



# Ecosystem of Social Investment

## D-Care Labs project

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# Introduction

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**9 ecosystems of social investment are created to improve the access of lab providers and innovators to financial resources and business partners in order to ensure the sustainability of home care innovation structures, services and products.**

This aim was two-fold, **D-Care Labs intended to secure more resources and thus sustainability to lab products and the structure itself.**

Each regional lab established an ecosystem of social investors (e.g. private investors, banks, foundations, public financiers, refinancing insurances) and potential business partners.

On the macro-regional level, match-making formats for social investors/business partners and innovators are developed as well as working relationships with transnational operating stakeholders were initiated.

Social investors are an important target group in the D-Care Labs project. Social investors provide financial, social and human capital to create social impact. Social investors, therefore, invest assets in activities which are expected to generate a social impact and return (this may also include financial return). The assets invested are private, philanthropic or public.

Forms of social investments range from grants, patient capital, loans, social impact bonds and others. Social investors mostly require a documented social and financial impact. Examples of social investors are social investment funds, social enterprise funds, social impact investment agencies, philanthropic foundations (incl. venture philanthropists), and social and charitable banks. Public administrations and governments are also acting as social investors. Social investor stakeholders are as important since providing knowledge, connections, media coverage and platforms for networking.

Social investors mapping included all described categories in 9 countries.





The **Ecosystem of Social Investment**, together with the documented learning interactions and lessons learnt, was an essential part of the project partners' path towards a more sustainable lab structure and lab products, and home care innovations. Since many partners work in the social area, there was a need to change their attitude towards solving social problems and to qualify them to use social entrepreneurial and impact investment approaches.

After establishment, the ecosystems shall function on a sustainable basis. The project intended to establish the D-Care innovation structure on a permanent and sustainable basis.

The **map of social investment stakeholders consists of** various segments of the ecosystem – **social investors, capacity supporters, media partners and event organisers**. The regional lab mapped the social investment stakeholders in their region/country based on jointly agreed mapping standards and templates. **The map of social investment stakeholders served as the basis for establishing the ecosystem of social investment for D-Care Labs.**

Mapping potential business partners from the list of social investor stakeholders were the next step for 9 D-Care Labs. The consortium provided a list of social service organisations and their partners, local, regional and central government representatives engaged in the procurement of services and as commissioner of outcomes, socially-minded consumers, corporate purchasers and other stakeholders with whom business relations were initiated or established.

The partners developed and tested concepts on how to interact with these stakeholders, especially with regard to providing regular information and news about innovative care services and products (e.g. via email/website), inviting the relevant stakeholders to specific events (e.g. Regional Demo Days, Social Innovation days), and facilitating collaborations between the business partners and social innovators.

The **Toolbox of the match-making format** was used as a guiding document for partners to test formats and establish more sustainable solutions and structures. Innovative formats were tested. Most of the learning for partners are gathered through support in the creation and implementation of a crowdfunding campaign in Croatia and the EU, social innovation days in Bosnia and Hercegovina, Bulgaria, and Serbia, creating brand new funding facility in Croatia, making innovation teams from different stakeholders in Germany, etc.

The presentations below demonstrate the efforts of the D-Care Labs project in creating and testing the ecosystem.

GERMANY

AUSTRIA

HUNGARY

MOLDOVA

ROMANIA

SLOVENIA

CROATIA

BOSNIA AND  
HERZEGOVINA

SERBIA

BULGARIA

*\*Hover over a country with the cursor so that the map turns yellow.*

GERMANY

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MOLDOVA

ROMANIA

SLOVENIA

CROATIA

BOSNIA AND  
HERZEGOVINA

SERBIA

BULGARIA

# Testing of match making formats

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