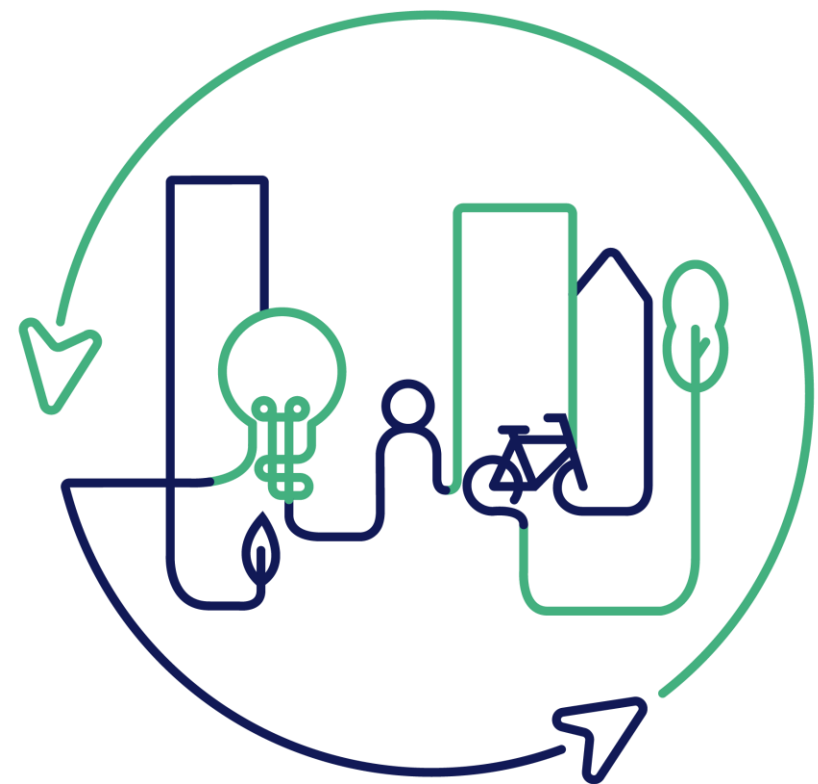


EUROPEAN  
U R B A N  
INITIATIVE

**CARE-GET E-NEWSLETTER Nº 3**  
**European Urban Initiative**

**December 2025 – May 2026**



Co-funded by  
the European Union

## Introduction

The CARE-GET project continued to gain momentum over the past six months, further positioning Haskovo as an emerging centre for healthcare innovation, entrepreneurship, education and community-driven transformation in Southeast Europe. At this phase, the project has now moved decisively from strategic planning towards the active implementation of its ecosystem-building activities, combining healthcare modernisation, MedTech innovation, skills development and civic participation within a single integrated vision.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the CARE-GET e-newsletter highlights several key milestones achieved during the reporting period. The consortium officially launched the “CARE-GET – Programme for Entrepreneurs and Startups in Haskovo”, opening new opportunities for training, mentoring, acceleration and financial support for innovative business ideas, including specialised healthcare and MedTech initiatives.

At European level, the CARE-GET transfer partnership gathered in Siena, Italy, where partners exchanged knowledge, explored successful innovation ecosystems and strengthened cooperation on the transfer of innovative urban solutions across Europe.

At the local level, CARE-GET continued to place citizens and communities at the centre of its development model. The project organised its first “Support Group” meeting in Haskovo, bringing together patients, caregivers, healthcare professionals and civil society organisations in an open dialogue on healthcare needs, social support and future services within the planned MedTech Hub.

In parallel, communication and educational events at the Haskovo Branch of Trakia University introduced students and healthcare professionals to topics including telemedicine, digital healthcare, entrepreneurship and future career opportunities in the region.

These activities reflect the growing operational dimension of CARE-GET — a project that not only plans future transformation, but is already actively building partnerships, engaging communities, supporting innovation and laying the foundations for a sustainable MedTech and healthcare ecosystem in Haskovo and beyond.

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# 01 CARE-GET – Programme for Entrepreneurs and Startups in Haskovo Officially Launched

Haskovo officially launched the “CARE-GET – Programme for Entrepreneurs and Startups in Haskovo”, designed to stimulate innovation, entrepreneurship and business development in the region.

The programme offers:

- practical entrepreneurship training;
- mentoring support;
- accelerator programmes;
- funding opportunities for the best innovative projects.



The launch event brought together representatives of local and national institutions, businesses, educational organisations, entrepreneurs, students and stakeholders from across the region.

Participants learned more about the upcoming mentorship and accelerator programmes, including funding opportunities of:

- **EUR 7,500 grants** for selected entrepreneurial projects;
- **EUR 20,000 grants** for innovative healthcare and MedTech start-ups.

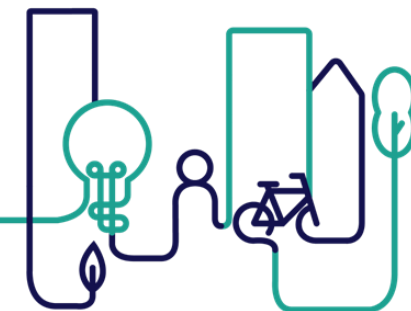
## 02 CARE-GET Transfer Partners Meeting in Siena

From 6 to 8 May 2026, CARE-GET partners met in Siena, Italy, for a Transfer Partners Meeting hosted by the Municipality of Siena.

The meeting addressed the exchange of best practices, transfer plans, implementation progress, and future cooperation among transfer cities. Key topics included healthcare innovation, digitalisation, entrepreneurship and technology transfer.

