

Interreg Projects - Mapping Synergies

Online Roundtable

Interreg Central Europe

Interreg Danube

24. 01. 2025

1:00 - 2:30 PM

Summary

Introduction and goals of the event

On January 24, 2025, the DigiCare4CE project hosted an online roundtable for representatives of other **Interreg Central Europe** and **Interreg Danube** projects. Titled 'Mapping Synergies,' the event brought together eight projects for an engaging session focused on collaboration and maximizing impact. Held from 1:00 to 2:30 PM, this initiative built upon previous meetings dedicated to exploring synergies between projects. Its goal was to identify opportunities for joint actions, knowledge exchange, and stakeholder engagement, thereby avoiding duplication of efforts, enhancing efficiency, and maximizing the overall impact of these initiatives.

List of the projects their representatives attend the event:

- DigiCare4CE (<https://www.interreg-central.eu/projects/digicare4ce/>)
- PROCAREFUL (<https://www.interreg-central.eu/projects/procareful/>)
- VReduMED (<https://www.interreg-central.eu/projects/vredumed/>)
- Health Labs4Value (<https://www.interreg-central.eu/projects/health-labs4value/>)
- DIGIVITALITY (<https://www.interreg-central.eu/projects/digivitality/>)
- MedWaveImage (<https://www.interreg-central.eu/projects/medwaveimage/>)
- RehAllianCE (<https://www.interreg-central.eu/projects/rehaliance/>)
- DIGI4Care (<https://interreg-danube.eu/projects/digi4care/>)

Within the session, each project had a dedicated timeslot to present their goals and activities for the upcoming year.



A key focus of the event


A key focus of the event was to present each project's goals and activities for the coming year to maximize the impact of Interreg projects. Participants were encouraged to define actions that could benefit others and leverage project findings for further applications and collaborations.


Individual One-Slide Project Presentations


Below is a summary slide for each project, highlighting key points discussed by the representatives.


DigiCare4CE


Digital transformation of long-term care (LTC) facilities for older people

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Owners and operators (= managers) of long-term care facilities
Actors from politics, administration, higher education & research, business and interest groups involved in care.
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Implementation plan: A step-by-step guide for practical implementation with key considerations.
DigiCare4CE online tool: Self-assessment tool for LTC facilities to compare their digitalisation level with EU peers and access a step-by-step digital transformation guide.
Practitioner guidelines: General recommendations based on pilot case studies, highlighting experiences and actionable insights.
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19. 02. 2025 Webinar to introduce and launch the DigiCare4CE online tool
19. 11. 2025 Policy Conference in St. Pölten, Austria
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EAN-Network
ECHAlliance / Aging2.0
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Conducting a regional webinar together with other project partners from southern Germany on the general topic of Interreg projects in the health and care sector



PROCAREFUL
Proactive Care for Users Life

Target groups

Local and public authorities; managers of social and health care organizations; care professionals, seniors

Main outputs

ACTION PLAN (O.1.1)

Comprehensive strategy to implement the hybrid care model

PROCAREFUL Platform (O.2.2)

Designed to promote behavioural change and healthy habits in people aged 55+

Project events

National seminars in Croatia, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Slovenia, Poland - Mid 2025

International event - End of 2025 / Beginning of 2026

Networks

Network for the adoption of PROCAREFUL model (O.1.2)

ENSA network (<https://www.ensa-network.eu/>); ECHalliance (<https://echalliance.com/>);

Aging2.0 (www.aging2.com)

Collaboration: DigiCare4CE project

Project acronym: VReduMED (CE0100136)

Project title: Virtual Reality Education and Training Solutions for Medicine Sector

Project target group(s)

Schools or higher education, caretakers, med-tech companies, education-support organizations

Relevant outputs

Two VR applications to be used in care education process

Roadmap and Handbook for implementation of VR into edu. processes

Upcoming events in 2025

Project meetings (June 2025: Regensburg | October 2025: Linz)

Project final conference: February 2026: České Budějovice

Networks (national or EU-wide) that might be of interest for other projects

The project consortium includes technical experts and education organizations from CZ, SK, HU, AT, DE + regional networks (e.g. ZVaS: Institute for further education of teachers)

Optional: concrete collaboration idea with other projects



Project acronym: Health Labs4Value

Project title: Establishment of sustainable structures for the deployment of innovations, transfer of technologies, and knowledge in health care systems in CE based on oi 2.0 principles



Project target group(s): Hospitals and medical centres, higher education and research organisations, SMEs, patients and their relatives



Relevant outputs: 5 new technical solution based on pilot experiences, transnational cooperation of HCOs, KPs and policymakers from 5 CE healthcare ecosystems, transnational strategy, territorial action plans



Upcoming events in 2025: 2 project meetings (May Poland, November (?) Slovenia), Transnational conference promoting results from the pilot (end of 2025 Hungary)



Networks (national or EU-wide): Health Labs4Value network in 5 partner countries (Czech Republic, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Slovenia) and their transnational cooperation, which will have a formal basis.



