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EVOLVE2CARE Project Reaches Successful Completion, Establishing Landmark Legacy for HealthTech Innovation in Transitional Care

THESSALONIKI / BRUSSELS — **EVOLVE2CARE** (Engaging the Value Of Living Labs to Innovate Care And Regulatory Environments), the Horizon Europe project funded under Grant Agreement No. 101158152, concluded its 24-month Coordination and Support Action at the end of September 2026. The project set out to answer a practical question: why do promising digital health solutions so often stall between a successful pilot and everyday use in hospitals and homes? Over two years, the consortium built and tested a standardized way of experimenting with HealthTech in real-life settings, designed to lower the risk of bringing new technologies to market and to make regulatory compliance easier to navigate across European health systems.

The work centred on transitional care—the vulnerable period between hospital discharge and recovery at home—and on three use cases: hospital discharge management, remote monitoring and home-based care, and inclusive technologies for ageing and chronic care. Through structured real-world trials, EVOLVE2CARE brought together digital health innovators, accredited European Living Labs (user-centred, real-life test environments) and the regulatory settings in which both operate.

What the trials showed

Nine HealthTech innovators took part in the trials: Aumenta Vilanova S.L., Vire Sense, Anecoica Studio UG, BaMea App, KORI EYES TECH, m-Path, Paperbox Health srl, Refleksa Ltd and VIDAVO S.A. They worked with five accredited European Living Labs—Laurea University of Applied Sciences, EPEL Neàpolis, ATELIERUL DE IDEI TRAIN-IC SRL, Internet of Food Alliance IKE and Thomas More Kempen VZW—which hosted the trials in clinical and community settings.

The results are encouraging for the Living Lab approach. Seven of the nine innovators (78%) reported that validation in a Living Lab directly advanced their solution's market uptake, positioning and commercial readiness, and seven of nine (78%) said they would pay for Living Lab services once the project ends—three for the full service package and four for specific high-value components. These findings, documented in Deliverables D1.4, D2.2 and D2.5, also confirmed the project's five-domain roadmap (Legal & Regulatory, Fiscal, Technical, Operational, and Economic & Social) against the outcomes of trials carried out in several countries.

Funded by the European Union

Where the real barriers lie

Perhaps the most telling lesson concerns regulation. Obstacles stemmed less from outright legal prohibition than from process: opaque approval timelines, the difficulty of working out which rules apply in which jurisdiction, and emerging frameworks such as the EU AI Act. Their cost was measured not in fines but in elapsed administrative time and staff effort.

Money mattered differently for each side. For innovators, the trial itself was not the binding constraint; the harder challenge was securing growth capital afterwards to act on what the validation had shown. For Living Labs, the pressure came from administrative and compliance work that fixed service budgets had not anticipated.

In practice, participants were not the problem. Patients and caregivers were consistently willing to take part in digital care trials, and the real bottleneck was scaling physical access to pre-screened participant groups and clinical sites within the project's timeframe. Living Labs also lacked a standard way to check, before testing began, how mature a solution was technically (Technology Readiness Level) and socially (Social Readiness Level), which pointed to the need for a structured intake step to prevent mismatched timelines and scope.

One further finding has direct commercial value: independent evaluation proved an asset in its own right. Innovators used the neutral validation reports from Living Labs as evidence when approaching investors, applying for public grants and engaging with health system procurement.

A lasting legacy: the Accelup platform

These lessons shaped **Accelup**, EVOLVE2CARE's digital platform for matching HealthTech developers with testing facilities (the Experimentation Space Infrastructure described in Deliverable D2.5). Matching relies on a simple tag system aligned with the official **ENoLL Sector Taxonomy**, including Health & Wellbeing, which delivers structured, scalable pairing of innovators and labs without the complexity of heavy AI. Each collaboration is profiled up front—its social readiness, target user group, and regulatory and data constraints—followed from bidding through to completion, and closes with a mutual rating between innovator and lab.

Accelup will continue well beyond the project. Its enhanced matchmaking will be showcased at the **ENoLL Health & Wellbeing Working Group online event in October 2026**, supporting live consortium building across Europe. Connected to the **ENoLL Knowledge Hub** and **ENoLL Academy**, its challenge-driven approach to matching will also be reused in upcoming Horizon Europe initiatives, including the RAISE Suite project, for real-life data collection scenarios.

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Related News & Resources

- EVOLVE2CARE Final Event: Accelerating the Future of Transitional Care (27 Aug 2026)
- From Regulatory Challenges to Policy Recommendations: A Co-Creation Journey (17 Jul 2026)
- EVOLVE2CARE and RAISE-SUITE Explore the Role of Open Science in Transitional Care (23 Jun 2026)
- Accelup Marketplace
- EVOLVE2CARE Zenodo community (project deliverables)

About EVOLVE2CARE

EVOLVE2CARE (**E**ngaging the **V**alue **O**f **L**iving Labs to **I**nnovate **C**are **A**nd **R**egulatory **E**nvironments) is a Coordination and Support Action funded under the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement No. 101158152. The project unites a multidisciplinary European consortium dedicated to standardizing real-world HealthTech experimentation in transitional care. The consortium is led by the **Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH)** (Greece) as Project Coordinator, alongside **SploroTech SL** (Spain), **Anthology Ventures** (Bulgaria), **VILABS** (Cyprus), and the **European Network of Living Labs (ENoLL)** (Belgium).

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