

## SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT IN DESIGN \* (\*)

### Leveraging ICT solutions for preventive strategies in Aging population in Latin America and the Caribbean

<b>PITCH ELIGIBILITY DATE</b>		<b>COUNTRY(IES)</b>
02/25/2022		Panama
<b>ALIGNED WITH COUNTRY STRATEGY?</b>		
Yes		
<b>PARTNER(S)</b>		
Fondazione Politecnico Di Milano		
<b>PRELIMINARY CLASSIFICATION ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT</b>		
C (**)		
<b>TOTAL BUDGET</b>	<b>IDB Lab</b>	<b>LOCAL COUNTERPART AND COFINANCING</b>
US 50,000	US 50,000	US 0
<b>DESCRIPTION</b>		

**The problem** Latin-America and Caribbean (LAC) population is younger if compared to North America or Europe. However, a significant increase of the over 60 years population is expected. This increasing aging reflects both challenges and opportunities for the region. Europe, East Asia, and North America are already facing the big challenge of the so-called “sustainability of the healthcare systems” and have already applied a shift of paradigm from care to prevention. Studies demonstrate the importance of promoting behavioral changes toward a healthy lifestyle and preventing physical and psychological decline.

**The solution** This proposal focuses on the promotion of behavioral changes in the elderly population to prevent cognitive and physical decline and support active and healthy living, thus adopting a personalized prevention strategy. In particular, the main objective is to test and evaluate the benefits associated with ICT solutions, through the implementation of a small-scale pilot, to encourage healthy lifestyle behaviors and help health providers prevent the occurrence or increased burden of existing chronic diseases. The ICT solutions considered for the pilot are for the preventive health of old people and may include wearable devices to monitor health parameters and physical activity, gamified applications to promote exercises, and a cloud-based coaching system, among others. Those solutions have been tested in Italy and they are in the implementation phase. This project is aimed to pilot them to verify the applicability in the LAC region considering several differences between Italy and the LAC region such as (i) average socio-economic profile of older people; (ii) lifestyle and daily activities; (iii) social security programs; and (iv) other external aspects such as legal restrictions or infrastructure, among others. A small-scale pilot (5-10 subjects, 3 months or less ) will be set up together with the healthcare systems in the selected areas in Panama in partnership with the University of Panama.

**The beneficiaries** The direct beneficiaries will be around 50 elderly people in poor or vulnerable conditions in Panama that will be chosen as the participants of the pilots in collaboration with Panama University from one specific primary health care facility most likely from the Caja de Seguro Social (CSS) public health network. It is important to note that this is a research and dissemination project.

\*The information mentioned in this document is indicative and may be altered throughout the project cycle prior to approval. This document does not guarantee approval of the project.

\*\*The IDB categorizes all projects into one of six E/S impact categories. Category A projects are those with the most significant and mostly permanent E/S impacts, category B those that cause mostly local and short-term impacts, and category C those with minimal or no negative impacts. A fourth category, FI-1 (high risk) Financial Intermediary (FI)'s portfolio includes exposure to business activities with potential significant adverse environmental or social risks or impacts that are diverse, mostly irreversible or unprecedented, FI-2 (medium risk) FI's portfolio consists of business activities that have potential limited adverse environmental or social risks or impacts, FI-3 (low risk) FI's portfolio consists of financial exposure to business activities that predominantly have minimal or no adverse environmental and social impacts.

**The partner** The executing agency will be FONDAZIONE POLITECNICO DI MILANO (FPM), the foundation controlled by POLITECNICO DI MILANO (PoliMI) which will implement this project by exploiting its longstanding skills and experience in ICT-driven innovation in processes and organizations, and in digital innovation devoted to supporting government institutions in policy-making regarding ICT adoption. FPM has a long-term collaboration with PoliMI coordinating several projects in different programs such as EU Horizon 2020 and other international projects and consortia. FPM is in charge of the knowledge technology transfer from the university to the field, both through industrial innovation and toward the public administration. FPM innovation management support is based upon a deep knowledge of PoliMI research and an experienced understanding of the novel parts of the project outputs. FPM is a leader in managing research in ICT solutions for health and wellbeing for the aging society in Italy and is active in the European environment. Previous project experience led to a Springer Book publication: Digital Health Technology for Better Aging – A multidisciplinary approach - Editors: Andreoni, Giuseppe and Mambretti, Cinzia.

It is important to note that the University of Panama will participate in the project as the core local partner that will support the implementation participating actively in the pilots and giving any relevant information and advice on local contexts.

**The IDB Lab's contribution** Mobilizing a Technical Cooperation of the US\$50,000 from the Italian Trust Fund of the IDB Group, this project seeks to convey a market study and some limited-scale pilots to evaluate the potential of the solutions. IDB Lab non-financial contribution includes establishing contact with local public health administration to obtain input, align vision and assess potential adoption and scalability of pilot with the support of Social and Public Health (SPH) division of IDB Group.

The TC forms part of the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB)'s group-wide initiative of the Silver Economy initiative that is aligned with the Vision 2025 of the IDB Group in a variety of ways: it fosters female employment generation, inclusive and sustainable economic recovery, and public-private participation. IDB Lab and IDB seek to support innovative solutions that empower the growing population of older adults to become an engine of social inclusion and economic recovery in the LAC region. It is worth mentioning that this is the first institutional collaboration between the IDB Group and the Polytechnic University of Milan Group.

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