COMFORTage

Prediction, monitoring and personalized recommendations for prevention and relief of dementia and frailty

# COMFORTage Call for Twinnings

## Engaging Adopters for the Transfer of Pilot Good Practices

The COMFORTage project invites organisations interested in strengthening innovation in services, environments and technologies supporting active and healthy ageing during the life course through the participation in the COMFORTage Twinning Programme.

The programme aims to support the transfer, adaptation and potential adoption of innovative solutions emerging from the 13 COMFORTage pilots, which have generated practical experience across different clinical, organisational, and service contexts.

Through an ongoing structured twinning pathway, selected participants will engage with the project consortium to explore how specific components of these pilot solutions — referred to as transferable elements — could be applied or adapted in their own contexts.

Participants in the twinning programme will join the COMFORTage ecosystem as "COMFORTage Fellow Innovators," contributing to the exploration of adoption pathways and potentially testing some of the digital tools developed within the project through COMFORTage Community Forum and other collaboration activities.

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# Background: From Pilot Experience to Twinning Opportunities

This section explains how the experience generated by the COMFORTage pilots has led to the development of the twinning programme and the identification of transferable good practices.

The COMFORTage pilots represent a central component of the project, generating practical knowledge, evaluated and validated solutions and operational experience addressing the needs of ageing populations to prevent frailty, cognitive impairment, and dementia.

To maximise the impact of these pilot activities, the consortium has undertaken a structured process aimed at identifying and consolidating transferable elements emerging from the pilots. These elements correspond to specific components of the pilot solutions that can potentially be replicated, adapted, or adopted by other organisations and territories.

The identification of these transferable elements has followed a two-step preparatory process:



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- an initial cross-pilot analysis identifying emerging good practices and potential transferable components;
- a consultation process with pilot partners, who validated and refined these elements based on their implementation experience.

These results have been further consolidated during the COMFORTage consortium activities, where partners collectively analysed the transfer potential of the pilots and identify possible adoption contexts and stakeholders.

The outcomes of this process directly informed the design and implementation of the twinning programme.

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# Objectives of the Twinning Programme

This section outlines the main goals of the COMFORTage Twinning Programme and the expected contribution to knowledge exchange, ecosystem building, and innovation transfer.

The twinning programme aims to:

- share the innovations and lessons learned from the COMFORTage pilots;
- identify organisations interested in exploring the adoption or adaptation of project's results and technical solutions as evaluated in the context of its pilots;
- support potential adopters in analysing implementation conditions and contextual requirements;
- facilitate the development of initial transfer and adaptation plans;
- expand the COMFORTage ecosystem and strengthen collaboration between project partners and external stakeholders.

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# Structure of the Twinning Programme

This section describes the overall architecture of the twinning pathway and the sequence of activities supporting the transfer and adaptation process.

The twinning programme is organised as a progressive learning and collaboration environment combining knowledge exchange, collaborative reflection, and practical planning.

The process combines online activities, collaborative workshops, site visits, and international symposiums.



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# 1. Knowledge Exchange Webinars

This phase provides a shared understanding of the COMFORTage pilots, their innovation domains, and the transferable elements available for potential adoption.

Background knowledge has been shared through COMFORTage Community Forum (CCF), and a series of online webinars has been presenting the good practices and transferable elements emerging from the pilots. All registrations are available on COMFORTage website: COMFORTage Twinning Open Call - COMFORTage

The webinars have been:

- introducing the innovation approaches evaluated in the pilots;
- highlighting key transferable elements and enabling conditions;
- allowing participants to discuss relevance and applicability in their own contexts.

Webinar themes include:

- Prevention & Early Detection Pathways;
- Integrated Care & Remote Monitoring;
- Service Provision & Living Labs.

These webinars have been establishing a shared knowledge base for all twinning participants.

