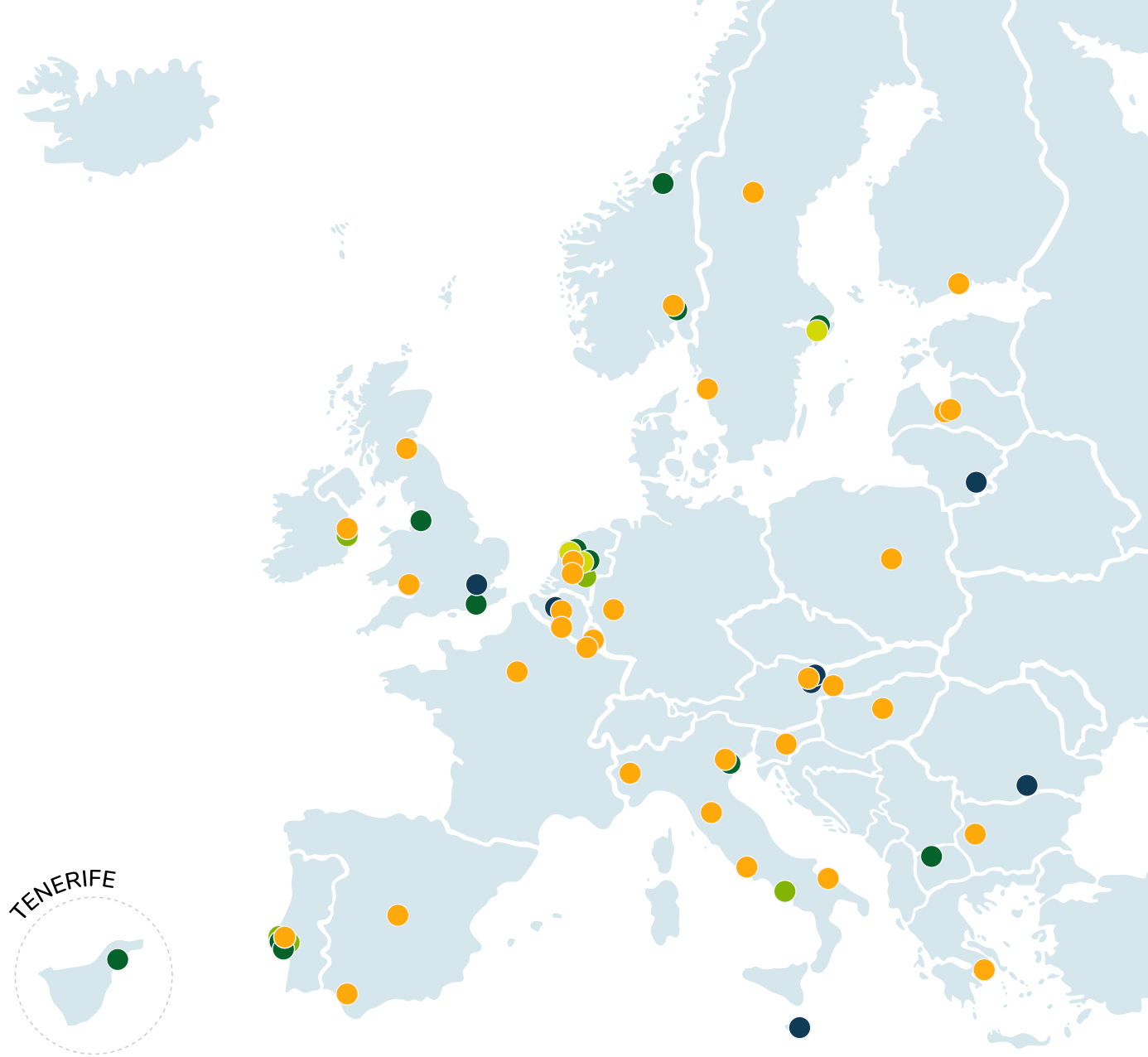


Digital Health and Equity

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Policy Coordinator
September 2023

EuroHealthNet

- ✓ Public Health
- ✓ Reducing health inequalities
- ✓ Social Determinants of Health



Digital inverse care law

“People who are most in need of support (in particular, older people and those experiencing social deprivation) are often least likely to engage with digital platforms”

2021, Digital Inverse Care Law in the Time of COVID-19: Potential for Digital Technology to Exacerbate or Mitigate Health Inequalities

Digital inverse care law

Equity within digital health technology within the WHO European Region: a scoping review

The research shows that people with poor health are among the ones struggling the most in accessing digital tools

Digital health technologies tend to be used more widely in urban areas, and less by people from ethnic minorities and those facing language barriers

Higher use of digital health tools by people with more advanced education levels and higher economic status. Younger people were also found to use tools more than older adults



Accessibility

Access, use and engagement with digital health technologies may be limited among populations groups due to factors like income, education, and geographic location.

