



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

Project duration: **01.07.2020 - 31.12.2022**

**D-Care Labs** is a project implemented under the Interreg Danube Transnational Programme, within Programme Priority 1, and within programme priority Specific objective SO 1.2 Increase competences for business and social innovation.

The project **aims** to establish specialized macro-regional D-Care Lab innovation structures to enable social service providers, product developers and social startups to design and implement better and innovative home care services and products for elderly persons, people with disabilities and children with special needs in 9 Danube Region countries (DE, AT, HU, HR, BG, RO, RS, BiH, MD).

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

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

Social innovation labs offer social entrepreneurs/intrapreneurs a space for developing practicable and marketable solutions for societal challenges with the support of various actors (e.g. innovation experts, beneficiary groups, public authorities).

*26 public and private partners from 10 EUSDR countries are involved in the project.*

**Lead partner:** Diakonie Baden (Germany)

**Budget:** € 2,515,895.12

**ERDF Contribution:** € 2,079,076.46

**IPA Contribution:** € 334,833.33

**ENI-MD Contribution:** € 101,985.3



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