



# Guide for applicants

December 2021

## 1. What is the D-CARE Innovation Contest about?

The D-CARE Innovation contest aims to **scout innovative solutions** for **regional challenges** in the areas of smart health and care services. Each of the eight<sup>1</sup> countries of the D-CARE partner consortium have defined the challenges that they want to concentrate on in their country, for example telemedicine or skills development for caregivers. The innovation contest is to be launched in each of those regions parallelly. You are heartedly invited to apply to all country contests that your solution fits with!

You can find out more about the Interreg Project D-CARE on our [website](#).

## 2. What's in it for you?

You gain **access to an exceptional network of stakeholders** from industry including potential investors, academia, politics, and end users.

Maximum five most innovative and well fit solutions per country will be awarded the **D-CARE Innovation Prize** as a recognition. The prize means that you can obtain **direct contact with your target group**/end users and get **advice from smart care and innovation experts** in our network. If you have a testable product, you will have the chance to **pilot and validate your solution** with the support of the national D-CARE stakeholders. Successful applicants may join a co-creational process together with their users to develop or improve their solutions. You may also receive funding for your costs during the large-scale testing activities. Of course, you may use this recognition for your own promotional activities and in the contact with potential users and investors.

Through our international consortium we open the door for you to a **transnational network** that is active in the smart health and care area offering possibilities for networking, cooperation, and market expansion.

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<sup>1</sup> Those are: Germany, Austria, Czech Republic, Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Romania and Hungary.

### 3. Who can apply?

We welcome all innovative ideas for the smart care challenges we face – you can apply whether you are an individual innovator, a researcher, a small business, an already long incorporated firm, or an NGO/civil organisation. You can as well hand in your proposal as a consortium or several enterprises in partnership; at least one of you needs to be legally established or have their residency in one of the Danube programme countries<sup>2</sup>.

Your solution or planned activities should be targeted to a relevant sector for smart health and care, so in health, e-health, biotechnology, medical devices, smart care services, ICT, remote medicine, education, social services, or research and related fields. It is important for us to know that you know your way around the tricks and hurdles in your field so the solution you propose should also represent a major field of your expertise.

A productive co-creation phase is envisioned with our successful applicants, to subsequently conduct pilot tests of their solutions. Therefore, you need to think about how you can engage with us, our partners and especially your users during that time and which resources you need to commit.

Since the prize does not automatically come with financial benefits it is likewise important that you are able to sustain your activities throughout the co-creation phase and the pilot. We accept applicants who receive third-party funding – in the application form there is a field where you can state this funding and confirm that the participation in our innovation prize is permissible under the funding scheme.

You must own what you created and not nurture any conflict of interest by your participation in the programme. For more details on the eligibility rules, please see the Innovation Programme Regulation.

### 4. Eligibility check

We are looking for dynamic, innovative, and engaged entrepreneurs, founders, innovators, researchers and individuals who are passionate about older adult care in their regions. What matters most to us is your motivation

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<sup>2</sup> The Danube Programme countries are: Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Germany – Baden-Württemberg and Bavaria, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia and Ukraine.

to engage in the user-oriented innovation process as well as the fit of your solution to the regional challenges. After you submit your application, we will check whether you meet the eligibility criteria, and an expert panel will assess your application in the context of three main aspects:

Eligibility criteria	Check
<b>Geographical coverage:</b> you or your organisation is situated in one of the Danube programme countries	✓
<b>Solution fit to regional challenges:</b> you have an idea, a prototype, or a complete market ready product/service, which fits to the challenges of the D-CARE Innovation Prize region where you apply.	✓
<b>Innovativeness:</b> your proposed solution advances the currently available and most used tools and services in the region you are applying.	✓
<b>Capacity check:</b> please plan your time and resources so that you are able to take part in the process of the innovation contest, and in case you are applying for the pilot testing, you can take part in the testing period.	✓
<b>Integrity:</b> you or your organisation has no past track record of serious business or ethical misconduct, fraud, and you have no relevant conflict of interest.	✓

## 5. Evaluation

Our expert panel will evaluate your application based on three main aspects:

- **Excellence (30%):** Innovativeness and methodological excellence
- **Impact (40%):** Fit with country specific challenges and replicability
- **Implementation (30%):** Fit with user requirements, fit with legal and societal integration requirements and sustainability

You can find a detailed description of how the Expert Panel will assess your application in the Innovation Call Regulation.



