

**Interreg
Europe**



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TechSocialcare



**From Kick-Off to Action: Second event in
Cluj-Napoca strengthens social innovation across
Europe**

Boosting Social Innovation Across Europe

We are pleased to share the latest updates from our project, which brings together partners from across Europe to strengthen social innovation and improve policies related to the social economy.

Through cooperation, knowledge exchange, and practical activities, the project aims to support inclusive growth, empower local communities, and enhance regional development.

Let's explore the key highlights from our recent activities.

Our work is centered around:

- **Policy Improvement** - Enhancing social economy policies at regional and local levels
- **Knowledge Exchange** - Sharing experiences and good practices between partners
- **Community Engagement** - Involving stakeholders and citizens in shaping solutions
- **Social Innovation** - Promoting practical, sustainable, and inclusive initiatives

Study Visit in Romania

One of the most important recent activities was the Interregional Event in Cluj-Napoca, Romania, on 17-18 February 2026, hosted by **GAL Napoca Porolissum** in the Cluj region.

This visit brought together project partners, experts, and local stakeholders to explore how community-led development and social innovation are implemented in practice. They worked together on common approaches to assistive technology standardisation and identified good practices from across Europe.

The key questions as we work to balance European cooperation with regional flexibility

What should be reflected across all regions?

Which elements should remain within the competence of individual regions?





Key Takeaways

During the Interregional Event in Cluj-Napoca, partners presented their regional Policy Instrument analysis and identified several shared challenges in the use of assistive technologies in social care. Across regions, common issues included the lack of technical standards for non-medical assistive technologies, fragmented implementation, limited interoperability, legal uncertainty between health and social care responsibilities, and insufficient digital skills at provider level.

These discussions confirmed the importance of moving beyond isolated pilot actions toward more structured, policy-supported and interoperable systems. The exchange helped partners define shared priorities and strengthened the relevance of the TechSocialcare objective at European level.



Building Common Ground

A central part of the event was the workshop on the draft Policy Standards Matrix, where partners worked together to assess the current level of policy integration, the possible benefits of international alignment, and the barriers still to be addressed. The matrix covered eight thematic pillars, including technical requirements, interoperability, accessibility, procurement, quality and safety, and ethical issues.

A strong consensus emerged on the need for open and interoperable data standards, documented APIs, minimum cybersecurity requirements, user-centered design, and proportionate certification frameworks adapted to social care. This collaborative work showed how a shared European reference framework could support regions while respecting national and regional specificities.



From Ideas to Action

The event also highlighted a wide range of good practices, from telecare systems and digital coordination tools to AI-based rehabilitation and community-based ageing initiatives. These examples demonstrated how innovation can support independent living, transitional care, and better integration between health and social services.

The study visits in Cluj-Napoca, including a senior day center and a kinetherapy facility, brought these discussions into a practical context. They showed both the real potential of assistive technologies and the everyday challenges faced by providers, such as staffing shortages, funding limitations, and digital skills gaps. Together, these experiences reinforced the need for standards that are not only technically sound, but also realistic and adaptable to different regional contexts.

