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| **Type of Call – Targeted call for operations of strategic importance (OSI)** | |
| **Project Acronym & Code** | **DENIM**  **ROHU00621** |
| **Project Title** | Development of Network to Improve Health Status of Population (DENIM) |
| **Priority** | P2 - Cooperation for a more social and cohesive PA between Romania and Hungary |
| **Specific objective** | RS04.5 - Ensuring equal access to health care and fostering resilience of health systems, including primary care, and promoting the transition from institutional to family and community-based care |
| **Implementation period** | 36 months (23.12.2024 – 22.12.2027) |
| **Project Overall Objective** | Through the support of joint initiatives, the overall objective – **Identification and exploitation of possible synergies of the healthcare systems in the cross-border region through the implementation of complex set of tools** – aims to provide equal opportunity to the access of the healthcare system for the population of the RO-HU cross-border area. In line with SO4.5, the overall objective also aims to support the creation of suitable conditions for a community-based integrated healthcare system. |
| **Partnership** | **Lead Partner:**  Békés County Council (HU) |
| **Project Partners:**  PP2 – Dr. László Elek Hospital and Medical Center, Orosháza (HU)  PP3 – Békés County Central Hospital (HU)  PP4 – Arad County (Arad County Council) (RO) |
| **Total Budget** | 9,013,225.62 EUR, out of which 7,210,580.48 EUR ERDF |
| **Summary** | The project aims to enhance the quality of life for the local population in the cross-border area by improving infrastructure and access to the healthcare system through a comprehensive and integrated approach:   * Middle-aged and elderly individuals are the primary focus of awareness campaigns promoting the importance of regular medical screenings. Prevention activities will also target this group with specific actions aimed at early detection and intervention. * Younger age groups (24 years old and under) will be a key focus of prevention efforts, as unhealthy lifestyles and poor nutrition during youth significantly contribute to the development of circulatory diseases later in life. These activities will emphasize the benefits of healthy nutrition, the risks associated with obesity, and other critical health topics.   To strengthen cross-border cooperation in healthcare, the project includes activities based on extensive statistical data obtained through multi-level stakeholder collaboration. It promotes cross-border partnerships between healthcare systems in the border region, aligning with the objectives of the EU Directive on the Rights of Patients in Cross-Border Healthcare.  A key component of the project is the development of a common data management network and the formulation of recommendations for related technological solutions. The creation of a database and an integrated dashboard will facilitate user-friendly access to a broad range of specialized data (e.g., statistical office records, survey results). Additionally, the DENIM project will explore how integrating health and patient mobility data with regional spatial planning initiatives (e.g., Smart Regions, Smart Cities) can enhance future data collection on patient mobility and contribute to the development of intelligent and resilient regions.  Patients will be engaged through campaign events, workshops, social media initiatives, and awareness-raising activities designed to encourage early intervention and preventive care, particularly for key target groups such as elderly individuals and young people.  The project will also focus on strengthening networking capacities in the two counties, enhancing the resilience of the regional healthcare system in the medium and long term. This will be achieved through workshops, exchanges of best practices, study visits, and professional collaborations.  Addressing healthcare challenges more directly, the project targets one of the leading causes of mortality in the region by providing a joint solution and an integrated approach, with a strong emphasis on prevention and treatment of oncological diseases. The project’s comprehensive set of measures includes improving healthcare infrastructure—both in terms of medical equipment and facility modernization—within the cross-border region to ensure equitable access to medical services for the population.  As part of these efforts, two hospital sites will be modernized:   * Dr. László Elek Hospital and Medical Center in Orosháza * Békés County Central Hospital in Gyula   Both facilities will be equipped with state-of-the-art medical technology. Additionally, the Arad County Emergency Clinical Hospital will receive advanced medical equipment, including an ultrasound machine with contrast-enhanced ultrasound software, an automated system for preparing personalized cytostatic medication, including a microbiological hood, and a lithotripsy laser. |
| **Main results** | The project aims to achieve the following key results:   * Organizing workshops and networking events designed to strengthen partnerships between participating countries by facilitating knowledge sharing and the transfer of best practices. These events will engage a diverse range of stakeholders, including decision-makers, NGO representatives, and clinical experts. * Development of a Case Study on Integrated Care, addressing the legal, financial, and infrastructural aspects relevant to both partner countries. * Creation of a cross-border common healthcare strategy, outlining key priorities and providing strategic guidance for decision-makers in Romania and Hungary. This strategy will support high-level decisions related to healthcare system integration, data management, and other essential areas. * Formulation of a Cross-Border Multi-Stakeholder Population Health Improvement Strategy, identifying unmet healthcare needs based on data analysis from both countries. This strategy will serve as a foundation for future developments in cross-border healthcare beyond 2027. * Development of a health improvement dashboard and database, ensuring user-friendly access to a comprehensive range of specified data sources, including statistical office records and questionnaire surveys. * Implementation of digital tools for patient assessment, diagnosis, treatment, and monitoring, with a focus on telemedicine as a key pilot activity. The project highlights the importance of integrating emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, into healthcare services. * Renovation, modernization, expansion, and equipping of the “Dr. László Elek” Hospital and Medical Center in Orosháza and the Békés County Central Hospital in Gyula, Békés County, with state-of-the-art medical equipment. * Procurement of advanced medical equipment for the Arad County Emergency Clinical Hospital in Arad County. |