

Establishment of the “International Stakeholder Advisory Board”

DigiCare4You aims to improve the early prevention and management of Type 2 Diabetes (T2D) and hypertension (HTN) via a community-based, person-centred solution, integrating both social and healthcare systems, supported by the use of digital tools. The project also aims to assess the scalability and transferability of the DigiCare4You solution, within the implementation countries and beyond. To support the development of a scalable and transferable solution, an International Stakeholder Advisory Board (ISAB) has been set up.

The role of the ISAB

The ISAB primarily provides insights from varying stakeholder perspectives and contributes to the project’s design, implementation and goals. It will also advise on maximising the project’s replicability and scalability across Europe and beyond, for example through sharing best practices for integrating outcomes into T2D and HTN management plans. The ISAB will also disseminate information and recommendations to policy and health decision-makers and engage in capacity-building activities with the aim of embedding the project intervention into policy and practice. Its multidisciplinary nature ensures effective dialogue and exchange between researchers, policymakers and end-users throughout the course of the project.

This will be achieved through project update meetings and workshops where the ISAB will provide feedback and recommendations centered around capacity building, replicability and scalability. More specifically, the ISAB will participate in two international workshops towards the end of the project in late 2024 and mid 2025. The first workshop will aim to discuss the scalability potential of the project in other settings within the four implementation countries and provide a platform for information exchange and brainstorming to feed into the development of a first draft of the ‘DigiCare4You Roadmap for Scale-up’. The second workshop will have a focus on working on the ‘roadmap’ for implementation and scalability. The final version of the ‘roadmap’ will contain recommendations for stakeholders for the implementation of the DigiCare4You solution beyond the pilot countries.

Composition of the ISAB

The ISAB consists of representatives from international institutions and organisations as well as experts and national stakeholders from the four implementation countries – Albania, Bulgaria, Greece and Spain. The organisations represented work in the fields of non-communicable diseases, health policy, diabetes and HTN, or are policy makers. For example, representatives from the European Heart Network, the European Association for the Study of Obesity, the Bulgarian Diabetes Association as well as the Medical Society of Athens have joined the ISAB.

