

LiCaLab : Living and Care Lab (Turnhout, Belgium)

What does LiCaLab stand for?

LiCaLab is a living lab for real-life user-centric innovation in the fields of 'Living and Care'. LiCaLab facilitates the design of experiments and demonstration projects, facilitates the validation and valorization of new products, concepts and care processes developed by companies and organizations. LiCaLab is a crucial link in the innovation-chain that prepares innovative products, processes and services in the fields of Living and Care for a successful introduction in the market.

What does LiCaLab do?

Today there is, especially in the health sector, a large gap between research and innovation in the lab phase and the successful launch of such an innovation. This applies both to technological developments within healthcare as to the organization of healthcare itself. Many private and public R&D-investments fail to produce real and sustaining value for the society, due to the fact that they are initiated and executed in a closed and artificial laboratory environment. In this situation there is limited interaction with, and understanding of the real user-needs, the care givers needs, the potential implementation problems, especially regarding economic valorization and the required support of an **eco-system of stakeholders**.

LiCaLab uses co-creation techniques to experiment with new products, services and societal infrastructures. This **co-creation** process puts users and citizens in the center of innovation and societal experimentation, **to create new systems, services, products, business models and societal models**. Value creation by multidisciplinary collaboration can link social innovation with technological innovation. A close collaboration between government, research and industrial partners, health institutions and users is crucial in this co-creation process. LiCaLab therefore falls back on a **broad network of partners, both profit and non-profit organizations with expertise in Living and Care**.

What is LiCaLab looking for?

LiCaLab actively seeks commercial and applied research engagements with commercial and non-commercial organizations and other researchers, interested in Living and Care.

LiCaLab promotes Open Innovation by sharing knowledge and experiences, develop best practices and therefore wants to build strong partnerships and collaborative projects at local, regional and international level.

LiCaLab seeks for collaboration and synergies with other European living labs and organizations.

What can LiCaLab mean for you?

