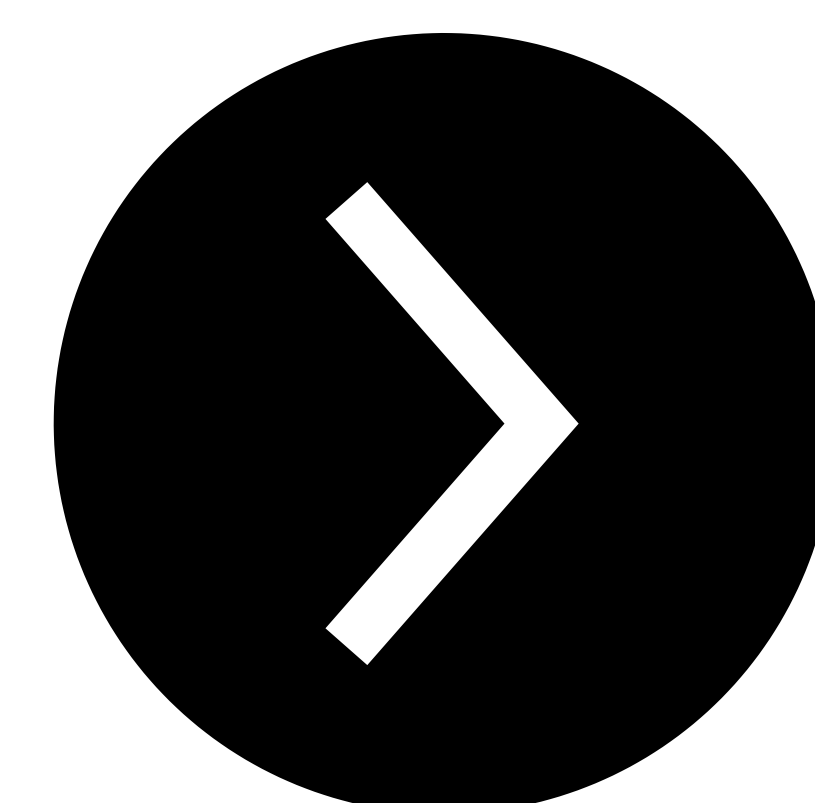




Episode 30

How to make assistive technology more accessible

The .lumen Glasses for the Blind National Roadshow brought a new mobility solution closer to blind communities across Romania through direct experience.