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# 2. Twinning Activities

Twinning activities are designed to facilitate dialogue, peer exchange, and collaborative reflection between COMFORTage consortium and potential adopters. They include:

- Symposiums
- Webinars
- Site visits
- Expert support for initial transfer and adaptation plans (“Scaling-up Plans”)
- Follow-up activities for sustainability

The first Symposium was held in Malaga and was focused on providing an overview of the pilots’ transferable elements that are available for Twinnings. The registration, the full report and the ppt are available at the following link: COMFORTage Twinning Open Call - COMFORTage

Once the Twinnings are appointed, the participants will be invited to take part in a structured twinning exchange process including:



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- structured online meetings
- an intermediate online symposium;
- a site visit and stakeholder exchange session hosted by pilot organisations;
- a final in-person symposium in Brussels.

These activities will provide opportunities for deeper dialogue between pilot partners and potential adopters, including peer exchange and collaborative exploration of transfer pathways.

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# 3. Transfer Exploration and Scaling-up Plans

This phase supports participating organisations in analysing the practical implications of transfer and identifying realistic pathways for adaptation and implementation.

A key objective of the twinning programme is to support participants in translating aspiration into practical next steps, map them in reference to already validated solutions and accelerate their adoption through collaboration, knowledge exchange, and capacity building.

Building on the transferable elements identified across the project pilots, adopters will be supported in exploring:

- how COMFORTage solutions are most relevant for their context;
- what organisational, technological or partnership conditions would be required for adoption;
- what contextual adaptations may be necessary;
- which steps could be taken to initiate a transfer process

Participants will progressively develop Preliminary Ambition Statements and Scaling-up Plans with the support of RSCN and other consortium partners, outlining potential pathways for transfer, adaptation and possibly adoption.

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# 4. Follow-up and Reporting

Monitoring and reflection activities will help document the twinning experience and consolidate lessons learned for future transfer initiatives.

The twinning process will include follow-up and reporting activities aimed at:

- documenting participation;
- capturing key insights and lessons learned;
- monitoring the progress of the twinning exchanges;



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- identifying enabling factors and barriers for transfer and adoption.

These activities will contribute to consolidating the COMFORTage knowledge transfer strategy and identifying future opportunities for collaboration and innovation uptake. The RSCN will provide the opportunity to create a Thematic Working Group to ensure knowledge exchange sustainability after the project ends.

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# Participatory Approach

The programme is based on collaborative learning principles that encourage interaction, co-design, and mutual exchange between all participating organisations.

The twinning programme adopts such participatory and collaborative approach, recognising that innovation transfer benefits from dialogue between solution providers (project technical partners), first adopters (project pilots) and external potential adopters.

Interactive methods will therefore be used throughout the programme, including:

- facilitated workshops;
- collaborative exercises;
- interactive tools and questionnaires;
- structured reflection activities;
- peer exchange sessions.

Some of these methods build directly on the Transfer Mapping Canvas approach developed within the project, which supports the identification of potential adopter profiles and implementation contexts for the transferable elements.

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# Who Should Apply

The twinning programme seeks to engage a diverse range of organisations interested in innovation transfer, healthy ageing, and ecosystem development and have to apply jointly with COMFORTage good practices referents.

The call is open to organisations and stakeholders interested in exploring the adoption or adaptation of innovative approaches supporting ageing populations, including (but not limited to):

- regional and local authorities;



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- health and social care providers;
- hospitals, primary care organisations, and integrated care networks;
- housing organisations and assisted living providers;
- community & no profit organisations;
- innovation ecosystems and clusters;
- technology providers and SMEs;
- research and innovation stakeholders;
- policy makers and public agencies;
- digital innovation hubs and competence centres.

Joint applications involving cross-sectoral collaboration and ecosystem approaches are particularly encouraged.

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# What Participants Will Gain

Participation in the twinning programme offers both learning opportunities and practical support for organisations interested in innovation uptake and adaptation.

Participants in the twinning programme will have the opportunity to:

- learn directly from the experience of the COMFORTage consortium;
- improve their awareness of innovative approaches, digital health technologies, and good practices for supporting ageing populations
- identify solutions relevant to their local challenges;
- exchange with peers and pilot representatives;
- explore practical pathways for innovation transfer;
- establish collaborations with the COMFORTage ecosystem and fellow participants;
- receive methodological and facilitation expert support;
- contribute to the development of a broader European ecosystem for innovation in ageing support;
- support for the organisation of a site visit and a local international event;
- support for the participation to COMFORTage final Symposium in Bruxelles.

