A stream of cooperation.

AN UPDATE FROM THE D-CARE LABS

Welcome to the 4th edition of the D-Care Labs newsletter!

We are happy to take a quick look at our rather busy year in his edition.

Our 2022 has been quite a busy year for the partnership. Another year of learning, work, experience sharing and practice has culminated in tangible results - we will present just some of the results as this newsletter is not long enough to present all - and what is more: our activities are not finished yet!

We are currently putting our findings and results in all fields into high gear - translating them into policy proposals and action plans, collective learnings, completing work on social investment and disseminating results from our regional labs. So, read about our results here and stay tuned for more!

We wish you a good and informative read of the newsletter (and do not hesitate to distribute the newsletter further)!

INSIDE THIS NEWSLETTER:

An update from the D-Care Labs
....

D-Care Labs happenings
....

On our results and achievements
....

Coming up
....

Connect with D-Care Labs on social media

Interreg
Danube Transnational Programme
D-CARE LABS

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

D-CARE LABS HAPENINGS

D-CARE LABS MEETING IN VIENNA & REGIONAL EVENT OF THE D-CARE LABS PROJECT IN LJUBLJANA

Following the Zagreb meeting, the partnership held the second on-site workshop in Vienna, hosted by Caritas Vienna. Over two days of the meeting, the work focused on discussions on transnational learning and the D-Care Labs impact model.

While in Vienna, the D-Care Labs team stayed at magdas HOTEL - the first Austrian hotel run as a social business and part of the magdas social business group founded by Caritas in 2012
Director Gabriela Sonnleitner presented the hotel's business model. She spoke about the opening of the hotel and their aim - wanting to give people with refugee backgrounds a chance to get a job.

On the second day of the international meeting in Vienna, partners heard more about the innovation work and the development of the innovation programme of Caritas Österreich. Florian Pomper and Dunja Sporrer presented their work and some of their social projects and innovations - one of the most inspirational ones being Plaudernetz - a chat network for lonely older persons.
The international meeting continued with the travel to Ljubljana, Slovenia, where the partnership held a regional event for interested Slovenian stakeholders.

D-CARE LABS HAPENINGS

REGIONAL EVENT OF THE D-CARE LABS PROJECT HELD IN LJUBLJANA

How can we bridge the gap between knowing what is needed in the field of home care in Slovenia and fulfilling that need? This is a question many social workers, home care organisations, formal or informal carers, relatives of persons in need of home care and others ask themselves daily.

Having learned that the issue is also prevalent in the Danube region and having ideas for how to resolve it, the partnership of the D-Care Labs organized a regional event of the D-Care Labs in Ljubljana, attracting the attention of care workers and organizations involved in home care.

Opening the event was Urška Volk Kovačič, Head of the Danube Programme at the Centre for European Perspective (CEP), who welcomed the participants and stressed the importance of projects like D-Care Labs focusing on innovations in the home care sector. Following was Ana Novak, Project Manager at CEP, who moderated the event and shortly presented the Slovenian situation in the home care sector.

The word then turned to the D-Care Labs project, with Katja Vonhoff (lead partner from Diakonie Baden) addressing the participants in the name of the project partners. She began an exchange with the participants by posing an interesting question to the attendees - 'How familiar are you with the term social innovation in home care?' Admitting that social innovation in the field of care was a relatively new term for the majority of the attendees, this bridge was soon crossed with the help of Katja Vonhoff and Moritz Lackas (from the University of Heidelberg). They presented the work and aims of the project, the D-Care Labs model and focused on answering how social innovation methods address the challenges of the care sector.

3

D-CARE LABS HAPENINGS

REGIONAL EVENT OF THE D-CARE LABS PROJECT HELD IN LJUBLJANA

The presentation was followed by an interactive session with D-Care Labs project partners who, in a speed-dating approach, presented the work of their regional labs. representing different topics and the work of their social innovation labs.

Each partner presented a different aspect of thee lab and proved to be an interesting co-speaker for the participants at the event.

