



## FABCOM 1st Newsletter

# Improving **Regional Community** and **Family-Based Care** in Europe





Across Europe, more than **1.4 million people** still live in institutional care, often isolated from their communities. The **FABCOM project** is working to change that by helping regions **transition to inclusive, community-based care systems** that promote dignity, independence, and social participation.

Funded by the **Interreg Europe programme**, FABCOM brings together **8 partners from 7 European regions** to strengthen cooperation, share policy experience, and develop sustainable care models across regions.

## What is FABCOM?

FABCOM supports the shift from institutional care toward **community and family-based care models** aligned with the **UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the European Pillar of Social Rights**.

Through interregional cooperation, research, and policy learning, the project helps regions:

-  **Develop** evidence-based community care strategies
-  **Strengthen** institutional capacity and collaboration
-  **Improve** quality of care and social inclusion
-  **Reduce** long-term public expenditure on social services

The partnership includes regional authorities and organisations from **Latvia, Spain, Poland, Germany, Belgium, Greece and Montenegro**.

## What Has Happened So Far

### FABCOM Kick-off Meeting – Latvia

The project officially launched in **Jelgava, Latvia**, hosted by **Zemgale Planning Region**.

The FABCOM team met to establish the project roadmap and exchange insights on regional healthcare systems. The meeting also included **study visits to social care centres and supported living apartments**, showcasing innovative services supporting children and adults with disabilities.



## New Report Released: State of Play Mapping

FABCOM recently published the “**State of Play Mapping**” report, developed by **KMOP Social Action and Innovation Centre**.

The study provides a **comparative overview of policies and practices** in seven partner regions and highlights both challenges and promising innovations.



### Key insights include:

- ✓ Institutional care still receives the **majority of funding**
- ✓ **Workforce shortages** remain a major barrier
- ✓ Emerging solutions include **digital care tools, neighbourhood-based services, and stronger local collaboration**

The report will serve as the **foundation for upcoming regional action plans** that aim to strengthen community-based care systems.



## 2nd Interregional Learning Event in Kraków

On **17–18 March 2026**, the **FABCOM project team** met in Tarnów and Kraków, hosted by the **Malopolska Region**. The two-day event focused on **independent living and person-centred support**, two key pillars of modern, rights-based social care systems.

Participants engaged with leading experts and local authorities, including the Social Services Center in Tarnów, the “Sunny Hill” Vocational Activity Center, and Dr. J. Babiński Clinical Hospital in Kraków.



The programme included:

- ✓ **Study visits** to local social and vocational care centers
- ✓ **Evaluation and monitoring** of community care programmes
- ✓ **Financing reforms using European and national funds**
- ✓ **Legal and policy frameworks supporting deinstitutionalisation**

These insights will feed directly into **regional action plans** and **future policy recommendations**, supporting the development of sustainable, inclusive, and person-centered social care systems across Europe.

## What's Happening Next

### Our First FABCOM Video

FABCOM **first project video** will be published, explaining why community-based care matters and how European regions can make the transition.

The video will highlight:



The **challenges** of institutional care



The **benefits** of community-based services



The **collaboration** between FABCOM partners

It will be available on the project's **YouTube channel and social media platforms**.

### Next Interregional Event – Germany

Later this year, the project team will gather in Germany for another **two-day learning event organised by Pro Arbeit – Kreis Offenbach AöR**.



Highlights will include:



A **study visit to a community care facility in Dietzenbach**



Discussions on **community care for vulnerable groups**



Identification of **best practices and strategic policy frameworks**

Our team will also continue collecting **successful initiatives from across Europe**, identifying **at least 14 best practices** supporting community-based care models.

## FABCOM Partnership

The project brings together regional authorities and organisations committed to building **inclusive care systems across Europe**:

- ✓ Zemgale Planning Region (**Latvia - Lead Partner**)
- ✓ Jaén County Council (**Spain**)
- ✓ Malopolska Region (**Poland**)
- ✓ Pro Arbeit – Kreis Offenbach AöR (**Germany**)
- ✓ Province of Antwerp (**Belgium**)
- ✓ Region of Central Greece (**Greece**)
- ✓ KMOP Social Action and Innovation Centre (**Greece**)
- ✓ Ministry of Health of Montenegro (**Montenegro**)



## Stay tuned

for more updates and stories from across Europe as FABCOM works to build stronger, more inclusive community care systems.



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