

Transnational Innovation Programme

on Homecare and Community-based Services

A Blueprint for Transnational Capacity-building

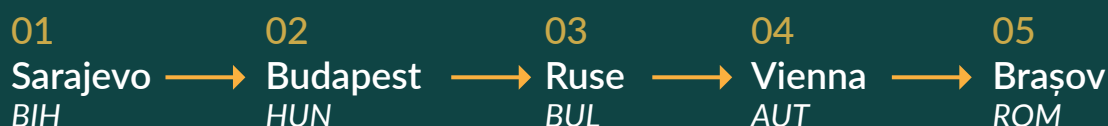
WHAT TIP DELIVERS

Transnational teams developing homecare innovations or adapting existing solutions across borders, with transfer-ready outputs that reach new contexts.

FIVE MODULES · TWO PATHWAYS · CONTINUOUS MENTORING · TRANSFER OUTPUTS

*Care challenges rarely stop at borders.
Neither should solutions.*

FIVE LEARNING MODULES HOSTED ACROSS THE DANUBE REGION



Transnational Innovation Programme

Blueprint for Transnational Capacity-building

This blueprint is a practical methodology guide designed to help organisations, municipalities, authorities, NGOs, social enterprises, service providers, innovation support organisations and donors understand the TIP approach and adapt it to their own contexts.

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The Challenge & How to Read This Blueprint

A structured journey that builds transnational teams, develops homecare innovations, and supports their transfer across borders.

Across the Danube Region, local communities face growing pressures in homecare and community-based services. Serious shortages of professional staff and volunteers, overburdened informal caregivers, and the slow integration of digital support systems are challenges that no single municipality, organisation or country can address alone.

Practical solutions exist in different parts of the region, but they rarely travel. Knowledge stays local. Good models are not systematically shared, adapted or transferred across borders. The challenge is less about whether good ideas exist and more about whether there are structures that can connect them, test them and help them travel.

The Transnational Innovation Programme (TIP), piloted within the Caring Communities project, was designed to address this gap. TIP brought together transnational teams to develop new homecare solutions or adapt existing innovations from one country to another, combining modular learning, mentoring, peer exchange, study visits, prototyping and public dissemination.

How to Read This Blueprint

Throughout the document, three types of information are distinguished. Future implementers are encouraged to preserve the core methodology while adapting team numbers, duration, module format and dissemination channels to their context.

PILOT EVIDENCE

What the Caring Communities pilot produced, offered as illustration rather than prescription.

METHODOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

The core functions that define TIP regardless of context.

REPLICATION GUIDANCE

Recommendations to adapt to your context, team size and available channels.

Who This **Blueprint** Is For

This blueprint assumes no prior knowledge of the Caring Communities project and is written as a standalone guide.

Project Coordinators & Partnership Managers

Local authorities looking to strengthen care services by connecting with approaches developed and tested in other countries.

Municipalities & Local Authorities

Those leading transnational cooperation projects who need a structured, tested methodology for running innovation programmes across borders.

NGOs, Social Enterprises & Service Providers

Organisations wanting to develop new solutions or explore how existing innovations from other countries could be adapted to their setting.

Innovation Support Organisations & Accelerators

Organisations looking for a tested transnational model to adopt or build on when working with teams on social or care-related solutions.

Donors & Programme Designers

Those needing to understand what a structured transnational capacity-building programme looks like: what it requires, produces and what conditions make it work.

Public Institutions & Policy Actors

Institutions interested in connecting local care innovation to broader regional policy dialogue, knowledge exchange and transfer.

THIS BLUEPRINT IS PARTICULARLY USEFUL IF YOU ARE

Planning a new transnational care innovation programme, looking to adapt TIP to a new context, evaluating TIP as a model for capacity-building investment, or connecting local care innovation to transnational transfer.

The TIP Approach: How It Works

A structured journey that builds transnational teams, develops homecare innovations, and supports their transfer across borders.

TIP brings together teams from different countries to work on shared challenges, either developing new solutions or adapting existing innovations from one country to another.

The Module Journey

The module sequence follows a tested logic. The number of modules may be adapted; the logic of the sequence should be preserved.



Two Pathways, One Methodology

TIP supports two distinct types of work within the same programme structure. Both pathways follow the same module and mentoring sequence, but the starting point and the nature of the work differ.



