the territorial dimension of the projects, but also regarding their content and objectives, and the typology of partnership.

ESF

Under the framework of ESF in the period 2014-2020, the project **Road 67**[32] was developed in the Flanders region in Belgium in order to reactivate 50+ unemployed workers. Road 67 assisted older worker to seek for new job opportunities adapted to their talents and competences It worked closely with employers to identify jobs for which no applicant can be found and reorganise them through job-carving, so that senior jobseekers could fill these temporary posts after attending some training. This allowed older persons to have a bridge before pension age.

Road 67 displayed a high complementarity with the other projects funded by Interreg: **Stay Active and Independent for Longer in the 2 Seas Area (SAIL)**[33], which was implemented by Interreg2Seas[34]. SAIL aimed to stimulate active ageing by identifying new ways of helping people remain independent for longer, more self-reliant and less dependent on traditional health care and social care services. Different from the current mono disciplinary approach, SAIL introduced a social innovation process of co-creation to identify new partnerships and opportunities and to develop new, sustainable business and service models that encourage active ageing. Therefore, concerning content synergies, SAIL could be complemented by the job-carving strategy used by Road 67 in its aim to promote job opportunities among older workers. Moreover, as both projects shared territorial implementation in Belgium, they both could benefit from good practices sharing.

All in all, the analysis undertaken and the identified project chain possibilities through specific project examples, showcase that Interreg tends to focus on "piloting" certain ideas or projects in each territory, whereas ESF, which has normally a higher budget allocation per territory than Interreg, then goes on to implement further actions in line with the demonstrated outcomes by Interreg. The focus of Interreg will always be more regional/local and take into consideration the relevant territorial impact, and ESF the broader social context (promoting employment and active ageing) of the actions already undertaken at a more regional level by Interreg. Therefore, the complementarity between both funding streams is very high, with multiple value chain possibilities, especially regarding contents.

Horizon 2020

Financed by HORIZON 2020, the overall objective of **PHArA-ON**[35] was to make smart and active living for Europe's ageing population a reality by creating a set of integrated, highly customizable and interoperable open platforms with advanced services, devices, and tools including IoT, artificial intelligence (AI), robotics, cloud/edge computing, smart wearables, big data, and intelligent analytics. PHArA-ON was built upon mature open platforms and technologies provided by the partners, which customised and implemented cloud technologies, AI techniques and traditional algorithms for big data intelligent analytics. PHArA-ON's integrated platforms were validated in two stages: pre-validation and large-scale pilots (LSPs), in six pilot sites Tuscany and Apulia (Italy), Murcia and Andalusia (Spain), Netherlands, Coimbra and Amadora (Portugal), and Izola and Ljubljana (Slovenia).

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[32] Road 67 project. https://www.road67.be/
[33] Stay Active and Independent for Longer in the 2 Seas Area (SAIL) project. https://www.interreg2seas.eu/en/sail
[34] Interreg2seas. https://www.interreg2seas.eu/en
[35] PHArA-ON project. https://www.pharaon.eu/

PHArA-ON exhibits clear complementarities and value chain possibilities with the following Interreg project. **niCE-life**[36], funded by Interreg Central Europe[37]. niCE-life aimed to foster social inclusion and care coordination of frail elderly (Alzheimer, Parkinson, and other chronic diseases) through the development of a transnational intelligent monitoring platform. It used progressive key enabling technologies (i.e. sensor technologies, ICT and data analysis techniques) to prevent frailty, enhance quality of care and support their independent living, social contacts and assistance continuity after hospital discharges. In terms of territorial synergies, both niCE-life and PHArA-ON were implemented across Europe and had Italy and Slovenia as implementation countries. In terms of content, both projects introduced innovative technologies to enhance healthy and active ageing, and both implemented pilot actions to test their tools and results. Given the high transferability of results of these projects, they could complement each other as well as other projects in need of smart technological solutions. Moreover, PHArA-ON and niCE-life had similar composition of partnership/consortium typology: large, medium, and small enterprises, research organisations, universities, authorities in the field of health, public and private health service providers, social organisations, health institutes and standardisation bodies, etc. This illustrates that the same partner profile is working in value chain both with Horizon2020 as well as with Interreg.

Many Interreg-funded projects focusing on healthy and active ageing have an important research and innovation component. This is where a directly traceable link to Horizon 2020 can be found in the current programming period. While both strands have clear research and innovation components, Interreg focuses on a more direct impact on population and the territories it operates on, while Horizon 2020 has a broader technological development component (in this case, PHArA-ON's overall objective is to make smart and active living for the whole of Europe's ageing population a reality by creating a set of integrated, highly customizable and interoperable open platforms with advanced services, devices, and tools including IoT, artificial intelligence (AI), robotics, cloud/edge computing, smart wearables, big data, and intelligent analytics).

Third Health Programme

Under the framework of EU Third Health Programme, the **APP CARE**[38] project aimed at creating a new model for the management of frail elderly people including: standardized application of Comprehensive Geriatric Assessment (CGA); homogeneous and coordinated care pathway, shared among all the involved care givers, traced by the geriatrician based on CGA and performed through the establishment of a care management program particular hospital admission care path for +75 patients, with short intensive observation period; close link hospital-territorial care; frailty prevention program to demonstrate how an innovative and comprehensive management of complex and co-morbid clinical situations, may maintain patient's functional status in its clinical trajectory, optimizing health care systems.

APPCARE worked based on best practices already tested in the involved territories: Italy, Netherlands, and Spain, to achieve a complete and coordinated standard care for frail patients, where all the involved caregivers agreed and followed a homogeneous care path traced by a geriatric specialist. It answered the calls for better cooperation and communication between primary healthcare professionals and geriatric professionals to deal with problems of frailty and comorbidity reduction of unnecessary hospitalization and prevention of the related adverse outcomes through early diagnosis and screening for frailty risk factors among patients. Moreover, the APPCARE project highlighted the importance of the territorial component when it comes to providing care for the elderly.

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[36] niCE-life project. https://www.interreg-central.eu/Content.Node/niCE-life.html
[37] Interreg Central Europe. https://www.interreg-central.eu/
[38] APP CARE project. https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/projects-details/31061266/664689/3HP

APPCARE could be linked to the following projects funded by Interreg:

- **ReGerNet**[39]: Under the scope of Interreg IPA CBC Croatia-Serbia[40], the project intended to expand the community-based services (by opening gerontology clubs) and overcome the shortage of qualified service providers (by training caregivers). The main objective was to enhance the quality of social, gerontology and geriatric care based on the best practices of the partner institutions, which was achieved by investing in infrastructure, human resources potential and intensive exchange of knowledge in the cross-border region. Both APPCARE and ReGerNet had research organisations as leading partners, and both projects complement each other in terms of content, given that they work on the provision of geriatric social care services.
- **Welfare Innovations in Primary Prevention (WIPP)[41]:** This cross-border project financed by Interreg Deutschland - Danmark[42] developed welfare innovations within the primary prevention sector with the development of new products and processes based on the synergy of key stakeholders from public health sector, citizens, research institutions and businesses (Quadruple Helix). The objective was to implement an innovative cross-border and sustainable model in order to: detect vulnerable older citizens as early as possible; reduce the risk of disability; reduce health care costs and increase HLY (Healthy Life Years: life expectancy without functional limitation or disability).

Additionally, in terms of project partners, APPCARE was composed of research organizations and local authorities, much like many Interreg projects working towards ensuring better care for elderly people.

The focus of the EU Health Programs is on health, care, hospital infrastructure and disease prevention than on the more social components on active ageing. For example, APPCARE aims at creating a new model for the management of frail elderly people to achieve a complete and coordinated standard care for frail patients, where all the involved caregivers agree and follow a homogeneous care path traced by a geriatric specialist. In this area, Interreg is more based on, for example, community-based services through cross-border cooperation as in the ReGerNet project, highlighting the territorial impact. EU4Health and Interreg projects can complement each other when it comes to specific health-related measures such as care-giving or specific disease prevention, but Interreg will have a higher regional and territorial component to it, usually focusing more on the social component of the projects as well as the health one. Therefore, the value chain possibilities are harder to evidence with respect to Horizon and ESF+.

Erasmus+

SHAFE

The concept of Smart Healthy Age-Friendly Environments (SHAFE) was launched by Caritas Diocesana de Coimbra and AFEdemy. SHAFE is influenced by the holistic age-friendly environments concept developed by the World Health Organization in 2007, but further developed into the new era of digitalisation and health. In 2018, SHAFE was a Thematic Network approved by the European Commission to deliver a Framing Paper and a Joint Statement on Smart Health Age-Friendly Environments. After that, SHAFE evolved including more than 170 partner organisations into a European Stakeholders Network, which works to deliver a White Paper focused on implementation.

In this sense, the SHAFE concept was capitalised and completed through various projects financed by the different EU funds. In fact, a chain of projects emerged between the different funds during the period 2014-2020 in relation to the topic of healthy and active ageing, as detailed hereunder. Therefore, this initiative is a successful manifestation of transferability, complementarity and synergies between EU projects and funds.

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[39] ReGerNet project. https://regernet.com/en/
[40] Interreg IPA CBC Croatia Serbia. https://www.interreg-croatia-serbia.eu/
[41] Welfare Innovation in Primary Prevention (WIPP) project. https://www.wipp-online.eu/
[42] Interreg Deutschland – Danmark. https://www.interreg5a.eu/

One project within the SHAFE framework is **EU_SHAFE**[43] funded by **Interreg Europe**[44]. This transnational project improved policies and practices in seven European countries (Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Portugal, Slovenia, and Spain) by developing a comprehensive approach to SHAFE. Through a 'learning by sharing' methodology, this robust multi-disciplinary and intersectoral consortium built a four-helix European community to exchange experiences and practices to improve multilevel policy instruments. Moreover, EU_SHAFE invested in policy design and adaptation of regional instruments derived from ETCF (R&I priorities) and ESF (Social Inclusion).

Horizon 2020 also financed projects embedded in the SHAFE initiative, as for example the **SmartWork**[45] (Smart Age-friendly Living and Working Environment) project, which was implemented in Denmark, Greece, Ireland, Netherlands, Portugal, Sweden, Switzerland, and United Kingdom. SmartWork built a worker-centric AI system for work ability sustainability, integrating sensing and modelling of the worker state with a suite of novel services for context and worker-aware adaptive work support. The unobtrusive and pervasive monitoring of health, behaviour, cognitive and emotional status of the old workers provided full support to the ageing workers for sustainable, active and healthy ageing.

A third project encompassed in SHAFE is **Hands-on SHAFE**[46], implemented in France, Germany, Ireland, Netherlands, Poland and Portugal; and co-funded by the **Erasmus+ Programme**, Key Action 204 Adult Education programme. The Hands-on SHAFE project provided training packages for informal learning experiences and hands-on tools to enhance the skills of people of all ages, especially adults and the elderly. It further enabled people with low-skills or low-qualifications to choose and implement smart healthy age-friendly environments in their own homes or neighbourhoods.

EU_SHAFE, SmartWork, and Hands-on SHAFE clearly showcase the synergies across different EU funding programmes. All three of these projects have a territorial dimension in common, as all three are implemented in Coimbra (Portugal), and EU_SHAFE and SmartWork in Aarhus (Denmark). Moreover, Hands-on SHAFE and EU_SHAFE are part of a large Euro-local network of stakeholders that collaborate to elaborate in the White Paper on SHAFE, so that they are complementary in terms of project content. Further evidence of the complementarity between both projects can be observed in their partnership, since they have common partners: Cáritas Diocesana de Coimbra, TU Dublin, Aarhus Kommune or ECHAlliance.

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[43] EU_SHAFE project. https://projects2014-2020.interregeurope.eu/eushafe/
[44] Interreg Europe. https://www.interregeurope.eu/
[45] SmartWork project. https://www.smartworkproject.eu/
[46] Hands-on SHAFE project. https://hands-on-shafe.eu/en

Task 3: Major trends per strand and per geography

Key summary points

▪ Total budget of healthy and active ageing projects financed = 317.230.124 €.

Total budget of healt hy and acti ve ageing projects

€ 317.230.124

67%
EU contribution
€ 211.604.417

33%
Other contribution
€ 105.625.708
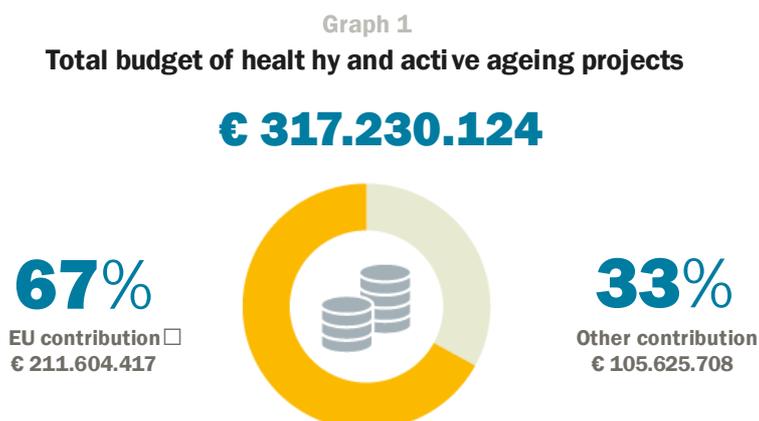
▪ **Budget allocation per cluster[1]: Cluster 1** (23%) - Supporting enterprises operating in the Silver Economy, to produce goods and services related to population ageing and its specific needs. Other than supporting elderly needs, this type of project aims to improve SME competitiveness as well as to create new job opportunities for the regions; **Cluster 2** (16%) - Active ageing to prevent the social exclusion of older people by improving information about existing voluntary work for seniors and developing of new opportunities; **Cluster 3** (30%) - Innovative solutions for the elderly living alone to enhance their quality of life through improved quality and accessibility of customised care in targeted areas (i.e. rural areas, given the territorial focus of Interreg). This category also includes R&D projects to provide innovative technologies for disease; **Cluster 4** (17%)- Enhancing the competences and skills of professionals providing healthcare and assistance to the elderly to increase their collaboration and coordination, improve the quality and delivery of services, and foster the development of innovative care facilities and business models in the regions; and **Cluster 5** (14%) – Specific diseases, often for preventive actions and early diagnostics.

▪ **EU budget per cluster**: Around 65% for all clusters except cluster 4: Healthcare professional skills (76%). EU budget represents 67% of total budget.

▪ **Activities:** 23% of the projects include activities towards innovative healthcare initiatives, 22% also towards research and innovation, 16% in the development of local Action Plans, and 13% in improving public services.

▪ **Outputs**: Among the ten thematic categories of outputs created, the three major outputs are: "Capacity" (24%), which refers to an increasing of capacity for private firms or public institutions; followed by "Social inclusion" (14%), by which projects aimed at reducing social and health inequalities for the elderly throughout Europe; and, lastly, and "New tool, service, product" (14%), which indicates that the final results of the project

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[1] The mapping exercise carried out yields the following clustering of INTERREG projects focused on healthy and active ageing, in addition to the territorial and regional development component which is horizontal to all the themes:

1. Supporting enterprises operating in the Silver Economy, to produce goods and services related to population ageing and its specific needs. Other than supporting elderly needs, this type of project aims to improve SME competitiveness as well as to create new job opportunities for the regions.
2. Innovative solutions for the elderly living alone to enhance their quality of life through improved quality and accessibility of customised care in targeted areas (i.e. rural areas, given the territorial focus of Interreg). This category also includes R&D projects to provide innovative technologies for disease
3. Active ageing to prevent the social exclusion of older people by improving information about existing voluntary work for seniors and developing of new opportunities.
4. Enhancing the competences and skills of professionals providing healthcare and assistance to the elderly to increase their collaboration and coordination, improve the quality and delivery of services, and foster the development of innovative care facilities and business models in the regions.
5. Specific diseases, often for preventive actions and early diagnostics.

is related to the creation and development of a new tool, service or product to promote healthy and active ageing.

- **Geographic regions:** The predominant region is Western Europe (23%), followed by Eastern Europe (18%), Central Europe (16%), Southern Europe (13%), and Baltic region (12%). The remaining regions represent less than 10% each: Northern Europe and the Balkan region. The countries included in each of the regions are listed in the table below:
- **Type of projects:** Cross-border (56,6%), Transnational (24,7%), Interregional (7%), IPA (6%), and ENI (5%).
- **Horizontal elements**: 62% of all projects presented horizontal elements, the most common of them being marginalised groups, which accounts for 91% of horizontal elements. COVID-19 and environmental sustainability represent 7% and 4% respectively. Among marginalised groups, those at risk of poverty and/or social exclusions are the most targeted, adding up to 27%, together with people living in rural and/or peripheral areas (27% as well) and People with severe mental illness (22%).

Characterisation of projects

As can be seen in Graph 2, 28% of all identified projects belong to Cluster 2: active ageing for social inclusion, 24% to Cluster 4: enhancing healthcare and professional skills, 22% to Cluster 3: innovative solutions for the elderly, 15% to Cluster 1: silver economy enterprise support and 10% to Cluster 5: disease prevention and early diagnosis. However, in terms of budget (Graph 2), the greatest budget allocation goes to Cluster 2: social inclusion (39%), followed by cluster 1: silver economy enterprise support (23%). Therefore, the average budget size of projects in these clusters is higher than in the rest of clusters.