## 6. How to apply

You can find the country specific challenges that your application needs to respond to on the D-CARE website (...) and our social media channels. You are free to apply to any one or several of the country specific prizes. The respective topics per country are detailed in the PDF-files on the D-CARE website.

We try to make the application as intuitive as possible and try to keep the bureaucratic effort low. Therefore, the application comprises of

- An **online application form**. Here, we ask some basic information about you and your company as well as the solution you propose. How does your solution tackle the challenges in the country you apply to? How do you engage the users and gain their acceptance? We also would like to know from you how you envision your solution to be tested and where you see your benefits from the innovation programme. Of course, all data will be treated with utmost care and confidentiality, please see the Innovation programme regulations GDPR statement.
- Optionally you can answer the questions about your solution in a **short video** of you of max. five minutes. Please shortly introduce yourself, your organization and the product or service you want to apply with. Please answer three questions:  
How does your solution contribute to solving a problem/challenge related to socio-medical services delivery in the region?  
Describe your implementation plan and what makes your idea innovative  
How do you propose to tackle user acceptance?
- A **short self-assessment** confirming that you conform to general ethical standards of research and development – please sign the template provided
- A **confirmation of your legal existence**, for example a trade register excerpt
- A **conflict-of-interest disclosure** – please sign the template

Our application is fully digital and you can complete it in one go here: <https://www.1ka.si/InnovationContest>. Please select the country you would like to apply to in the drop down menu. The deadline for the application is 31.01.2022 (CET).

If you have questions regarding the application or need support filling the documents, please contact your regional contact address

- Petra Sanković, Občina Ilirska Bistrica  
[petra.sankovic@ilirska-bistrica.si](mailto:petra.sankovic@ilirska-bistrica.si)
- Boštjan Primc, Občina Ilirska Bistrica  
[bostjan.primc@ilirska-bistrica.si](mailto:bostjan.primc@ilirska-bistrica.si)
- Martina Erjavec, RRA Zeleni kras  
[martina@rra-zk.si](mailto:martina@rra-zk.si)
- Tjaša Fajdiga, RRA Zeleni kras  
[tjasa@rra-zk.si](mailto:tjasa@rra-zk.si)

We are happy to help!

## 7. Dates, dates

The timeline for the innovation prize will be

<b>December 1, 2021</b>	Application phase starts
<b>January 31, 2022</b>	Final application deadline
<b>February 22, 2022</b>	Results are published, and you will receive a response to your application
<b>February 28, 2022</b>	Deadline for complaints regarding the prize decision
<b>March 1, 2022</b>	Co-creation process with your target group starts
<b>April 1, 2022</b>	Piloting phase starts

## 8. Instructions to fill in the application forms

Question	Instruction
<b>Please select a country or countries that you would like to apply for</b>	You must select which countries' D-CARE Innovation Prize you would like to apply for. Multiple countries can be selected. Be aware that in case of selection for the prize, you must have the capacities to participate in each national process following the innovation prize.
<b>Please indicate whether you are applying as a legal entity or as an individual or other legal personality.</b>	Please select if you already have an organizational background or you are still in the idea phase without any legal entity incorporated.
<b>Are you applying together with other legal entities?</b>	If yes, please mention the legal name of all organisations in the team.
<b>Name of the organisation</b>	Please write the full legal name of your organisation in original language. In case you apply for more than one country's prize, please add an English name as well if available.
<b>Organisation form</b>	What type of organization are you? Private or public sector, companies, universities, research organizations, NGOs, international organizations, civil organizations, etc.
<b>Legal representative</b>	Who will represent your organisation during the selection process?
<b>Describe your organisation</b>	Please introduce your organisation in a condense form, your main activities, focusing on relevant information to the innovation prize.
<b>Which country are you applying from?</b>	Select the country where you or your organisation is based. If you apply as a consortium, please indicate the country of the lead partner's organisation in the context of this application.
<b>The name of the solution</b>	Official or informal name of your solution you are applying with.
<b>Name of the main contact person (name, surname)</b>	Who is the person responsible for the development of the solution?
<b>Position of main contact person</b>	Position or title (e.g., CEO, CTO, Founder, Product Manager)
<b>Main contact's email address</b>	(e.g. john@gmail.com)
<b>Website where the solution is presented</b>	If available, please provide a website where the evaluators can gain more insight into your solution. If no website is available (yet), please tick the box.
<b>When did you start working on the solution you are applying with?</b>	In which year did you or your organisation start to develop your solution?
<b>What specific problem are you trying to solve as an organization and for this project?</b>	What is the challenge of the older adults or the social care system that your organisation or more specifically your solution is focusing on which you are applying with to the D-CARE innovation prize – i.e., medical conditions (heart diseases, cognitive impairment, dementia, etc.), psychological and social conditions (depression, loneliness, social deprivation, cognitive decline, poor quality of life, etc.). Please specify the addressed challenges you aim to solve with the proposed solution.