Beyond the Modules: Dissemination and Transfer Spaces

TIP does not end with the final module. The programme connects to broader spaces for sharing results, policy dialogue and community building.

THE POLICY AND KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE PLATFORM

A space for knowledge exchange and policy dialogue, bringing together public institutions, municipalities, NGOs, service providers and care sector professionals. During the programme it connects teams to the wider policy landscape; after the programme it carries TIP results to practitioners and policy actors beyond the innovation journey itself.

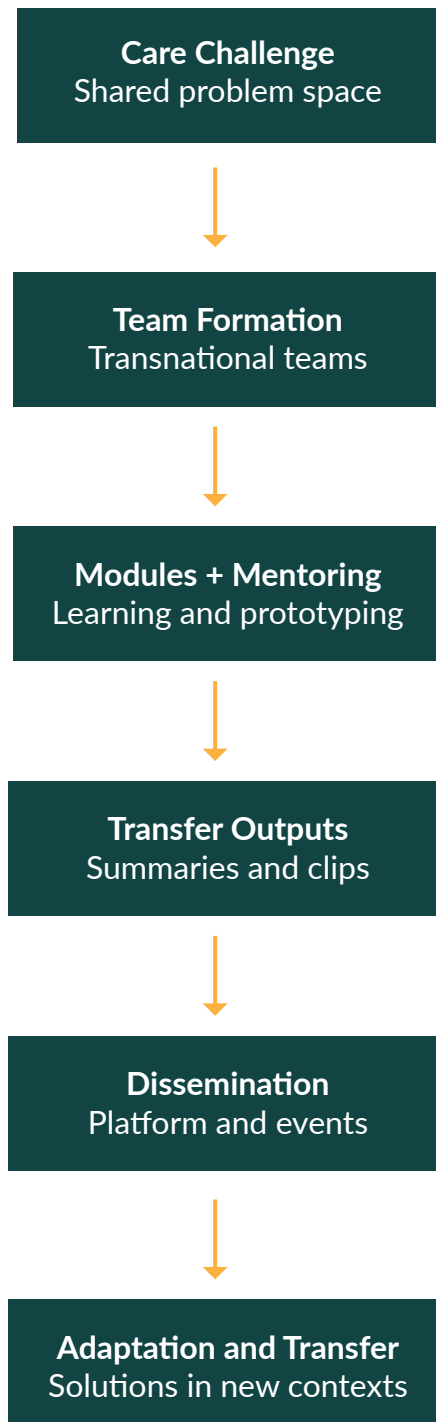
For future implementations: A platform does not need to be large infrastructure. An existing network, working group or event series can serve the same function.

REGIONAL DISSEMINATION SUMMITS

Summits serve as the main public dissemination and community-building events. A recurring finding across the programme was that good examples of homecare innovation already exist across the region. The real challenge lies in connecting them and ensuring their long-term sustainability.

For future implementations: At least one public-facing dissemination event is worth building in. It does not need to be a large regional summit.

The Full TIP Methodology at a Glance



The modules build the solutions; the platform and summits carry them forward. Future implementers are encouraged to design the dissemination layer at the same time as the module structure.

Running TIP: The Operational Sequence

Nine steps across three phases, from challenge mapping to post-programme follow-up.

Each step includes what needs to happen, who typically leads it, and what the expected output is.

The responsibility lines below indicate suggested implementation leads for future replication, not fixed project staffing requirements.

PHASE 1 • PREPARATION

01

Identify the Care Challenge Landscape

Before recruiting teams, the coordinating organisation maps the homecare and community-based service challenges relevant across the participating countries. This confirms a shared problem space and that transnational cooperation adds value.

Suggested lead: Programme coordinator, in consultation with partner organisations.

Output: A shared problem framing that informs team recruitment and module design.

02

Select and Form Transnational Teams

Team selection is one of the most important design decisions. Teams bring together actors from different countries who share a care challenge or complementary interest in a solution area. The number of teams is defined according to available mentoring capacity, module hosting resources and follow-up capacity.

Suggested lead: Programme coordinator, with input from partner organisations and local stakeholders.

Output: Confirmed team list with profiles, challenge statements and country representation.

