

# Interreg



EUROPEAN UNION

## North-West Europe

### NWE-Chance

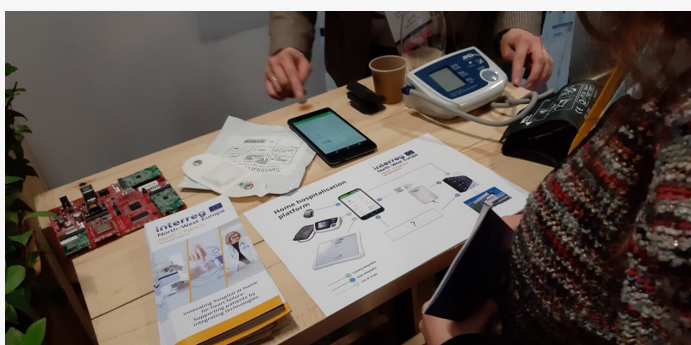
European Regional Development Fund

The issue of substantial expenditures on hospitalization of patients with heart failure, as well as its frequent ineffectiveness made medical workers in Isala think about the innovative solutions in 2004. The home-hospitalization involved the myriad of risks and problems; however, the number of stakeholders who were interested to solve these problems gave impetus to the project. MedTech companies, hospitals, universities and most importantly, patients demonstrate a great interest, thereby contributing to the continuation of the project after 2021. Nowadays, the lack of connections between the health sector and small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) that are developing

eHealth tools hinders the introduction of new technologies to the medical sector. NWE-Chance project brings stakeholders together to get innovation in digital health to happen. Simple and innovative solution to provide the patients with a smartphone and other facilities (e.g. wearable patch) to collect the medical records at home and transfer it automatically to the hospitals allows decreasing the hospitalization costs. The daily visits made by a nursery create a hospital-level treatment at home and ensure careful monitoring of the patient's condition.

As a MEA student, I had a chance to interview the representatives of the projects co-funded by the Interreg North-West Europe. Throughout the discussions, I came up with **a formula** that helped me to determine my interest in a project and make a personal assessment of its success. The variables for this formula can be presented in a form of questions. Firstly, does a project **solve an acute social problem**? Secondly, does it **contribute to the development of a society** or maybe the world as a whole? Finally, the most subjective criterion: does a project respond to **my personal experience** or even a **value system**? Obviously, as a student, I was also deeply impressed to see how passionately the representatives introduced their projects and explained a sophisticated concept to non-prepared listeners, which positively affected my project's perception. The NWE-Chance project met all up-mentioned criteria and encouraged me to follow the project's progress even after the interview.





The successful implementation of the project in North-West Europe, as well as its further development in other regions under the Implementation Roadmap prepared by NWE-Chance by the end of the project, would allow to expand the project to the rest of the world, or benefit from the exchange of experience. For example, in Russia, my home country, the home-hospitalization programs started to be implemented recently; however, numerous administrative and bureaucratic obstacles impede it. Overcrowded hospitals force many patients to stay home without any control. In the countryside, the situation is even worse. Apart from the fact that there is often no hospital, many patients live in areas inaccessible by road. In the framework of the NWE-Chance project, logistics also remains one of the key issues. I believe that the NWE-Chance experience could be helpful for my country as well.

## Suggestions

Taking into account the current project's stage and all the efforts that have been made until now, I would like to share **my thoughts** on the NWE-Chance project's development, hoping to contribute to your determined work. Firstly, I strongly

support the idea to enhance research after the end of the project. A thorough analysis of the results achieved so far will attract more hospitals to become a NWE-Chance partner. This, in turn, will attract more patients to choose home-hospitalization on condition that reimbursement mechanisms will be sufficiently regulated. In addition, I suppose that a tailor-made application should replace a smartphone which is currently provided to each patient. This will reduce project costs and could have a positive effect on environmental protection efforts.

The future application can include a section with an adequate physical activity which can be important for a patient's rehabilitation. The great potential of cooperation between eHealth digital platforms with real hospital-level treatment and existing numerous applications (e.g. healthy diet) allows me to see a long way ahead NWE-Chance project. One day modern technologies and thoughtful subsequent actions will allow more patients to be treated carefully at home for one simple reason - there is no better place than home.