The participants heard more about the establishment of the regional lab from lab newcomers and some practical examples of where to begin and how to approach the participants of the lab and get them thinking about social innovations. While more experienced partners spoke about the mentoring process and ensuring sustainability from more experienced partners.

Labs presenters were: Dedication Lab (FONT – Federation of Social NGOs in Transylvania, Romania), D-Care Lab BW (Grünhof & Diakonie Baden), D-Care Lab Bosnia at Startup Studio (Fondacija Mozaik, D-Care Lab Serbia (MODS – Mreža organizacija za decu Srbije), D-Care Lab Budapest (TOŐSZ – Hungarian National Association of Local Authorities), D-Care Lab Croatia – Centar Socijalnih Inovacija (ACT Grupa), D-Care Lab Vienna (Caritas Wien) and D-Care Lab Bulgaria (FSSB – Federation of Social NGOs Bulgaria).

D-CARE LABS HAPENINGS

REGIONAL EVENT OF THE D-CARE LABS PROJECT HELD IN LJUBLJANA

Following the interactive session, two innovative Slovenian projects focusing on the work in the health and home care field were presented.

Rebeka Žerovnik presented the work of the platform HealthDay.si, and Prof. Dr Vlado Dimovski presented the work of the SI4CARE project focusing on reinforcing cooperation among different levels of the healthcare sector for a higher application of social innovation in elderly health and social care across ADRION countries.

The attendees, along with the D-Care Labs project partners, concluded that cooperation, sharing of knowledge across the region, and the use of social innovation in care, as presented during the D-Care Labs regional event, could be vital in bettering the situation in the home care sector all across the Danube region.

D-CARE LABS AT UNECE CONFERENCE IN ROME

Our D-Care Labs partner Sejdefa Bašić (Mozaik Foundation, BiH), has taken part in the UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing 2022 in Rome between 16th and 17th June 2022.

There she met with the Federal Minister for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth, Lisa Paus. She discussed with her and the representatives of the German Ministry the results and experiences of the D-Care Labs project as well as challenges in long-term care in general. She later met with representatives of the Dutch Ministry of Health and Welfare and presented the activities of the D-Care Labs.

UNECE Ministerial Conference on Ageing 2022 marks the 20th anniversary of adopting the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and its Regional Implementation Strategy (MIPAA/RIS).

With the theme "Joining forces for solidarity and equal opportunities throughout life", the conference addressed:
1) Promoting active and healthy ageing throughout life
2) Ensuring access to long-term care and support for carers and families
3) Mainstreaming ageing to advance society for all ages

A joint Forum of Civil Society and Scientific Research which preceded the Ministerial Conference has prepared a declaration addressing issues and providing guidance for topics to be discussed in the future – among them is also putting more importance on social innovations in the field of care - a subject close to the D-Care Labs as well.

Photos: Sejdefa Bašić (personal archive), Federica Mangano - Dipartimento per le politiche della famiglia, Presidenza del Consiglio dei ministri.

D-CARE LABS CLOSING WEEK IN FREIBURG

D-Care Labs partners joined forces live in Freiburg in September 2022 to exchange experience from the regional innovation labs, with the transnational lab workshop organized by the University of Heidelberg focusing on the initiation of strategic diffusion of social innovation formats, the benefits of transnational collaboration and the continuation of the cooperation of the D-Care Labs partnership.

Located in the beautiful Kreativpark Lokhalle, the headquarters of our partner Grünhof, we heard more about the historical importance of the location (a repurposed and revitalised locomotive hall), coworking, social innovation work of Grünhof, incubation programmes, and the cooperation with the city of Freiburg. The first day of the international meeting featured a transnational workshop on the forms of social innovation and conceptualisation of their growth. We discussed the conceptual difference between scaling and diffusion and talked about different scale structures and formats to boost innovation in the field of integrated home care innovations.

We also visited two other Grünhof locations in Freiburg, where we heard more about their work, growth and some of their biggest successes.

The last workshop of the Transnational lab, conducted by our excellent team of Moritz Lackas and Prof. Dr Andreas Schröer (University of Heidelberg), has focused on experience exchange and the future of transnational collaboration.