Graph 2

Distribution of projects and budgets per clu ster

Cluster	Projects	Budgets
Enterprise support	15%	23%
Social inclusion	28%	39%
Innovative solutions	22%	16%
Healthcare skills	24%	17%
Disease prevention	10%	14%

Projects   Budgets
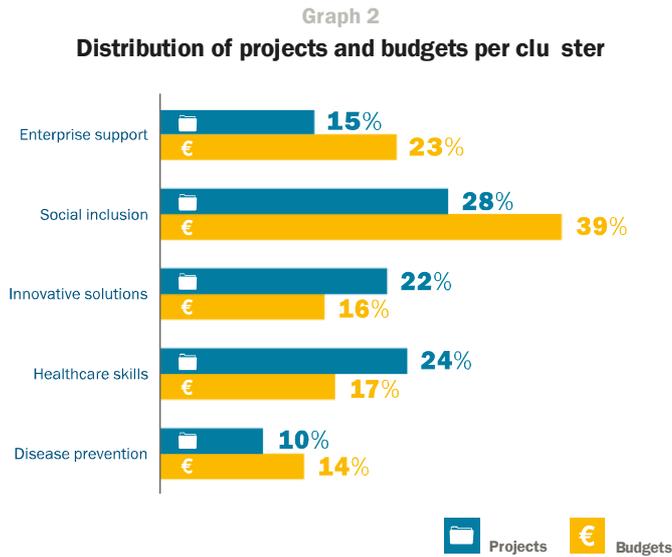
In terms of themes, almost half of all projects (48%) worked towards strengthening research, technological development and innovation, followed by TO9 (19% of projects): promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination and TO 11 (17%): enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and efficient public administration through actions to strengthen the institutional capacity and the efficiency of public administrations and public services related to the implementation of the ERDF, and in support of actions under the ESF to strengthen the institutional capacity and the efficiency of public administration.

Graph 3

Typology of activities being financed

Activity	%
Innovative healthcare initiatives	23%
Research and innovation initiatives	22%
Development of local action plans	16%
Improving public services	13%
Creating collaborative partnerships	9%
Promotion of a healthy and active lifestyle	5%
Creation of new products or services	5%
Delivering training	5%
Enhance SME competitiveness	4%
Promotion of innovative policies	3%
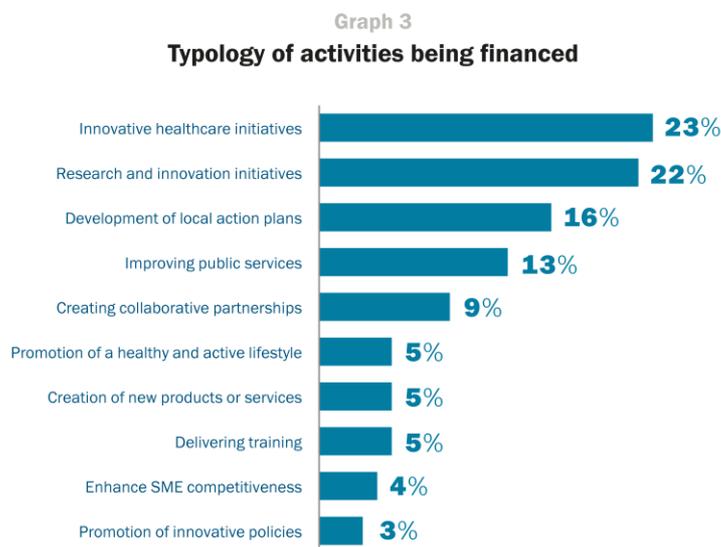
In terms of the actual types of activities (Graph 3) carried out by the identified projects, 23% of them work towards innovative healthcare initiatives, 22% towards research and innovation activities, 16% in the development of local Action Plans, 13% in improving public services and 9% focus on the creation of collaborative partnerships. 5% of projects directly involve the creation of new products or services.

Graph 4
Typology of outputs produced

Output	%
Capacity	24%
New tool, product, service	14%
Social inclusion	14%
Strategy and network	10%
Access to services	9%
Research and innovation	8%
Infrastructure and equipment	6%
Trainings	5%
Cooperation	5%
Recreational activities	5%
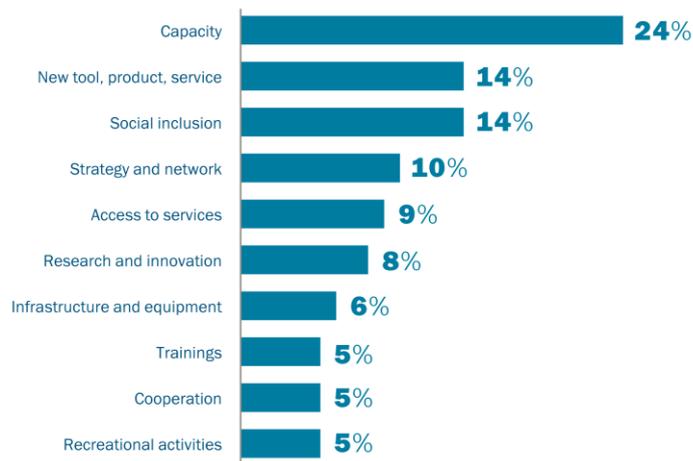
In terms of outputs, based on the analysis of the all the outputs of Interreg projects, we created ten thematic categories of outputs that summarise all options, which are listed in Graph 4. These categories are not exclusive, i.e. the same project can fall into several categories, as it can have multiple outputs. A brief explanation of each type of output is provided below.

o **Capacity:** This output indicates an increasing of capacity in either private firms or public institutions. Increasing capacity is usually related to the introduction of new processes, products, or ideas. An example of this output is observed in the "Focus IN CD"[2] project, funded by Interreg Central Europe. This project improves knowledge and skill capacities of the public and private sector for skills development of employees to promote economic and social innovation in Central European regions.

o **New tool, service, or product**: A clear representation of these typologies of output is provided in the "SEAFOOD-AGE"[3]. Under the framework of Interreg Atlantic Area, it produces ready-to-eat seafood for healthy ageing, creates novel eco-packaging, and develops a smart label for better quality, safety and minimum food waste.

o **Social inclusion**: This category of outputs includes projects that are designed to improve the social and health inclusion of the beneficiaries, by preventing and redressing health and social inequities among the most vulnerable and marginalised people in society. In this case, with a special focus on the elderly as a vulnerable social group. For example, the "Healthy aging and dementia – better life (HEAD)"[4] project, funded by Interreg IPA CBC Romania – Serbia, produces outputs such as the identification of major risk factors for dementia and the construction of dementia and equipping of health care centres to reduce the stigmatisation and social exclusion risk of dementia patients.

o **Strategy & Network**: This category refers to projects that focus on the building of a strategy or the managing a network of partners in a way best suited to meet common goals across European regions. For example, the "Smart Socialized Living (SSL)"[5] project, funded by Interreg France – Wallonie – Vlaanderen involves a select group of 50 senior citizens to set up a software platform adapted to the needs of senior

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[2] Focus IN CD project. https://www.interreg-central.eu/Content.Node/Focus-IN-CD.html

[3] SEAFOOD-AGE project. https://seafoodage.eu/

[4] Healthy aging and dementia – better life project. https://keep.eu/projects/22070/Healthy-aging-and-dementia--EN/

[5] Smart Socialized Living (SSL) project. https://www.projet-ssl.eu/

citizens, to provide online regular access to mobility solutions, activity diaries, a directory of services and local players, communication channels, etc.

o **Access to services:** Projects in this output category are designed to improve the access of older people to health and social services, especially in rural regions having difficulty of accessing services. An example of this type of output is found in the project "We CARE"[6], funded by Interreg Croatia – Bosnia and Herzegovina – Montenegro. By integrating social, economic and territorial development, this initiative develops four Elderly Day Centers-age-friendly spaces to enhance accessibility of socialization activities for elderly and to improve the quality and accessibility of health and social care services in the region.

o **Research & innovation:** This category of outputs encompasses projects that seek to promote research and innovation in the field of healthy and active ageing. For example, under the scope of Interreg Ataltic area, the project "NEUROATLANTIC"[7] establishes an Atlantic innovation platform to research on diagnosis and treatment of neurological diseases and aging. The main outputs of this project are the elaboration of technology roadmaps, exploitation plans, R&D common agenda based on R&D oriented missions, green paper on clinical management guidelines.

o **Infrastructure & equipment:** In this type of outputs, we find projects dedicated to the improvement of infrastructures, e.g. medical centres or social centres for the elderly, as well as the provision of equipment, e.g. medical or healthcare supplies. Funded by Interreg Lietuva-Polska, the cross-border cooperation for healthy ageing and social wellbeing establishes a permanent structure "Cross-border Partnership on Healthy Ageing"[8] and two renovated health centres.

o **Trainings:** Among the projects funded by Interreg, several projects boost training for specialists dedicated to the social and health care of elderly people. An example of this is found in the project "Nurse Education Development (NURED)"[9], funded by Interreg Central Baltic, which promotes aligned vocational education and training (VET) programmes in the Baltic Sea region, develops two education curricula of Home care nursing.

o **Cooperation:** Some projects have a clear intention to improve collaboration with other European countries, through international cooperation to address the common challenges related to ageing population in Europe. For example, the transnational project "INCENTIVE"[10] collaborates in the implementation of policies and programmes in terms of health technology innovation-driven and customer-oriented health services in the partner regions and influence the ERDF Regional Strategies. To do so, the project is based on the close cooperation of a partnership between public authorities, societal associations, universities, and research innovation centres from 5 countries (FI, HU, MT, FR, ES).

o **Recreational activities:** This type of output is related to those projects that aim to ensure an active and healthy leisure time for the elderly, through recreational, voluntary, sport, and cultural activities. The Estonian-Finnish project " Promoting Social Inclusion of Elderly through Well-being Parties – SIPPE"[11] strives to create possibilities for innovative voluntary work for elderly together with older people and NGOs by organizing well-being parties for local elderly.

Overall, almost one quarter (24%) of projects have resulted in an increased capacity of firms or public authorities, followed by increased health and/or social inclusion of beneficiaries (14%), creation of new tools, products, or services (14%), and creation of strategy and/or network (10% of projects). The rest of the output categories represent less than 10% each and include: improved access to social and health services, research and innovation, infrastructure and equipment, trainings, cooperation, and recreational activities.

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[6] We CARE project. https://www.interreg-hr-ba-me.eu/project/we-care/

[7] neuroATLANTIC project. https://www.neuroatlantic.eu/

[8] Cross-border Partnership on Healthy Ageing project. https://keep.eu/projects/17988/Cross-border-cooperation-fo-EN/

[9] Nurse Education Development (NURED) project. https://keep.eu/projects/18701/Nurse-Education-Development-EN/

[10] INCENTIVE project. https://incentive-project.eu/

[11] SIPPE project. https://keep.eu/projects/18687/Promoting-Social-Inclusion--EN/

Figure 1

Distribution of project-partners

Legend:

- 1-10 project partners
- 11-100 project partners
- 101-200 project partners
- 201-400 project partners

Note: the number of project partners is based on the number of projects and the total number of partner organisations involved.

This means that some partner organisations that have participated in multiple projects are counted individually in this overview.

Graph 5

Regional breakdown of identified projects

Region	%
Western Europe	23%
Eastern Europe	18%
Central Europe	16%
Southern Europe	13%
Balkan	12%
Baltic	9%
Northern Europe	9%
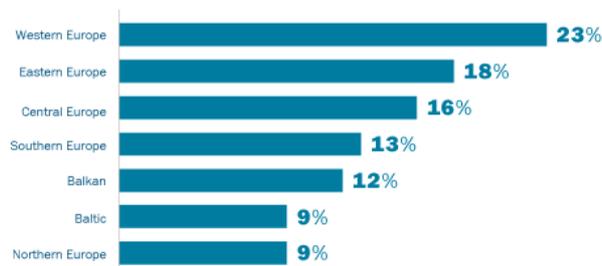
In terms of geographic regions (Graph 5), there are three predominant regions that represent 57% of projects altogether: Western Europe (23%), Eastern Europe (18%), and Central Europe (16%). The following regions, Southern Europe and Baltic region represent between 10-15% of the projects each. Finally, the remaining regions, Northern Europe and the Balkan region account for 9% of the projects each.

Graph 6

Regional breakdown of identified clusters
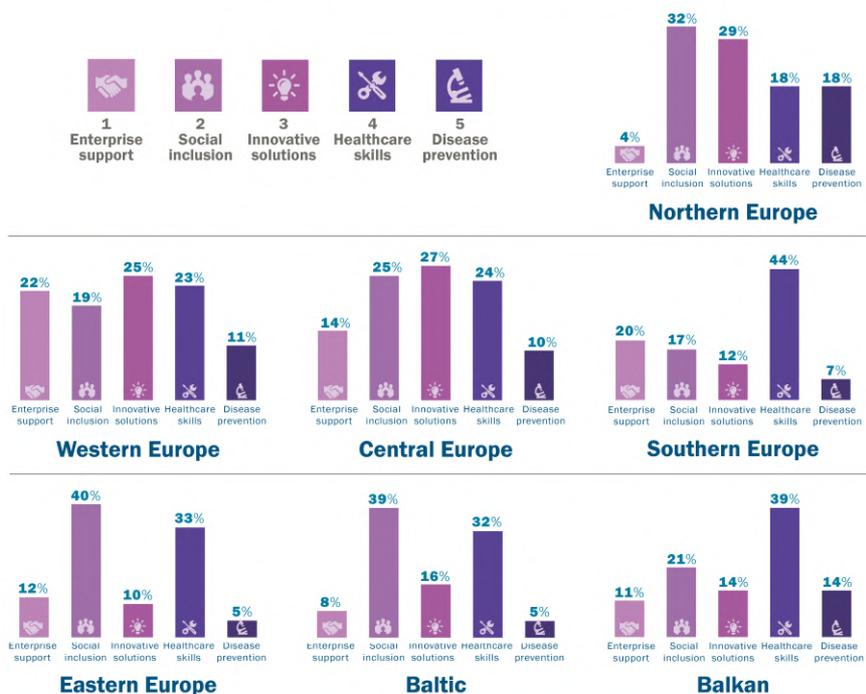
In general terms, Northern, Western and Central Europe are mostly focused on Cluster 3: Innovative solutions from the elderly, while Southern Europe and the Balkan region clearly develop Cluster 4: Health professional skills; and Eastern Europe and the Baltic region are concentrated on Cluster 2: Active ageing for social inclusion. Cluster 1: Silver economy enterprise support and Cluster 5: Disease prevention and diagnostics are not predominant in any region, although in relative terms, Northern Europe, Western, and Southern Europe have a higher percentage of Cluster 1 projects compared to the other regions, and the Balkan region a higher representation of Cluster 5 projects.

In Northern Europe, most healthy and active ageing projects are focused on Cluster 2: Active ageing for social inclusion (32%), and Cluster 3: Innovative solutions for the elderly (29%). Similarly, Central Europe also concentrates on Cluster 3: Innovative solutions for the elderly (27%), Cluster 2: Active ageing for social inclusion (25%), and Cluster 4: Healthcare professional skills (24%). Some illustrative of Cluster 3-projects in these regions are "Peripheral Assisted Living (PAL)"[12] and "IBH Living Lab AAL"[13] in Central Europe. In general, these projects identify innovative solutions for the elderly living alone to enhance their quality of life through improved quality and accessibility of customised care in targeted areas, particularly in rural areas. This category also includes R&D projects to provide innovative technologies for disease. On the one hand, "Peripheral Assisted Living (PAL)" is implemented in Northern Europe (Denmark, Finland, Ireland, Norway, Sweden); and it intends to develop an intelligent stratified system to support healthy ageing and independent living in rural communities of the region. On the other hand, "IBH Living Lab AAL" is cross-border project formed by a network of universities, social services and technology providers in the Lake Constance region (Austria, Germany and Switzerland) with the objective of improving the quality of life of elderly people. This project develops digital innovations in the form "assistance systems for self-determined living" which are tested in in real-life laboratories.

The Western European region equally covers projects from all clusters, representing approximately 20% each, except for Cluster 5: Disease prevention and diagnostics to a lesser extent, which only accounts for 11%. In relative terms, Western Europe is the region that most focuses on projects related to silver economy enterprise support (Cluster 1), accounting for 22% of the projects in the area. These projects support enterprises operating in the Silver Economy to produce goods and services related to population ageing and its specific needs. Other than addressing elderly needs, these projects further aim to improve SME competitiveness as well as to create new job opportunities. A great example of a Western European project focused on supporting silver economy companies is "Silver Economy Accelerating Strategies 2 Grow (SEAS 2 GROW)"[14], with Belgium, France, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom as participant countries. SEAS 2 GROW sets up a proactive SE ecosystem accelerating the delivery of technological & social innovations for the Silver Economy market in the region, by providing new tools, methods & services for companies to better enter this market & develop tailored SE solutions, especially for independent living at home.