This can create a digital divide, preventing those who could benefit the most from accessing and utilising digital health services

Digital health and equity: accessibility



Affordability

- Digital health service or tool
- Devices, internet connectivity

Quality of infrastructures

- Healthcare infrastructure
- Internet and connectivity



Digital health and equity: accessibility

Education and skills:

- (Digital) health literacy
- Digital skills



Cultural Barriers:

- Language barriers
- Cultural insensitivity

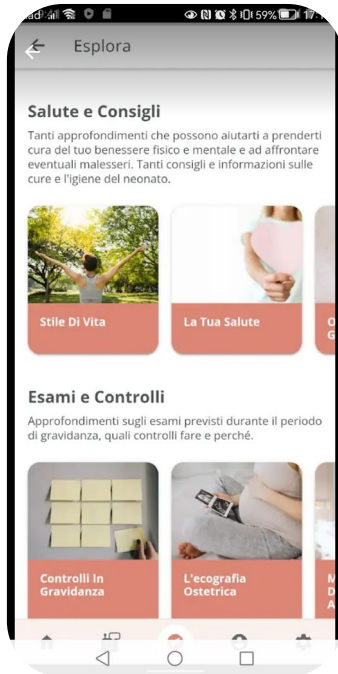
Artificial Intelligence

AI datasets may lack diverse representation in their training data or contain biased/incomplete information, leading to disparities in performance across different demographic groups. If these algorithms are used in decision-making, they can perpetuate existing biases and disparities, leading to unequal treatment for certain populations

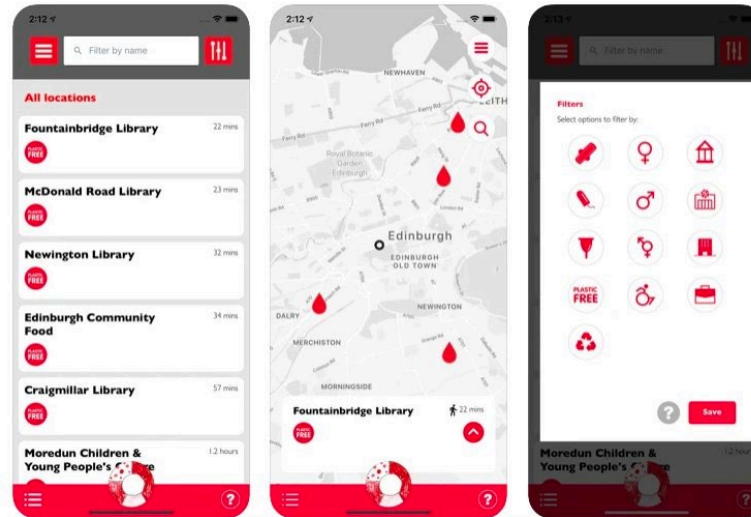
Examples



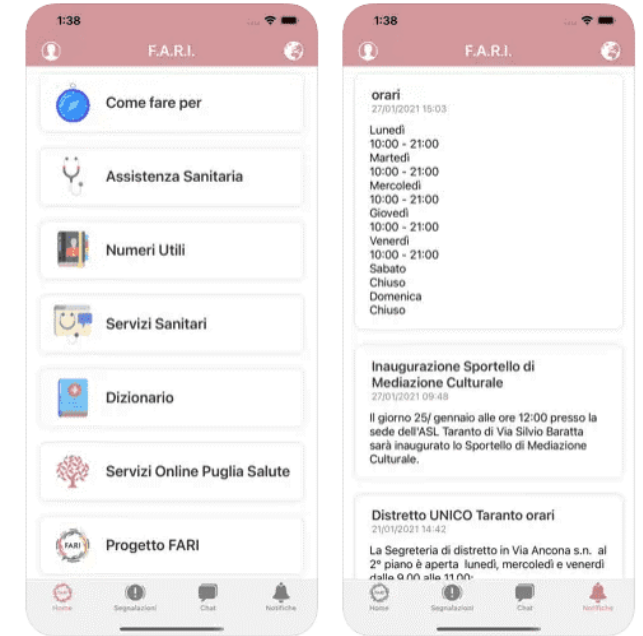
Trec Mamma



- Free
- Easy to use
- Different languages
- Compatible with healthcare
- Combine care and health literacy



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FARI Healthcare for Foreigners

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