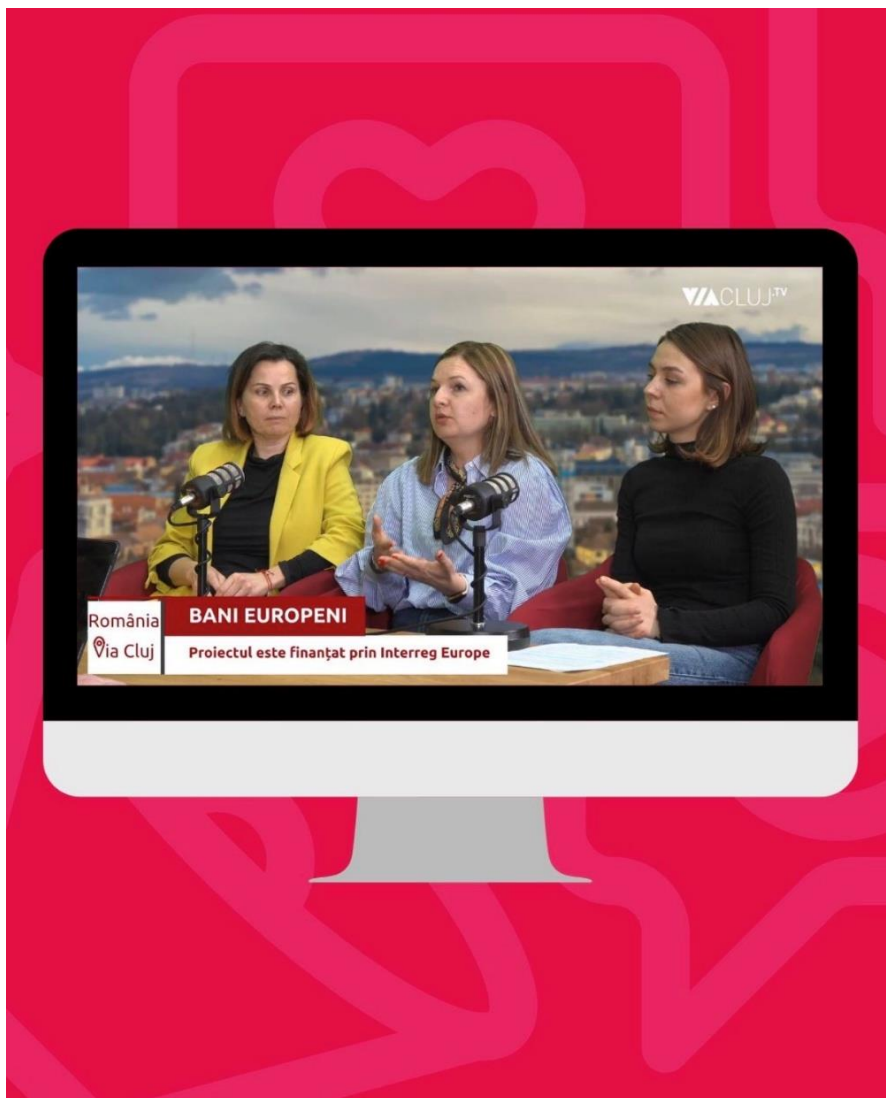
The Power of Cooperation

The visit also emphasized the importance of **intercultural exchange**.

- Encouraged exchange of experiences between partners from different regions
- Helped identify shared challenges in social care and assistive technologies
- Supported discussion of practical and coordinated solutions
- Strengthened partnerships and mutual understanding
- Contributed to the joint goal of more inclusive and effective care systems

Step by step, we're building shared solutions for better, more inclusive social care.





Exciting Media Moment

Our project partner **GAL Napoca Porolissum** was featured in a local TV interview, highlighting TechSocialcare and the role of European funding in driving social innovation for older people.

Stakeholder participation



Social care practitioners see the TechSocialcare project as a valuable step toward better integrating technology into care services. Insights from the Cluj Interregional Event highlighted the importance of practical solutions, collaboration, and user-focused innovation as key factors for the project's success.

Exploring the Future of Smart Cities in Barcelona

The TechSocialcare team participated in Smart City Expo Barcelona, where innovative solutions highlighted how smart technologies can enhance safety, independence, and quality of life. Assistive technologies are especially important in helping seniors remain in their own homes. Looking ahead, future cities must prioritize inclusive design that supports independent living for people with specific needs.



Stakeholder meeting in Sarajevo at the ASA Institute

A recent meeting at the ASA Institute in Sarajevo brought together important partners, including representatives from the Medical University of Vienna and the Ministry of Health of Sarajevo Canton, along with other relevant stakeholders.

The discussion focused on the role of assistive technologies in health and social care, with particular attention to funding opportunities, improving accessibility, and enhancing the quality and efficiency of services. Participants also exchanged views on how digital solutions can better respond to the needs of users.