Southern Europe and the Balkan region are clearly focused on projects from Cluster 4: Healthcare professional skills, as they represent 44% of the Southern European projects, and 39% of Balkan projects. These projects aimed at enhancing the competences and skills of professionals providing healthcare and assistance to the elderly, in order to increase their collaboration and coordination, to improve the quality and delivery of services, and to foster the development of innovative care facilities and business models. A representative project is "TEC-MED"[15] in Southern Europe, which aims to develop an innovative and cost-effective socio-ethical care intervention model to improve and adapt social care policies tackling the phenomenon of the ageing population in the Mediterranean basin, with the participation of some Northern Africa countries.

Furthermore, when compared to other regions the Balkan region also has the highest percentage of projects dedicated to disease prevention and diagnostics (Cluster 5). For example, the "Heart Net"[16] project which develops a Croatian-Serbian cross-border cardiovascular diseases teleconsultation network in health institutions. By implementing a telemedicine cross border infrastructure, "Heart Net" increases the medical diagnosis and treatment accuracy by transferring knowhow and medical expertise among the health care units, improves the communication channels and to develop joint specific trainings and medical protocols able to ensure a quick and professional response.

In Eastern Europe as well as in the Baltic region, most projects belong to Cluster 2: Active ageing for social inclusion followed by Cluster 4: Healthcare professional skills. 73% of project from Eastern Europe are destined on these clusters, and 71% in the case of the Baltic region. In particular, Cluster 2 projects aimed at enhancing active ageing to prevent the social exclusion of older people by improving information about existing voluntary work for seniors and developing of new opportunities, especially relevant in Eastern Europe.

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[12] Peripheral Assisted Living (PAL) project. https://keep.eu/projects/19209/Peripheral-Assisted-Living-EN/

[13] IBH Living Lab AAL project. http://www.living-lab-aal.info/

[14] Silver Economy Accelerating Strategies 2 Grow (SEAS 2 GROW) project. https://www.interreg2seas.eu/en/seas2grow

[15] TEC-MED project. https://www.enicbcmed.eu/projects/tec-med

[16] Heart Net project. https://www.interreg-croatia-serbia.eu/project/heart-net/

This can be illustrated by the projects "Building of digital entrepreneurial capacities of the elderly through the innovative training system (eDigiStars)"[17], a project located in the Eastern European Danube-macro region and aiming to develop sustainable ecosystems which successfully turn elder workers to the digital self-employed entrepreneurs; and by the project "Promoting Social Inclusion of Elderly through Well-Being Parties (SIPPE)"[18], a transnational project implemented in the Baltic Sea region between Estonia and Finland, which provides innovative voluntary work options for the elderly to support general well-being and social inclusion

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[17] Building of digital entrepreneurial capacities of the elderly through the innovative training system (eDigiStars) project. https://www.interreg-danube.eu/approved-projects/edigistars

[18] Promoting Social Inclusion of Elderly through Well-Being Parties (SIPPE) project. https://keep.eu/projects/18687/Promoting-Social-Inclusion--EN/

Interreg programmes

Graph 7
Division of Interreg projects for healthy and active ageing

Programme	Percentage
Cross border	57%
Transnational	25%
Interregional	7%
IPA CBC	6%
ENI CBC	5%
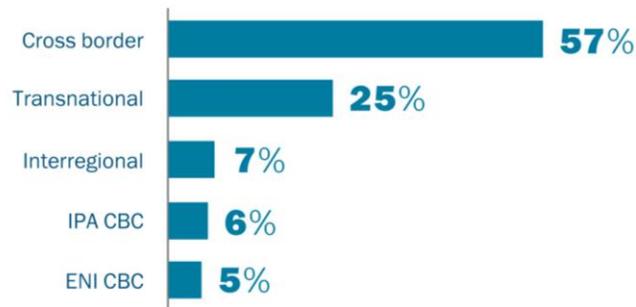
The majority of projects related to healthy and active ageing are funded by Interreg cross-border programmes (56,6%), although transnational projects represent a relative high part (24,7%). Interregional programmes, IPA CBC and ENI CBC represent less than 10% each.

Graph 8
Regional distribution of programmes for healthy and active ageing

Legend: Northern | Western | Central | Southern | Eastern | Baltic | Balkan

100%

	Northern	Western	Central	Southern	Eastern	Baltic	Balkan
Cross border	4%	26%	20%	14%	20%	12%	4%
Transnational	12%	20%	19%	11%	18%	10%	10%
Interregional	17%	33%		42%		8%	
IPA -CBC				10%	20%		70%
ENI - CBC				11%	22%	67%	
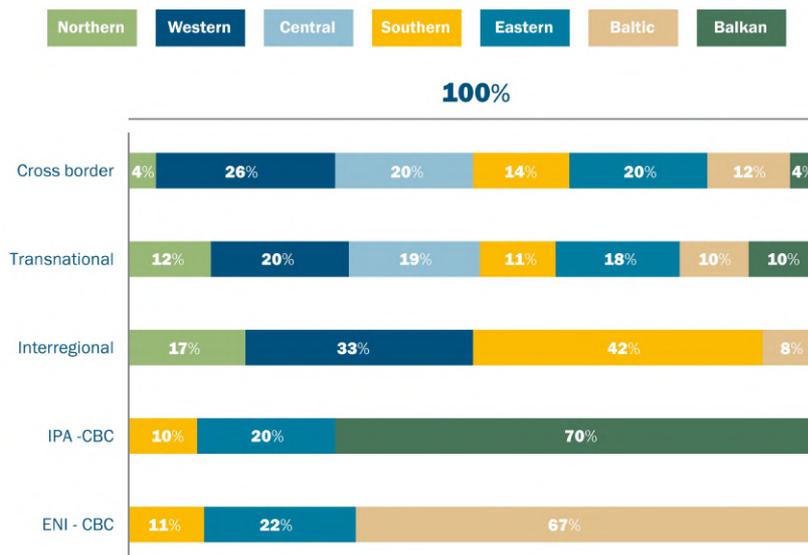
In terms of regional coverage, cross-border and transnational projects are equally distributed across Europe, while interregional projects are mainly implemented in Southern Europe (42%) and Western Europe (33%), IPA CNC projects are predominantly placed in the Balkan region (70%), and ENI CBC projects are most common in the Baltic region (67%).

Graph 9

Interreg programmes for healthy and active ageing by cluster

| 1 Enterprise support | 2 Social inclusion | 3 Innovative solutions | 4 Healthcare skills | 5 Disease prevention |

100%

Cross border	13%	34%	28%	15%	11%
Transnational	27%	22%	24%	20%	7%
Interregional	17%	17%	67%		
IPA - CBC	20%	40%	40%		
ENI -CBC	22%	11%	67%		

In terms of project typology, Interreg cross-border programmes equally fund healthy and active ageing projects from all five clusters, with a slightly higher proportion of active ageing and social inclusion projects (Cluster 2) and innovative solutions for the elderly (Cluster 3). Similarly, transnational projects are distributed across all clusters, with a vaguely high representation of silver economy enterprise support projects (Cluster 1). Interregional projects are predominantly focused on healthcare professional skills (Cluster 4). IPA CNC programmes mainly concentrate on healthcare professional skills (Cluster 4) and disease prevention and diagnostics (Cluster 5). Finally, ENI CBC programmes are also principally directed to healthcare professional skills (Cluster 4). Some examples are:

- An illustrative cross-border project is "Stay Active and Independent for Longer in the 2 Seas Area (SAIL)"[19], funded by Interreg 2 Seas. SAIL stimulated active ageing and longer independent living by identifying new ways of helping people remain independent for longer, more self-reliant and less dependent on traditional health care and social care service (Active ageing for social inclusion - Cluster 2).
- An example of a transnational project is "HoCare 2.0"[20], funded by Interreg Central Europe. HoCare 2.0 delivered and deployed of innovative solutions for home care by strengthening quadruple helix cooperation and applying principles of co-creation in territorial innovation ecosystems (Silver economy enterprise support - Cluster 1).
- Another representative example of an interregional project is "European Life Science Ecosystems (ELISE)"[21]. ELISE promoted innovation-driven regional competitiveness and well-being, by improving public policies that support regional and interregional Life Science Ecosystems for healthcare (Healthcare professional skills – Cluster 4).

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[19] Stay Active and Independent for Longer in the 2 Seas Area (SAIL) project. https://www.interreg2seas.eu/en/sail
[20] HoCare 2.0 project. https://www.interreg-central.eu/Content.Node/HoCare2.0.html
[21] European Life Science Ecosystems (ELISE) project. https://projects2014-2020.interregeurope.eu/elise/

ECORYS

- "RealForAll"[22] is a project funded by Interreg IPA CBC Croatia-Serbia, which introduced real-time measurements and forecasting for successful prevention and management of seasonal allergies in Croatia-Serbia cross-border region (Cluster 5: Disease prevention and diagnostics).
- "SOCIAL HEALTHCARE"[23] is a project funded by Hungary – Slovakia – Romania – Ukraine ENI CBC, which improved health care services in the Slovakia-Ukraine cross-border region, by upgrading skills and knowledge of social care services facilities' staff as well as by creating better conditions for activities and therapies in social care services facilities (Healthcare professional skills – Cluster 4).

Annex 1: In-depth analysis per cluster

CLUSTER 1: Supporting enterprises operating in the Silver Economy

Figure 2

Distribution of project-partners - Cluster 1

Note: the number of project partners is based on the number of projects and the total number of partner organisations involved.

This means that some partner organisations that have participated in multiple projects are counted individually in this overview.

Legend:
- 1-10 project partners
- 11-100 project partners
- 101-200 project partners
- 201-400 project partners

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[22] RealForAll project. https://www.realforall.com/language/en/welcome/
[23] SOCIAL HEALTHCARE project. https://huskroua-cbc.eu/

Cluster 1 corresponds to those projects supporting enterprises operating in the Silver Economy to produce goods and services related to population ageing. In addition to supporting elderly needs, these projects also result in new job opportunities and enhance SMEs competitiveness.

- **Geographic regions:** Western Europe concentrates the highest number of projects in this cluster (32%) , followed by Southern Europe (16%) and the Central and Eastern Europe area (14% each). Conversely, the Northern Europe, the Baltic region and the Balkan region account for less than 10% of the projects each.
- **Main activities:** Research plays a key role in developing new products and services for the elderly. For this reason, the promotion of research and innovation initiatives is the most prominent activity, comprising 31% of all activities in this cluster. Moreover, given the importance of SMEs in this process, 18% of the projects focused on enhancing their competitiveness. The development of innovative healthcare initiatives and the creation of new products and services are also central activities within the framework of the Silver Economy, accounting for 16% and 13% of the initiatives respectively.
- **Main outputs:** The main output in is the increased capacity of firms or public authorities (27%). An illustrative Cluster-1 project related to this type of output is "SILVER SMEs", a transnational project between France, Ireland, Slovenia, Spain, Poland that improves the implementation of regional policies for SMEs competitiveness by taking better advantage of opportunities derived from the Silver Economy, and also brings important job opportunities in sectors of high relevance to the Silver Economy, e.g. health & social services. Moreover, the development of new products, services or tools (22%), as well as the creation of strategies or networks (16%) are also relevant outputs in Cluster 1.
- **Horizontal elements:** As in all clusters, helping marginalised groups[24] is the main category, representing 90% of horizontal elements in cluster 1 and being followed by environmental sustainability (10%). Furthermore, no projects in cluster 1 address the COVID-19 pandemic. Finally, among marginalised groups, the main targets are people with severe mental illness (44%) and those living in rural and/or peripheral areas (22%).

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[24] Categories included in "marginalised groups": People at risk of poverty, people at risk of social exclusion, people at risk of poverty and social exclusion, people living in rural and/or peripheral areas, people with disabilities, people with severe mental illness, unemployed people, people with low educational level, women.

Figure 3

Distribution of project-partners - Cluster 2
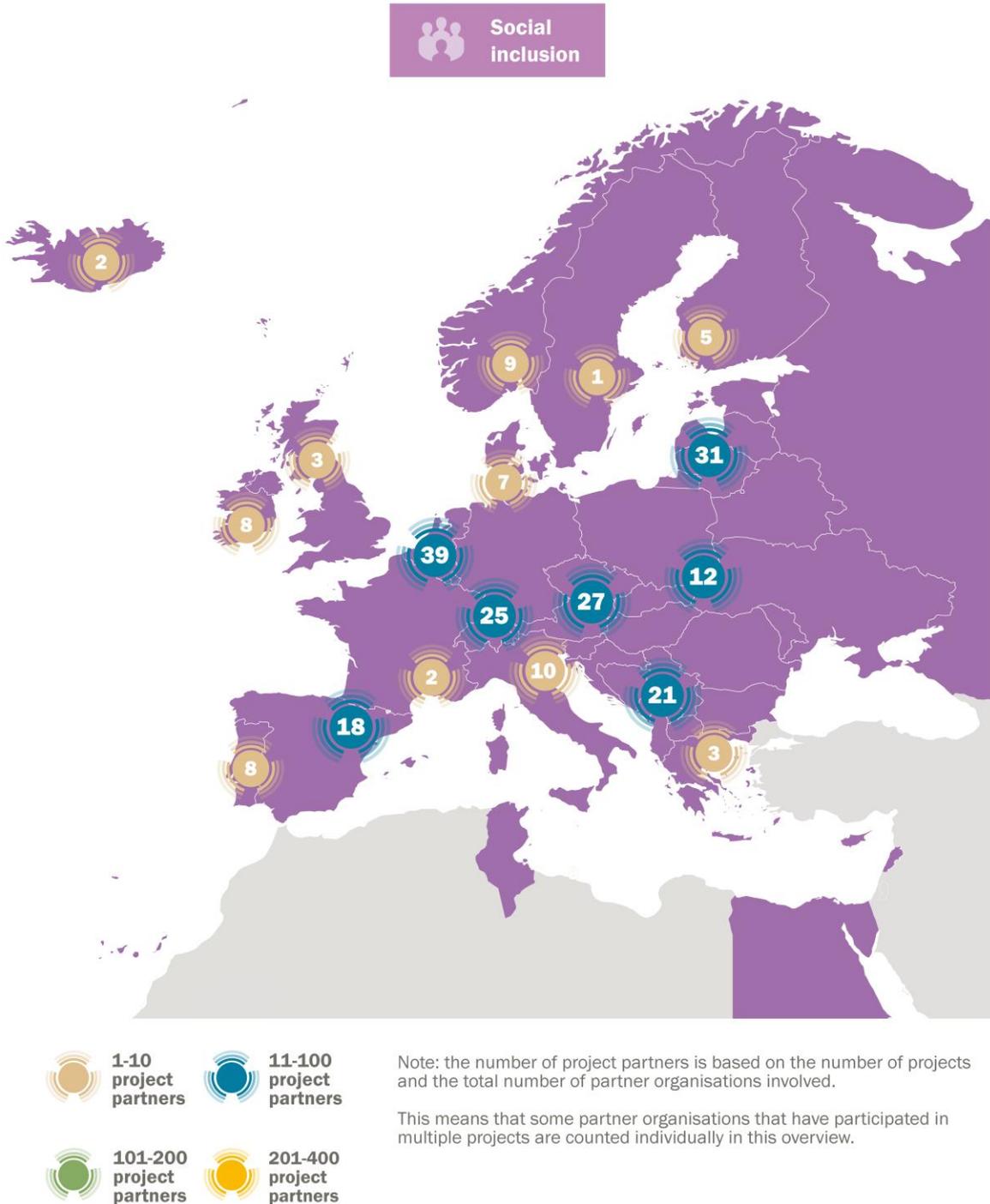
Cluster 2 considers those projects that promote active ageing to prevent the social exclusion of the elderly. These projects include voluntary work, social and recreational activities and new opportunities for the elderly.

- **Geographic regions:** Eastern Europe clearly concentrate most of the projects (26%), followed by the Baltic region (17%), Western Europe (16%), and Central Europe (15%). Conversely, Northern Europe, Southern Europe and the Balkan region appeared to be less represented in Cluster 2.

- **Main activities:** The creation of collaborative partnerships (31%) and the development of local action plans (29%) are two major activities in this cluster. Other relevant activities include the delivery of training (12%) and the promotion of a healthy and active lifestyle (9%).

- **Main outputs:** The most significant output in cluster 2 is the increased health and social inclusion of the ageing population (33%). Other relevant outputs include the increased capacity of firms or public authorities (13%), the delivery of sporting and recreational activities for the elderly (11%) and improved cooperation (11%). A representative Cluster-2 project that works for inclusion of the elderly is "euPrevent PROFILE", which promotes the prevention of loneliness older people EUregio, by promoting intergenerational exchange, creating awareness in professionals and citizens, and providing guidelines and best-practices.

- **Horizontal elements:** Marginalised groups remains the most important category, accounting for roughly 90% of horizontal elements. The remaining 10% are equally distributed between environmental elements and COVID-19. Within marginalised groups, people at risk of social exclusion (43%), as well as people living in rural and/or peripheral areas (20%) are the most relevant ones. Unemployed people (17%) also represent a significant share.

