Guidelines for applicants

ACE prototyping support

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1. Introduction

As part of the ACE support programme, these guidelines explain how companies* in the field of Smart Homecare can benefit from support to accelerate crossover innovations through the establishment transnational connections and innovative prototyping in real homecare environments.

Prototyping ACE project support: for an equivalent value up to €20.000**

After review, applications can be handed in at any time to the appropriate contact points in section 2.4.

Priority will be given to SMEs meeting the European SME definition (with less than €50m turnover and fewer than 250 employees), while larger companies are also invited to submit their applications

**The amounts here indicated represent the maximum value of the support provided, which can be provided 'in kind' or via financial contribution to be spent on external service provider(s).*

1.1 Background

ACE's transnational and multidisciplinary consortium of 14 partner organisations from six European countries – Sweden, Denmark, Belgium, the Netherlands, France and Germany - is helping formal and informal healthcare providers for the digital homecare solutions of the future. The project will connect solution providers with networks essential to making an impact and, ultimately, ensure that the end users of these solutions remain independent and healthy in their own homes.

ACE will manage a digital community of hundreds of stakeholders, upscale over thirty innovations that directly address care user needs and adapt 150+ North Sea region homecare providers to these innovations. While ACE recognises that one initiative alone cannot overhaul the homecare system, it is making significant strides in uniting all essential players.

Aim of the prototyping support:

Drive 30+ innovations closer to the Smart Homecare of the future (TRL 7-8 or more) through the establishment of transnational connections and innovative prototyping in real homecare environments.

Beyond raising awareness, we seek to change the behavior of (public/private) homecare providers & innovators, fostering transnational exchange through online matching and technology prototyping.

For more information, please visit www.interregnorthsea.eu/ace. ACE is co-funded by the ERDF (European Regional Development Fund) within the INTERREG VB North-West Europe programme.

1.2 ACE regions, partners and contact information

Partner organisations and contact information:

Aarhus Kommune	Søren Aalykke	sola@aarhus.dk
BOM Brabantse Ontwikkelings Maatschappij	Ria Hein Lotte Konings	rhein@bom.nl lkonings@bom.nl
Boone N.V.	Donaat Van Eynde	atdo99@gmail.com
Biotech Sante Bretagne	Adeline Jacob Gorenka Bojadzija Savic	adeline@biotech-sante-bretagne.fr gorenka.bojadzija-savic@biotech-sante-bretagne.fr
Co-Work Hit Innovation Centre	Anne-Claude Lefebvre Laure Tsimba	anne-claude.lefebvre@coworkhit.com laure.tsimba@coworkhit.com
ESN European Social Network	José Iglesias	jose.iglesias@esn-eu.org
Hogeschool van Arnhem en Nijmegen	Coosje Hammink	Coosje.Hammink@han.nl
Höganäs Municipality	Linda Macke	linda.macke@hoganas.se
Innovation Skåne	Awa Karlsson	Awa.Karlsson@innovationskane.com
Thomas More University Living & CareLab	Vicky Van der Auwera	vicky.vanderauwera@thomasmore.be
Ontwikkelingsmaatschappij Oost Nederland NV	Niek Wellink	niek.wellink@oostnl.nl
TUHH Technische Universität Hamburg	Alexander Schlaefer	schlaefer@tuhh.de
Vesthimmerlands Municipality	Julie Ringgaard Jensen	jrje@vesthimmerland.dk

1.3 Structure

The ACE Programme facilitates innovation by driving innovations closer to the Smart Homecare of the future (TRL 7-8 or more) through the establishment of transnational connections and innovative prototyping in real homecare environments.

ACE provides an online matchmaking platform B2Match, where users register to become part of the ACE community. This platform provides transnational matching and facilitates interaction between members and their innovations. Once members have been matched and

there is dialogue and capacity to further develop their innovative solutions, SMEs can be supported by means of prototyping support.

Collaborations/Matches on the online platform may only be between SMEs and care organisations. Regardless of the type of match registered on the online platform, they can apply for ACE support; both SMEs and care organisations (pilot sites) are eligible for the in-kind support from the project up to the maximum amount.

