BEACONS

GOOD PRACTICE - PROJECT

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Introduction to the Good Practice:

Kaunas city municipality have used the research to identify problems in public transport sector for disabled people and through their municipality company UAB „Kauno autobusai“ had initiated the project “KVT Balsas” which created the product for the disabled and it was tested by involving the disabled community in the municipality.

Problem:

Visually impaired people have problem identifying the public transport.

Solution:

Municipality company UAB „Kauno autobusai“ have put “beacons” (active tags) on 50 buses in Kaunas and created free application for mobile phone which connects to those “beacons” by Bluetooth when the bus arrives. Application was tested with Kaunas community of disabled people and received positive feedback.

Impact:

There are around 700 visually impaired people in Kaunas municipality who belong to formal association “Lietuvos aklųjų ir silpnaregių sąjunga”. The app was introduced only at the end of 2016, so it is too early to judge about the impact, but app received a lot of positive feedback, media coverage and the market of potential users is much broader, because old people, people with slight visual disorders can also benefit from the app.

1. Relevancy of the Good Practise (GP) project

The "Relevancy of the GP project" section provides quick check and definition of its relevancy in regards to HoCare project objectives.

Good practice of quadruple-helix cooperation in R&I?	Yes, this GP project includes good practices of quadruple-helix cooperation in R&I
Good practice of delivery of Home Care R&I?	Yes, this GP project includes good practices of delivery of Home Care R&I.
If not in Home Care R&I, description and proof of its potential for transferability to delivery of Home Care R&I	
Generation of innovation in home care through answering unmet needs identified by formal or informal healthcare providers?	Yes, this GP project includes good practices of innovation through answering unmet needs.
Generation of innovation in home care through public driven innovation?	Yes, this GP project includes good practices of public driven innovation.
Generation of innovation in home care via quadruple-helix cooperation for quicker delivery to the market?	Yes, this GP project includes good practices of innovation via cooperation for quicker delivery to the market.

2. Quick overview of the GP project

The "Quick overview of the GP project" section provides initial overview of the good practice project (GP project) and enables readers to see if this GP project idea is relevant for possible transfer to their organization potential innovation activities.

Name of the GP project	Beacons
Region of origin of GP project	Lithuania
5 keywords that best describe the content of the GP project	smart city, smart buses, transport, disabled people
Relevant Programme name through which the GP project has been funded	Municipality budget
Relevant support programme / intervention area name of the GP project through which it was funded	no
Single or multiple recipients?	multiple recipients
Type of lead recipient and its role (SME, LME, research centre, innovation centre, network/association, university/school, municipality, other public body, other (specify)	1) Municipality which aims to ensure that social vulnerable groups are fully integrated into society; 2) Vulnerable groups get a tool to become more independent in their daily life.
Types of participating partners and	1) SME, designing prototype and testing mobile application;

their roles (list all participating partner types. E.g.: hospital, social house, senior house, patient association, networks, SMEs, LMEs, research actors, business supporting organizations, public institutions/regulators, other (specify)	2) research institutions conducting surveys; 3) regional authority providing consultancies and needs.

3. Transferability

The "Transferability" section provides more detailed review of strengths and weaknesses of this GP project including description of necessary basic conditions for region and leading organization to potentially transfer it. At the end of the section, the key threats in the successful transfer open up possibility to focus on specific relevant issues important for the successful transfer.

Strengths and weaknesses of the project

What are the GP project strengths? Why it was funded?	visually impaired people can move on their own independently using public system and this allows them to be fully integrated into society. Besides, the municipality having ensured the independent mobility of visual impacted individuals, has achieved a significant decrease in expenditures, in particular the biggest drop in public expenditures was generated in services in segments such as travelling of medical specialists, transportation of individual to social centres, etc.
What are the key weaknesses of the GP project?	System is not fully developed as some problems are still not solved, f.e. then some buses come at the same time, then the internet connection is weak. The programme is also not able to identify whether the vehicle is adopted to disabled people or not able to identify other obstacles (f.e. not clear roads, ponds, snow thrower, etc.)

Basic conditions for successful transfer

Why is this GP project transferable? – innovation, impact, financial, legal, and timeframe aspects	Substantial increase in EU population medium age automatically increases the demand of such services as creation of various helping tools/support mechanisms for people having limitations for physical mobility. In addition to this, a variety of European cities have already fully functioning smart city ecosystem. Taking into account that this system generates a lot of open data, this practice can be easy transferred to other countries. Moreover, these methods can be efficiently implemented by both providers by public and private services. The GP project is relatively cheap and as result generate a quick break-even point.
What are the basic conditions the region needs to have to be successful in transferring this good practise?	transport system has to be connected into "smart city" system in order to use created mobile application. Other important thing is, that the application has to be adopted to city's transport system accordingly if the in transport system consists not only buses, but metro, tramways, etc. A region must have a substantially big share of population that is using mobile technologies: fast mobile network (4G or LTE) and developed mobile technology consumption habits.
What are the basic conditions the leading recipient from the region needs to have to be successful in transferring this good practice?	Sufficient high amount of consumers of public transport services. In addition to this, in order to generate substantial motivation for public municipality to transfer this GP, municipality has to incur relatively high costs of transportation of visually disabled persons.