Group discussions focused on the transnational aspect of the D-Care Labs project, the value of transnational learning and how to best uphold the culture of collaboration in the continuation of the project.

D-CARE LABS CLOSING WEEK IN FREIBURG

On the third day of the international meeting, we visited Evangelische Altenhilfe St. Georgen (home care service provider), where we heard more about the care situation in Germany and the innovative approaches Evangelische Altenhilfe St. Georgen and their partners are taking to help the informal caregivers and care beneficiaries, with two excellent solutions presented.

The first of the solutions was designed with the German startup Imsimity GmbH and used VR technology to provide training to students in the field of care. VR glasses provide teaching modules to students of care, where they learn about the human body and day-to-day care needs and, among other, also teach the students how to apply injections and medicine.

The second solution presented was the holiday apartments built by Evangelische Altenhilfe St. Georgen as an offer of relief for caring relatives (informal caregivers). Realising the need for relief of informal caregivers, St. Georgen offers several different-size holiday apartments with facilities completely adapted for care-dependent persons. While there, the caregiver has time to relax and rest in the beautiful nature of the Black Forest, and the care-dependent person is taken care of by the care service providers at St. Georgen.

The three-day international meeting in Freiburg continued and ended with the closing event of the D-Care Labs project, held in Lokhalle.

D-CARE LABS CLOSING EVENT IN FREIBURG

Since the start of the D-Care Labs project in 2020, nine regional innovation programs were established in countries of the Danube region.

These D-Care Labs now provide the space and professional support needed to come up with new solutions to persistent challenges in the home care sector.

With about 250 social innovators coming from 9 countries, we were able to pilot-test the innovation programs and develop 47 new home care solutions for care-dependent persons and their caregivers, with the closing event of the D-Care Labs serving as the perfect platform for the presentation of project achievements.

Through the two-year run of the project, we learned that one of the crucial steps to ensure positive change in the care sector through innovation is a dialogue with different stakeholders, and one of the aims of the closing event was also the promotion of dialogue between practitioners, policymakers, the public and other stakeholders on the importance of social innovation in home care and community-based services.

The opening conversation of the closing event featured Prof. Dr Andreas Schröer (University of Heidelberg), Katja S. Vonhoff (Diakonie Baden), and Florian Boukal (Grünhof).
The conversation touched upon the idea and motivation for the development of D-Care Labs and the regional labs due to the lack of innovation structures in the social sector overall,

The discussion also focused on social innovations and the support network for them, the ideas implemented in the D-Care Labs, conclusions on the strategic level that can be drawn to the policy level, the importance of the projects like D-Care Labs, and the outlook for the future, while also pointing out what is needed in the way of funding of social innovation.

The opening conversation continued with the welcome address by Mr Manfred Lucha, Minister of Social Affairs, Health and Integration Baden-Württemberg. He spoke about societal challenges in society and the field of care and expressed support for the project and D-Care Lab BW.

Photos by Nils Theurer, www.texttour-freiburg.de

The keynote speaker of the closing event was Zoran Puljić, director and founder of the Mozaik Foundation spoke about the importance of social innovation programs as an instrument for bottom-up societal change. Speaking from personal experience, he focused on the setup for social innovation, managing internal change, addressing the social impact and managing the digital transition.

Amir Kalajdzini, National Contact Point Interreg B addressed the offline and online public on behalf of the Danube Region Programme (DTP) and spoke about the reason DTP invested in the D-Care Labs on the sustainability of the investment.

But just talking about the results cannot be done without an actual presentation of some of the results. Throughout the event, nine innovations from 9 different countries were presented - the Croatian pitch was done live, while the other eight were done via video. The online and offline public then voted for their favourite three pitches, which were announced at the end of the event.

