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Municipality Ilirska Bistrica

Regional Agency for Entrepreneurship and Innovations – Varna

National Alliance for Social Responsibility

Johanniter Austria Research and Education

UIV-Urban Innovation Vienna

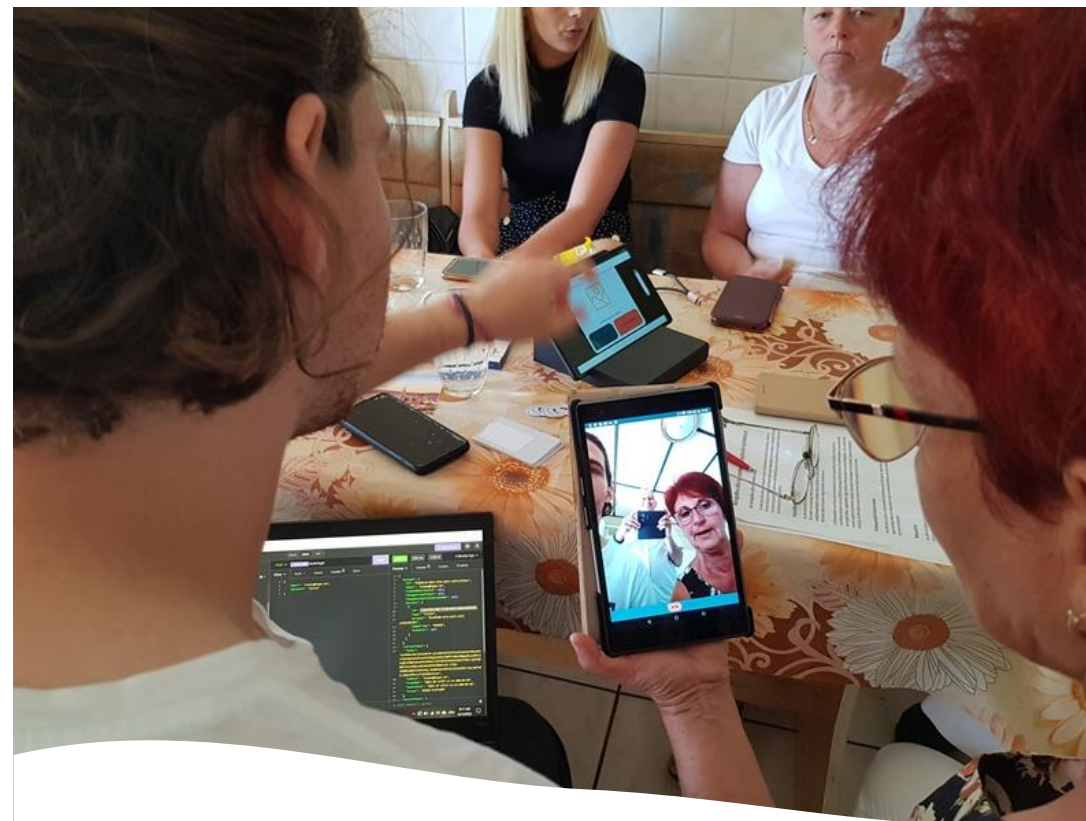
IFKA Public Benefit Non-profit Ltd.

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City of Prijedor

Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Banja Luka Region

Public Medical Sanitary Institution Institute of Oncology



# **Interreg Project D-CARE**

## **2020-2022**

Project co-funded by European Union funds  
(ERDF, IPA, ENI)



# Why Care?

The Danube region and Europe as a whole are experiencing a number of accelerating developments that pose yet unknown challenges to our health and care systems: the Covid pandemic has highlighted the scarce resources in terms of personnel and funding in our health care systems. Yet, this understaffing has been long going and is constantly exacerbated by the demographic shift.

Longer life expectancy and an increase in civilisation diseases additionally worsens this condition. Rural areas are hit first and hardest with younger adults moving to urban regions and leaving older persons living by themselves with low infrastructure density in rural places.

**To ensure a sustainable and dignified life for all our citizens we urgently need to invest substantial resources in the expansion and resilience of our health care systems.**

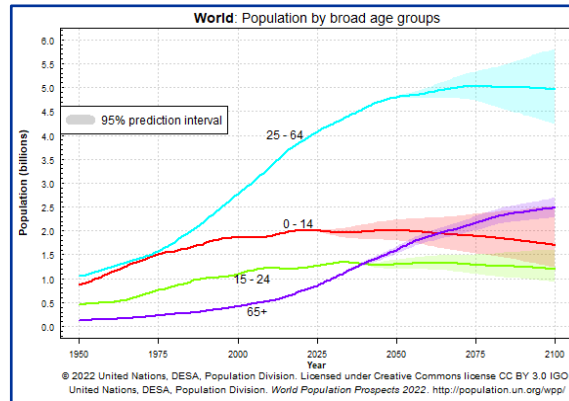


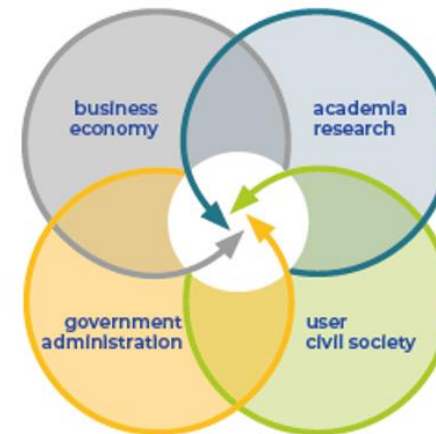
Figure 1: Demographic trends, Source: UN DESA, 2022

# What can we do?

We aim to tackle these challenges through the advancement of smart care, i.e. integrating technological with social innovations, building smart care skills and supporting policy progression for better, accessible and sustainable health care provision. In our nine project countries we have established smart care labs based on the quadruple helix mechanism to scout, test and validate smart care services, foster skills development and push for smart care policy.

## The quadruple helix model

The Quadruple Helix is an innovation collaboration model in which users (citizens), businesses (industry), research actors (academia) and agencies (government) work together to produce, foster and implement innovations.



# Three interventions for smart care



Building smart care skills



Scout, test and validate solutions



Foster smart care policy

Ensuring **compatible and integrated smart care services and eHealth** for every person in the Danube Region

## Building skills

Healthcare workers as well as older adults and their support networks often lack the (digital) skills to use and profit from smart care solutions. With our innovative learning environment we provide a context in which actors can flexibly learn and offer their knowledge on smart care. We develop 24 training modules on various topics for all target groups which are available in digital or hybrid, on demand and for free training programmes.

## Smart Care Labs

In all our nine project countries we establish sustainable cooperation structures among quadruple helix stakeholders to scout, test and validate smart care solutions. The innovation programme and contest marks the catalyzer for self-governed future cooperation: innovators will participate in a contest, enter a co-creation phase in each country and lastly test their solution in a real-life environment.

## Advancing smart care policy

To expand the impact of efforts on national levels, coordination and common approaches on transnational level are necessary to advance smart care systemically in the EU. As a common policy platform is still missing, we develop an integrated strategy for smart care and complement it with regional actions plans on smart care policy advancement.

# Let's get started



Follow our activities and join the discussion:



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