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# Call Process and Selection Procedure

This section describes how the call will be launched, how applications will be assessed and how participating twinning teams will be selected.



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The COMFORTage Twinning Call aims to identify organisations interested in exploring the transfer, adaptation and potential adoption of innovative solutions emerging from the COMFORTage pilots.

The call will follow a structured multi-step process designed to facilitate both the identification of suitable adopters and the co-development of realistic transfer pathways.

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## 1. Launch of the Call

The Call for Twinnings will officially open in July 2026 and will be promoted through:

- COMFORTage communication channels;
- project partner networks;
- innovation ecosystems and regional stakeholders;
- European Health Policy Platform;
- targeted dissemination webinars and events.

An online Information Webinar will be organised shortly after the launch of the call to:

- present the objectives of the twinning programme;
- explain the participation process;
- provide an overview of the transferable elements emerging from the pilots;
- answer questions from interested applicants.

The webinar recording and supporting materials will remain available online.

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# Application Process

The application process is designed to ensure accessibility while allowing the consortium to understand the motivation and relevance of each candidate's organisation.

Adopter organisations (that can be one or more than one) interested in one of COMFORTage Good Practices are invited to submit a concise application package including:

## A. Expression of Interest Form

Providing:

- organisational profile;
- sector and territorial context;



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- experience relevant to ageing, health or social innovation;
- motivation for participation;
- indication of interest regarding specific COMFORTage transferable elements and related thematic domain.

**The application form can be filled in the dynamic PDF you will find on the following link.**

PDF version

Word version

**The completed document needs to be signed by all applicants (Adopter/s & COMFORTage referent of the selected Good Practice manually or digitally), downloaded as dynamic pdf and sent to the following email**:

twinnings@rscn.eu **DEADLINE: 03/10/2026**

**Deadline extended:** Applications must be submitted by **10 October 2026 at 23:59 CET.** The extension gives applicants additional time to prepare the required documents and coordinate their joint applications

# B. Short Statement of Motivation

The Statement of Motivation is Annexed to the Expression of Interest and an integral part of the application.

Applicants will briefly describe:

- the local challenges or opportunities they wish to address;
- the key transferable elements identified among COMFORTage Good Practices;
- the key stakeholders and target groups involved in the adaptation/adoption/implementation of the identified solutions;
- the expected impact and long-term benefits for their organisation or the communities they serve;
- why participation in the twinning programme is relevant for their organisation (this needs to be filled by each applicant);
- their expectations regarding knowledge exchange and potential adoption pathways (this needs to be filled by each applicant).

The form can be filled in the dynamic PDF you will find on the web



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**The Statement of Motivation form can be filled in the dynamic PDF you will find on the following link.**

**PDF version**

**Word version**

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An informative webinar will be held in July, recorded and made available on COMFORTage & RSCN websites.

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# Indicative Timeline

| Phase | Indicative Timing |
|---|---|
| Call launch | July 2026 |
| Information webinar | July 2026 |
| Deadline for applications | 10 October 2026 |
| Evaluation and selection | October 2026 |
| Notification of selected twinning teams | November 2026 |
| Online Workshop 1 – Kick-Off & Ambition Building | November 2026 |
| Site Visits and Stakeholder Meetings | November 2026 – January 2027 |
| Intermediate Online Symposium | February 2027 |
| Finalisation of Transfer Plans | March–April 2027 |
| Final Symposium | May-June 2027 |



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# Evaluation Process and Selection Criteria

Applications will be reviewed through a qualitative, transparent, and structured evaluation process aimed at identifying organisations with strong potential for meaningful participation and transfer exploration. A team of experts will be responsible for the assessment process.

A TOTAL NUMBER OF 10 TWINNINGS MAXIMUM WILL BE APPOINTED.

It will be possible for more interested organizations to apply together for the same good practice. These applications will have to follow the specific instructions for the budgeting provided in the budget section.