03

Design and Assign the Module Structure

Each module requires a host organisation responsible for the local programme, study visits, logistics and local stakeholder engagement. Hosts are briefed on their module's focus, expected outputs and the overall programme logic before the programme begins.

Suggested lead: Programme coordinator assigns modules; host partners design local content.

Output: Module plan including dates, host, focus, study visit plan and expected team outputs.

04

Assign Mentors and Establish the Mentoring Structure

Mentor support is clearly assigned to each team. Mentors keep teams moving between modules: following up on progress, helping teams reflect on challenges and preparing them for the next module.

Suggested lead: Programme coordinator assigns mentors; mentors manage their own check-in schedule.

Output: Mentoring plan with assigned mentor per team, check-in schedule and format for mentoring notes.

PHASE 2 • IMPLEMENTATION

05

Run the Modules with Integrated Between-Module Tasks and Peer Learning

Each module combines structured inputs, peer learning, study visits and practical teamwork. Between modules, teams complete defined between-module tasks that advance their solution concept. Study visits help teams connect their ideas with real-world practice and identify what is transferable.

Suggested lead: Host partner designs and runs the module; programme coordinator oversees coherence; mentors follow up between modules.

Output: Updated solution concept, completed tasks, peer feedback notes, study visit reflections.

06

Prototype and Pitch

In the middle and later modules, teams move from concepts toward prototypes. A prototype can take many forms: a service model, a partnership structure, a pilot plan or a visual representation of the solution. Preparing a pitch helps teams clarify what their solution is, who it is for and what is needed to take it forward.

Suggested lead: Teams, supported by mentors and module hosts.

Output: Prototype or prototype plan, pitch deck, refined solution concept.

PHASE 3 • DISSEMINATION AND FOLLOW-UP

07

Prepare Transfer-Ready Outputs

Every team works toward a TIP homecare innovation summary: a short, publicly shareable document covering the challenge, proposed response, development stage, achieved results, future plans and contact details. This is the primary transfer tool. Teams are also encouraged to produce a TIP video clip, which makes the solution accessible to audiences who may not read a written document.

Suggested lead: Teams, supported by communication support from the coordinating organisation.

Output: A TIP homecare innovation summary per team; a TIP video clip where produced.

08

Connect to Dissemination and Transfer Spaces

The final module and the period immediately following it connect TIP outputs to broader dissemination spaces. This includes presenting solutions at events and policy platforms, publishing TIP homecare innovation summaries and TIP video clips where produced, and facilitating contact between teams and interested external actors.

Suggested lead: Programme coordinator and communication support, in cooperation with policy platform and event organisers.

Output: Published summaries and video clips, event presentations, contact facilitation.

09

Post-Programme Follow-Up

After the final module, a defined follow-up period helps teams maintain momentum, navigate next steps and stay connected to the broader network. This may include structured check-ins, access to mentor support and connection to relevant funding or partnership opportunities.

Suggested lead: Programme coordinator, with mentor support.

Output: Follow-up plan defined before the final module; check-in notes at agreed intervals after completion.

Who Does What: Roles and Functions

A TIP implementation works best when key roles and functions are clearly assigned from the start.

In smaller implementations, some roles may be combined within a single organisation, but the functions themselves are important to have in place.

Programme Coordinator

CORE ROLE

Holds the methodology across the full programme. Beyond administration, this role requires a clear understanding of TIP to maintain coherence across modules, brief and support hosts, oversee mentoring and make adjustments when needed.

KEY FUNCTIONS

Team selection and onboarding, module sequencing and briefing of hosts, mentor assignment and oversight, quality control, coordination of transfer outputs, post-programme follow-up.

Module Host Partners

CORE ROLE

Each module is hosted by a partner organisation in a specific country, responsible for local programme design, venue, study visits, local stakeholder engagement and logistics.

KEY FUNCTIONS

Local programme design and facilitation, study visit identification and organisation, local stakeholder and expert involvement, logistics and venue, documentation of module outputs.

Mentors

CORE ROLE

Mentor support is clearly assigned to each team throughout the full programme, primarily between modules. Their role is to keep teams moving: following up on progress, helping teams work through challenges and preparing them for the next module.

KEY FUNCTIONS

Regular check-ins between modules, progress follow-up, reflection support, preparation for next module, mentoring notes.