Figure 4

Distribution of project-partners - Cluster 3

Innovative solutions

1-10 project partners

11-100 project partners

101-200 project partners

201-400 project partners

Note: the number of project partners is based on the number of projects and the total number of partner organisations involved.

This means that some partner organisations that have participated in multiple projects are counted individually in this overview.

Cluster 3 focuses on producing innovative solutions for the elderly living alone to enhance their quality of life. To do this, it promotes the improvement of both the quality and accessibility of customised care in targeted areas, such as rural areas. It also includes R&D projects oriented towards the development of innovative technologies for disease.

- **Geographic regions:** The most represented region is Western Europe (30%), closely followed by Central Europe (23%), and then by Northern Europe (13%). Eastern Europe and the Baltic region account for 10% of total projects dedicated to innovative solutions for the elderly. Lastly, Southern Europe and the Balkan region sum 8% and 7% of the geographical representation, respectively.
- **Main activities:** The projects in cluster 3 revolve around 5 main activities. Innovative healthcare initiatives lead, being the main activity in 40% of the projects. Research and innovation activities also play an important role (23%), being followed by the development of local action plans (15%), the creation of collaborative partnerships (14%) and the improvement of public services (8%).
- **Main outputs:** The increased capacity of firms or public authorities (16%) is a major output, being closely followed by training delivery, improved access to social and/or health services and increased health and social inclusion of beneficiaries. Each of these categories account for approximately 15% of the outputs. For example, the transnational project "C.O.N.S.E.N.S.O." (Austria, France, Italy, Slovenia) increases the level of capacity of social organisations and public authorities to deliver innovation in the field of social services. It improves access to services for ageing citizens by validating an innovative model based on family and community nursing, it establishes a new governance to deliver healthcare and prevention and it promotes powering-up a social market economy approach with trained professionals.
- **Horizontal elements:** With marginalised groups (91%) being the most important horizontal element, the main groups targeted by cluster 3 are people living in rural and/or peripheral areas (32%), people at risk of social exclusion (29%) and people with severe mental illness (21%). Moreover, this is the only cluster which specifically targets women, who make up 4% of the marginalised groups in cluster 3. Finally, COVID-19 is also included as a horizontal element (9%).

Figure 5

Distribution of project-partners - Cluster 4
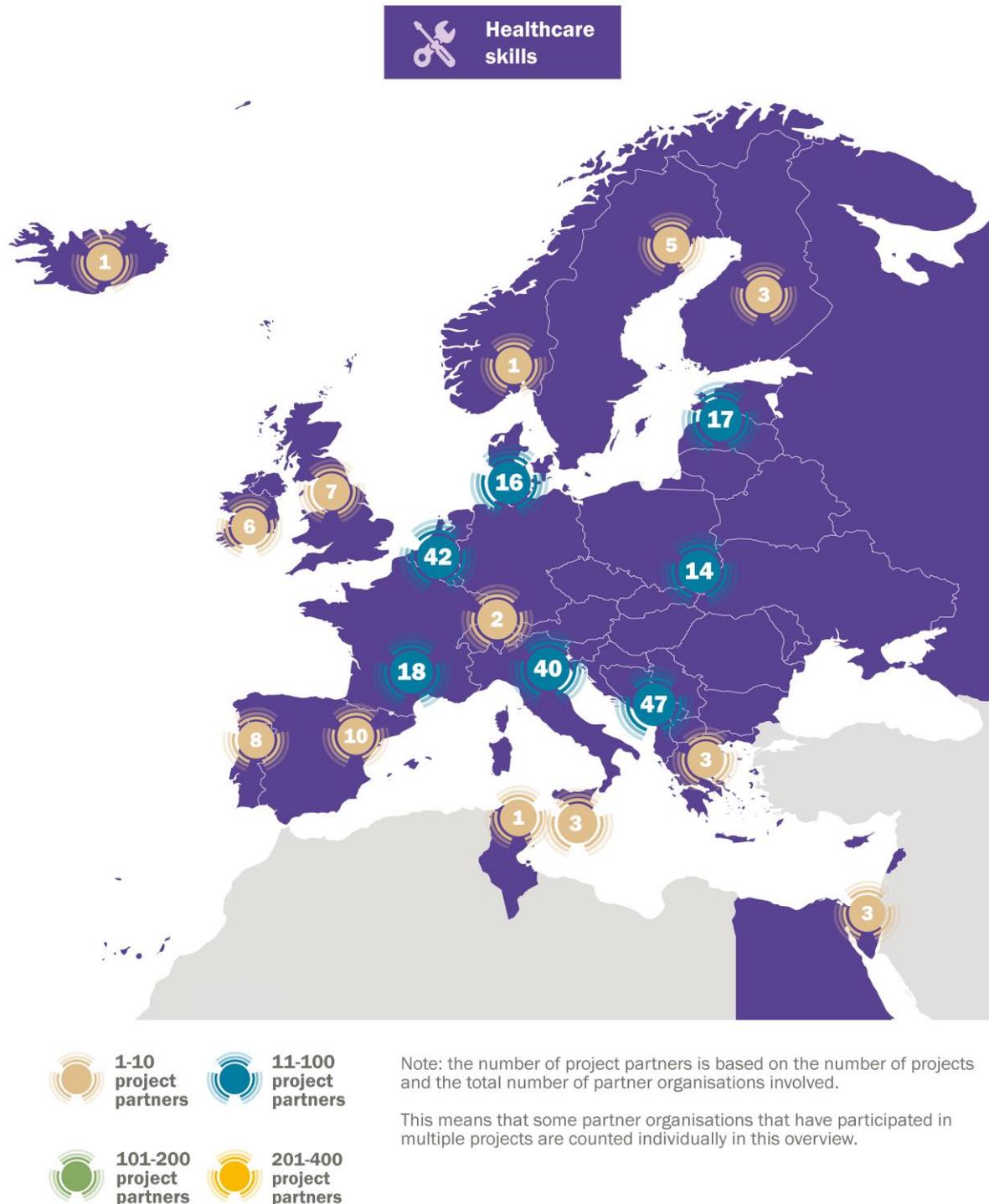
Cluster 4 includes those projects which aim at enhancing the competences and skills of professionals providing healthcare and assistance to the elderly. As a result of this projects, the quality and delivery of services is improved, and innovative care facilities and business models are developed.

- **Geographic regions:** Overall, Cluster 4-projects are equally distributed across all regions, with the clear exception of Northern Europe, in which only 5% of projects are located. Eastern Europe (20%) leads the distribution, although Southern Europe (19%) and Western Europe (18%) are equally represented. Central Europe, the Baltic region and the Balkan region follow, concentrating 12-13% of projects each.

- **Main activities:** Most projects in cluster 4 are oriented towards the improvement of public services (25%), while a significant proportion of them also focus on creating collaborative partnerships (17%) and developing innovative healthcare initiatives (17%). Moreover, with 13% of the share each, the development of local action plans and research and innovation initiatives were also important activities in this cluster.

- **Main outputs:** The projects in cluster 4 resulted in an increased capacity of firms or public authorities (19%), increased the social inclusion of the beneficiaries (17%) and provided improved access to health and/or social services (13%), as well as new infrastructure and/or equipment (13%). An example including some of the mentioned outputs is the Croatian-Serbian "ReGerNet" project, which improves social care services with the regional gerontology network, by implementing new training programmes for caregivers, by renovating facilities and proving equipment to gerontology clubs, and by setting up an innovative regional multilingual web portal, presenting relevant contents for providers and users of social protection services in the region.

- **Horizontal elements:** As in all clusters, the major horizontal element is marginalised groups (88%), followed by COVID-19 (8%) and environmental aspects (4%). Within marginalised groups, the most targeted groups are people living in rural and/or peripheral areas, people at risk of social exclusion (19%) and people who are both at risk of poverty and social exclusion (15%). Moreover, this cluster also targets people with severe mental illness (15%).

ECORYS

Figure 6

Distribution of project-partners - Cluster 5

Disease prevention

1-10 project partners

11-100 project partners

101-200 project partners

201-400 project partners

Note: the number of project partners is based on the number of projects and the total number of partner organisations involved.

This means that some partner organisations that have participated in multiple projects are counted individually in this overview.

Cluster 5 focuses on specific diseases, often for preventive actions and early diagnostics.

- **Geographic regions:** Western Europe hosts a significant proportion of the projects in cluster 5, with a share of 31%. Moreover, 19% of the projects were developed in Central Europe, and 15% in the Balkan region. Southern Europe and Eastern Europe concentrate 12% each. Conversely, Northern Europe and the Baltic region have few percentage of projects of this cluster.

- **Main activities:** Cluster 5 shows two major activities, which are the development of innovative healthcare initiatives (39%) and research and innovation initiatives (39%). The improvement of public services, the creation of collaborative partnerships and the promotion of healthy and active ageing represent 6% each. Finally, 3% of activities focus on enhancing SMEs competitiveness.

- **Main outputs:** Research and innovation outputs (e.g., publication, dissemination, presentation) concentrate the greatest share (27%), followed by new tools, products and services created (22%). Other relevant outputs include the increase in the capacity of firms and/or public authorities (18%), the improvement in cooperation among stakeholders (12%) and the strategies and networks created as a result of the projects (9%). A good example of a Cluster-5 project with research and innovative outputs is the "PATHACOV" initiative in the Belgian French cross-border region, which involves five hospitals and six research laboratories to work together in the development of a new range of screening care services and a prototype sensor to detect cancer early by analysing volatile compounds in the breath of populations.

- **Horizontal elements:** As in all clusters, the main horizontal element is marginalised groups (89%). The remaining 11% belongs to COVID-19. Moreover, within marginalised groups, cluster 5 focused on people with severe mental illness (89%) and people living in rural and / or peripheral areas.

Annex

Flagship projects

Silver economy | Furniture industry | Smart solutions

BALTSE@NIOR

Solutions to support enterprises in product development aimed at raising comfort and safety of seniors living at home

EUROPEAN COOPERATION
HEALTHY AND ACTIVE AGEING
FLAGSHIP PROJECT 2014-2020

TOTAL BUDGET
€ 2.391.666

EU CONTRIBUTION
28% (€ 672.417)

9 JOINT INITIATIVE
Countries

| **Silver economy enterprise support** | Active ageing for social inclusion | Innovative solutions for (rural) elderly | Healthcare professional skills | Disease prevention and diagnostics |

ABOUT

BaltSe@nior promotes innovation in the furniture industry by supporting companies that produce furniture adapted to the needs of the elderly.

To accomplish this goal, BaltSe@nior:

- Raises awareness about the need to raise senior's comfort and safety.
- Provides furniture companies in the BSR with a common identity and enhances their capacity to work transnationally.
- Offers furniture companies ICT tools, knowledge, and innovative working methods.

RESULTS

- Development of older-age customer profiles serving furniture companies to create smart products adapted to senior needs.
- A knowledge database collecting feedback from more than 3,000 seniors on their preferences in using various type of furniture, as well as on their IT capabilities and economic conditions.
- Several prototypes of senior-friendly furniture created in joint innovation and smart design workshops.

OBJECTIVES

Despite population ageing being a growing challenge in the Baltic Sea Region, there is a lack of market offer of home products especially adapted to seniors' needs.

The main objectives of BaltSe@nior are to raise the well-being of senior citizens as well as to provide furniture enterprises with business opportunities.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Pioneering transnational project in the development of home products for the elderly.
- Innovative product: smart, senior-adapted furniture.
- Transferable to other EU regions aiming at improving the quality of life of senior citizens.
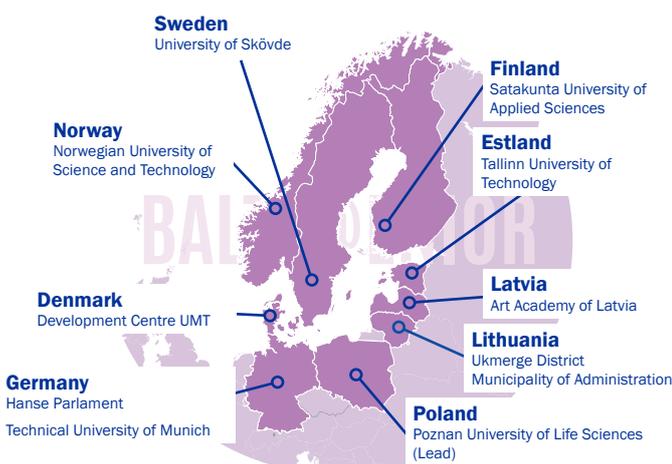
Sweden
University of Skövde

Finland
Satakunta University of Applied Sciences

Norway
Norwegian University of Science and Technology

Estland
Tallinn University of Technology

Denmark
Development Centre UMT

Latvia
Art Academy of Latvia

Lithuania
Ukmerge District Municipality of Administration

Germany
Hanse Parlament
Technical University of Munich

Poland
Poznan University of Life Sciences (Lead)

EUROPEAN UNION
European Regional Development Fund

ERDF THEMATIC OBJECTIVE / INVESTMENT PRIORITY

1. Strenghtening research, technological development and innovation.

1b Promoting business investment in R&I, developing synergies between stakeholders.

FIND
OUT
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Project

Programme

DIGIPEE
Dutch-German innovation develops a digital urine analysis

EUROPEAN COOPERATION
HEALTHY AND ACTIVE AGEING
FLAGSHIP PROJECT 2014-2020

TOTAL BUDGET
€ 1.441.067

EU CONTRIBUTION
50% (€ 720.533)

2 JOINT INITIATIVE Countries

Silver economy enterprise support | Active ageing for social inclusion | Innovative solutions for (rural) elderly | Healthcare professional skills | Disease prevention and diagnostics

ABOUT

DigiPee developes of a digital voiding diary with automated urinalysis as a plug and play device.

DigiPee works in this way: senior patients attach a measuring device to the toilet at home, so that they can easily obtain information about several health indicators on their smartphone, tablet or computer.

RESULTS

- A fist-sized device that can be fitted in almost any toilet. This device is ground-breaking in the medical field as it detects urine flow and performs an automatic and non-contact urinalysis which provides a measurement of essential health parameters (hydration, glucose levels).

- An app which allows the patient to visualise the output of the measured data in a smartphone, tablet or computer.

- A digital voiding diary which makes it easier for health professional to monitor people at risk.

OBJECTIVES

DigiPee addresses the rising demand for nursing services in Netherlands and Germany, especially in rural areas with poor or inaccessible medical services.

DigiPee's automated urinalysis device facilitates the monitoring of the health of elderly citizens, thus improving the healthcare systems of the region.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Innovative medical product: automated urine analysis device resulting into a digital voiding diary.

- High transferability to other healthcare systems demanding improved health services for the elderly.

- Positive territorial impact promoted by the mutual collaboration of both countries in the development of new health products.

Netherlands
Prange B.V.
PhilMed B.V.
Radboud Universitair Medisch Centrum
Idenova B.V.

Germany
Medipee GmbH (Lead)
Die Pflege ambulanter Pflegedienst GmbH
M&P Unternehmensberatung GmbH

EUROPEAN UNION
European Regional Development Fund

ERDF THEMATIC OBJECTIVE/ INVESTMENT PRIORITY

1. Strenghtening research, technological development and innovation.

1b Promoting business investment in R&I, developing synergies between stakeholders.

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Project | **Programme**

Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE
European Union
European Regional Development Fund
HoCare2.0

Silver economy | Quadruple Helix Co-creation | Home care

HOCARE2.0
Delivery of Innovative solutions for Home Care by strengthening quadruple-helix cooperation in regional innovation chains

EUROPEAN COOPERATION
HEALTHY AND ACTIVE AGEING
FLAGSHIP PROJECT 2014-2020

TOTAL BUDGET
€ 1.995.503

EU CONTRIBUTION
83% (€ 1.664.033)

6 JOINT INITIATIVE
Countries

| Silver economy enterprise support | Active ageing for social inclusion | Innovative solutions for (rural) elderly | Healthcare professional skills | Disease prevention and diagnostics |

ABOUT

HoCare2.0 develops innovative info-communication technologies for senior homecare.

HoCare2.0 follows a Quadruple Helix Co-creation Model, involving SMEs, research institutions, caregivers, and senior care-recipients and their families, in order to collaborate in:

- Identification of homecare needs.
- Design and manufacture of new homecare products.
- Evaluation of their impact.

OBJECTIVES

HoCare 2.0 reacts to the growing need of designing more accessible home care products for the elderly.

The HoCare 2.0 Project follows a co-creation approach with the objective of upgrading homecare services, especially in the form of age-friendly technologies.

RESULTS

- Organisation of 59 national and international policy learning events in Europe
- Identification of 33 good homecare practices
- Production of 8 action plans, increasing the capacity of 178 people
- Improvement of 6 regional development policies.
- Creation of 2 innovative tools: SME Tool is used for delivery of innovative home care solutions and the Policy Tool is for co-creation of public health or social homecare services.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Innovative design process based on co-creation of more accessible and needs-based homecare products for elderly people.
- Knowledge-dissemination facilitates the transferability of the resulting homecare practices and products to other EU regions in need of improved homecare solutions.
- Territorial impact enhanced by collaborative development and transregional cooperation through the implementation of action plans.

