
Petržalka is the lead partner of an international project called niCE-life

Bratislava (January 24, 2020) - On January 21-23, representatives of project partners from Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Italy, Poland, Austria and Slovenia met in Bratislava to take part in the kick-off meeting of the niCE-life project in order to discuss ways how to improve the daily lives of seniors.

Bratislava-Petržalka municipal district has become the lead partner of the project called "Development of an integrated concept for the deployment of innovative technologies and services allowing independent living of frail elderly"(project acronym: niCE-life, project code: CE1581). The project brings together several European countries with the aim of joint cooperation in the field of assistance to seniors suffering from various degrees of cognitive dysfunctions (including Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases) and chronic diseases, namely through developing and testing innovative IT and technology tools and devices, and subsequently applying them in practice. In Bratislava, in particular, there will be a monitoring device for people with Parkinson's disease tested in the next stages of the project.

The expected benefits of the niCE-life project are integration and support of an independent living of frail persons, enhancement of their social inclusion and coordination of care. At the same time, the project is also about making technical progress in the use of innovative technologies and services designed specifically for this purpose. Smart monitoring tools, new solutions and changes will be implemented in a pilot regime taking into account local conditions, facilities and a level of social care.

In practical life, this means improving the quality of care provided and fostering an independent living of the elderly and their social contacts after hospital discharge, which are undoubtedly important for living a healthy life at a senior age.

The project itself has a 36-month long implementation period. In its first phase, project partners will map the needs and available resources based on existing technological innovations in the field of health and care regarding seniors, taking into account the importance of using innovations in this process. The obtained information from the mapping as well as from discussions with health and social care professionals, with the elderly and their families, and also from the results from other similar projects will lead to development of a model suitable for health systems, which could also be used outside the

Central Europe region. New tools will then be applied and tested in senior care facilities in the project partner regions in selected European countries.

In addition to Bratislava-Petržalka municipal district (Slovakia) as the lead partner, the niCE-life project is implemented in cooperation with the following project partners: Brno University of Technology (Czech Republic), University Hospital Olomouc (Czech Republic), Slovak University of Technology in Bratislava (Slovakia), Lepida (Italy), Samaritan Burgenland (Austria), Local Health Authority of Bologna (Italy), Institute for Elderly Care and Shelter in Treviso (Italy), National Institute of Public Health in Ljubljana (Slovenia) and the City of Warsaw (Poland).



During the project's kick-off meeting in January, individual representatives of the project partners met together not only to get to know each other, but also to discuss the project's detailed timetable and the upcoming phases of the project implementation. Petržalka as the lead partner presented the project management, principles of financial management as well as basic principles of project communication and marketing. In his speech, Mr. Ján Hrčka, the Mayor of Petržalka, mentioned his intention to implement project activities,

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emphasizing the importance of the meeting and focusing on the results the project will bring not only for the target groups but also for the project partners involved.

Administrative matters, factual and timeline propositions of the project were presented by Ms. Jana Valková, Representative of the Joint Secretariat in Vienna, which is the Managing Authority INTERREG Central Europe Programme.

Presentations from particular project partners were also an important part of the kick-off meeting. The partners from Bologna introduced their e-Care network health care system, which works successfully in their local conditions; the partners from the Slovak University of Technology presented their low cost technical solution for patients with Alzheimer's or Parkinson's diseases; the partners from Brno University of Technology introduced their idea for using machine learning algorithms to evaluate disease progress; and the partners from Olomouc gave a thematic work package presentation regarding mapping of the needs and available resources.

The niCE-life project is funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) within the INTERREG Central Europe Programme. The ERDF contribution represents 85%, mandatory co-financing by the project partners is at least 15%. More information can be found on the following websites:

<https://www.interreg-central.eu/Content.Node/niCE-life.html>

www.interreg-central.eu.