

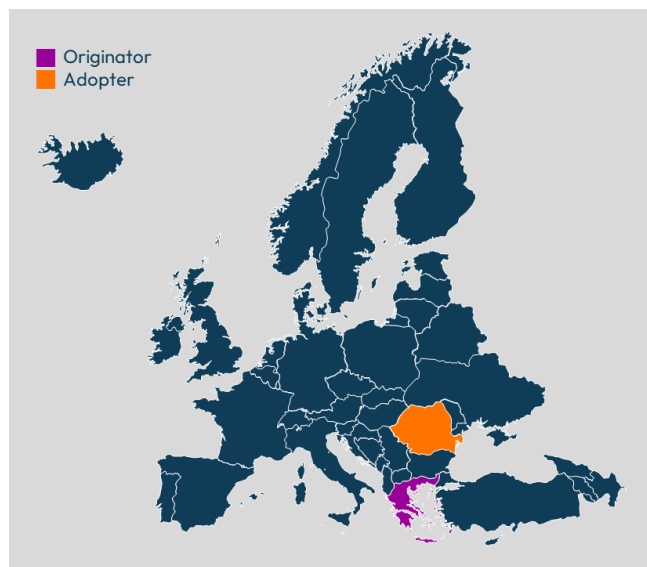


DHU Twinning: TERCS

Twinning for Elderly Cancer Survivors

Originator: Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH), Greece

Adopter: Oncology Institute "Prof. Dr. Ion Chiricuta", Cluj-Napoca (IOCN), Romania



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Project Overview

TERCS was a twinning action between **Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH)** and **Oncology Institute “Prof. Dr. Ion Chiricuță” (IOCN)**, focusing on the implementation of the frailty management aspect of the LifeChamps solution in the Romanian healthcare context, particularly within oncological care. The initiative aimed to enhance collaboration and knowledge exchange between AUTH and IOCN regarding innovative digital health tools to facilitate integrated care for older cancer survivors.

LifeChamps Solution

Central to this collaboration was the implementation of the **LifeChamps solution**, designed to improve oncology care and survivorship. In the context of TERCS, two face-to-face meetings were held:

- **February 8-9, 2024:** Thessaloniki, Greece
- **March 6-7, 2024:** Cluj-Napoca, Romania

These meetings marked significant milestones in the twinning process. During the meetings, key discussions took place around the LifeChamps solution, including ethical considerations, adaptation requirements for the Romanian context, pilot trial results, and lessons learned.

Meetings and Discussions

Attendees included representatives from both AUTH and IOCN, fostering closer collaboration and understanding between the partners. Hands-on demonstrations of the solution were conducted, prompting discussions on its potential implementation in Romania. Suggestions were made to tailor the solution based on patients' digital health competence levels and treatment-related burdens, emphasizing the need for flexibility to accommodate varying patient states.

Additionally, focus group discussions were organized, involving clinicians, healthcare managers, cancer survivors, and caregivers to gather feedback and intentions. This ensured alignment with the needs and preferences of the Romanian healthcare ecosystem and consideration of specific requirements and improvements or adaptations required.

Implementation and Practical Aspects

These discussions confirmed the suitability of the solution for the Romanian context and identified potential barriers or challenges to its implementation. Practical aspects of implementation, including real-world operation and patient-clinician interactions facilitated by the technology, were a key focus and will continue to be explored beyond the twinning initiative. There was enhanced interest in the potential for the technology to improve communication between patients and doctors, empowering patients to participate more actively in their care.



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Cultural Considerations

Cultural factors, such as health literacy and family involvement, were acknowledged as important considerations in the implementation process. Understanding how cultural nuances may influence patient interactions with the solution was also emphasized.

Future Collaboration

Addressing practical aspects of implementation, including real-world operation and patient-clinician interactions facilitated by the technology, remained a spotlight and will continue even after the end of this twinning to confirm a solid ground of collaboration within the context of this endeavor, but other innovations as well.



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