Poland
Rzeszow Regiona Development Agency
The Malopolska Region

Germany
Carus Consilium Saxony GmbH
Dresden University Hospital

Czech Republic
Institute of Social Services Prague 4
DEX Innovation Centre

Hungary
Central Transdanubian Regional Innovation Agency Nonprofit Ltd.M&P Unternehmensberatung GmbH (Lead)
National Directorate General for Hospitals

Italy
Cremona Chamber of Commerce
Lombardy Region

Slovenia
Business Support Centre L.t.d. Kranj (BSC)

EUROPEAN UNION
European Regional Development Fund

ERDF THEMATIC OBJECTIVE / INVESTMENT PRIORITY

1. Strenghtening research, technological development and innovation.

1b Promoting business investment in R&I, developing synergies between stakeholders.

FIND OUT **MORE**

Project   Programme

OSIRIS

Supporting the Smart Specialization Approach in the Silver Economy to increase Regional Innovation Capacity and Sustainable Growth

**EUROPEAN COOPERATION
HEALTHY AND ACTIVE AGEING
FLAGSHIP PROJECT 2014-2020**

TOTAL BUDGET
€ 2.381.729

EU CONTRIBUTION
76% (€ 1.809.524)

6 JOINT INITIATIVE
Countries

Silver economy enterprise support | Active ageing for social inclusion | Innovative solutions for (rural) elderly | Healthcare professional skills | Disease prevention and diagnostics

ABOUT

OSIRIS introduces virtual transnational cooperation platforms to create innovative products and services dedicated to ageing people.

By following a smart specialization approach in the Silver Economy, OSIRIS:

- Supports innovation through Smart Silver Labs in six regions around the Baltic Sea Region.
- Sets up a Digital Silver Hub to promote knowledge-sharing and to create of cross-border business schemes.
- Gathers shared expertise and resources among regions.

RESULTS

- Six Smart Silver Labs (SSL), pioneering virtual collaboration platforms based on an innovation ecosystem model. The Labs bring together innovation actors from business, academia, policymakers, and senior citizens to boost the creation of new solutions and products for the challenges of the ageing population.

- 'Digital Silver Hub', a major virtual collaborative platform, connecting the regional Smart Silver Labs in order to support transnational cooperation and diffusion of best practices in the Silver Economy market.

OBJECTIVES

SEAFOOD-AGE addresses the problem of malnutrition in old age due to changes in eating habits and food choices as well as because of difficulties in meal preparation and intake.

SEAFOOD-AGE aims at making seniors' diet healthier by providing essential nutrients found in seafood and by promoting the role of marine resources in healthier ageing.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Innovative smart digital solutions: virtual collaborative platforms that bring together relevant actors to tackle the challenges of healthy and active ageing.

- Transferability and replicability of the smart specialisation approach in the Silver Economy to other EU regions with an ageing population.

- Positive territorial impact: A major hub encompassing all regional virtual platforms fosters transnational cooperation in the Baltic Sea region.

Finland
Häme University of Applied Sciences (HAMK) (lead)
Invest In HYVINKÄÄ-RIIHIMÄKI

Russia
Saint Petersburg National Research University of Information Technology, Mechanics and Optics
Open Joint-Stock Company "Techno-park of Saint-Petersburg"

Denmark
Centre for Assisted Living Technology, Health and Care, Aarhus Municipality
Via University College

Estonia
Tallinn University of Technology

Latvia
Riga Technical University
Connect Latvia

Lithuania
Klapeida State University of Applied Science (KVK)
Lithuanian Innovation Centre
JSC Iamus Innovations

EUROPEAN UNION
European Regional Development Fund

ERDF THEMATIC OBJECTIVE/ INVESTMENT PRIORITY

1. Strenghtening research, technological development and innovation.

1b Promoting business investment in R&I, developing synergies between stakeholders.

FIND OUT **MORE**

Project   **Programme**

Interreg Atlantic Area
European Regional Development Fund
EUROPEAN UNION

Seafood Age

Nutrition | Circular economy | Silver economy

SEAFOOD AGE
Smart and eco-innovative seafood processes and products for healthy AGEing

EUROPEAN COOPERATION
HEALTHY AND ACTIVE AGEING
FLAGSHIP PROJECT 2014-2020

TOTAL BUDGET
€ 2.926.188

EU CONTRIBUTION
75% (€ 2.194.641)

6 JOINT INITIATIVE
Countries

| Silver economy enterprise support | Active ageing for social inclusion | Innovative solutions for (rural) elderly | Healthcare professional skills | Disease prevention and diagnostics |

ABOUT

SEAFOOD-AGE reacts to population ageing dynamics in the Atlantic area by designing ready-to-eat seafood products for over 65-year adults.

To do so, SEAFOOD-AGE:

- Designs healthier, high-quality ready-to-eat seafood products.
- Produces eco-innovative packages using natural resources and by-products.
- Creates smart predictive labels that help the elderly to make better-informed seafood choices.

OBJECTIVES

SEAFOOD-AGE addresses the problem of malnutrition in old age due to changes in eating habits and food choices as well as because of difficulties in meal preparation and intake.

SEAFOOD-AGE aims at making seniors' diet healthier by providing essential nutrients found in seafood and by promoting the role of marine resources in healthier ageing.

RESULTS

- SEAFOOD AGE introduces ready-to-eat seafood products in the diet of elderly people in order to provide them with essential nutrients that are challenging to obtain.
- Production of bioactive ingredients using Atlantic marine biomasses (by-products, discards and algae).
- Introduction of circular economy principles into the seafood sector: eco-innovative packaging solutions; smart labels for better quality, safety, and reduction of food waste; tools to improve traceability in the ready-to-eat seafood production value chain.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Transnational innovative solution aimed at promoting a healthier diet for elderly people by developing ready-to-eat and sustainable seafood products.
- Transferable to other EU maritime regions aiming at improving the diet of their senior citizens.
- Positive territorial impact on the environment of coastal areas of the Atlantic region, strengthened by circular economy.

Finland
Oulu University of Applied Sciences (OUAS)

United Kingdom
ImaginationLancaster - Lancaster University
NOTPLA

Ireland
Indigo Rock Marine Research Station (IRMRS)
University College Cork (UCC)

France
Abyss Ingredients
Technopole Quimper-Cornouaille (TQC)

Portugal
Instituto Português do Mar e da Atmosfera (IPMA)
International Iberian Nano-technology Laboratory (INL)

Spain
Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (Lead)
Centro Tecnológico del Mar - Fundación CETMAR
INXENIA Desarrollos Tecnológicos S.L.
Benboa Restaurante
OPROMAR

EUROPEAN UNION
European Regional Development Fund

ERDF THEMATIC OBJECTIVE / INVESTMENT PRIORITY

1. Strenghtening research, technological development and innovation.

1b Promoting business investment in R&I, developing synergies between stakeholders.

FIND OUT **MORE**

Project   Programme

ESPON
EUROPEAN UNION
Co-financed by the European Regional Development Fund
Inspire Policy Making with Territorial Evidence

Age-friendly cities | Quality of life | Social integration

ACPA
Adapting European Cities to Population Ageing: Policy challenges and best practices

EUROPEAN COOPERATION
HEALTHY AND ACTIVE AGEING
FLAGSHIP PROJECT 2014-2020

TOTAL BUDGET
€ 248.972

EU CONTRIBUTION
82% (€ 203.585)

6 JOINT INITIATIVE
Countries

| Silver economy enterprise support | **Active ageing for social inclusion** | Innovative solutions for (rural) elderly | Healthcare professional skills | Disease prevention and diagnostics |

ABOUT

The ACPA Project involves eight European cities (Amsterdam, Barcelona, Gothenburg, Hengelo, Greater Manchester, Nantes, Oslo, and Zaragoza) that are developing and implementing policies to better meet the needs of elderly residents.

The ACPA Project:
- Addresses the territorial challenges of demographic change at the European scale.
- Analyses how ageing is experienced in each city regarding social exclusion, spatial inequality, employment, migration, and social mobility.
- Investigates the effectiveness and impact of urban ageing policies.

OBJECTIVES

European population is ageing rapidly, which demands the adaptation of cities to senior needs.

The main objective of the ACPA Project is to identify policies in eight European cities that are effective at supporting healthy and active ageing in urban environments.

RESULTS

- An analysis of the demographic development patterns between 2000-2017 in the eight European cities.
- New insights regarding the quality of life of older people living in different types of cities. Particular attention is given to the sub-groups within the elderly population (single households, men-women, minority ethnic groups, and those living in 'gentrifying' neighbourhoods).
- An improved understanding of how urban environments can assist and benefit the social integration and civic participation of senior citizens.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Innovative transnational study of the relationship between urban policies, typology of city and quality of life of elderly people.
- High transferability of ACPA results to other European cities facing demographic change, facilitated by a guide of good practices and policy recommendations.
- Positive territorial impact on urban development in the participating cities thanks to the assessment of age-friendly policies.

Norway
City of Oslo/Department of older people, health and employment

Sweden
Nordregio

City of Gothenburg/Senior Gothenburg (City Development Unit for Elderly Affairs)

United Kingdom
Ecorys UK Limited

Greater Manchester Combined Authority/Greater Manchester Ageing Hub

France
City of Nantes

Netherlands
Ecorys Nederland B.V. (Lead)

City of Hengelo (Netwerkstad Twente)

The Public Health Service of Amsterdam

Spain
Ecorys Spain Ltda

Barcelona City Council/Social Rights Department

Zaragoza City Council

EUROPEAN UNION
European Regional Development Fund

ERDF THEMATIC OBJECTIVE / INVESTMENT PRIORITY

11. Enhancing institutional capacity of public authorities and stakeholders and efficient public administration.

11etc Promoting legal and administrative cooperation and cooperation between citizens and institutions.

FIND OUT **MORE**

Project

Programme

ACTIVE
Advanced Competitiveness Through Improvement, Vision and Education

**EUROPEAN COOPERATION
HEALTHY AND ACTIVE AGEING
FLAGSHIP PROJECT 2014-2020**

TOTAL BUDGET
€ 433.401

EU CONTRIBUTION
85% (€ 368.391)

2 JOINT INITIATIVE Countries

Silver economy enterprise support	**Active ageing for social inclusion**	Innovative solutions for (rural) elderly	Healthcare professional skills	Disease prevention and diagnostics

ABOUT

ACTIVE intends to ensure healthier, more productive, and participative lives of the elderly in the labour market in Bulgaria and Romania.

The project develops activities including project management, vocational trainings, foreign language and IT trainings, among others; in order to increase the employment of the elderly. ACTIVE targets population aged between 55 and 70 years, employers, public authorities, and NGOs acting in the sustainable development and social economy areas.

RESULTS

- Establishment of four professional training centres in Tuzla, Agigea, Cumpana and Balchik.
- Organization of two Job Fairs in Tuzla and in Balchik.
- 192 seniors received qualification certificates in different professions (e.g. baby sitter, security agent, baker-pastry).
- Elaboration of a cross-border strategy to promote employment of the elderly.
- Development of two cooperation agreements between all project partners to strengthen collaboration in the field of labour force.

OBJECTIVES

The specific objectives of ACTIVE are:

- To increase the employment rate of the elderly by reducing occupational incompatibility of supply and demand of jobs due to the low or outdated level of the education.
- To ensure the insertion and maintenance in the labour market of elderly people in order to sustain an active and healthy ageing.

HIGHLIGHTS

- High transferability of results to other European regions aiming to promote employment of the elderly.
- Positive territorial impact due to the focus on cross-border cooperation between Bulgaria and Romania aimed at maintaining the elderly people on the labour market.

EUROPEAN UNION
European Regional Development Fund

ERDF THEMATIC OBJECTIVE / INVESTMENT PRIORITY

8. Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures.

8etc Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility by integrating cross-border labour markets, including cross-border mobility, joint local employment initiatives, information and advisory services and joint training.

Rumania
Tuzla commune Hall (Lead)
Agigea commune Hall
Cumpana commune Hall

Bulgaria
Balchik Municipality

FIND
OUT
MORE

Project   **Programme**

![Interreg Danube Transnational Programme — eDigiStars logo]

Entrepreneurship | Emplyability of the elderly | Digital training

E-DIGISTARS

Building of digital entrepreneurial capacities of the elderly through the innovative training system

EUROPEAN COOPERATION
HEALTHY AND ACTIVE AGEING
FLAGSHIP PROJECT 2014-2020

TOTAL BUDGET
€ 1.892.439

EU CONTRIBUTION
85% (€ 1.608.573)

8 JOINT INITIATIVE Countries

| Silver economy enterprise support | **Active ageing for social inclusion** | Innovative solutions for (rural) elderly | Healthcare professional skills | Disease prevention and diagnostics |

ABOUT

The e-DigiStars Innovative System Project tackles two challenges in the Danube region: the lack of provision of simple digital services for SMEs, and the employability difficulties of the elderly population (50+).

The e-DigiStars System consists of 3 modules:

- POWERYOU to encourage digital self-employment.
- CAMPUS to adjust courses to specific needs of the elderly.
- LABEL to certify those elder workers that demonstrate enough digital skills.

OBJECTIVES

E-DigiStars develops, pilots, and assures the sustainability of the eDigiStar Innovative system.

The main objective of the innovative training system is to successfully turn older workers with employability difficulties into digital self-employed entrepreneurs.

RESULTS

The main expected result is an increase in the number of older workers being contracted to provide digital services, after completing the education of e-DigiStars. The main expected result is an increase in the number of older workers being contracted to provide digital services, after completing the education of e-DigiStars. To achieve this, the e-DigiStars Project:

- Promotes a training system for continuous empowerment of elderly people.
- Intensifies cooperation through tools development, piloting, evaluation, and Action Plan developments.
- Engages 16 employment offices, 10 educational and training centres, 18 business and industry actors, 9 associations representing the elderly and 37 policy actors to deliver good practice exploitable to other territories of Danube macro-region.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Innovative training system aimed at the strengthening of digital entrepreneurship capacities among elderly workers.
- Delivery of good practices that enhance the transferability of the project to other EU regions facing lack of digital services provision and employment challenges for the elderly population.

Czech Republic
The municipality of Prague 9
DEX Innovation Centre

Ukraine
Ivano-Frankivsk National Technical University of Oil and Gas

Austria
Business Upper Austria – Plastics Cluster

Hungary
Innoskart Business Development Nonprofit Ltd. (Lead)
Central Transdanubian Regional Innovation Agency Nonprofit Ltd.

Slovenia
Foundation for Improvement of Employment Possibilities PRIZMA, an Institution
Municipality of Maribor

Romania
European Center for Socio Professional Integration
Romarketing

Bosnia & Herzegovina
Development Agency of the Republic of Srpska

Bulgaria
Business Agency Association
Bulgarian Industrial Association – Union of the Bulgarian Business
National employment Agency

EUROPEAN UNION
European Regional Development Fund

ERDF THEMATIC OBJECTIVE / INVESTMENT PRIORITY

1. Strenghtening research, technological development and innovation.

1b Promoting business investment in R&I, developing synergies between stakeholders.

FIND OUT **MORE**

Project   Programme

Interreg CENTRAL EUROPE — IN SITU

Unemployment | Social inclusion | Labour market integration

IN SITU
Intergenerational Social Innovation Support Scheme

EUROPEAN COOPERATION
HEALTHY AND ACTIVE AGEING
FLAGSHIP PROJECT 2014-2020

TOTAL BUDGET
€ 2.151.900

EU CONTRIBUTION
82% (€ 1.767.201)

6 JOINT INITIATIVE Countries

| Silver economy enterprise support | **Active ageing for social inclusion** | Innovative solutions for (rural) elderly | Healthcare professional skills | Disease prevention and diagnostics |

ABOUT

The continued increase of long-term unemployment among the elderly (50+) and the resulting social exclusion pose a challenge to most European regions. IN SITU addresses the needs of these vulnerable groups in 6 regions of Central Europe to facilitate their integration in the labour market.

IN SITU establishes:

- New business development services, in the form of new social enterprises resulting from developed training.
- Support schemes integrated by expert support, care and third sector organisations, social innovation and entrepreneurship experts and public/private funding initiatives.

OBJECTIVES

The main objective of IN SITU is to jointly develop and implement a tailored business development service and support scheme to promote the integration of the long-term unemployed into the labour market through social innovation and new social enterprises.