TIP Teams

CORE ROLE

Teams drive their own solution development process: defining their challenge, developing and refining their concept, completing tasks between modules, prototyping, pitching and preparing their transfer outputs.

KEY FUNCTIONS

Active participation in all modules, task completion between modules, engagement with mentor support, prototype and pitch development, preparation of TIP homecare innovation summary and, where feasible, video clip.

Communication Support

TRANSFER ENABLER

The coordinating organisation or a designated partner provides communication support throughout the programme. Transfer outputs depend on this support being in place from the beginning.

KEY FUNCTIONS

Module documentation, support for TIP homecare innovation summary production and video clip production where feasible, website and platform publishing, dissemination coordination.

Policy and Stakeholder Connectors

TRANSFER ENABLER

TIP works well when connected to municipalities, public authorities, service commissioners and policy actors who could adopt, fund or scale the solutions being developed.

KEY FUNCTIONS

Stakeholder mapping, engagement of municipalities and public authorities, facilitation of connections between teams and potential adopters, policy dialogue support.

ADDITIONAL FUNCTION: DISSEMINATION AND EVENT ORGANISATION

The summits and platforms alongside TIP require dedicated organisational capacity. Key functions: event and platform planning, speaker and participant coordination, integration of TIP outputs into event programmes, community building and follow-up.

Tools & Outputs

Working tools support teams across the module journey. Transfer outputs carry solutions beyond the programme.

M01

Problem Statement

ANCHORS THE WORK

A short, structured description of the care challenge: who is affected, in what context and why existing responses are insufficient. Developed in the first module and refined throughout.

Prevents solutions from developing in search of a problem.

M01

Team Canvas

ESTABLISHES SHARED EXPECTATIONS

A structured overview of the team: who is in it, what each member brings, the shared goal and how the team will work together. Particularly useful for transnational teams from different institutional and cultural contexts.

Reduces friction later in the programme.

M02-03

Business Model Canvas

MAPS THE SOLUTION LOGIC

A visual tool for mapping the key components of a solution: value proposition, target users, key activities, resources, partners, costs and revenue or funding streams. Developed and refined iteratively across the middle modules.

Identifies gaps in the model early.

M03

Prototyping Canvas

MOVES FROM CONCEPT TO TESTABLE VERSION

A structured format for planning a prototype: what assumption is being tested, what is the simplest version of the solution, who will test it and what success looks like.

Avoids spending time on full development before core assumptions are validated.

ALL MODULES

Mentoring Notes

CREATES CONTINUITY BETWEEN CHECK-INS

A simple documentation format for mentors to record check-in conversations, agreed next steps and any challenges identified. Shared between mentor and team after each session.

Ensures agreed actions are tracked.

M04-05

Pitch Deck

FORCES CLARITY AND CONCISION

A short visual presentation of the solution covering the challenge, the proposed response, how it works, who it is for, what stage it is at, what is needed and who is behind it.

A team that cannot pitch their solution will find it harder to transfer it.

THE STANDARD TRANSFER PACKAGE

Every team works toward a standard transfer package, centred on the TIP homecare innovation summary and supported by a video clip where feasible.

PRIMARY OUTPUT

TIP Homecare Innovation Summary

A short, publicly shareable document covering: the challenge addressed, the proposed response, the development stage, achieved results, future plans and contact details.

This is the primary transfer tool. It enables municipalities, service providers, NGOs and other actors to understand the solution and get in touch with the team directly.

In the Caring Communities pilot, TIP homecare innovation summaries were produced for all documented solutions.