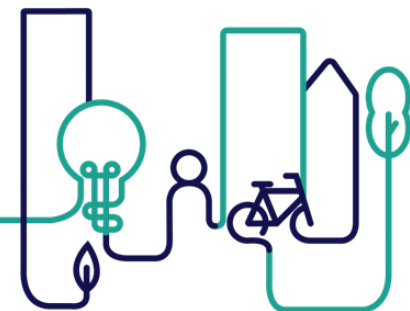
Partners visited several leading innovation and research centres, including:

- ✓ Toscana Life Sciences;
- ✓ Siena Imaging;
- ✓ Ikigai Hub;
- ✓ University of Siena and Santa Chiara Lab.



## 02 CARE-GET Transfer Partners Meeting in Siena

The CARE-GET project was also presented during the “**Stati Generali della Salute**” conference, dedicated to healthcare policies, digital innovation and artificial intelligence in healthcare.



## 03 CARE-GET Project Brings Together the Local Community in Haskovo in Its First “Support Group” Meeting

On 20 February, the Bulgarian Economic Forum, with the support of Trakia University – Haskovo Branch, organised the first CARE-GET “Support Group” communication event.

The meeting brought together over 25 participants, including individuals with chronic illnesses, caregivers, family members, healthcare professionals, representatives of social organisations and project partners.

The event provided a safe space to share experiences, identify community needs, and discuss future healthcare and support services for the planned MedTech Hub in Haskovo.

Participants emphasised the need for regular community meetings, greater social integration, enhanced support services, and active citizen involvement in developing future healthcare solutions.

The discussions produced valuable ideas that will directly inform the functional model of the MedTech Hub.



## 04 Two-session workshop at Trakia University – Haskovo Branch

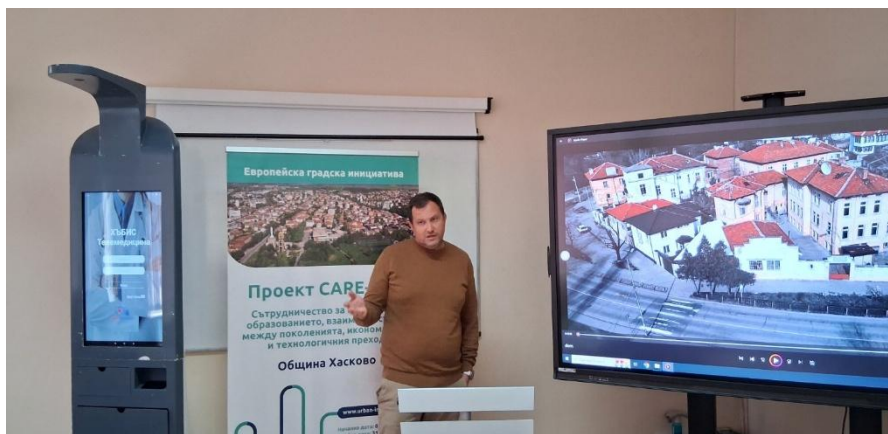
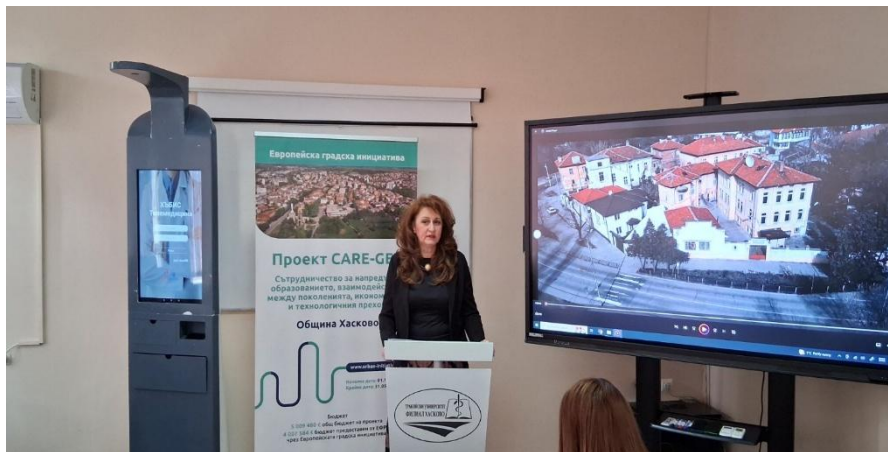
On 30 April, Trakia University – Haskovo Branch held a communication event as part of activity D4.5.1 of the CARE-GET project, attended by over 50 participants, including students and healthcare professionals. The event addressed digital transformation in healthcare, telemedicine, remote medical assistance and career opportunities for healthcare professionals in Haskovo.

**A key highlight was a live demonstration of a modern telemedicine station by Hubis Ltd.**, illustrating how remote healthcare technologies enhance diagnostics and support medical professionals in daily practice.

The second session included discussions with leading healthcare experts, such as Dr Ivan Ivanov, Director of the Oncology Hospital in Haskovo and Dr Mario Yanakiev, a prominent Bulgarian paediatrician.

The event concluded with a commitment to strengthen partnerships among educational institutions, healthcare providers, businesses and local authorities to support healthcare innovation and regional development.

# 04 Two-session workshop at Trakia University – Haskovo Branch





**Lead partner of the**  
**CARE-GET project**

**Municipality of Haskovo,  
BULGARIA**

For more information, visit <https://haskovo-hub.bg/novini/>