During the event, another award ceremony took place. Grünhof invited the students of Hochschule Macromedia Freiburg to answer the question "What comes to mind when we say care?" through design. 27 student designs were exhibited for 6 weeks in Lokhalle, with the winners chosen by expert panel.
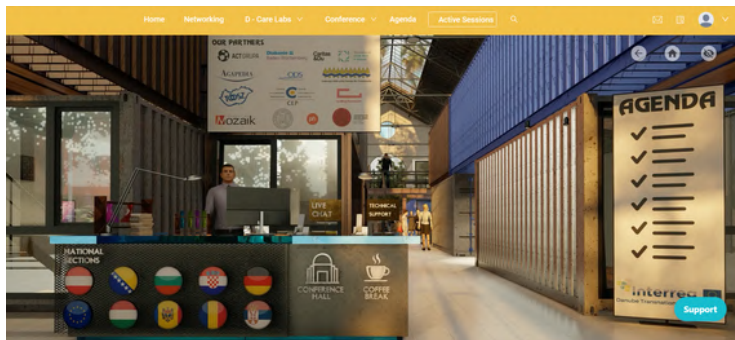

Panel discussion of the closing event focused on the question: "Why do we need innovation programmes for home care and community-based solution development?". Speakers Flaviana Teodosiu from the Directorate General Employment, Social Affairs, and Inclusion at the European Commission; Anikó Soltész, Social Entrepreneurship Expert; Teo Petricević, director of ACT Grupa and Costica Marchidan, participant of D-Care Lab Romania Dedication Lab - Inovare social, discussed the current challenges of care in Europe the EU care strategy plans to address, the funding for social innovation, the support D-Care Labs offers and the impact in the partner countries, while also highlighting the community as a source of feedback for innovations, fostering the atmosphere for social change and more.
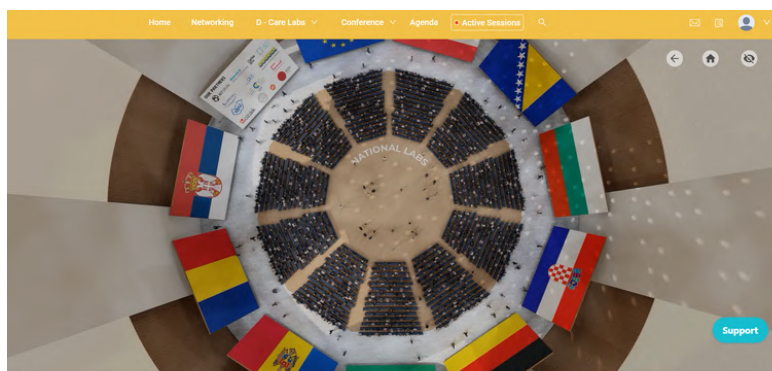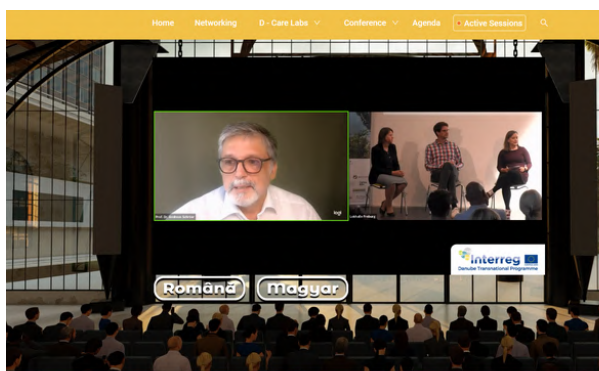

You can find the online platform with the video of the closing event and lab pitches **here**.

D-CARE LABS CLOSING EVENT PLATFORM

The closing event of the D-Care Labs offered the possibility to follow along on-site and online. We've partnered with startup CollectiVibe who prepared the virtual environment based on the on-site location: Lokhalle.
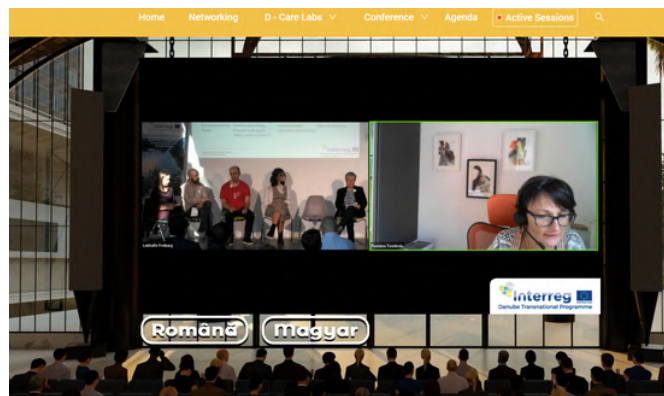

The CollectiVibe virtual platform transferred the offline closing event to the online world with participants being able to follow the discussions and participate with questions, while also being able to explore and vote for video pitches of the regional labs.

