Output factsheet: Pilot actions

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| Project index number and acronym | Focus IN CD 111 |
| **Lead partner** | Municipality of Maribor |
| Output number and title | Output O.T3.1.1 (T3.2.3)  Development and implementation of 10 pilot projects |
| **Responsible partner (PP name and number)** | University Medical Centre Maribor - PP2 |
| **Project website** | https://www.interreg-central.eu/Content.Node/Focus-IN-CD.html |
| **Delivery date** | 5/2019 |

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| Summary description of the pilot action explaining its experimental nature and demonstration character |
| »Simulator testing to improve edoscopist practice in field of CD«  Pilot activity was developed and tested by the University Medical Centre Maribor with the participation of Medical Faculty of University of Maribor. Main aim of the activity was to improve skills of healthcare professionals (HCPs) who are likely to be exposed to celiac disease (CD) patients. It is known that management of patients with CD is suboptimal in many regions, which can partially be attributed to insufficient knowledge about diagnostic methods as well as to insufficient skills of HCPs. Intestinal biopsy remains one of the most important diagnostic procedures in CD and it requires skilled endoscopist who perform the procedure. On the other hand, it is also important for general practitioners who are not performing these procedures, to be aware of the nature and mode of performance of upper endoscopy.  Simulator closely resembling real anatomy of gastrointestinal tract was purchased within the project. Existing endoscopy equipment was upgraded with new light source and video processor to improve the performance. Simulators were first tested by skilled endoscopists at University Medical Centre Maribor, and a lecture was prepared as well as written material was developed with information about indications and contraindications for the procedure. Functionality of endoscopes was closely described and aims of the procedure in the field of specific diseases especially celiac disease were described.  Two types of education activities were designed. One for individual participants and another one for groups. Group training was organized at different occasions such as Meeting of Pediatricians in Maribor and SkillsLab meeting held at the Medical Faculty of University of Maribor. Small groups of participants were first presented a lecture, then were provided the written instruction, after which they were able to practice their skills with the help of simulators. Both HCPs who are already familiar with endoscopic procedures as well as trainees with no formal knowledge were involved. Participants were very satisfied with the training. Individual training was organized for trainees and students at the Department of Pediatrics of University Medical Centre Maribor. Same education material was presented to participants; however, participants were able to train individually with mentors. Participants of individual training also expressed high level of satisfaction with the service.  Both participants of group and individual training showed rapid improvement of technical skills as well as the improvement in the knowledge about indications and contraindications of endoscopic procedures, which will improve the quality of management of celiac disease patients. |

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| NUTS region(s) concerned by the pilot action (relevant NUTS level) |
| Majority of participants at training come from North-East Slovenia, however participants form other regions of Slovenia also participated at training courses. Training was also attended by students from Germany, Czech Republic, Hungary, Croatia, Italy, Belgium, Portugal, Poland and Russia.  NUTS regions:  AT11-Styria  BE10-Brussels  CZ01-Prague  DE14-Tubingen  DE21-Oberbayern  DEA2-Koln  HR03-Primorska Hrvatska  HR04-Kontinentalna Hrvatska  HU11-Budapest  HU31-Northern Hungary  ITD4-Friuli-Veneza Giulia  PL21-Malopolskie  PT30-Regiao Autonoma da Madeira  SI03-Vzhodna Slovenija  SI04-Zahodna Slovenija |

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| Expected impact and benefits of the pilot action for the concerned territory and target groups |
| Pilot activity Simulator testing to improve edoscopist practice in field of CD will have an important impact on skills of healthcare practitioners who were exposed to training activities with the help of simulators. They will better recognize indications and contraindications for endoscopy, and will be able to select patients who will benefit by the procedure. Practitioners who themselves will not be performing endoscopy will be able to better explain to their patients the nature of the procedure. Practitioners performing endoscopies will have better skills and will be able to perform the procedure more efficiently. Healthcare service provided in the region will be improved. On the other hand, this improvement of the service, will improve the management of patients. Patients will be managed more efficiently and current insufficiencies practices in celiac disease diagnosis will be overcome. At the same time, the improved skills and knowledge will reflect themselves in other fields outside celiac disease, with multiplicative effect.  The end net effect will be better healthcare service for citizens in the region. |

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| Sustainability of the pilot action results and transferability to other territories and stakeholders |
| Sustainability: equipment purchased within the project will remain to be used at the Department of Paediatrics of University Medical Centre Maribor after the project end. Training activities will be organised for groups of participants at annual professional events and for individual participants training at the Department. Training material will be regularly updated as new developments become available. Equipment will be regularly updated.  Transferability: upon exchange of the experience with partners and stakeholders from other regions the service will be provided to participants who have not been exposed to training before. It will also be provided to participants who are not focusing on celiac disease management. Several institutions have provided positive feedback and interest in endoscopy training at our institution. Pilot activities and achievements were also transferred to other regions and countries through our participation at transnational events: AOECS (EU patient society), ESPGHAN, UEG (EU professionals societies) and through project communication channels. We will continue to promote new developed service through our networks. |

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| Lessons learned from the implementation of the pilot action and added value of transnational cooperation |
| During the initial state of the development of the service, a literature search was done that enabled partners to get better insight into the current state of the knowledge in the field of endoscopy training. This step proved to be crucial in further development of the service. With the input from WPT1, where knowledge and awareness of HCPs was analyzed tailored training material was developed based on the detected gaps.  Important step that proved valuable to partners was purchase of sophisticated equipment that improved the level of performance of existing equipment.  Choosing two different approaches for group training and individual training proved to be important. Both options seem to yield equal level of knowledge gain and participant satisfaction, however group training is more time efficient.  Without co-operation of partners at regular meetings, development of service would not be as efficient. Transnational partnership enabled us to get the information of local practices and expertise in different regions within CE. This enabled the development of the service, which can be transferred to other settings without the need of major modifications. |

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| References to relevant deliverables and web-links  If applicable, pictures or images to be provided as annex |
| WPT3 Pilot activity deliverables:  D.T3.1.1 Report about pilot project ideas and established stakeholders’ groups  D.T3.2.1 Preparation of common pilot methodology  D.T3.2.3 Simulator testing to improve endoscopist practice in field of CD (PP2 UKC MB)  All deliverables and outputs can be found here:  <https://www.interreg-central.eu/Content.Node/Simulator-training-to-improve-endoscopist-practice-in-fi.html> |