RESULTS

- Establishment of 6 Social Innovation Hubs to provide the unemployed with professional support in starting-up and running their business.
- Transnational trainings and further tool development with the aim of building social innovation support schemes in project partners regions by training project partners staff and strategic triangle representatives (from governments, private businesses, and NGOs).
- Development of regional pilot actions to test and validate the support scheme and the 'social innovation footprint'.
- Cooperation of younger and older generations so that they can learn from each other by exchanging experiences, bridging missing skills and competences.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Focus on the development of social innovation support schemes to enhance labour market integration.
- High transferability of results to other European regions facing long-term unemployment of the 50+.
- Boost of transnational cooperation among these six Central European regions to tackle intergenerational unemployment and social exclusion
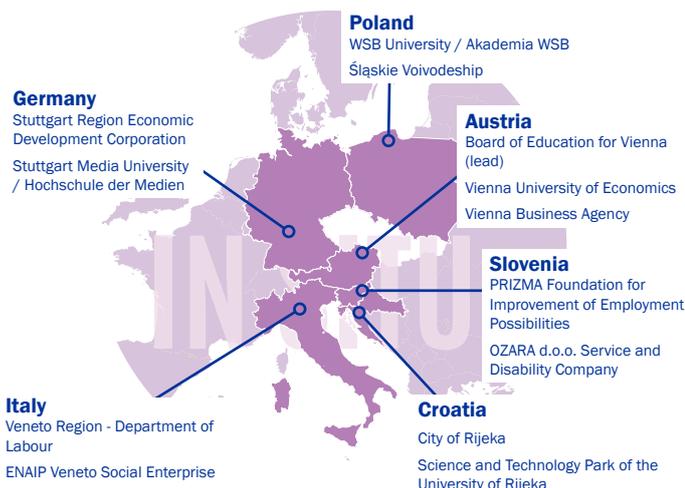
Poland
WSB University / Akademia WSB
Śląskie Voivodeship

Germany
Stuttgart Region Economic Development Corporation
Stuttgart Media University / Hochschule der Medien

Austria
Board of Education for Vienna (lead)
Vienna University of Economics
Vienna Business Agency

Slovenia
PRIZMA Foundation for Improvement of Employment Possibilities
OZARA d.o.o. Service and Disability Company

Italy
Veneto Region - Department of Labour
ENAIP Veneto Social Enterprise

Croatia
City of Rijeka
Science and Technology Park of the University of Rijeka

EUROPEAN UNION
European Regional Development Fund

ERDF THEMATIC OBJECTIVE / INVESTMENT PRIORITY

1. Strenghtening research, technological development and innovation.

1b Promoting business investment in R&I, developing synergies between stakeholders.

FIND OUT **MORE**

Project   Programme

Demographic change | Urban mobility | Micro transport services

MITRA

Micro-transport by use of electrical power assisted cabin-cycles in towns and urban neighbourhoods

**EUROPEAN COOPERATION
HEALTHY AND ACTIVE AGEING
FLAGSHIP PROJECT 2014-2020**

TOTAL BUDGET
€ 39.950

EU CONTRIBUTION
79% (€ 31.357)

2 JOINT INITIATIVE Countries

| Silver economy enterprise support | **Active ageing for social inclusion** | Innovative solutions for (rural) elderly | Healthcare professional skills | Disease prevention and diagnostics |

ABOUT

The continued increase of long-term unemployment among Demographic change in the South Baltic region requires adaptations of the transport system.

The seed money MITRA project addresses planning authorities, charity organisations, social entrepreneurs, and senior citizens in order to develop mobility policies as well as an innovative micro-transport services (Electrical Power Assisted Cabin-Cycles, EPACs) suitable for the 65+ generation.

First, an analysis of state of play of micro-transport solutions and elderly needs and an analysis of the legal and regulatory framework for the EPACs use are performed. Then, the results are used to develop a service model applicable for roll-out of the micro-transport service.

RESULTS

- Development of micro-transport solutions (EPACs) based on mutual neighbourly assistance.
- Implementation and testing of new micro-mobility services (EPACs) in towns and city-districts with different urban and economic structures and mobility culture to obtain feedback from direct user interaction.
- Design and construction of "reference points" allocated in most frequently used places and to which EPACs returns if not performing a ride.
- Production of a concept paper with adjusted concepts to tackle the challenges arising from demographic change.

OBJECTIVES

The main objective of MITRA is to implement flexible, demand-responsive, door-to-door micro-transport services to support mobility of the elderly in the urban regions of Poland and Sweden.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Innovative project based on co-creation of technological initiatives, public authorities, and charity organisations to design micro-transport solutions.
- High transferability of micro-transport services to other European urban areas facing demographic change.
- Positive territorial impact through enhancement of transport accessibility in the South Baltic region.
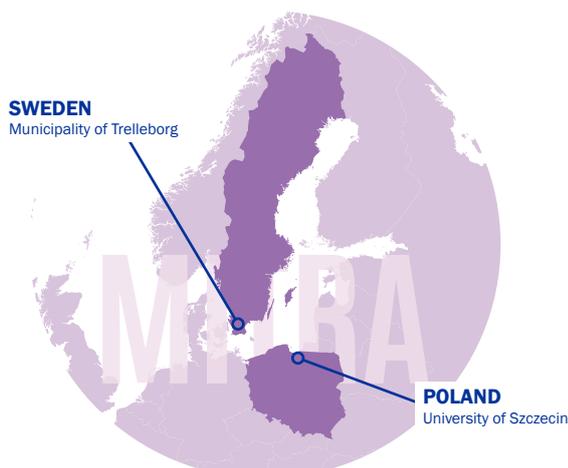
SWEDEN
Municipality of Trelleborg

POLAND
University of Szczecin

EUROPEAN UNION
European Regional Development Fund

ERDF THEMATIC OBJECTIVE / INVESTMENT PRIORITY
7. Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures.

7c Developing and improving environmentally-friendly (including low-noise) and low-carbon transport systems, including inland waterways and maritime transport, ports, multi-modal links and airport infrastructure, in order to promote sustainable regional and local mobility.

FIND
OUT
MORE

Project   Programme

PYRHEQUAL

Pyrenees | Handicap | Social Equity

PYRHEQUAL
Pyrenees-Handicap-Social Equity

EUROPEAN COOPERATION
HEALTHY AND ACTIVE AGEING
FLAGSHIP PROJECT 2014-2020

TOTAL BUDGET
€ 1.741.540

EU CONTRIBUTION
65% (€ 1.132.001)

2 JOINT INITIATIVE
Countries

| Silver economy enterprise support | **Active ageing for social inclusion** | Innovative solutions for (rural) elderly | Healthcare professional skills | Disease prevention and diagnostics |

ABOUT

Disability and dependency are closely related to ageing. PYRHEQUAL intends to improve the quality of life of people with disabilities and/or dependence (PWD/D) and that of their caregivers in the Pyrenees. To do so, PYRHEQUAL:

- Creates a cross-border community of social innovation to achieve a better social inclusion of PWD/D .

- Strengthens access to services of general interest, culture, health, education, housing, training, employment, social inclusion.

- Enhances employability of PWD/D, creating new skills and jobs thanks to ICTs, which reduce the digital gap.

OBJECTIVES

The main objective of PYRHEQUAL is the implementation of an innovative cross-border network aimed at promoting people with disabilities and/or dependency needs and their caregivers as actors of inclusive growth in the Pyrenees.

RESULTS

- Innovative pilot experiences and training actions, particularly in rural and mountain areas.

- Networks of basic services and devices that allow PWD/D access on both sides of the Pyrenees.

- Meeting days based on artistic, sporting and/or recreational activities to promote healthy and active ageing of PWD/D.

- Development of knowledge-sharing through the organisation of meetings, conferences, and seminars as well as through the publication of reports and guides of good practices.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Innovative cross-border social network for people with disabilities/dependency, including the elderly.

- Potential transferability of results to other European rural and mountain areas seeking to improve access of services for people with disabilities/dependency.

- Positive territorial impact on the French-Spanish Pyrenees region as the project aims at boosting economic, social, and territorial cohesion.

EUROPEAN UNION
European Regional Development Fund

ERDF THEMATIC OBJECTIVE / INVESTMENT PRIORITY

9. Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination.

9a Investing in health and social infrastructure which contributes to national, regional and local development, reducing inequalities in terms of health status, promoting social inclusion through improved access to social, cultural and recreational services and the transition from institutional to community-based services.

France
ADAPEI des hautes pyrénées
France Alzheimer & Maladies Apparentées
Fédération Française du Sport

Spain
CADIS Huesca - Coordinadora de Asociaciones de Personas con Discapacidad de la provincia de Huesca (Lead)
ASZA - Agrupación de Personas Sordas de Aragón
Alzheimer Huesca
Down Huesca
Guayente
ASAPME Huesca
ASPACE Huesca
Asociación Francisco de Sales de Hipoacústico
Valentia Huesca
Fundación Agustín Serrate
Adislaf Fundación
Casa Familiar San Lorenzo

FIND OUT **MORE**

Project   **Programme**

Quality of life | Care | Cross-border cooperation

AGE-FRIENDLY REGION
Austria-Hungary cross-border cooperation project to develop ageing-friendly regions

EUROPEAN COOPERATION
HEALTHY AND ACTIVE AGEING
FLAGSHIP PROJECT 2014-2020

TOTAL BUDGET
€ 1.240.507

EU CONTRIBUTION
84% (€ 1.054.431)

2 JOINT INITIATIVE Countries

Silver economy enterprise support | Active ageing for social inclusion | **Innovative solutions for (rural) elderly** | Healthcare professional skills | Disease prevention and diagnostics

ABOUT

Age-friendly Region aims at reshaping the Austro-Hungarian border region into exceptional living environments to grow old.

To achieve this purpose, the Age-friendly Region Project:
- Develops new approaches to ensure that elderly remain close to their familiar surroundings and keep their autonomy.
- Enhances cross-border cooperation through mutual learning and knowledge-sharing, in ordr to develop a common care model.

RESULTS

- Creation of a Case and Care Management (CMM) Model: a new health service that informs about the possibilities of support in the regions and develops needs-based aid plans. The CCM Model is implemented in pilot projects for at least 200 families in Eastern Styria and Western Hungary.
- Research and evaluation reports show a positive impact of the AFR on subjective health and overall quality of life of aged people.
- Evidence based on a survey of health and care experts indicate that regional care coordination improved during AFR, thanks to cross-border cooperation.

OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the Age-friendly Region Project are to:
- Create new homecare solutions to improve the quality of life of senior citizens.
- Reshape cities and regions into great living spaces to grow old.

HIGHLIGHTS

- First bilateral cooperation between Austria and Hungary to support the development of an innovative model for the provision of care.
- High transferability of the care provision model to other EU regions with ageing challenges.
- Evidence-based reports of the positive impact on cross-border cooperation in the Austro-Hungarian border.

Austria
European Centre for Social Welfare Policy and Research

HUNGARY
United Social and Health Centers Győr

Social and Youth Welfare Center Pálos Károly

Pflegezentrum Zalaegerszeg
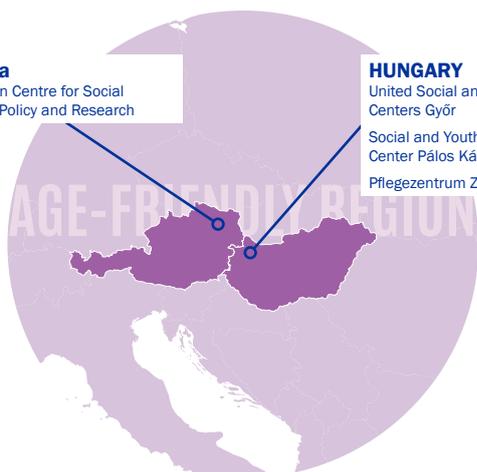
EUROPEAN UNION
European Regional Development Fund

ERDF THEMATIC OBJECTIVE / INVESTMENT PRIORITY

1. Strenghtening research, technological development and innovation.

1b Promoting business investment in R&I, developing synergies between stakeholders.

FIND OUT **MORE**

Project

Programme

D-CARE LABS

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

EUROPEAN COOPERATION
HEALTHY AND ACTIVE AGEING
FLAGSHIP PROJECT 2014-2020

TOTAL BUDGET
€ 2.515.895

EU CONTRIBUTION
85% (€ 2.138.510)

9 JOINT INITIATIVE
Countries

| Silver economy enterprise support | Active ageing for social inclusion | **Innovative solutions for (rural) elderly** | Healthcare professional skills | Disease prevention and diagnostics |

ABOUT

D-Care Labs Project develops nine specialized social innovation Labs that bring together social service providers, product developers, and social start-ups to design and implement community-based home care solutions.

The project further follows a Transnational Lab Strategy to identify complementary interregional resources.

RESULTS

- Analyses of beneficiary needs (including needs caused by the COVID-19) and innovation potential.
- Development, implementation and testing of innovative home care services.
- Establishment of a Transnational Lab of the Labs that offers a framework for the nine Regional Labs to increase mutual learning and transnational co-creation.
- Setup of Ecosystems of Social Investment that create financial and entrepreneurial support structures.

OBJECTIVES

In the Danube Region, fundamental home care needs for elderly people are not being satisfied the current social services providers, especially in poor and rural areas.

To tackle this issue, D-Care Labs Project aims at strengthening the implementation of innovative home care solutions.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Boost of social innovation to generate of new homecare solutions for senior citizens.
- High transferability of the developed social innovations to other EU regions struggling to satisfy homecare needs of elderly population.
- Positive territorial impact in the Danube Region, enhanced by interregional cooperation and co-creation.

Germany
Das Diakonische Werk der Evangelischen Landeskirche in Baden e.V. (Lead)
University of Heidelberg
Grünhof e.V.

Austria
Caritas of the Archdiocese Vienna

Hungary
Hungarian National Association of Local Authorities

Moldova
AGAPEDIA Moldova Foundation

Slovenia
Centre for European Perspective

Romania
Federation of Social NGOs in Transylvania

Croatia
ACT Group
Faculty of Law of University of Zagreb

Bulgaria
Federation of social NGOs in Bulgaria

Bosnia & Herzegovina
Partnership for Public Health Association
Mozaik Foundation

Serbia
Network of Organizations for Children of SerbiaMozaik

EUROPEAN UNION
European Regional Development Fund

ERDF THEMATIC OBJECTIVE / INVESTMENT PRIORITY

1. Strenghtening research, technological development and innovation.

1b Promoting business investment in R&I, developing synergies between stakeholders.

FIND
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MORE

Project   Programme

living lab AAL

Internationale Bodensee Hochschule Labs

IBH LIVING LAB AAL

IBH Living Lab "Active & Assisted Living" (AAL) Management

EUROPEAN COOPERATION HEALTHY AND ACTIVE AGEING FLAGSHIP PROJECT 2014-2020

TOTAL BUDGET
€ 512.400

EU CONTRIBUTION
67% (€ 344.320)

3 **JOINT INITIATIVE**
Countries

| Silver economy enterprise support | Active ageing for social inclusion | **Innovative solutions for (rural) elderly** | Healthcare professional skills | Disease prevention and diagnostics |

ABOUT

IBH Living Lab "Active & Assisted Living" (AAL) Management Project is formed by an interdisciplinary research and innovation network of universities, social services, and technology providers in the Lake Constance region.

The aim of the project is to develop, implement and test "assistance systems for self-determined living".

OBJECTIVES

The current dynamics of population ageing are demanding new support and care strategies, additional and complementary to the help of professional and informal care persons.

The IBH Living Lab AAL Project is focused on the development of technological assistance systems to improve self-determined living in old age.

RESULTS

- The development of new senior-needs-adapted products in the various aspects of daily life: health and nutrition monitoring, security and notification systems, comfort and autonomous living, communication and social technologies, mobility, etc.

- The creation of real-life cross-border assistance labs to test AAL products.

- The elaboration of experience reports to provide evidence relating the efficiency of AAL products at improving the quality of life of the elderly.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Innovative project that develops and evaluates care products adapted to individually assessed seniors' needs.

- Elaboration of experience reports facilitates the transferability of project's methodology and results to other EU regions facing an ageing population challenges.

- Positive territorial impact on the Lake Constance region, promoted by cross-border cooperation between Austria, Germany and Switzerland.

Germany
Duale Hochschule Baden-Württemberg Ravensburg

Hochschule Konstanz Technik, Wirtschaft und Gestaltung

Hochschule Furtwangen

Zeppelin Universität gemeinnützige GmbH

Hochschule für angewandte Wissenschaften Kempten

Hochschule Ravensburg-Weingarten

Switzerland
Fachhochschule St. Gallen

Zürcher Hochschule für Angewandte Wissenschaften

Kalaidos Fachhochschule Zürich

Austria
Fachhochschule Vorarlberg GmbH (Lead)

EUROPEAN UNION
European Regional Development Fund

ERDF THEMATIC OBJECTIVE / INVESTMENT PRIORITY

1. Strenghtening research, technological development and innovation.

1b Promoting business investment in R&I, developing synergies between stakeholders.

FIND OUT **MORE**

Project

Programme

MAMBA

Maximised Mobility and Accessibility of Services in Regions Affected by Demographic Change

EUROPEAN COOPERATION
HEALTHY AND ACTIVE AGEING
FLAGSHIP PROJECT 2014-2020

TOTAL BUDGET
€ 3.539.885

EU CONTRIBUTION
77% (€ 2.741.996)

9 JOINT INITIATIVE
Countries

| Silver economy enterprise support | Active ageing for social inclusion | **Innovative solutions for (rural) elderly** | Healthcare professional skills | Disease prevention and diagnostics |

ABOUT

The MAMBA project helps nine rural areas in the Baltic Sea Region to develop sustainable and smart mobility services.