The evaluation will consider:

| Criterion | Indicative Weight |
|---|---|
| Relevance to COMFORTage objectives and transferable elements | 30% |
| Organisational commitment and motivation | 20% |
| Potential feasibility of transfer/adaptation | 20% |
| Potential impact on local ecosystems and ageing support services | 20% |
| Capacity for stakeholder engagement and collaboration | 10% |

Particular attention will be given to:

- diversity of territorial and organisational contexts;
- potential for sustainability and scalability;
- openness to collaborative learning and exchange.

Selected applicants will become part of the COMFORTage Twinning Programme and awarded the acknowledgement of “COMFORTage Fellow Innovators.”

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# Support Package for Selected Twinning Teams



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The selected twinning teams will receive methodological, organisational, and collaborative support throughout the duration of the programme.

The participants to the winning applications will benefit from a structured support package combining online collaboration, peer learning, practical exploration activities, on-site international event and direct interaction with pilot organisations.

Tangible outcomes will include local stakeholders' meetings; the Ambition Statements and the Scaling-up Plan tailored on the specificities of the different adopters.



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# Twinning Support Package

## Phase 1 – Online Workshop on Ambition Building and Transfer Exploration

The first collaborative phase supports adopters in clarifying their objectives, analysing local needs, and initiating the development of their transfer ambitions.

Following the selection process, participating organizations will engage in a first online collaborative workshop aimed at supporting the development of a Preliminary Ambition Statement and Scaling-up Plan.

**First online workshop**

This phase will help twinning teams to:

- better understand the transferable elements emerging from the COMFORTage consortium, as validated through its pilots;
- analyse their local needs, ecosystem conditions, and organisational priorities;
- identify the most relevant elements to focus on for potential adaptation;
- initiate reflection on feasibility and implementation conditions.

During this process, adopters will be supported in elaborating their *Preliminary Ambition Statements and Scaling-up Plan*, which will outline:

- the challenge or opportunity they intend to address;
- the specificities of the transferable elements relevant to transfer, adapt, adopt;
- expected local added value;
- initial hypotheses regarding implementation and adaptation needs.

The workshop will include:

- facilitated peer-to-peer interaction;
- collaborative exercises;
- transfer mapping activities;
- methodological guidance and mentoring support.

Dedicated templates, facilitation materials, and supporting documentation will be provided by the consortium.



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# Phase 2 – Site Visit and Local Stakeholder Meeting

The site visit phase provides participants with direct exposure to pilot implementation environments and facilitates dialogue with operational stakeholders.

Participants are expected to collaborate in the design and organization of the site visit, including the hosting organization.

Each selected twinning team will participate in one study visit as agreed between the parties, which will contribute to designing the site visit.

The visit will aim to:

- observe pilot implementation in practice;
- engage directly with operational teams and stakeholders;
- explore enabling conditions and barriers;
- validate and refine the Preliminary Ambition Statement and Scaling-up Plan through direct exchange with pilot actors.

Particular attention will be given to:

- contextual adaptation requirements;
- organisational feasibility;
- stakeholder engagement conditions;
- sustainability considerations.

The site visit will include:

- operational presentations;
- pilot demonstrations;
- stakeholder roundtable discussions;
- networking sessions.

These elements will be considered by Twinning participants during the design of the site visit.



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### Indicative Budget for One Site Visit and Stakeholder Meeting

| Budget Item | Estimated Cost max (€) | Estimated cost per additional applicant to the same good practice |
|---|---|---|
| Round trips for 2 participants | 1000 | 1000 |
| Accommodation (2 participants × 1 night) | 300 | 300 |
| Local transport | 100 | 100 |
| Coffee break (20 participants) | 300 | 50 |
| Light lunch/networking lunch | 500 | 50 |
| Meeting logistics and materials | 100 | 0 |
| Organisational support costs | 200 | 0 |
| Total Estimated Budget | 2,500 | 1500 |

The budget may be adapted upon justification request by shifting cost items depending on the hosting location and the number of participants involved.

### Cost management and reimbursement arrangements

All eligible costs related to the twinning site visits and stakeholder meetings will be centrally managed by RSCN. Applicants and hosting organisations must ensure that all invoices, receipts, and supporting documentation are issued in accordance with RSCN's administrative and financial requirements and include the necessary RSCN details for reimbursement and reporting purposes.