SUPPORTING OUTPUT

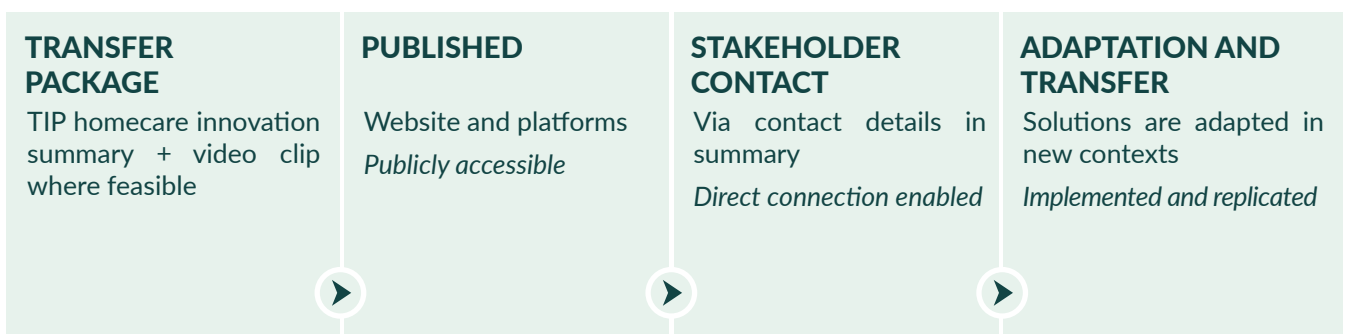
TIP Video Clip

A short video in which the team presents their solution. A TIP video clip makes the solution accessible to audiences who may not read the full TIP homecare innovation summary, and allows teams to communicate energy, context and personality alongside content.

Teams are encouraged to produce a TIP video clip where communication support is available.

In the Caring Communities pilot, video clips were produced for the majority of documented solutions.

How Transfer Happens



Planning communication support and dissemination from the beginning of the programme, rather than treating it as a final stage, gives transfer outputs the best chance of reaching the right audiences.

What the Pilot Taught Us

Seven lessons from the Caring Communities pilot, offered as practical signposts for future implementers.

The lessons below come from the TIP pilot within the Caring Communities project, drawn from the pilot experience and available project documentation.

01 Innovation needs structure, and the structure needs to be explained early

The modular format worked. It gave teams a clear journey with distinct stages and helped them move from initial ideas toward concepts, prototypes, pitches and transfer outputs. Structure only works when participants understand it from the beginning.

FOR FUTURE IMPLEMENTATIONS

Investing time at the first module to explain the full arc of the programme tends to pay off throughout.

02 Mentoring between modules is essential

Teams with regular mentor contact maintained momentum, worked through challenges faster and arrived at each module better prepared.

FOR FUTURE IMPLEMENTATIONS

Mentoring capacity is worth confirming and resourcing before the programme begins. Each team benefits from assigned mentor support with enough time and relevant background.

03 Study visits make abstract concepts concrete

Local examples helped teams connect their ideas with real-world practice. Study visits worked best when designed as a deliberate part of the methodology, helping teams see what can be transferred and what needs local adaptation.

FOR FUTURE IMPLEMENTATIONS

Study visits are worth designing deliberately. The host partner is well placed to identify visits relevant to the challenge areas of the participating teams.

04 Simple communication tools significantly increase transfer potential

TIP homecare innovation summaries and video clips made solutions accessible to audiences well beyond the programme itself, lowering the barrier for municipalities and service providers to understand a solution and make first contact.

FOR FUTURE IMPLEMENTATIONS

Communication support works best when built in from the start. Producing TIP homecare innovation summaries and, where feasible, video clips takes time, skills and resources that are difficult to improvise at the final module.

05 Replication requires adaptation, not copying

TIP solutions are starting points, not templates. Each solution needs to be adapted to fit the legal, institutional, financial and community context of any new setting. This applies equally to the TIP methodology itself.

FOR FUTURE IMPLEMENTATIONS

Building in explicit adaptation planning time, for both teams and coordinators, tends to produce stronger results.

06 Post-programme follow-up needs to be designed in advance

The period immediately after the programme is often when teams face the most practical challenges: navigating next steps, finding partners or funding and maintaining momentum. The absence of a structured follow-up phase was identified as an area for improvement.

FOR FUTURE IMPLEMENTATIONS

A follow-up plan is worth defining before the final module. Structured check-ins combined with access to mentor support on request are a useful starting point.

07 Earlier involvement of municipalities strengthens outcomes

Connecting teams to municipalities, public authorities and service commissioners early increases the likelihood that solutions find institutional pathways after the programme ends. Early stakeholder engagement helps teams test their assumptions against real institutional contexts.

FOR FUTURE IMPLEMENTATIONS

Stakeholder mapping and early engagement work best as part of the programme design from the beginning. The policy and stakeholder connector function can help strengthen transfer outcomes.