<b>Who are your (envisioned) customers/users/beneficiaries?</b>	Who are the relevant target groups for your solutions, e.g., people with dementia, cognitive impairments, fall risks, people with cardio-vascular disease, nurses, staff, ...
<b>Are you applying for a small-scale pilot or large-scale pilot testing with your solution?</b>	If you want to test/validate your solution within the D-CARE network's stakeholders, please choose what type of testing you prefer. With the small-scale pilot, you may receive (1) expert feedback about your solution, (2) recommendations for further development and market entry, (3) country specific market information. In the scope of the large-scale pilot, you will be engaged in (1) on-site testing in a real-life environment and (2) user centric validation.
<b>Please describe shortly your market entry plan</b>	How do you (will you) plan to launch your product; how will you finance an initial market roll out? Who is going to buy or pay for your solution and who will use it? What number of beneficiaries or users of your solution do you estimate?
<b>You must either upload a presentation or add a link to video pitch about your solution Please select the preferred option</b>	As option one, upload a pitch deck presentation of your solution. See for some tips on the content: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SB16xgtFmco">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SB16xgtFmco</a>  As option two, upload a video pitch of your solution. See for some tips on the content: <a href="https://youtu.be/XWRtG_PDRIk">https://youtu.be/XWRtG_PDRIk</a>
<b>If you would like to upload relevant references or brochures, please write down how many files you would like to upload</b>	If you have any, please provide some documentation on a few of the biggest accomplishments that you have achieved and describe how those accomplishments lay the groundwork for what's to come. If you already tested the solution, or it is being used within your target group, provide some details on the traction.  If you do not want to add any files, write the number 0 or simply click "next".
<b>How did you hear about the D-CARE Innovation contest?</b>	Please indicate how you heard about the D-CARE Innovation contest. This is very valuable information for us to reach even more innovative experts in the area of smart health and care.

## 9. Any questions?

You can find all documents related to the innovation prize on our website <https://www.interreg-danube.eu/approved-projects/d-care/section/innovation-contest-2021> and our social media channels. Further details on all aspects of the innovation programme and the D-CARE innovation prize are explained in the innovation programme regulation document. Please do not hesitate to contact us anytime in case you have questions or need support with the application.



## We are looking forward to your ideas!

General contact address for questions on the innovation prize and application

Máté Csukás [mate.csukas@dbh-group.com](mailto:mate.csukas@dbh-group.com)

Teresa Zauner [teresa.zauner@gruenderschiff.de](mailto:teresa.zauner@gruenderschiff.de)

### Slovenian contacts:

- Petra Sanković, Občina Ilirska Bistrica  
[petra.sankovic@ilirska-bistrica.si](mailto:petra.sankovic@ilirska-bistrica.si)
- Boštjan Primc, Občina Ilirska Bistrica  
[bostjan.primc@ilirska-bistrica.si](mailto:bostjan.primc@ilirska-bistrica.si)
- Martina Erjavec, RRA Zeleni kras  
[martina@rra-zk.si](mailto:martina@rra-zk.si)
- Tjaša Fajdiga, RRA Zeleni kras  
[tjasa@rra-zk.si](mailto:tjasa@rra-zk.si)