The main activities of project are:

- Supply of innovative transport solutions.
- Collection and analysis of good practices.
- Inclusion of users and grassroots organisations in the design of new sustainable mobility solutions.

OBJECTIVES

The rural areas in the Baltic Sea region are having difficulties to maintain transport and mobility-dependent services, such as home care or home deliveries.

The MAMBA project aims to maximize sustainable mobility and accessibility of services by introducing innovative transport solutions.

RESULTS

- Implementation of nine innovative pilot projects and actions to improve mobility and service accessibility: mobility as a service (Maas) systems, transport on demand (ToD) services, and car sharing and ride sharing applications.
- Establishment of physical or digital Mobility Centres as testbeds for integrated rural mobility.
- Collection and analysis of good practice examples through a public knowledge database.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Boost of innovative transport solutions to maximise mobility and accessibility of services for the rural elderly.
- Enhancement of transnational cooperation and knowledge-sharing, facilitating a high transferability of the project to other EU rural regions facing demographic change challenges.
- Positive territorial impact on the connectivity of rural regions in the Baltic Sea region.

Finland
Regional Council of South Ostrobothnia
Seinäjoki University of Applied Sciences
Regional Council of North Karelia

Sweden
Nordregio
Municipality of Trelleborg

Denmark
Vejle Municipality

Latvia
Vidzeme University of Applied Sciences
Vidzeme Planning Region
Road Transport Administration

GERMANY
Diakonisches Werk Schleswig-Holstein (Lead)
County of Ploen
County of Cuxhaven
Institute of Climate Protection, Energy and Mobility

Poland
Bielsko-Biala Regional Development Agency

EUROPEAN UNION
European Regional Development Fund

ERDF THEMATIC OBJECTIVE/ INVESTMENT PRIORITY

7. Promoting sustainable transport and removing bottlenecks in key network infrastructures.

7b Enhancing regional mobility by connecting secondary and tertiary nodes to TEN-T infrastructure, including multimodal nodes.

FIND OUT **MORE**

Project

Programme

SENDOC
Smart sENsor Devices fOr rehabilitation and Connected health

**EUROPEAN COOPERATION
HEALTHY AND ACTIVE AGEING
FLAGSHIP PROJECT 2014-2020**

Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme 2014–2020

EUROPEAN UNION
Investing in your future
European Regional Development Fund

TOTAL BUDGET
€ 1.904.784

EU CONTRIBUTION
65% (€ 1.238.192)

4 JOINT INITIATIVE Countries

Silver economy enterprise support	Active ageing for social inclusion	**Innovative solutions for (rural) elderly**	Healthcare professional skills	Disease prevention and diagnostics

ABOUT

SENDoc addresses the problem of healthcare provision in ageing communities in the Northern Periphery and Arctic (NPA) region.

SENDoc involves clinical and sensor expertise as well as policy actors to introduce and evaluate the use of wearable sensor systems in these remote areas.

Sensors are used to measure mobility, strength and balance, in order to support independent living. Simultaneously, SENDoc tests the following aspects of sensors: impact on health, technical and social acceptability, and functionality in cold climate conditions.

OBJECTIVES

SENDoc intends to improve access to health care services in remote rural areas of the NPA region, by introducing and evaluating the use of sensor systems (eHealth technology). The final objective is to develop a transnational rehabilitation service delivery model.

RESULTS

- Development of wearable sensor systems (e.g. wearable glove, wearable back sensor) to capture data on frailty and mobility in ageing patients.
- Evaluation of the impact of sensors on health, wellbeing, society, rural community care needs, and independent assisted living.
- Testing the technical and social acceptability of using GPS location sensors for safety of older people in rural areas.
- Studying the functionality of sensors in cold climate conditions.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Innovation use of eHealth technologies to promote independent living for the elderly.
- High transferability to other European rural and remote areas aiming at improving the quality of life of the elderly.
- Positive territorial impact enhanced by transnational cooperation, which allows movement of staff, knowledge, funds, technological know-how and equipment, and policy levers.
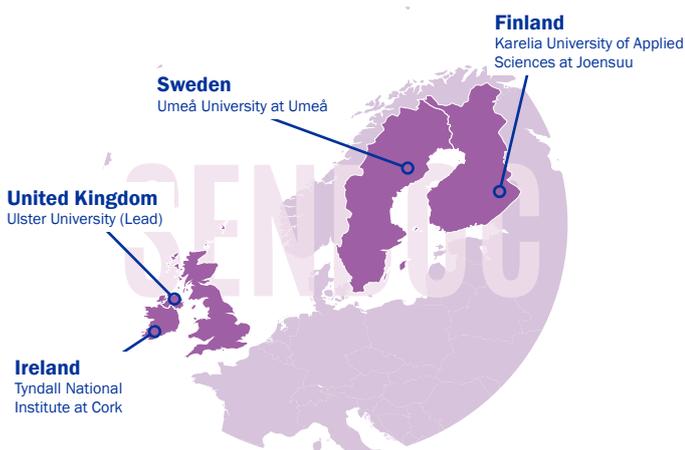
Finland
Karelia University of Applied Sciences at Joensuu

Sweden
Umeå University at Umeå

United Kingdom
Ulster University (Lead)

Ireland
Tyndall National Institute at Cork

EUROPEAN UNION
European Regional Development Fund

ERDF THEMATIC OBJECTIVE / INVESTMENT PRIORITY

1. Strenghtening research, technological development and innovation.

1b Promoting business investment in R&I, developing synergies between stakeholders.

FIND OUT **MORE**

Project   **Programme**

EU_SHAFE
Interreg Europe

Policy alignment | Age-friendly regions | International cooperation

EU_SHAFE
Europe enabling Smart Healthy
Age-Friendly Environments (SHAFE)

**EUROPEAN COOPERATION
HEALTHY AND ACTIVE AGEING
FLAGSHIP PROJECT 2014-2020**

TOTAL BUDGET
€ 1.700.860

EU CONTRIBUTION
24% (€ 397.776)

7
**JOINT INITIATIVE
Countries**

Silver economy enterprise support	Active ageing for social inclusion	Innovative solutions for (rural) elderly	**Healthcare professional skills**	Disease prevention and diagnostics

ABOUT

EU_SHAFE aims to create a group of 7 ecosystems that can deliver effective innovation in their regional value chains in key areas of smart specialisation related to Smart Healthy Age-friendly Environments (SHAFE).

It also intends to achieve a better alignment between policy areas such as health, demographic change, and wellbeing.

RESULTS

- Evaluation reports of each region regarding the status of: built environment, transport, housing, social participation, respect and social inclusion, civic participation and employment, communication, and community support and health services.

- Delivery of a White Paper including sustainable inclusive growth solutions and long-term policy improvements.

- Re-design of social innovation in the area for SHAFE and re-shape of future regional policy instruments, owing to the knowledge obtained from good practices.

OBJECTIVES

- Develop a quadruple-helix comprehensive approach on SHAFE, integrated by companies, academia and R&D centres, health and social care providers and housing industry.

- Promote community-based services and "ageing in at home" solutions.

- Interregional exchange of good practices and evidence-based results.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Innovative "learning by sharing" methodology to identify and exchange good practices.

- High transferability of the identified good practices and knowledge to other European regions aiming at boosting age-friendly policies.

- Reinforced international cooperation thanks to the organisation of regional and interregional learning events.
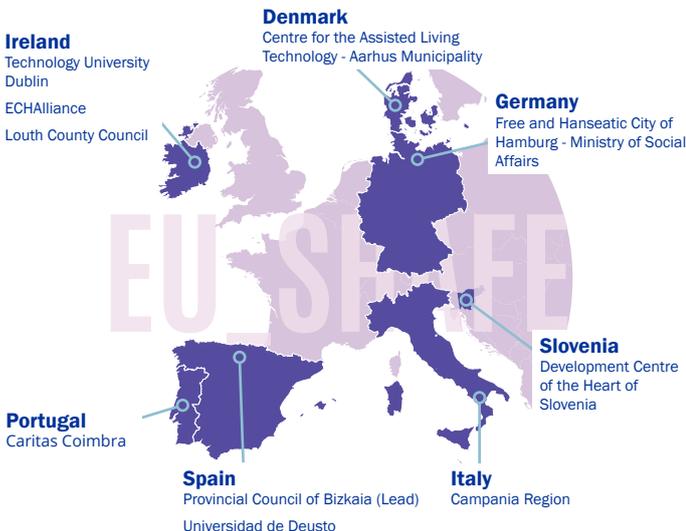
Ireland
Technology University Dublin
ECHAlliance
Louth County Council

Denmark
Centre for the Assisted Living Technology - Aarhus Municipality

Germany
Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg - Ministry of Social Affairs

Slovenia
Development Centre of the Heart of Slovenia

Portugal
Caritas Coimbra

Spain
Provincial Council of Bizkaia (Lead)
Universidad de Deusto

Italy
Campania Region

EUROPEAN UNION
European Regional Development Fund

ERDF THEMATIC OBJECTIVE / INVESTMENT PRIORITY

1. Strenghtening research, technological development and innovation.

1b Promoting business investment in R&I, developing synergies between stakeholders.

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MORE

Project   **Programme**

Elderly accomodation | Social care | Infrastructure development

RE-STRUCTURE
Modernisation & Transformation of Social Services Infrastructure

EUROPEAN COOPERATION
HEALTHY AND ACTIVE AGEING
FLAGSHIP PROJECT 2014-2020

TOTAL BUDGET
€ 2.370.036

EU CONTRIBUTION
85% (€ 2.014.531)

2 JOINT INITIATIVE Countries

| Silver economy enterprise support | Active ageing for social inclusion | Innovative solutions for (rural) elderly | **Healthcare professional skills** | Disease prevention and diagnostics |

ABOUT
RE-STRUCTURE addresses the lack of adequate living accommodation for elderly in the Lower Ipel Valley region.

The project focuses on the infrastructural transformation of abandoned buildings into social homes in order to improve the provision of social and care services for the elderly.

RESULTS
- Readaptation of three abandoned buildings into modern centres for eldercare to provide accommodation, 24h care, and daily social services in Chľaba, Salka and Szob.
- Renovation of another three abandoned buildings to supply social and elderly care, recreational services, and infrastructure for a social kitchen and laundry, in Kemence, Bernecebaráti and Ipolydamásd.
- Transformation of one building into an education centre hosting bilingual training in the Lower Ipel Valley region.

OBJECTIVES
The main objectives of RE-STRUCTURE are:
- To build social care centres for the elderly population in the Hungary-Slovakia cross-border region.
- To provide job opportunities for the unemployed or newly graduated as trained staff for taking care of the elderly.

HIGHLIGHTS
- Innovative project focused on the transformation of abandoned buildings into centres providing living accommodation and care services for the elderly.
- Potential transferability to other European regions aimed at improving accommodation for the elderly.
- Positive territorial impact enhanced by cross-border cooperation and infrastructure development.

EUROPEAN UNION
European Regional Development Fund

ERDF THEMATIC OBJECTIVE/ INVESTMENT PRIORITY
8. Promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility.

8etc ETC specific, for cross-border cooperation: promoting sustainable and quality employment and supporting labour mobility by integrating cross-border labour markets, including cross-border mobility, joint local employment initiatives, information and advisory services and joint training.

Slovakia
Obec Salka (Lead)
Obec Chľaba

Hungary
Local Government of the City of Szob
Local Government of the Municipality of Kemenc
Local Government of the Municipality of Bernecebaráti
Directorate General for Social Affairs and Child Protection

FIND OUT **MORE**

Project   Programme

SOCIALLIFE

Social partnership - Integration of socially vulnerable people into community life

EUROPEAN COOPERATION
HEALTHY AND ACTIVE AGEING
FLAGSHIP PROJECT 2014-2020

TOTAL BUDGET
€ 447.391

EU CONTRIBUTION
85% (€ 338.282)

2 JOINT INITIATIVE Countries

| Silver economy enterprise support | Active ageing for social inclusion | Innovative solutions for (rural) elderly | **Healthcare professional skills** | Disease prevention and diagnostics |

ABOUT

SocialLife addresses the following challenges in the Latvia-Lithuania cross-border region: increased demand for the social services, insufficient capacities of social service providers, and lack of cooperation in the field of social services and social integration.

SocialLife develops 8 joint seminars in order to upgrade the qualifications of 16 social care specialists, who learn how to: strengthen their motivation, manage stress while working with vulnerable groups, work with persons with mental diseases, and improve seniors' quality of life.

OBJECTIVES

The aim of SocialLife is to enhance accessibility and efficiency of social services in Pakruojis (Lithuania), Rundale and Iecava (Latvia) municipalities in order to promote social inclusion of vulnerable groups (e.g. people with disabilities, elderly people).

RESULTS

- Participation of 600 socially vulnerable people in the project activities.
- 3 educational activities: lessons for family members of persons with mental dysfunctionalities, severe illnesses; lectures for seniors and for persons with addiction problems; training of craft acquisition and life skills.
- 8 social rehabilitation activities: respite and massage services, music, art, dance therapy, relax therapy for the elderly and persons with mental disabilities, physiotherapy as well as summer rehabilitation camps.
- Improvement of social infrastructure in Linkuva social services center, and Iecava and Rundale social services' departments.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Innovative approach to social inclusion of vulnerable groups by promoting joint seminars.
- High transferability of the educational and social rehabilitation activities to other European regions aiming to improve social services.
- Enhanced cross-border cooperation between Latvia and Lithuania in the field of social integration.
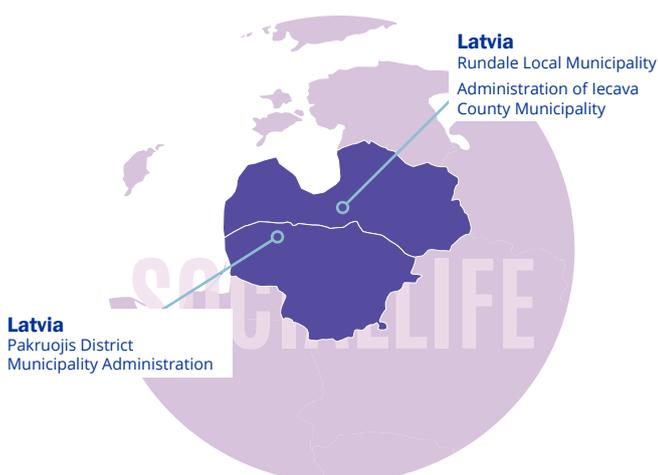
EUROPEAN UNION
European Regional Development Fund

ERDF THEMATIC OBJECTIVE / INVESTMENT PRIORITY

9. Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination.

9a Investing in health and social infrastructure which contributes to national, regional and local development, reducing inequalities in terms of health status, promoting social inclusion through improved access to social, cultural and recreational services and the transition from institutional to community-based services.

Latvia
Rundale Local Municipality

Administration of Iecava County Municipality

Latvia
Pakruojis District Municipality Administration

FIND OUT **MORE**

Project   Programme

TEC-MED | **ENI CBCMED** | Project funded by the **EUROPEAN UNION** | REGIONE AUTONOMA DE SARDIGNA REGIONE AUTONOMA DELLA SARDEGNA

Socio-ethical-care | social services | Vulnerable elderly

TEC-MED
Development of a Transcultural social-ethical-care model for dependent population in the Mediterranean basin

EUROPEAN COOPERATION HEALTHY AND ACTIVE AGEING FLAGSHIP PROJECT 2014-2020

TOTAL BUDGET	EU CONTRIBUTION		
€ 3.331.225	**90%** (€ 2.998.102)	**6**	**JOINT INITIATIVE** Countries

Silver economy enterprise support	Active ageing for social inclusion	Innovative solutions for (rural) elderly	**Healthcare professional skills**	Disease prevention and diagnostics

ABOUT

TEC-MED addresses the current decrease in social support for vulnerable elderly people (e.g. having chronic diseases and lacking family network support) in six Mediterranean countries.

The project develops an innovative and cost-effective socio-ethical care model, supported by software applications.

TEC-MED further supports cooperation and partnership between public institutions and social care actors.

After the COVID-19 pandemic, the action is focusing on open distance services to elders and analyses how the pandemic affected elders' life.

OBJECTIVES

The main objective of TEC-MED is to set a new social assistance model in the Mediterranean basin in order to reduce the marginalization of elderly people and to adapt social care policies tackling the phenomenon of ageing population.