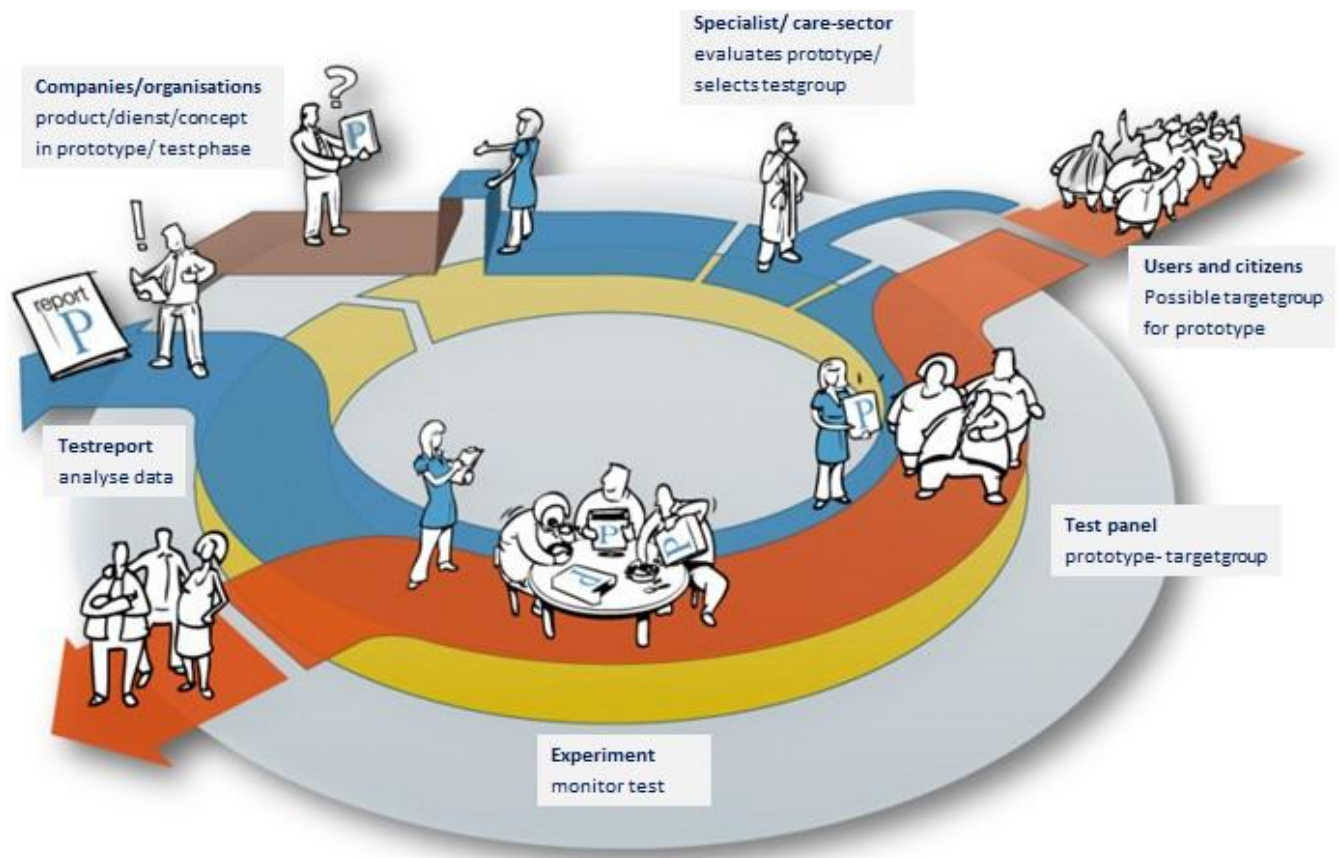


Figure 1: Main activities of LiCaLab

Organizations can rely on LiCaLab for a variety of **activities**, which can be **tailored to the needs of an individual project or organization**.

LiCaLab offers:

- ✓ State-of the art infrastructure specifically for living lab projects
- ✓ Access to an eco-system that allows setting up and facilitating projects
- ✓ Access to a large international partner program (to facilitate cooperation)
- ✓ A large community to set up tests/ test panel management
- ✓ Methodological support in design and management of real life testing
- ✓ Data acquisition: permanent monitoring in 15 state-of-the-art living units
- ✓ Legal, financial and business model advice

What are the focus domains of LiCaLab?

The focus of LiCaLab is **to support people in living independently/assisted in their homes for a longer time in a healthy, safe and comfortable way**. LiCaLab has expertise in 5 thematic domains:

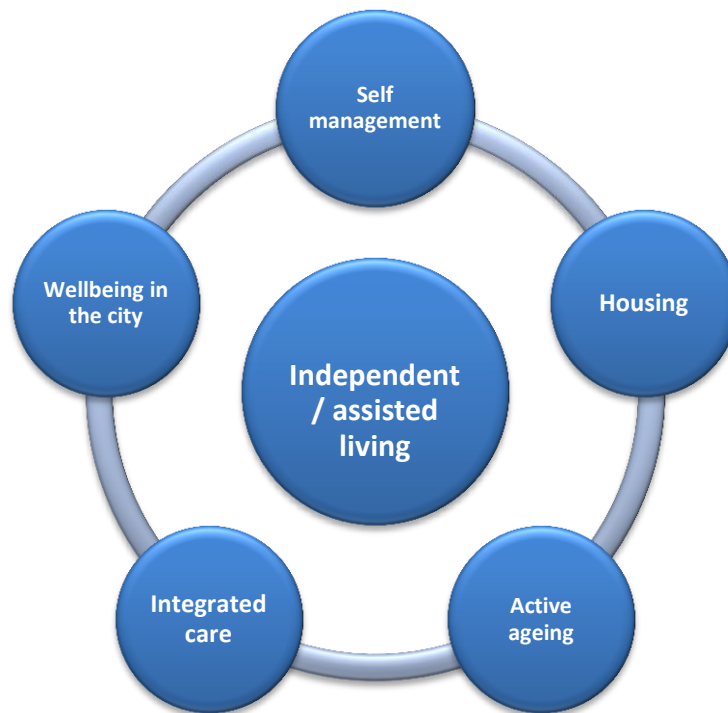


Figure 2: Five thematic domains of LiCaLab

Self-management

This domain relates to innovations that enable people to take their health and well being in their own hands and to manage it whenever they want by taking preventive actions concerning their health, well being, independence on a pro-active way.

Housing

This domain relates to innovations that support people to live independently/ live supported in a safe, comfortable and accessible house that grows with the needs of its residents and this in a neighbourhood that can react on a flexible way to such needs.

Active ageing

This domain focuses on innovative solutions for health, social participation, social cohesion and security with the aim to improve the quality of life and to maintain this as long as possible.

Integrated Care

This domain focuses on innovations that improve cooperation, communication, coordination, information exchange between all stakeholders in the chain of care to get to a more integrated care process.

Well being in the city

This domain focuses on innovations that achieve a positive impact on health, wellness and quality of life, by creating environments in the city or a district of the city that stimulate this impact.

Existing test panel and new infrastructure

LiCaLab has a diverse test panel of users: **citizens, care-institutions, care professionals**. LiCaLab is located in the heart of Turnhout (Belgium), but can set up experiments in the wider region to involve specific test groups and test settings and to set up larger scale tests. LiCaLab has an international network and can participate in tests at an international level.



Figure 3: Test panel LiCaLab

Between 2012 and 2015 LiCaLab builds, on top of the existing community within the city region, a new urban site of 6ha in the city center of Turnhout. At this site **2 state-of-the art home-labs en 15 smart living units** will be constructed. In the home-labs tests can run in lab-conditions, on a small scale. In the 15 smart living units tests can run in real-life circumstances on a slightly larger scale and data can be permanently monitored over a longer period of time. This longitudinal data can be used to detect trends, which can be used e.g. for policy-making at local, regional and (inter)national level. Next to these home-labs and smart living units, this new urban site will also offer a nursing home, apartments, one-family houses etc.



Figure 4: Future images of the new infrastructure

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