Alongside the virtual conference hall, the online platform offered an exhibition zone where more about the national labs and their work was presented. The incubation process, presentations of home care innovations and more about the transnational lab was included in the national lab exhibition.

The virtual platform, which offered simultaneous translation of the event's proceedings in Hungarian and Romanian, also provided online networking possibilities to online participants.
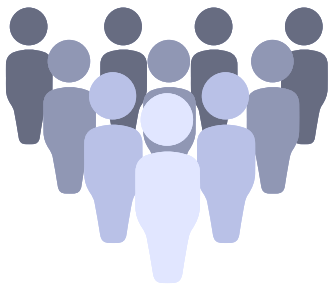

Access the conference platform* **HERE**.
Or find all the publications **HERE**.

You can access the online platform with the video of the closing event until 22 November 2022.

ON OUR RESULTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

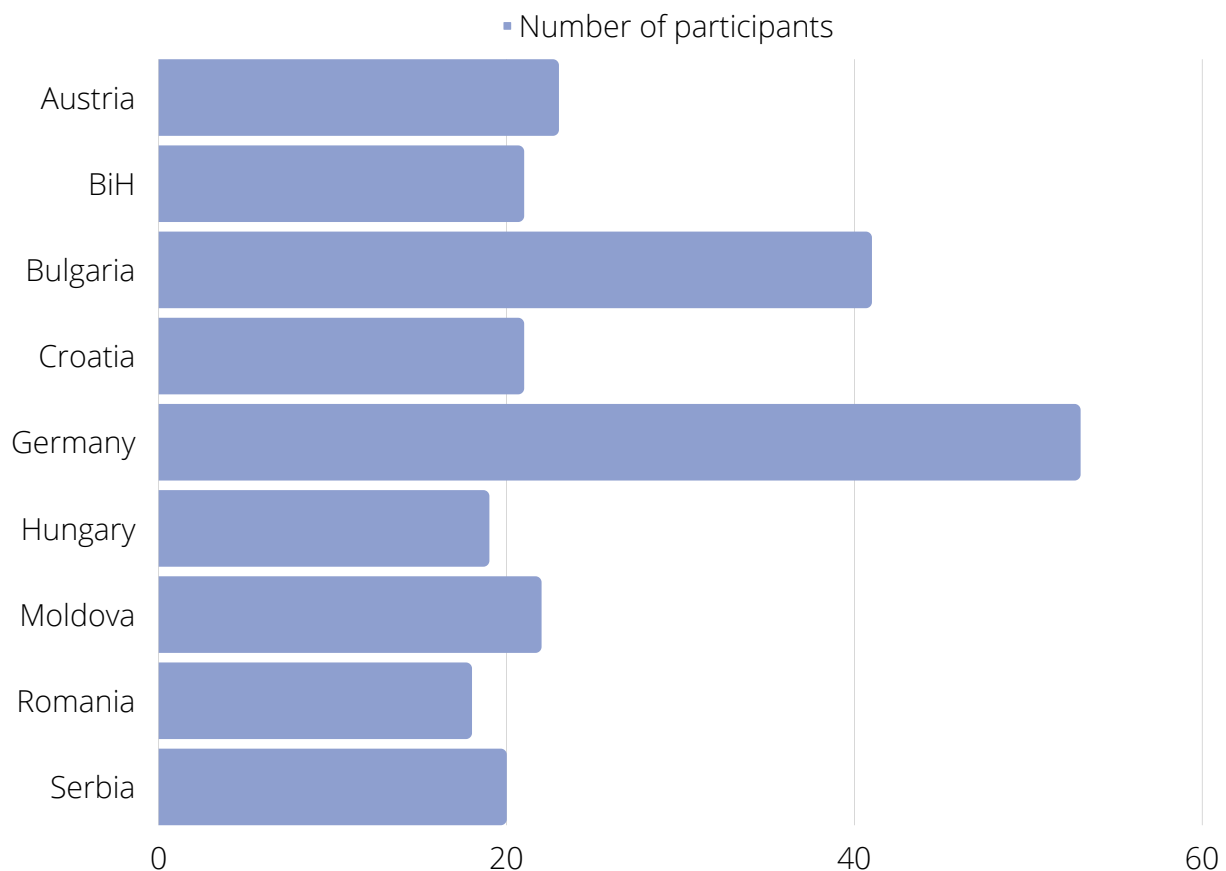The work packages of the D-Care Labs have been busy this year, and here are some tangible results we can present.

