

NEAR NEWSLETTER
2025 - september

Welcome to NEAR

We are delighted to welcome you to the very first edition of the NEAR newsletter.

NEAR (New social Services) is a European project, funded by Interreg, that brings together regions across Europe to rethink how we deliver social care. The COVID-19 pandemic made it clear that our systems need to move away from working in silos, towards more integrated, person-centred and community-based care.

With NEAR, we want to strengthen social services by sharing good practices, learning from each other, and giving professionals the tools and skills they need to support people in the best possible way. Our goal? To ensure that every citizen – especially those in vulnerable situations – receives the care and opportunities they deserve.



This newsletter will keep you updated on progress, events, and practical tools coming out of the project.
Want to stay connected? Subscribe now and be part of our journey towards a more social Europe.

PRACTICAL UPDATES

Good practises

Across Europe, partners in NEAR are identifying innovative ways to improve care services. From training programs for social workers to community initiatives that bring families and professionals closer together – these practices will be shared step by step in our upcoming newsletters. Stay tuned to get inspired!

Update from Belgium

As of spring 2025, Primary Care Zone Mechelen-Katelijne has joined NEAR as a partner, taking over from IGEMO. They are excited to take the lead on communication and ensure that the inspiring stories, knowledge and results from NEAR reach all of you.



Pilot actions

Within the NEAR project, Finland will be carrying out a Pilot Action. They will pilot the concept of “health-literate organisations”, a project that was introduced in Belgium during the fourth partner meeting in October 2024. The initiative will be translated into Finnish and implemented locally.

For this, Finland will collaborate closely with Primary Care Zone Mechelen-Katelijne and the Flemish Institute of Healthy Living, ensuring that valuable expertise is shared across borders. This pilot will provide important insights for all NEAR partners and help shape future approaches to person-centred, community-based care.