These lessons are offered as practical signposts for anyone designing their own TIP adaptation. Future implementers can use them to anticipate common challenges and design their programme accordingly.

Are You Ready to Run TIP?

A practical checklist of conditions worth having in place at each phase.

Where something is missing, it is useful to consider whether the gap can be addressed before the programme begins.

PHASE 1 · BEFORE THE PROGRAMME

PROGRAMME DESIGN

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ The care challenge landscape has been mapped and a shared problem space across participating countries confirmed. | ☐ The two pathways have been considered and teams will be recruited accordingly. |
| ☐ The module sequence has been planned, including topics, hosts, dates and expected outputs. | ☐ The module structure has been explained to all partners and hosts before the programme begins. |
| ☐ The number of teams has been defined according to available mentoring capacity and hosting resources. | ☐ A post-programme follow-up plan has been outlined, including check-in points and available support. |

TEAM SELECTION

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Teams include actors from more than one country with a genuine shared interest in a care challenge. | ☐ Team members have the motivation and institutional connection to take their solution forward. |
| ☐ Teams have been briefed on the full programme arc before the first module. | ☐ The number of teams is matched to available mentoring capacity and hosting resources. |

MENTORING

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Mentor support is clearly assigned to each team before the programme begins. | ☐ Mentors have sufficient time, relevant background and a clear brief on their role. |
| ☐ A check-in schedule between each module has been agreed with all mentors. | ☐ A simple format for mentoring notes has been prepared and shared. |

A useful check before starting: if mentors, communication support or a dissemination moment are not yet in place, it is worth pausing to consider whether the programme can deliver results that reach beyond the participants.

PHASE 2 · DURING THE PROGRAMME

MODULE HOSTING

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ A host organisation has been confirmed for each module. | ☐ Each host understands their module's place in the broader programme journey. |
| ☐ Study visits have been identified and confirmed, selected for relevance to team challenge areas. | ☐ Local stakeholders and experts relevant to the module topic have been identified and invited. |

STAKEHOLDER AND INSTITUTIONAL ENGAGEMENT

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Municipalities, public authorities or service commissioners relevant to the solution areas have been identified and contacted. | ☐ A person or organisation has been assigned the policy and stakeholder connector function. |
| ☐ At least one dissemination event or platform has been identified where TIP outputs will be presented to potential adopters and policy actors. | |

PHASE 3 · AFTER THE PROGRAMME

COMMUNICATION AND DISSEMINATION

- | | |
|---|--|
| ☐ Communication support was planned and resourced from the start of the programme. | ☐ A standard format for TIP homecare innovation summaries has been shared with teams before the final module. |
| ☐ TIP video clip production has been considered and planned where feasible. | ☐ A channel for publishing TIP homecare innovation summaries and video clips has been confirmed. |

MONITORING AND FOLLOW-UP

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ A basic monitoring framework has been defined: what will be tracked, by whom and when. | ☐ Post-programme check-in points have been scheduled at agreed intervals after the final module. |
| ☐ A mechanism for tracking solution uptake, adaptation or transfer has been defined. | |

Stakeholder engagement and communication planning work best when they start in Phase 1, not Phase 3.

The Implementation Logic at a Glance

PHASE 1

Before

- Challenge mapping
- Team selection and mentors
- Module structure design

PHASE 2

During

- Modules and mentoring
- Prototyping and pitching
- Stakeholder engagement

PHASE 3

After

- Summaries and video clips
- Dissemination events
- Follow-up and transfer

If You Keep Only Five Things, Keep These

If resources or context do not allow for a full implementation, these five elements should be prioritised. Without them, the approach loses the features that make TIP work as a transnational capacity-building methodology.

WHAT THIS MEANS

These are the elements most closely tied to what makes TIP distinctively transnational, structured and transfer-oriented. Each implementation will look different; these five are the common thread.

1

Transnational team composition

Teams include actors from more than one country.

2

Mentoring between modules

Continuous support between learning stages is a core part of the methodology, not an add-on.

3

Transfer-ready outputs

Every team works toward a TIP homecare innovation summary in the standard format. This is what allows solutions to travel.

4

At least one dissemination moment

TIP results reach audiences beyond the programme participants.

5

Post-programme follow-up

Some form of follow-up structure is in place before the final module ends.