More than 230 participants from 9 countries joined our nine regional D-Care Labs and produced 43 new social innovations.

Total number of lab participants: 238*

*9 additional participants joined the new lab cycle occurring in Croatia.

Number of participants by country

■ Number of participants

SOCIAL INNOVATION METHOD TOOLBOX

Innovations do not emerge in a vacuum. The development of sustainable new solutions relies on environmental conditions. Therefore, the question is how to lead innovation initiatives to transformative change to achieve social impact.

In this context, the Transnational Lab workshops of the WP T2 emphasized approaches to system innovation and transformative change. Through a mixture of presentation and discussion panels, the partners concluded that changing the system is less about maximizing the scope of the new solution but a necessary perspective to reflect the environment of innovation initiatives and to acknowledge its complexity. The method toolbox to promote social innovation, created by the University of Heidelberg, takes up this approach and provides a practical guide for the development of sustainable, impact-oriented social business models.
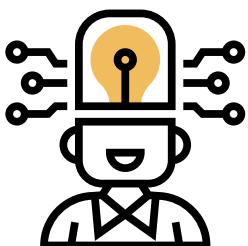
TOOLBOX OF MATCH-MAKING FORMATS FOR THE AREA OF HOME CARE INNOVATION

The toolbox for match-making formats for home care innovation is a document showcasing all the different possibilities for match-making formats between social investors and innovators. It was created as a result of the work package Social investment by lead ACT Grupa with the knowledge and expertise gathered in project partnership and expertise from external supporters.

HOME CARE INNOVATIONS

The document presents the 43 home care innovations developed in 9 regional social innovation labs (also called D-Care Labs). The document is divided into nine parts, with innovations represented under each regional D-Care Lab.

INCUBATION OF D-CARE LABS

The document focuses on an overview of the incubation process and progress in nine regional D-Care Labs. The document is divided into nine parts, with the incubation process presented under each D-Care Lab country.

FIND ALL THE PUBLICATIONS **HERE**.

DON'T MISS OUT ON

COMING UP SOON IN D-CARE LABS!

In the two-year run of the project, the myriad of activities has already culminated in tangible results, and more are coming.

1 TRANSNATIONAL LAB STRATEGY

Strategy is based on ten country reports and intends to identify needs of home care beneficiaries, social innovation challenges & potentials. It will also present the ideal D-Care Lab model.

2 JOINT LEARNINGS

The joint assessment of all gathered learnings from the D-Care Labs project.

3 ECOSYSTEM OF SOCIAL INVESTMENT

The mapping of financial sources, business partners and expertise for the social entrepreneurs and intrapreneurs.

4 PILOT TESTING OF D-CARE LABS

Feedback and report on the nine developed D-Care Labs covering one lab cycle for social intrapreneurs/entrepreneurs.

We are at the conclusion of our short newsletter, and the consortium of the D-Care Labs project wants to thank you for following along with our activities!
We are always happy to hear from you – be it suggestions for improvement, more information, ideas, or even a simple Hello!

For more about our day-to-day activities, we invite you to follow our social media accounts.

FOLLOW D-CARE LABS ON SOCIAL MEDIA:

D-Care Labs Danube Transnational Programme website - click **here**.

D-Care Labs Twitter account

D-Care Labs Facebook account