

The Project “[Healthcare open and inclusive for all](#)” (acronym ‘iCARE’, MIS code 6007164), was approved for funding within the framework of the **INTERREG IPA Cross Border Cooperation Programme “Greece – North Macedonia 2021-2027”** (CP CODE: 628), and is implemented under the Subsidy Contract No. 24758 which was signed on 27.08.2025 between the [Managing Authority of the Programme](#) and the [National Confederation of Persons with Disabilities \(E.S.A.meA.\)](#), the Lead Beneficiary of the iCARE Project.

iCARE falls under the **Specific Objective** “4.5 Ensuring equal access to health care and fostering resilience of health systems, including primary care, and promoting the transition from institutional to family- and community-based care” of the **Priority Axis** “3. Support and upgrade of health & social services”.

The Project has a total budget of **€892.220,98** and an implementation period from **27.08.2025** to **27.08.2027** (duration 24 months).

The iCARE Project is implemented within the framework of the [Interreg VI-A IPA Programme ‘Greece – North Macedonia 2021-2027’](#) and is co-financed by the European Union at 80% and by national funds at 20%.

Project Beneficiaries

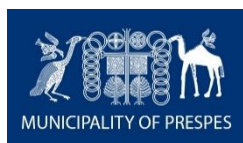
The project, with the National Confederation of Disabled People from Greece as Lead Partner, has in total **five (5) Partners**:



[National Confederation of Disabled People / E.S.A.meA.](#)
(Northern Greece Branch)



[3rd Regional Health Authority](#)
(Macedonia)



[Municipality of Prespes](#)



[Municipality of Resen](#)
(from North Macedonia)



[Coordination of the Organizations for Voluntary Services / COSV](#)
(Prilep branch, from North Macedonia)

Short description

iCARE is a 24-month cross-border initiative whose central goal is to remove barriers to healthcare and social services for vulnerable groups, particularly elderly people, persons with disabilities, children and citizens with chronic conditions or high-risk health profiles. The project responds to shared challenges in the border area, including rural isolation, low digital health literacy, limited e-health services and inequalities in access to primary care.

Locations of activities focus on the **Municipality of Prespes (Greece)** and the **Municipality of Resen (North Macedonia)**, two remote regions where access to healthcare is particularly restricted. **These areas will host pilot actions that extend local “Help at Home” programmes into fully accessible “Healthcare at Home” services, supported by digital tools and mobile units.**

The **National Confederation of Disabled People of Greece (Lead Beneficiary)** oversees overall coordination, management and awareness campaigns, ensuring that accessibility principles are embedded throughout. The **3rd Regional Health Authority of Macedonia** contributes medical expertise, develops telemedicine services and strengthens the capacity of regional healthcare units. The **Municipality of Prespes** and the **Municipality of Resen** upgrade local infrastructure by acquiring electric vehicles for mobile healthcare, installing telemedicine and mobility aids, and operating pilot services for isolated citizens. The **COSV Branch in Prilep** supports capacity building, digital health literacy, awareness campaigns and cross-border exchange of good practices.

Key deliverables include the launch of telemedicine and electronic health record systems, acquisition of mobility aids and electric vehicles for homecare, pilot healthcare and social e-services for rural citizens, training workshops and seminars for healthcare professionals, and large-scale publicity and awareness campaigns. Digital platforms and accessible information sources will ensure citizens can navigate services independently, while municipalities will maintain the new infrastructure beyond the project’s lifetime.

Target groups are primarily disadvantaged and high-risk citizens in the cross-border area—elderly residents, people with disabilities, children, and patients with chronic conditions—alongside healthcare professionals, local authorities, and service providers.

The **quantified expected results** are significant: at least **3,000 people per year** will gain access to modernised healthcare services; around **5,000 annual users** will benefit from new e-healthcare tools and telemedicine platforms; **25 cross-border joint actions** will be carried out; and **15 organisations** from both countries will cooperate directly. In addition, the project will deliver a six-month pilot operation of mobile care units, multiple capacity-building activities, and improved digital health literacy across communities.

With a total budget of **€892,220.98** (80% EU co-financed), iCARE builds on the [Cross4all project](#) (Programming period 2014–2020) and aligns fully with the European Disability Strategy and the European Accessibility Act.

The contribution of E.S.A.meA.

The National Confederation of Disabled People from Greece (E.S.A.meA.) participates as the Lead Beneficiary of the Project, based on the **Partnership Agreement** of 28.07.2025 of the Project, with an approved total budget for the National Confederation of **€251.360,40**.

E.S.A.meA.'s contribution to the Project focuses mainly on the following topics:

- Management and coordination at project level (as lead partner) and at beneficiary level (D1.2).
- Organization of regular meetings of the project partners (D1.3).
- Organization of an opening conference of the Project (D2.1).
- Design, production and transcription in alternative accessible formats of communication and promotion material of the Project (D2.2).
- Development of an accessible communication and promotion website for the Project, in full compliance with the WCAG 2.1 guidelines, at least at AA level (D2.3).
- Coordination and supervision of implementation of a proper communication strategy for the Project (D2.4).
- Conducting research to identify the needs and experienced inequalities of the project's target groups (D4.1).
- Development of a specialized system for assessing the accessibility and friendliness of health and social care infrastructure and services and implementation of accessibility inspections on the field at healthcare infrastructure and services across the Greek area of the Program (D4.2).
- Creation of special educational material and organization of informal education seminars, to raise awareness, information and activation on issues of disability and inequalities in the health sector and to promote good practices of accessibility, equal treatment and inclusion for all (D4.3).
- Development of guidelines for authorities, institutions, professionals and infrastructure/equipment managers on the design and delivery of inclusive healthcare services, based on good practices from Europe and around the world (D4.4).
- Development of a cross-border web portal for access to health and care information, data and resources in the cross-border area of the Programme, in full compliance with the WCAG 2.1 guidelines, at least at level AA (D4.5).
- Supervision and specialized support to the Municipalities of Prespes and Resen for the design and implementation of their pilot programs for “Provision of healthcare at home” (D5.1) and for “Provision of electronic services for remote/isolated citizens” (D5.2).
- Supervision and specialized support to the Municipalities of Prespes and Resen for the development of risk scenarios and implementation of emergency exercises (D5.3).

About the Programme

The [Interreg VI-A IPA Programme “Greece - North Macedonia 2021 – 2027”](#) is a cross-border cooperation Programme co-financed by the European Union under the Instrument for Pre-Accession Assistance (IPA III). This joint Programme empowers public authorities, private non-profit organizations and other institutions to work together on common challenges and problems, seeking for smarter solutions in the areas of Thessaloniki, Kilkis, Pella, Serres, Florina, Kozani and Vardar, Pelagonia, Southeast and Southwest. The strategy statement of the Programme is *“to enhance territorial cohesion by improving living standards and employment opportunities holding respect to the environment and by using the natural resources for tourism”*. The total budget of the Programme for the period 2021-2027 is 33.3 million €.



Figure. **Map of eligible areas of the Programme**
(Source: [Official website of the Programme](#))

Disclaimer: The contents of the webpage are the sole responsibility of the [National Confederation of Disabled People - Greece](#) and the iCARE project partner and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the [European Union](#), the participating countries and the [Managing Authority](#).