RESULTS

- 28,200 people covered by improved social services.
- 90 social care professionals involved in social pilot schemes.
- 6 action plans for public administrations.
- 12 agreements between public administrations and relevant stakeholders for coordinated planning and implementation of social services.
- 1 online platform for cooperation among institutions for the set-up of laboratories of "ideas" for designing innovative social services.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Innovative social-care service delivery.
- Transferability of the social-ethical-care framework to other European regions aiming at increasing social support for vulnerable elders.
- Positive territorial impact fostered by transnational learning and sharing events tackling social issues.
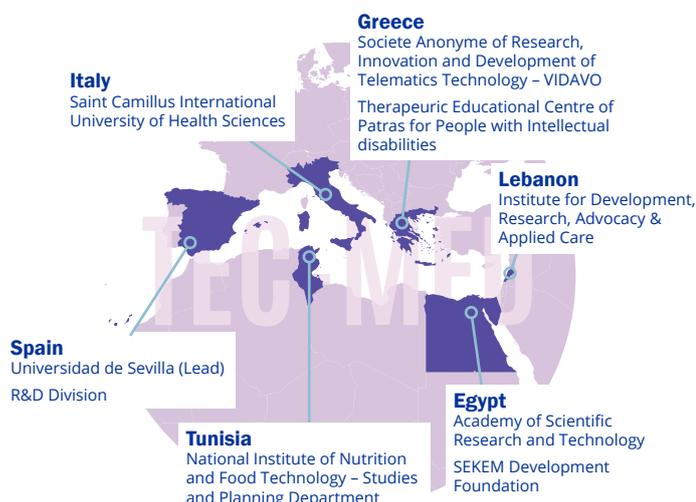
Greece
Societe Anonyme of Research, Innovation and Development of Telematics Technology – VIDAVO

Therapeuric Educational Centre of Patras for People with Intellectual disabilities

Italy
Saint Camillus International University of Health Sciences

Lebanon
Institute for Development, Research, Advocacy & Applied Care

Spain
Universidad de Sevilla (Lead)
R&D Division

Tunisia
National Institute of Nutrition and Food Technology – Studies and Planning Department

Egypt
Academy of Scientific Research and Technology

SEKEM Development Foundation

EUROPEAN UNION
European Regional Development Fund

ERDF THEMATIC OBJECTIVE / INVESTMENT PRIORITY

9. Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination.

9a Investing in health and social infrastructure which contributes to national, regional and local development, reducing inequalities in terms of health status, promoting social inclusion through improved access to social, cultural and recreational services and the transition from institutional to community-based services.

FIND OUT **MORE**

Project **Programme**

BFCC

Baltic Fracture Competence Centre (BFCC): fostering innovation for better fracture management

Fracture care | Reseach and innovation | Knowledge sharing

EUROPEAN COOPERATION
HEALTHY AND ACTIVE AGEING
FLAGSHIP PROJECT 2014-2020

TOTAL BUDGET
€ 3.600.242

EU CONTRIBUTION
77% (€ 2.772.590)

7 JOINT INITIATIVE
Countries

Silver economy enterprise support	Active ageing for social inclusion	Innovative solutions for (rural) elderly	Healthcare professional skills	**Disease prevention and diagnostics**

ABOUT

Bone fractures and linked health disorders are expected to increase in the future due to our ageing society.

Following best practices of Sweden and Denmark for fracture registries, BFCC establishes new fracture registries in Germany, Estonia, Lithuania, and Poland; to improve fracture treatment and innovation.

The project further develops a transnational data registry platform in the Baltic Sea Region, which is used by hospitals and the medical industry to identify clinical needs and potential for innovation within fracture management.

RESULTS

- Development of a Transnational Fracture Registry Platform to analyze fracture data, as well as to compare clinical processes and quality of outcomes across organizations and countries.
- Establishment of cooperation between hospitals and medical technology industry to align innovation efforts with clinical requirements, which positively impacts the treatment outcomes for fracture patients.
- Provision of access for 48 companies to most recent findings in fracture research.

OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of BFCC are:

- Optimization of treatment and management of fracture care.
- Reduction of functioning, participation, co-morbidities, health, and socio-economic costs deriving from fracture care.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Innovative transnational research infrastructure to improve fracture care.
- High transferability and scalability of methodologies to other European regions facing bone fractures as a public health challenge.
- Positive territorial impact promoted by transnational collaboration for innovation within fracture management in the Baltic Sea region.

Sweden
Sahlgrenska University Hospital
BONESUPPORT™

Denmark
ScanBalt fmba

Germany
Life Science Nord Management GmbH (Lead)
Stryker Trauma GmbH
University Medical Center Schleswig-Holstein (UKSH)
University Medicine Greifswald, Institute for Community Medicine Section Epidemiology of Health Care and Community Health

Finland
Bone Index Finland Ltd.

Estonia
University of Tartu
Tartu Biotechnology Park Ltd

Lithuania
Lithuanian University of Health Sciences

Poland
LifeScience Klaster Krakow
University Hospital in Krakow

EUROPEAN UNION
European Regional Development Fund

ERDF THEMATIC OBJECTIVE / INVESTMENT PRIORITY

1. Strenghtening research, technological development and innovation.

1b Promoting business investment in R&I, developing synergies between stakeholders.

FIND OUT **MORE**

Project   Programme

EURLIPIDS

Research | Lipidomics | Cross-border cooperation

EURLIPIDS
A border-crossing platform for lipid research

EUROPEAN COOPERATION
HEALTHY AND ACTIVE AGEING
FLAGSHIP PROJECT 2014-2020

TOTAL BUDGET
€ 4.838.266

EU CONTRIBUTION
50% (€ 2.419.133)

3 JOINT INITIATIVE
Countries

Silver economy enterprise support	Active ageing for social inclusion	Innovative solutions for (rural) elderly	Healthcare professional skills	**Disease prevention and diagnostics**

ABOUT

Lipids are involved in ageing-related diseases, such as heart and brain illnesses and cancer, which account for over 80% mortality in Western societies.

Lipids also play an essential role in the functionality and tolerability of biomaterials by the organism.

To fight these health problems, EURlipids establishes an excellence cross-border platform for lipid-based research and technological solutions ("Lipid Valley") in the EUREGIO, which is integrated by research institutes, clinics, industrial partners and specialised SMEs.

OBJECTIVES

Eurlipids unites academic education with clinical and technological lipid research, and it offers services in lipidomics.

Eurlipids has three main objectives:

- Teaching for MA and PhD students to strengthen lipid research.
- Research for new analytical methods (biomarkers, biomedical materials).
- Economic valorisation through the development and market launch of new clinical products.

RESULTS

- Designing and engineering of lipid imaging and profiling technologies by developed advanced mass spectrometry.
- Teaching of lipidomics for future scientists by bridging biomedical and technical sciences.
- Research on causality between lipid profiles and diseases by evaluating complex lipid profiles and imaging tissue materials.
- Launching start-ups and participation in Joint Ventures to offer services and equipment for lipid diagnostics.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Innovative, technological, and teaching platform to research lipidomics.
- High transferability of the research platform to other European regions with high mortality due to lipid-related diseases.
- Strengthened cross-border cooperation in the EUREGIO.

Netherlands
Maastricht University (Lead)

Amsterdam Scientific Instruments

Da Vinci Laboratory Solutions

Dutch Screening Group B.V.

DBSL B.V.

Chemelot Institute for Science & Technology

DSM

Germany
Universitätsklinikum Aachen

MagnaMedics GmbH

Belgium
Universiteit Hasselt

Zentech

Université de Liège

Katholieke Universiteit Leuven

EUROPEAN UNION
European Regional Development Fund

ERDF THEMATIC OBJECTIVE / INVESTMENT PRIORITY

1. Strenghtening research, technological development and innovation.

1b Promoting business investment in R&I, developing synergies between stakeholders.

FIND OUT **MORE**

Project   Programme

HEALTHY AGING

Healthcare | Chronic diseases | Research and innovation

HEALTHY AGING
Healthy Aging - A Euregional opportunity

EUROPEAN COOPERATION
HEALTHY AND ACTIVE AGEING
FLAGSHIP PROJECT 2014-2020

TOTAL BUDGET
€ 4.752.192

EU CONTRIBUTION
50% (€ 2.376.071)

3 JOINT INITIATIVE
Countries

Silver economy enterprise support | Active ageing for social inclusion | Innovative solutions for (rural) elderly | Healthcare professional skills | **Disease prevention and diagnostics**

ABOUT

The Healthy Aging Project brings together academic experts and private health partners in order to bring a solution to the increasing number of elderly suffering from ageing-related chronic diseases in the Euregio-Maas Rhein (EMR) Region.

Healthy Ageing screens cohorts of elderly and chronically ill people for biomarkers related to the immune system, and to metabolic and bio-energetic status; in order to indicate the patient's "immune age", predisposition to a specific chronic disease, and responsiveness and non-responsiveness to existing therapies.

Afterwards, Healthy Aging develops new therapeutics and technology platforms for hand-on biomarker detection to further improve treatment success.

OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of Healthy Aging are threefold:

- Identify chronic ageing-related diseases at the earliest possible stage.
- Stratify patients for the most effective therapy.
- Slow-down the ageing process by monitoring biomarkers of elderly and chronically ill people.

RESULTS

"Healthy aging" produces the following deliverables:

- Diagnostic measures to identify subjects with accelerated immune ageing.
- Identification of chronic disease patients that are responsive to specific therapy.
- Development of new therapeutics to treat non-responsive patients with age related chronic diseases.
- Introduction of nutraceuticals with potent immune-ageing reversing activity for preventive therapy.
- Launch of new entrepreneurial activities targeting the ageing population, which accelerates the valorisation chain and bring deep socio-economic impact on the Euregio-Maas Rhein region.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Focus on healthcare research and innovation to prevent, diagnose, and find effective treatments for chronic diseases.
- High transferability to other European regions struggling with rising chronic ageing-related diseases.
- Transnational cooperation in enhanced by knowledge-sharing across borders creating a synergistic hub of complementary expertises.

Netherlands
GlycoCheck B.V.
DNAmito Netherlands B.V.
Academisch ziekenhuis Maastricht

Germany
Universitätsklinikum Aachen

Belgium
Universiteit Hasselt, Biomedisch Onderzoeksinstituut (Lead)

Interuniversitair Micro-Electronica Centrum VZW Geassocieeerd labo IMOMEC

MonaCell BVBA

Curador SA

Astel Medica

MY®HEALTH nv

EUROPEAN UNION
European Regional Development Fund

ERDF THEMATIC OBJECTIVE/ INVESTMENT PRIORITY

1. Strenghtening research, technological development and innovation.

1b Promoting business investment in R&I, developing synergies between stakeholders.

FIND OUT **MORE**

Project

Programme

neuroATLANTIC

Interreg Atlantic Area
European Regional Development Fund | EUROPEAN UNION

Neurological diseases | Prevention and diagnostics | Research and development

NEUROATLANTIC

An Atlantic innovation platform on diagnosis and treatment of neurological diseases and ageing

EUROPEAN COOPERATION
HEALTHY AND ACTIVE AGEING
FLAGSHIP PROJECT 2014-2020

TOTAL BUDGET
€ 1.768.664

EU CONTRIBUTION
75% (€ 1.326.498)

4 JOINT INITIATIVE Countries

| Silver economy enterprise support | Active ageing for social inclusion | Innovative solutions for (rural) elderly | Healthcare professional skills | **Disease prevention and diagnostics** |

ABOUT

NeuroATLANTIC brings together scientific and technological capacities within the Atlantic Area in the field of the neurological diseases.

The project acts on the clinical, preclinical and capitalization aspects accelerating the uptake of new innovations that revolutionize the way in which neurological diseases are handled.

Specifically, neuroATLANTIC proposes new standardized clinical protocols, innovative diagnostic and treatment methods, and ensures technology transfer to enterprises.

RESULTS

- Exploration of best clinical practices to elaborate a "green paper" on clinical management guidelines.
- Setting up of a preclinical transnational research platform with scientific collaborative publications and several research centres, in order to bring innovative theragnostic agents and nano-biosensors to real settings.
- Capitalization of results:
- Delivery of technology roadmap and exploitation plans
- Definition of a governance structure to select new projects
- Development of R&D mission-oriented guidelines.

OBJECTIVES

More than 7.5 million European citizens suffer from neurological diseases associated to ageing, mainly Alzheimer's and stroke.

The main objective of neuroATLANTIC is to set up a transnational platform to develop novel theragnostic agents to treat and early diagnosis of neurological diseases.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Innovative project addressing the prevention, diagnostics, and treatment of neurological diseases by bringing together scientific and technological efforts.
- High transferability of clinical, preclinical and capitalization results to other European regions concerned about neurological diseases.
- Transnational cooperation enhanced by knowledge-sharing through research platforms.

Ireland
University College Cork – National University of Ireland Office of the VicePresident for Research & Innovation

France
Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale (INSERM) Délégation Régionale Nord Ouest

Spain
Fundación Instituto de Investigación Sanitaria de Santiago de Compostela (FIDIS) (Lead)

Center for Cooperative Research in Biomaterials CICbiomaGU

Clúster Saúde de Galicia – CSG

Lincbiotech SL

Qubiotech Health Intelligence SL

Portugal
STAB VIDA Investigaçao e Serviços em Ciencias Biológicas, Lda

Universidade de Coimbra Divisao de Apoio e Promoçao da Investigaçao
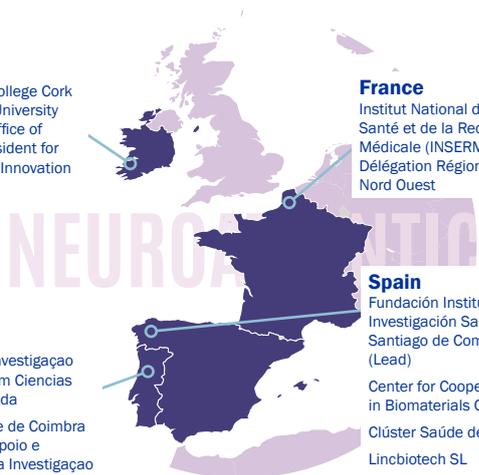
EUROPEAN UNION
European Regional Development Fund

ERDF THEMATIC OBJECTIVE / INVESTMENT PRIORITY

1. Strenghtening research, technological development and innovation.

1b Promoting business investment in R&I, developing synergies between stakeholders.

FIND OUT **MORE**

Project | Programme

Interreg – IPA CBC
Croatia - Serbia
RealForAll

Seasonal allergies | Public health services | Quality information

REALFORALL

Real-time measurements and forecasting for successful prevention and management of seasonal allergies in the Croatia-Serbia cross-border region

EUROPEAN COOPERATION
HEALTHY AND ACTIVE AGEING
FLAGSHIP PROJECT 2014-2020

TOTAL BUDGET
€ 624.220

EU CONTRIBUTION
85% (€ 530.587)

2 JOINT INITIATIVE
Countries

| Silver economy enterprise support | Active ageing for social inclusion | Innovative solutions for (rural) elderly | Healthcare professional skills | **Disease prevention and diagnostics** |

ABOUT

RealForAll addresses seasonal allergies in the Croatia-Serbia cross-border region, focusing mainly on three pollen allergens (Birch, Grass, Ambrosia). Particular attention is given to vulnerable groups (children and elderly people).

RealForAll carries out these activities:

- Introduction of real time monitoring of airborne allergens.
- Development of models for predicting exposure.
- Creation of a joint platform for instant dissemination of information.
- Spread of information regarding prevention and management of allergy symptoms.

OBJECTIVES

The main objective of RealForAll is to enable a public health care system aimed at the successful prevention and management of allergic reactions resulting from exposure to allergenic airborne pollen in the Croatia-Serbia cross-border region.

RESULTS

- Development of affordable, sustainable, and high-quality public health services for supporting management and prevention of allergic reactions.
- Increase in the number of people assisted by public social services, especially elderly population and children.
- Raise awareness of the importance of self-management of chronic allergy.
- Application of ICT in delivering public health information to promote digital literacy in active ageing.

HIGHLIGHTS

- Innovative approach to seasonal allergies by introducing real time monitoring of airborne allergens.
- Clear scalability and transferability of methodologies to other European regions working in allergen avoidance.
- Positive territorial impact on the Croatia-Serbia region enhanced by cross-border cooperation focused on social, economic, and territorial development.

Croatia
Josip Juraj Strossmayer University of OsijekUniverzitet u Novom Sadu

Grad Osijek
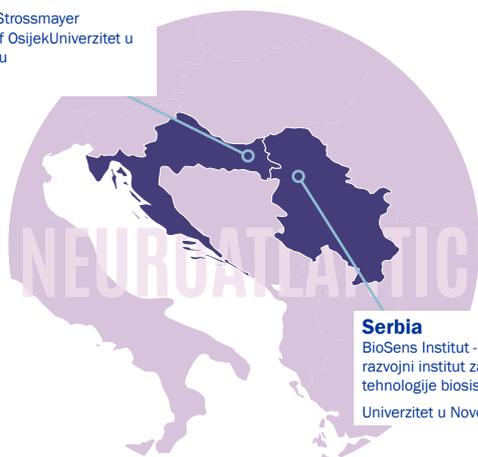
Serbia
BioSens Institut - Istraživačko-razvojni institut za informacione tehnologije biosistema (Lead)

Univerzitet u Novom Sadu

EUROPEAN UNION
European Regional Development Fund

ERDF THEMATIC OBJECTIVE / INVESTMENT PRIORITY

9. Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination.

9a Investing in health and social infrastructure which contributes to national, regional and local development, reducing inequalities in terms of health status, promoting social inclusion through improved access to social, cultural and recreational services and the transition from institutional to community-based services.

FIND OUT **MORE**

Project   Programme

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