

**Interreg
Danube Region**



Co-funded by
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Caring Communities

WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2024

CARING COMMUNITIES PROJECT



More about Caring Communities

"Caring Communities" is the successor of the D-Care Labs project and continues its mission. The project aims to build capacities and interregional cooperation structures of different types of public and private actors to initiate transformative impacts on home- and community-based services to improve the quality of life of care-dependent people in rural and urban areas of the Danube Region. It has a transnational multi-level approach for transformative change in the homecare sector and community-based development & its priority is to have a better governance of cooperation in the Danube Region.



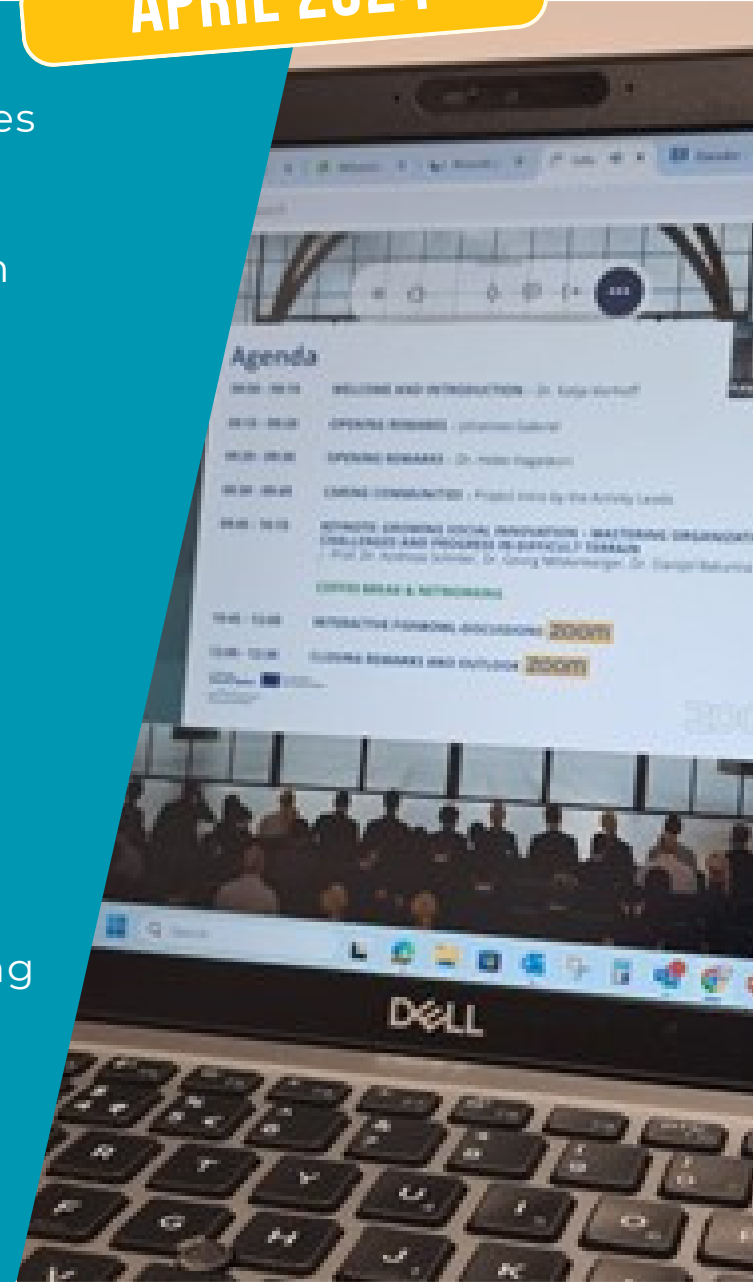
APRIL 2024

Danube Region Social Innovation Summit

The first online summit for the Caring Communities project brought together all the partners of the Caring Communities project, more than 180 participants from across the Danube region, for an insightful session. In addition to the short introduction and keynote messages from the dedicated speakers, the event included some interactive sessions for the participants on topics such as:

- Digital innovations in care,
- Rethinking care dependency,
- Creating caring communities,
- Caring for those who care - attracting & retaining talent
- Social services with time and quality
- Nurturing creativity and entrepreneurial spirit in care

The day and the event ended with so many exciting ideas shared between the participants and the partners involved in the project. It was a day dedicated to social innovation & care, and we look forward to what's next!



APRIL 2024

"Multilevel approaches for the digital transformation of the "Caring Communities" event in Bulgaria

University of Ruse "Angel Kanchev" hosted the round table "Multilevel approaches to the digital transformation of "caring communities". The event was part of the Second National Scientific and Practical Conference "Digital Transformation of Education - Problems and Solutions". Scientists from the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology, the University of Ruse, representatives of the Union of Social NGOs in Bulgaria and other non-governmental organisations and entrepreneurs officially marked the beginning of the "Caring Communities" project in Bulgaria, which is a product of an international consortium led by Diakonia Baden.