Following the selection and approval of each twinning initiative, applicants will receive detailed instructions regarding the travel and accommodation arrangements, reimbursement procedures for local transport expenses, and the organisation of the stakeholder meeting hosted by the receiving organisation.

Eligible costs will be reimbursed or directly covered by RSCN in accordance with the applicable COMFORTage financial rules, and the specific guidance provided to selected participants.

**No costs should be incurred or committed without prior authorisation from RSCN.**

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# Phase 3 – Revision of the Ambition Statement and Preliminary Scaling-up Plans

This phase enables participants to integrate lessons learned from the exchange activities into a more structured and feasible transfer approach.



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Following the site visit, twinning teams will revise and consolidate their Preliminary Ambition Statement and Scaling-up Plan integrating:

- lessons learned during the visit;
- feasibility considerations;
- contextual adaptation needs;
- ecosystem and partnership requirements;
- potential implementation pathways.

This revised document will constitute the basis for the development of a preliminary Transfer Plan to be discussed during the intermediate online symposium.

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# Phase 4 – Intermediate Online Twinning Symposium

The intermediate symposium represents a dedicated milestone within the twinning pathway and should not be confused with the thematic webinar series organised before and at the beginning of the programme.

While the webinars primarily focus on presenting COMFORTage pilots and transferable elements, the Intermediate Twinning Symposium is specifically designed as an interactive exchange session for the selected twinning teams.

The symposium creates a collaborative space for:

- presenting preliminary transfer approaches developed by adopters;
- discussing feasibility considerations and contextual adaptations;
- receiving peer and expert feedback;
- identifying enabling factors and barriers for transfer and adoption.

The symposium will also focus on:

- adaptation strategies;
- ecosystem building;
- digital innovation hubs and living labs;
- sustainability conditions;
- opportunities for future collaboration.

The outputs of the symposium will support participating organisations in consolidating their preliminary Transfer Plans before the finalisation phase and the Final Symposium.

Supporting templates and reporting tools will be provided.



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# Phase 5 – Final Scaling-up Plans and Final Symposium

The final phase of the programme focuses on consolidating results, presenting transfer plans, and strengthening long-term collaboration opportunities.

The twinning pathway will conclude with participation in the final COMFORTage Final Twinning Symposium to be held in Brussels, Belgium.

During the event, participating teams will:

- present the results of their twinning journey;
- share their final Transfer Plans;
- discuss enabling factors and sustainability perspectives;
- contribute to the consolidation of the COMFORTage ecosystem.

The final Transfer Plan is expected to include:

- selected transferable elements;
- adaptation strategy;
- implementation conditions;
- stakeholder ecosystem;
- potential roadmap for future adoption.

| Budget Item | Estimated Cost max (€) |
|---|---|
| Round trips for 2 participants | 1000 |
| Accommodation (2 participants × 1 night) | 400 |
| Local transport | 100 |
| Total Estimated Budget | 1,500 |



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# Supporting Resources Provided by COMFORTage

The consortium will provide a range of practical and methodological resources to facilitate participation and support the transfer exploration process.

Selected participants will receive:

- methodological guidance;
- application and planning templates;
- facilitation and mentoring support;
- workshop materials and documentation;
- access to pilot knowledge resources;
- networking opportunities with pilot organisations and peer adopters;
- participation in COMFORTage twinning events and symposiums.

The twinning programme adopts a strongly participatory approach aimed at fostering practical knowledge exchange, collaborative reflection and long-term ecosystem building across European regions and organisations.

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# Expected Outcomes

The twinning programme is expected to generate both immediate learning outcomes and longer-term collaboration opportunities across participating ecosystems.

The COMFORTage Twinning Programme aims to contribute to:

- increased awareness of transferable innovation practices for ageing support;
- stronger interregional collaboration and ecosystem development;
- improved understanding of contextual adaptation requirements;
- development of preliminary transfer and adoption pathways;
- consolidation of a sustainable European community of practice around healthy living innovation.

The programme is intended to function as a collaborative learning and ecosystem-building process supporting future innovation uptake and long-term cooperation among participating organisations.



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