Key threats in GP project transfer

What are the key potential threats for the GP project transfer?	High level of indebtedness of local municipality with significant limit amount of expenditures of secondary importance.

4. Description of the GP project

The "Description of the GP project" section provides more detailed information on the Good Practice project (GP project) and enables readers to get further detailed inspiration and easy ready-to-use information for possible innovation transfer to other project applications. This includes: tackled problem, time length of the GP project, objectives, phases, activities and deliverables of the GP project, its main innovation and target group.

Description of the tackled problem

What was the problem / challenge tackled by the project?	Visually impaired people have problem identifying the public transport.
What were the reasons for the problem?	Lithuania occupies leading position in respect to other EU members of various demographic indicators. For example, Lithuania has 7th highest median age of population in the EU (43 years, in turn, this has generated a drastic increase in old-age dependency ratios (currently 100 working age persons have to support 29 pensioners. In comparison, 17 years ago this figures stood at 21 pensioners. As result the drastic aging of population has generated a substantial increase of visually impacted persons.

Time length of the GP project

What was the time length of the GP project in months?	36 months

Objectives of the GP project

Describe the overall and specific objectives of the GP project	General goal of the project was to ensure increased mobility among visual impacted individuals. Specific objectives : Diversification of public services provided by local municipalities; To generate a significant decline in expenditure structure of local municipality.

Phases, activities and deliverables

List all main phases of the GP project including their time length	Identification of demand among visually impacted individuals; Analysis of problem scope; Financial modelling; Implementation of the project; Monitoring and summary of financial ratios and results. Implementation of costs benefit analysis; Comparing of forecasted values of actual financial results.
List and describe all **main activities that were implemented by the GP**	**Identification of demand among visually impacted individuals:** -calculations of demographic trend and forecasts -analysis of developments in old age populations;

project	**Analysis of problem scope:** - amount of visually impacted individuals that have demand of public transportation services); - Analysis of technical capabilities in public sector; **Financial modelling:** -calculation of net present value of the project. This figure shows the economic and social impact of the project to the society). **Implementation of the project:** - Development and design of mobile application; - Development of prototype; - In-field testing of prototype; - Finalization of technology - Actual implementation of services; **Monitoring and summary** - Evaluation of satisfaction level among target segment; - Advertising of services of target segment;
List all main deliverables of the GP project	-feasibility study; -prototype - product

Main innovation of the GP project

What was the main innovation of the GP project?	Effective cooperation among quadruple helix participants.

Target group of the project

Who was the main target group of the GP project? (SME, LME, research organization, university, public institution, healthcare provider, business supporting organization, other (specify)	-visually impaired individuals
Describe the main target group	Visually impaired individuals in Kaunas municipality. These individuals are able to move freely but their movement is limited by insufficient eye sight.

5. Impact

The “Impact” section provides more detailed information on the effect of the GP project implementation and dissemination of major outputs.

Impact

What was the level of geographical impact of the GP project? (village, city, county, country,	Regional

international, other (specify)	
What were the final impact indicators including their quantification?	Amount of users (pilot project)- 700 participants; Amount of end users- 2500 participants.
Describe the changes resulted from the project activities	Decrease in public expenditures in respect to public services to handicapped individuals; improved psychological climate among physically impaired individuals; increased, mobility among physically impaired individuals; increased consumption among physically impaired individuals.

Dissemination of outputs

Describe dissemination activities of the project outputs carried out during the GP project	Word of mouth communication

6. Risks

The "Risks" section provides more detailed review of potential risks of this GP project implementation including their defined mitigation strategies to eliminate them.

Describe risks involved in implementing this GP project including their mitigation strategies	- Imperfect functioning of mobile technology. - Lack of target consumers; - Longer term of sustainability of project - Financial support of project; - Technology maintenance;

7. Budget

The "Budget" section provides more detailed review of costs regarding the project implementation as well as operational sustainability after its end. In addition, if relevant, public tenders within the project and additional generated incomes by the project are showed and explained.

Budget

What was the overall budget of the project in EUR?	60 000 EUR
List relevant budget lines of the project including their % share from total budget	No data

Additional income generated by the project

Did the project create any additional income?	no, the GP project did not generate additional income
If yes, specify which type of income and what	N/A

amount in EUR?	

Public tender

Did the project include any public tender?	yes, the project included a public tender
If yes, specify what kind of contract (specific contract, general contract, other)	Procurement of R&D services
If yes, specify in what amount in EUR	42 000 EUR
Describe the public tender subject	Feasibility study; development of prototype and actual technology

Financial sustainability after GP project end

Was there an operational financial sustainability plan in the project after its end?	yes, the GP project included an operational financial sustainability plan
If yes, specify where the operational funds after project end came from?	Municipality budget
If yes, specify the amount of operational funds in EUR	No data

8. Other information

In this section, specific additional information about the GP project could be revealed.

Please describe any other relevant information about this GP project (if relevant)	No data

9. Information gathered by …

The information about this good practise (GP) project has been gathered for the purpose of the HoCare project (Interreg Europe Programme) by the following organization:

Region	Lithuania
Organization name(s)	Lithuanian Innovation centre
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