Optional: concrete collaboration idea with other projects

In November 2024, the DIGIVITALITY project was presented at a project meeting in the Czech Republic. The other projects will also have the opportunity to participate in person at the transnational conference 2025 in Hungary at the end of the year.

DIGIVITALITY - no presentation



DigiCare4CE

MedWavelmage

Microwave imaging (MWI) technology transfer to innovate the medical sector

MedWavelmage



Project target groups: higher education and research organisations developing novel medical applications of microwaves; hospitals and medical centres, especially hyperthermia treatments, breast cancer and brain stroke units; small and medium-sized enterprises active in the microwave sector; general public.

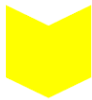


Relevant outputs: 1) MWI prototypes preclinical feasibility testing. 2) MWI devices industrial realization. 3) MWI devices clinical feasibility testing. 4) Final microwave imaging devices, protocols and recommendations.



Events: June 2025, MedWavelmage workshop in person at the Politecnico di Torino, Torino, Italy. It will focus on the results of first pilot action, and it will be mainly devoted to higher education and research organizations.

March 30 – April 4, 2025, 19th European Conference on Antennas and Propagation. Academic partners will present advancements on the developed MWI prototypes.



Networks: EMERALD (European Training Networks) <http://www.msca-emerald.eu>

LAA-START (Fast Track to Innovation) <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/831117>

ultraTHERM (German-Czech collaboration research project) <https://gepris.dfg.de/gepris/projekt/336022083>

ultraMAMMA (German Science Foundation) <https://gepris.dfg.de/gepris/projekt/241894440>

Project acronym:

Project title: RehAllianCE - Optimizing usage of new technologies in rehabilitation to improve life quality of Central Europe citizens

RehAllianCE



Project target groups:

- Pilots -> SMEs
- Recommendations and strategies -> Authorities, SMEs, citizens



Relevant outputs:

- Co-Designed solution supporting business acceleration and entering new markets
- 5 solutions for effective rehabilitation, utilizing advanced rehab. devices and IT/ AI
- Strategy + policy recommendations for regional/national policies and Smart-Rehab-INDEX
- Competence Centre



Upcoming events in 2025 :

- Ongoing - OPEN CALL for SMEs in rehabilitation – deadline 14.02.2025



Networks (national or EU-wide) :

- MedSilesia Key National Cluster (Poland)
- The Council of European BioRegions CEBR
- ScanBalt



Concrete collaboration idea with other Projects:

- Promotion – OPEN CALL !!!



Project acronym: DIGI4Care

Project title: Digital Medical technologies reshaping the DR Healthcare systems throughout the patient journeys from prevention to rehabilitation



Project target group(s): Healthcare professionals, Higher education and research organisations, Hospitals and medical centres, SMEs, Interest groups including NGOs, National public authorities, Regional public authorities, Patients



O1.2 Knowledge Platform and Radar, O1.3 Digitally Enabled Integrated Care Model (ICM) Strategy, O1.4 Institutional-Level Action Plans to the ICM Strategy, O2.2 Data Management Model, O3.1 Training and Capacity-building Toolbox, O3.2 Dashboard



Upcoming events: We recommend to put emphasis on local synergies and attend the sensitisation workshops (estimated start date: 2026) and stakeholder events.



Networks (national or EU-wide) that might be of interest for other projects: JACARDI, DHI Cluster, CEE HPN, HRTD Cluster



Concrete collaboration idea with other projects: Social media multiplier effect; Joint dissemination activities: inviting each other to the final conference, synergy newsletter

Contact: digi4care_coordination@emk.semmelweis.hu

Web: <https://interreg-danube.eu/projects/digi4care> LinkedIn: [DIGI4Care Project](#)

Key takeaways

DigiCare4CE

- The implementation plan for pilot actions developed within the DigiCare4CE project may be beneficial for other projects.
- The DigiCare4CE online tool, designed as a self-assessment model, enables LTC facilities to compare their level of digitalization with EU peers and access a step-by-step digital transformation guide. This tool is also available for use by project partners.
- Colleagues were invited to a webinar on February 19, 2025, to introduce and launch the DigiCare4CE online tool. Additionally, a policy conference is scheduled for November 19, 2025, in St. Pölten, Austria.
- DIT, the coordinator of the DigiCare4CE project, expressed openness to collaboration with potential partners in the LTC sector from southern Germany for future Interreg projects. This opportunity was extended to all Roundtable participants.



