DigiCare Innovation Newsletter

14 Months of Building the Future of Community-Centered Digital Healthcare

June 2026

Dear Partners, Colleagues, Innovators, and Friends,

Fourteen months ago, DigiCare Innovation set out with an ambitious vision: to help transform healthcare through digital innovation, entrepreneurship, education, and collaboration.
Today, we are delighted to share the progress we have made together and invite new stakeholders to join us on this exciting journey.

DigiCare Innovation in headlines:

eit Health

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Transforming Healthcare Through Innovation

DigiCare Innovation brings together higher education institutions, healthcare providers, startups, researchers, innovators, and ecosystem partners across Europe to develop and validate digital solutions that improve community-centered care.

Our mission is clear: to make healthcare more accessible, personalized, preventive, and sustainable through technology-enabled innovation.

Over the past 16 months, the consortium has made significant progress in establishing real-world innovation environments, strengthening entrepreneurial capacity, and building the foundations for a truly integrated European digital health ecosystem.

Innovation in Action: Our Testbeds

CalmXR – Mental Health Innovation

Universitat Internacional de Catalunya (UIC), Spain

Mental health remains one of the most pressing challenges facing students and healthcare systems alike. To address this challenge, UIC has developed CalmXR, an immersive Virtual Reality environment designed to support stress and anxiety management.

The dedicated CalmXR Room combines evidence-based approaches including:

- Guided mindfulness
- Breathing regulation exercises
- Emotional resilience training
- Interactive VR experiences

What makes CalmXR unique is its user-centred approach. Before entering the immersive experience, participants

complete assessments that help personalize the intervention according to their emotional state and wellbeing needs. The platform is being designed as a scalable solution that can be implemented in educational institutions, workplaces, and community settings.

The testbed also serves as a validation environment for digital mental health innovations, bringing together psychologists, mental health researchers, XR specialists, students, and end users to evaluate usability, behavioural outcomes, and real-world adoption potential.

Initial testing involving students, faculty, and administrative staff has delivered encouraging results, with participants reporting meaningful reductions in perceived stress and anxiety following use of the platform.

Looking ahead, the CalmXR team is exploring the integration of AI-powered virtual assistants and physiological monitoring technologies to further personalize user experiences and improve mental health support.

CalmXR demonstrates how immersive technologies can become powerful tools for promoting mental well-being in educational and community settings.

LivingLab – Digital Oncology Care

"Grigore T. Popa" University of Medicine and Pharmacy Iași (UMF Iași), Romania

Improving communication and treatment adherence remains critical in oncology care. The LivingLab Oncology Testbed, developed in collaboration with GreenSoft Iași and the Regional Institute of Oncology Iași, is addressing this need through a digital platform that strengthens the connection between clinicians and patients.

The platform enables:

- Continuous patient-clinician interaction
- Symptom monitoring
- Treatment tracking
- Personalized interventions
- Mobile and web-based access

The LivingLab is designed around the concept of patient-centred oncology care, allowing patients to actively participate in monitoring their health status while providing clinicians with timely information to support rapid decision-making. By combining patient-reported outcomes with clinical information, the platform aims to improve symptom management, treatment adherence, and overall quality of life. An important strength of the testbed is the close collaboration between healthcare professionals, researchers, technology developers, and patients. This Living Lab approach supports co-creation and validation of digital solutions within real oncology workflows, ensuring that innovations respond to genuine clinical needs.

Future developments include the integration of wearable devices, advanced analytics, and AI-supported decision tools capable of generating personalized recommendations and supporting more proactive interventions throughout the cancer care journey.

The LivingLab is creating the foundations for a more connected, personalized, and data-driven model of oncology care.

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KogniHome – Smart Primary Care Environment

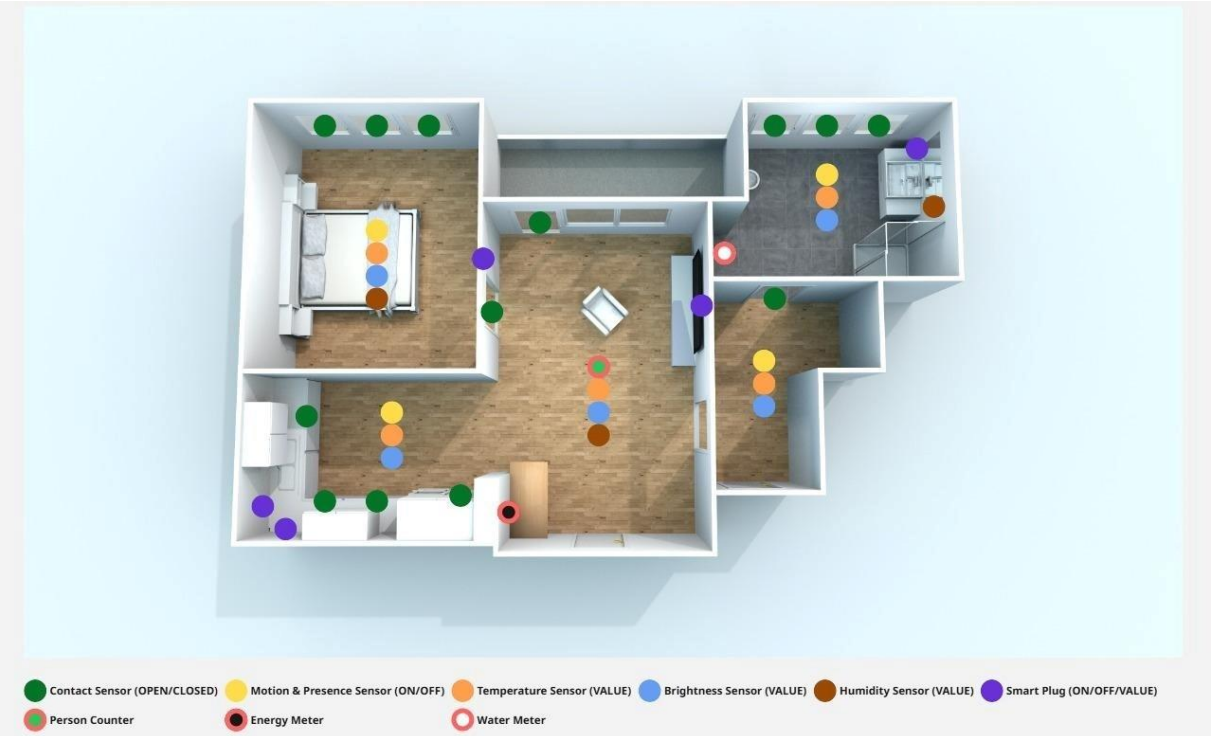
Hochschule Bielefeld University of Applied Sciences and Arts (HSBI), Germany

