

Background of the Innovation 4 Welfare initiative

Across Europe, economic and demographic developments pose new challenges in health related issues: a general tendency to prioritise on health and safety, the strong increase in welfare-related diseases and the increased need for (home) care for the ageing population are causing health care costs to increase rapidly. Innovative solutions are necessary to meet these challenges and to avoid health care becoming unaffordable.

But the challenges posed by the changing health needs of Europeans are also an opportunity: because of the scope of the public health issue, and the increasing need of products and services in this area, it is an attractive target area for developing innovative new technologies and applications.

In the Interreg IV-C project Innovation 4 Welfare six European partnerregions will try to exchange best practices, develop new innovation projects and influence regional policies by stimulating innovation in the field of health and safety ('welfare').

In this way the project addresses EU policy objectives in two areas:

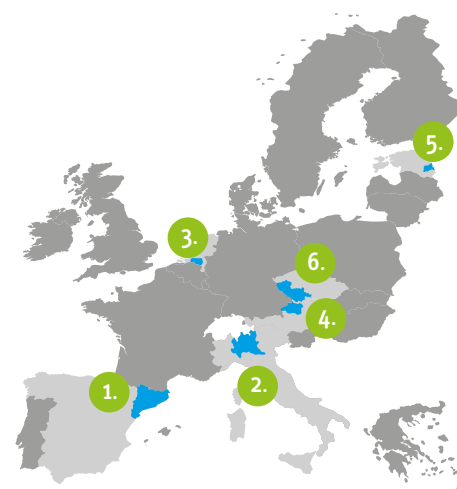
- It increases competitiveness through innovation and transition to a knowledgebased economy.
- It stimulates the creation of new solutions in the field of health related issues.

PARTNERREGIONS

Innovation 4 Welfare involves partners representing regional authorities from 6 regions across Europe:

1. ACC10, leadpartner, Catalonia (Spain)
2. CESTEC S.P.A. Lombardy (Italy)
3. Provincie Noord-Brabant, Noord-Brabant (The Netherlands)
4. Regionální rozvojová agentura jižních Čech RERA a.s. South West Bohemia (Czech Republic)
5. OÖ. Technologie- und Marketinggesellschaft m.b.H. (TMG) Upper Austria (Austria)
6. Tartu Science Park Tartu (Estonia)

The project is co-funded by the European Regional Development Fund (Interreg IV C) and will end in September 2012 (after 4 years).



COOPERATION AND EXCHANGING EXPERIENCES

Although the six regions have different experiences they also have a lot in common or at least have the challenge to work on issues in the following application fields:

Innovation 4 Welfare brings together policymakers, knowledge providers, economic and social intermediaries and health institutions, implementing projects and policies across six regions. These stakeholders will share, exchange, transfer and implement good practices and will renew the regional policy agenda's. By means of interregional cooperation, Innovation 4 Welfare builds new coalitions of economic and social actors. In that way I4W will become a European generator for new solutions promoting health and welfare.

1

Services and products for special target groups (like elderly people)

2

Accessibility, mobility and smart homes

3

Medical and home care systems

4

Safety and security

In these application fields technical solutions within ICT, food- and bio-technology, advanced materials and design will be applied.

SUBPROJECTS

Since the Innovation 4 Welfare project is a mini-programme, partners from the six regions will cooperate in so called 'subprojects'. Organisations like universities, hospitals, intermediary organisations and technology centers will identify good practices (policies and practical solutions), and execute regional pilots implementing these across the regions involved. A 'call for proposals' will be organised to invite local/regional stakeholders to participate in these subprojects. At least three partners from three different regions will have to participate in a sub-project.

Only public and equivalent bodies are eligible to receive project funding. The subprojects will run for 2 years (24 months) and funding will be 75 or 85 % of your eligible costs, depending on your region. Since one of the objectives of I4W is business development within the participating regions, the subprojects will cooperate with regional SME's that will also benefit from the project results.

More information

If you are interested in (participating) in the (Innovation 4 Welfare) project please check our website:

www.innovation4welfare.eu

This website will contain:

- the latest updates about the project,
- regional events,
- sign up for newsletters,
- regional contact details.