Digi4Care (Danube Region)

- No public events are planned for 2025, as project representatives will focus on engaging local partners and stakeholders. However, for 2026, they plan to organize a series of sensitization workshops for healthcare professionals and are considering inviting partners from Interreg synergy projects.
- Peer visits in 2025 will be sensitive and therefore not open to Interreg colleagues.
- Their podcast series serves as an inspiration for effective communication with the target audience. They are also open to collaborating with synergy projects on workshops and webinars.
- A public methodology for stakeholder mapping is available at: [Digi4Care Library](#), and this resource was shared with meeting participants.

DIGIVITALITY

- The main output of the project is the Digital Health Innovation Playbook, developed based on data from start-ups and hospitals in Czechia, Slovenia, Slovakia, Hungary, Germany, and Poland.
- A key synergy identified among Interreg projects is networking and data sharing from pilot actions. As a result, a final event has been announced for June 2025 in Prague, Czechia, with all Roundtable participants invited. The exact date will be communicated via social media and the project website.
- Wound management applications are being tested within this project as well as in DigiCare4CE, creating an opportunity for collaboration. The lead partner of DigiCare4CE will contact the German partner (EIT Health, e.V.) of DIGIVITALITY to discuss the possibility of organizing a webinar in Germany.

Health Labs4Value

- A transnational conference will be organized in Hungary at the end of 2025, focusing on the presentation of pilot testing for five new technical solutions. All participants were invited to attend, and an official invitation will be sent to them.
- The DIGIVITALITY project was already presented at a Health Labs4Value project meeting in Czechia in November 2024.
- A discussion took place between Health Labs4Value and PROCAREFULL regarding the involvement of patients and their relatives in pilot testing of the value-based approach. To encourage participation, motivational tools such as vouchers and coupons are being used in private hospitals.
- The core concept of the value-based approach is shifting the mindset from a disease-centred model to a patient-centred and holistic approach.
- A Digi4Care representative highlighted a strong synergy between their project and Health Labs4Value. While Health Labs4Value focuses on patients, Digi4Care addresses the healthcare system and the entire patient pathway. Both projects see an opportunity to maintain bilateral communication to compare perspectives and approaches in healthcare. Digi4Care will reach out to Health Labs4Value to explore further collaboration.



PROCAREFULL

- One of the main outputs of the project is the PROCAREFULL Platform, designed to promote behavioural change and healthy habits among individuals aged 55+. The platform will be available to all organizations in the care sector across Europe.
- A series of national seminars is planned for mid-2025 in Croatia, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Slovenia, and Poland. Participants were encouraged to invite partners from these countries as both attendees and speakers, presenting a great opportunity to strengthen Interreg collaboration.
- An international event is planned for late 2025 or early 2026 in Italy. Further details and specific content will be shared at a later stage.
- The project team is seeking organizations across Central Europe interested in adopting the PROCAREFULL model and solutions developed within the project. Participants were invited to express their interest in joining.

RehAllianCE

- The project supports SMEs by improving their access to research and development infrastructure in Europe and assisting them in the internationalization process and product validation.
- Recommendations, strategies, and outputs from pilot projects will be shared with participants in 2026.
- The team plans to engage Roundtable participants as peer reviewers during the development of the Smart-Rehab-INDEX.
- All developed solutions and strategies will be made publicly available through a competence centre platform.
- All participants received a link and invitation to share an open call for SMEs, which offers free-of-charge support. The application deadline for the call is February 14, 2025.

VReduMED

- The project focuses on the use of VR technology in medical and caregiving education systems. Currently, two VR applications are being tested for implementation in care education.
- Participants were invited to the final project conference in České Budějovice in February 2026.
- Discussions from this Roundtable will be presented at the next Steering Committee meeting to explore potential collaboration opportunities among Interreg projects.



MedWavelmage

- The project aims to integrate microwave imaging technology into medical practice. Currently, three prototypes are being tested, with plans for clinical trials in three hospitals.
- The project representative highlighted two upcoming events:
 - A workshop in Italy in June 2025.
 - The 19th European Conference on Antennas and Propagation, taking place from March 30 to April 4, 2025.