At HSBI, innovation is being tested where healthcare increasingly begins: at home.

KogniHome is a fully equipped smart apartment that simulates real-life living conditions while integrating ambient sensors and intelligent monitoring technologies.

The testbed enables researchers and innovators to:

- Analyze daily activity patterns
- Identify indicators related to physical well-being Explore markers of cognitive and mental health
- Validate smart home solutions for community and elderly care



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Unlike traditional laboratory environments, KogniHome allows technologies to be evaluated in realistic everyday scenarios, providing valuable insights into how people interact with digital health solutions in their daily lives. The apartment serves as a bridge between research, innovation, and practical implementation.

The testbed supports the development and validation of solutions focused on healthy ageing, independent living, chronic disease management, remote monitoring, AI-supported care, and preventive healthcare. Through collaboration with healthcare professionals, engineers, data scientists, and community care experts, KogniHome helps innovators understand not only whether a technology works, but also how it fits into real-world care environments.

As part of DigiCare, KogniHome also contributes to the development of interoperable digital health infrastructures, supporting future data sharing and collaboration across the project's international testbed network.

By bridging research and practical implementation, KogniHome provides valuable insights into how intelligent living environments can support independent and healthy aging while shaping the future of community-based care.

Building an Integrated European Digital Health Ecosystem

Beyond individual testbeds, DigiCare Innovation has achieved an important milestone through the development of a shared distributed digital architecture supported by BioGHP.

This infrastructure enables:

✅ Secure and GDPR-compliant data exchange

✅ Preservation of institutional data sovereignty

✅ Cross-border collaboration and innovation

✅ Future scalability of digital health solutions

The consortium is also implementing internationally recognized interoperability standards, including:

- HL7 FHIR
- OMOP Common Data Model

These standards ensure that innovations developed across our testbeds can communicate, scale, and create value across different healthcare systems and regions.

Investing in People: The DigiCare Online Course

Technology alone does not transform healthcare—people do.
To strengthen innovation and entrepreneurial capacities across our ecosystem, the consortium has developed the **DigiCare Online Course**, providing participants with knowledge and practical skills at the intersection of:

- Digital health
- Innovation
- Entrepreneurship
- Healthcare transformation
- User-centered design

The course supports students, researchers, healthcare professionals, and innovators in becoming active contributors to the future of healthcare. So far over 500 students from all across Europe and beyond have completed this course.

Growing Our Innovation Ecosystem

One of DigiCare Innovation's greatest strengths is its growing community.
Over the last 14 months, we have strengthened collaboration among universities, healthcare organizations, startups, technology providers, researchers, and regional innovation actors.
Together, we are creating an ecosystem where ideas can be transformed into validated solutions with real societal impact.

Looking Ahead

As DigiCare Innovation enters its next phase, partners will focus on:

- 🔷 Integrating wearable technologies into healthcare pathways
- 🔷 Advancing AI-supported personalization of care
- 🔷 Expanding interoperability between testbeds
- 🔷 Supporting startups and innovators in validating and scaling solutions
- 🔷 Strengthening the long-term sustainability of digital community care models

Through collaboration, innovation, and user-centered design, DigiCare Innovation continues to contribute to a future where healthcare is more connected, proactive, and accessible for everyone.

Join the DigiCare Innovation Community

We believe that meaningful healthcare transformation requires collaboration across disciplines, sectors, and borders.

Whether you are:

- A healthcare provider
- A startup or scale-up
- A researcher
- A policy maker
- An innovation ecosystem organization
- A student or entrepreneur

we invite you to connect with us and explore opportunities for collaboration, testing, research, education, and innovation.

Together, we can shape the future of digital community care in Europe.

Thank you to all partners, stakeholders, and supporters who have contributed to our journey so far. The progress achieved over the past 16 months demonstrates what is possible when education, research, healthcare, and entrepreneurship come together with a shared vision.

The best is yet to come.

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