Matches created outside the platform should still register themselves on the platform.

Due to the specificity of this project, ACE partners will review the matches that will take place on the online platform to verify that created collaborations have potential and can be supported by ACE.

This step also allows the ACE partners to discard collaborations that either do not have enough capacity or interest, are not connected to the purpose of the project, or that the consortium cannot facilitate the required support, because of limited budgets or available services.

Collaborations reviewed by the ACE partners are invited to apply for prototyping support. Matches will receive an e-mail invitation with the support application Form.

2. Conditions for prototyping support

What is an ACE prototyping collaboration?

An ACE collaboration (or match) is a connection between an SME and care organisation in the North Sea area. The goal of the collaboration should focus on further developing together the Smart Homecare of the Future innovations (TRL 7-8 or more). This connection must be formalised online on the B2Match platform.

SMEs represent 99% of all businesses in the EU. Not sure if your organisation is an SME? Take the European Commission's self-assessment questionnaire here: https://ec.europa.eu/growth/tools-databases/SME-Wizard/smeq.do

ACE welcomes applications from SMEs that are interested in developing transnational collaborations, specifically in the field of Smart Homecare of the future. Below you will find the eligibility criteria.

2.1 Eligibility criteria for prototyping pilots

1. The applicant company **must be located in one of the North Sea regions (see the list of eligible north sea regions).**

2. Priority will be given to SMEs meeting the European SME definition (with less than €50m turnover and fewer than 250 employees), while larger companies are also invited to submit their applications.

3. The SME operates in one of the eligible life science sub-sectors: biotechnology, medical technology, pharmaceuticals, e-health, e-mental health, or nutrition for human health.

4. The scope of technologies is not limited and can range from digital technologies to physical products with relevancy for homecare.

   • The Smart Homecare of the future innovation must be either on or between TRL 7 and TRL 8 (shown in Annex I.)

5. **Homecare solutions relevance:** The SME's proposed solution must be directly related to homecare and should **address the needs and challenges** faced by older adults, caregivers, and homecare providers.

2.2 How to apply

Company may apply for prototyping support at any time while the application period is open. Before applying, it is strongly recommended that the SME gets in touch with its regional ACE partner (mentioned in 2.3.).

• Visit the ACE Platform: https://www.b2match.com/e/interreg-ace-project

• Register for free by following **the step-by-step registration manual here.**

• Connect with pilot site(s) via messages on the platform, as indicated in the manual. In case you cannot find pilot site that corresponds to your solution, contact your regional ACE project partner for the future steps.

- If the match is positively reviewed, the intake consultant (the expert in the region and/or ACE project partner) will send an email with the application form*
- Complete the application form in English.
- Return the completed application form to the intake consultant (the expert in the region and/or ACE project partner).
- Successful companies will be contacted by the local support organisation to realise the pilot. SMEs will have the opportunity to test their homecare solutions in real conditions, gaining valuable feedback and insights while contributing to the ACE project's mission of improving homecare for the aging population in the North Sea region.

Please note that the evaluation process will take a maximum of 3 weeks

2.3 Evaluation and selection

The application will be evaluated and selected for funding as soon as possible. This process should be short (maximum 3 weeks).

If the prototyping support is approved, the applicant SME will receive an positive notification by e- mail. If the application is rejected, the ACE partner will contact the SME to notify and to explain the decision.

Successful SMEs will be contacted by the local support organisation to realise the pilot. SMEs will have the opportunity to test their homecare solutions in real conditions, gaining valuable feedback and insights while contributing to the ACE project's mission of improving homecare for the ageing population in the North Sea region.

Annexes

2.4 Technology Readiness Levels

TRL 1 – Basic principles observed

TRL 2 – Technology concept formulated

TRL 3 – Experimental proof of concept

TRL 4 – Technology validated in lab

TRL 5 – Technology validated in relevant environment

TRL 6 – Technology demonstrated in relevant environment

TRL 7 – System prototype demonstration in operational environment

TRL 8 – System complete and qualified

TRL 9 – Actual system proven in operational environment