General Discussion

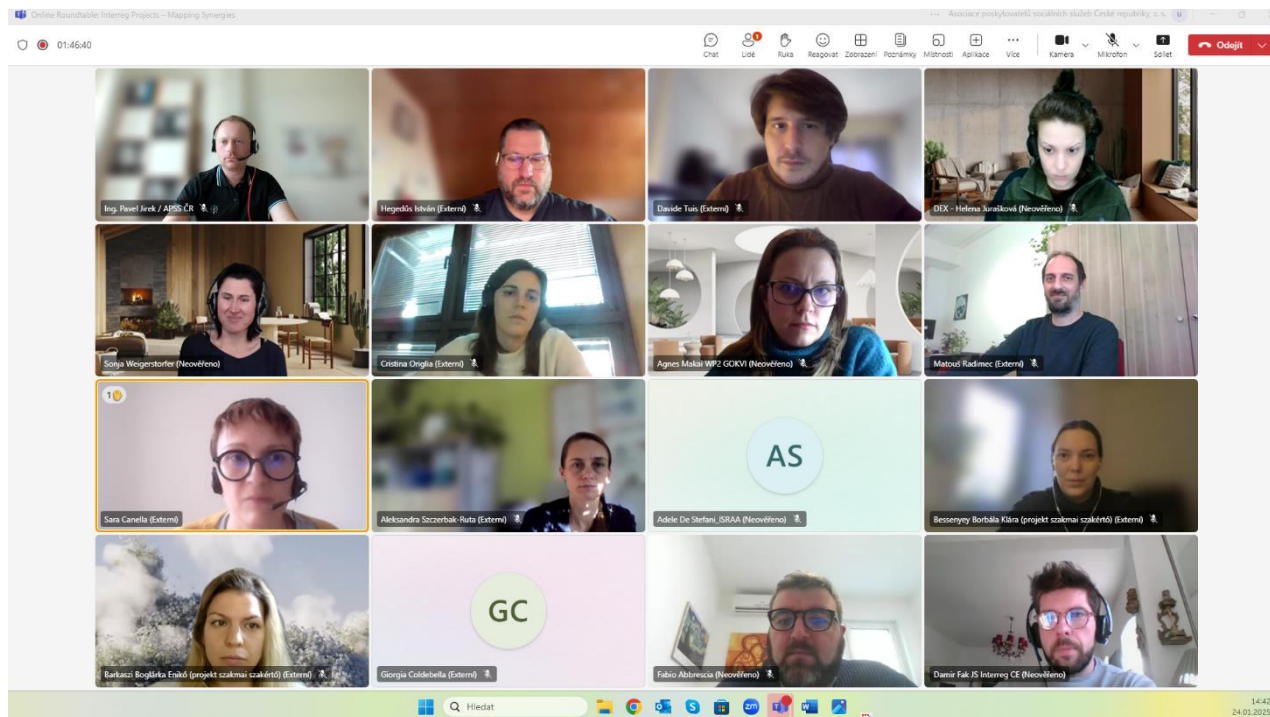
A key topic of discussion was how to encourage more SMEs and startups to participate in open calls and support programs within Interreg projects. While these opportunities provide significant benefits, project teams have found it challenging to attract organizations once the calls are open.

- International networks and local contact points could be valuable in reaching out to SMEs and mapping similar EU projects, as many of these initiatives are also implemented by SMEs.
- Healthcare Labs in Germany, for example, could be a useful resource for conducting online research on existing labs to help identify and engage SMEs.
- Simplifying paperwork and administrative processes related to open calls is crucial, given the limited human resource capacity of startups. Startups are more likely to participate if they receive direct funding rather than just services.
- A significant challenge is that many startups are controlled by larger corporations, which limits their ability to engage in project activities.

Future actions

- A contact list of participants was shared after the meeting to facilitate potential bilateral follow-up meetings.
- As the DigiCare4CE project and many participating projects enter their final year of implementation in 2025, they will no longer coordinate the organization of online roundtables focused on synergies. However, due to the success of these meetings, it was proposed that the Joint Secretariat offer projects funded under the second Interreg call the opportunity to take over leadership and continue fostering project cooperation. These projects are now in a strong position to take the lead in this initiative.
- The Joint Secretariat of the Interreg Programme organizes a similar roundtable annually, either online or in person in Vienna. If such an event is planned for 2025 (likely in October), all participants will be invited.





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