The project leader for the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology Ch. Prof. Martin Ivanov presented the project proposal of "Caring Communities" as a sustainable continuation of the results of the "D-Care Labs" project. Transnational multi-level approaches will be used for transformative change in the home care sector and community-based development in the Danube region, with Bulgaria's role being to lead the scientific team developing the formative evaluation of the project's two programmes - Accelerator and Systemic Innovation. In the Bulgarian case, an accelerator programme to support social innovators, developed by the other Bulgarian partner - the Federation of Social NGOs in Bulgaria (FSSB), will be implemented. In a lively discussion, participants discussed the steps that can be taken using digital technologies to increase the impact of social innovation in a way that enables the inclusion in social life of the most vulnerable groups, such as the elderly, children, people with disabilities and those on the lowest incomes.

APRIL 2024

Caring Communities – Towards Sustainable Financing of Social Care Services - Serbia

The Caring Communities initiative aims to improve the quality of life of people in need of care in the Danube region. Through capacity building for innovation and interregional cooperation structures, involving various private and public actors and supported by the academic community, this initiative seeks to address the problems faced by people across Europe.

The event was an opportunity to exchange ideas within the Caring Communities initiative and to consider ways of actively involving all relevant partners.



MAY 2024

First event in Brasov, Romania

The first event of the year, organised by the Caring Communities project team, took place on 14 May in Braşov and brought together representatives of NGOs working in the field of home care and beyond, from Braşov and Covasna counties, as well as representatives of local public institutions, who either presented examples of good practice from the home care sector or came with perspectives directly from the ground on the current situation. The day was also dedicated to a brief presentation of the "Caring Communities" project, which aims to develop a social innovation accelerator through close collaboration with practitioners in the field, from the community.

On a short note, the main ideas of the event were:

- It is important to work together, to get involved and to allow time and space for grassroots discussions;
- A change of mindset is needed in terms of how to approach long-term care and quality services;
- By creating regular activities to raise awareness and inform communities about the need for care, long-term care services can be improved;
- It is important to properly reward, motivate and value qualified staff to avoid their migration;
- Everything should be based on easy and efficient cooperation between local/national public institutions and those providing care services.



JUNE 2024

First Accelerator Group Meeting

Our accelerator group recently met to present and discuss our draft concepts for the accelerator programme. Everyone took turns presenting their ideas, explaining what they wanted to achieve and how. After each presentation, we all jumped in with feedback, sharing our thoughts and suggestions. The discussions were lively and we got a lot of different perspectives that helped us see new possibilities and improvements. In the end, we all had a bunch of great ideas to help us move forward with our projects. It was a super productive session and we left feeling excited and ready to continue developing our concepts.



The screenshot shows a Miro board titled "CC accelerators - Miro". The board contains a flowchart with the following stages and details:

- Initial business analysis and individual development (acceleration) plan**
 - What to prepare: Business expert
- Acceleration process**
 - Individual tailor-made mentorship 1:1 (1-2 mentors at the same time)
 - Progress monitoring - online short meeting 1:1 (every 2 weeks)
 - Online education - LMS platform (Business model, Finance, Marketing, Sales, Impact management)
 - Trainings for whole group in Cro (group 2024) and this accelerator specific (eg. innovation, management, agile development, networking and partnerships, scaling, ...)
 - Networking event of the Cro group, (networking with users in other accelerators?)
 - Promotion of participants "gamification" - rewards for best participants: video, photo, marketing material, additional mentorship?
- Possible trainings according to needs (what we know before selection and analysis):**
 - Internal management and operations (communication, coordination, digitization)
 - HR
 - Fundraising
 - Digital literacy of their employees
 - Better communication and support to their beneficiaries and vulnerable groups
 - Sectoral and intersectoral networks
- Evaluation and follow-on**
 - Promotion of participants. Additional networking, ...
 - All participants stay in AG alumni network and can access support even after the project.
- What to prepare:**

The flowchart also includes a timeline at the bottom: Oct. 24 → Nov. 24 → Dec. 24 - May 25 (6 months acceleration) → June 25 - Dec 25.

On the right side of the Miro board, there is a video call interface with five participants:

- Participant 1: A man with a beard and glasses.
- Participant 2: A woman with long brown hair.
- Participant 3: A man with short grey hair.
- Participant 4: A woman with dark hair, identified as "Diabete B Baden".
- Participant 5: A woman with glasses and a blue top.

The Miro interface shows a zoom level of 29% and a page indicator of 2/10.

SEE YOU SOON!

Thank you for reading our first issue and if you'd like to find out more about Caring Communities, we invite you to follow us on our Social Media channels!

Facebook | Instagram | LinkedIn | Youtube | Website

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