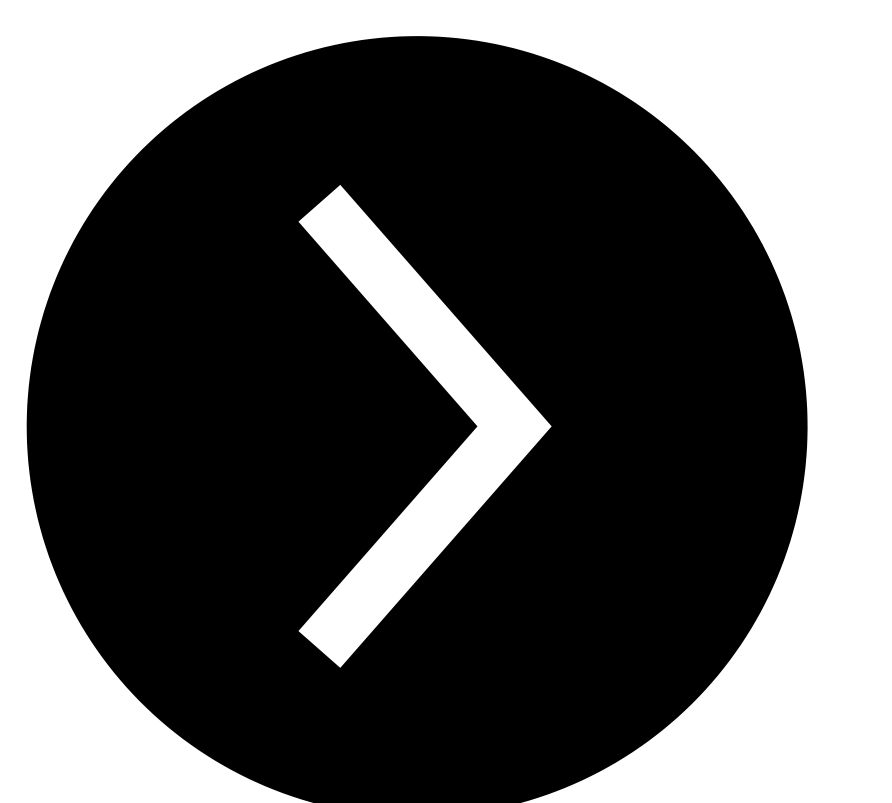
Co-funded by
the European Union

Social Innovation 
Initiative

seed2scale

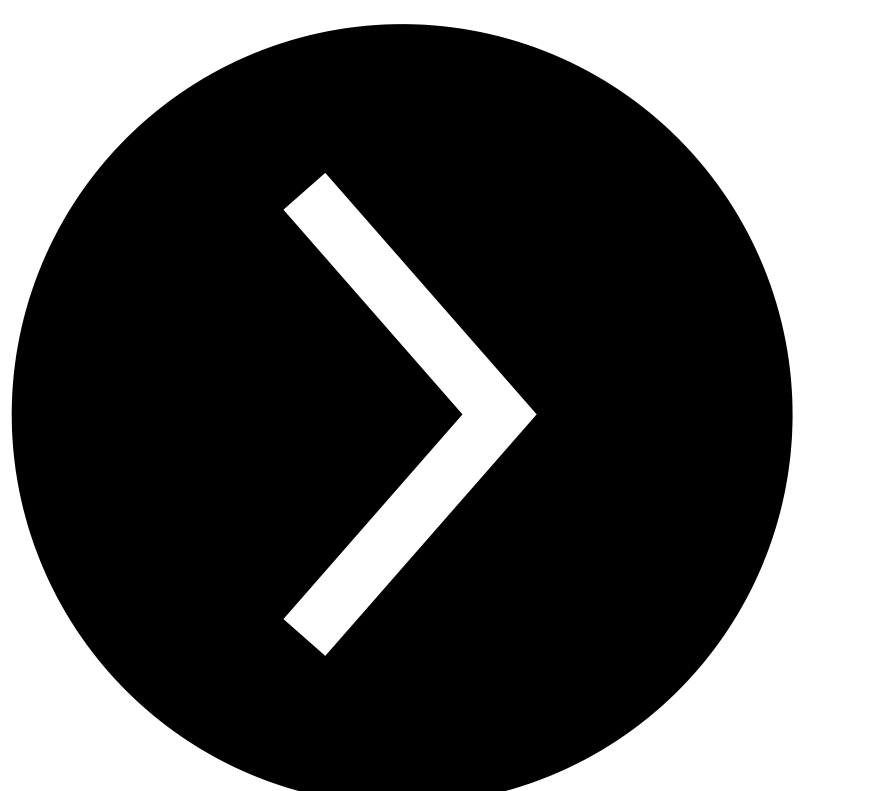
The challenge

- Around 80,000 people with visual impairments, including 30,000 blind people, have limited access to advanced mobility solutions in Romania.
- Existing tools such as white canes and guide dogs do not fully address the need for independent and confident mobility.
- Many assistive technologies remain concentrated in cities and labs, far from the communities they aim to support.
- Without direct experience, people often struggle to understand and adopt new solutions.



The idea

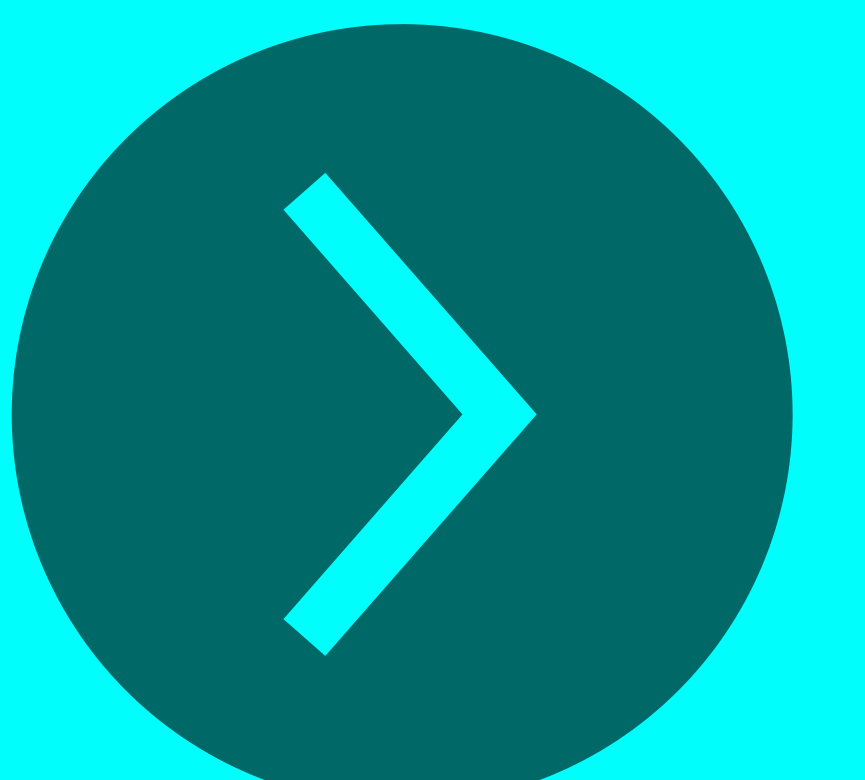
The .lumen Glasses for the Blind replicate key guide dog functions through technology, using AI, computer vision, sensors, haptic guidance, and audio feedback to help blind users understand their surroundings, avoid obstacles, and follow safer paths with greater confidence.



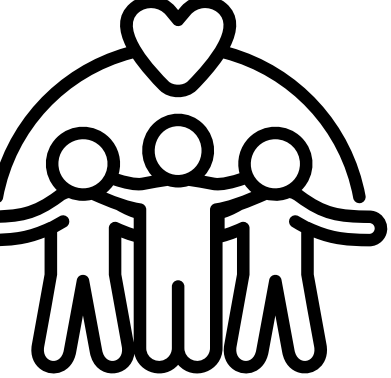


What's innovative here?

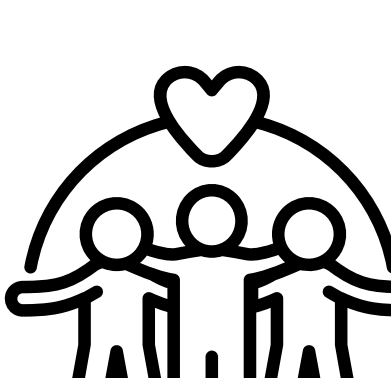
- **Technology:** AI-powered glasses that combine computer vision, sensors, and guidance systems to support independent mobility.
- **Accessibility:** Bringing advanced solutions directly to communities instead of waiting for users to reach innovation hubs.
- **Trust-building:** Creating real experiences where people can test, understand, and evaluate the technology.

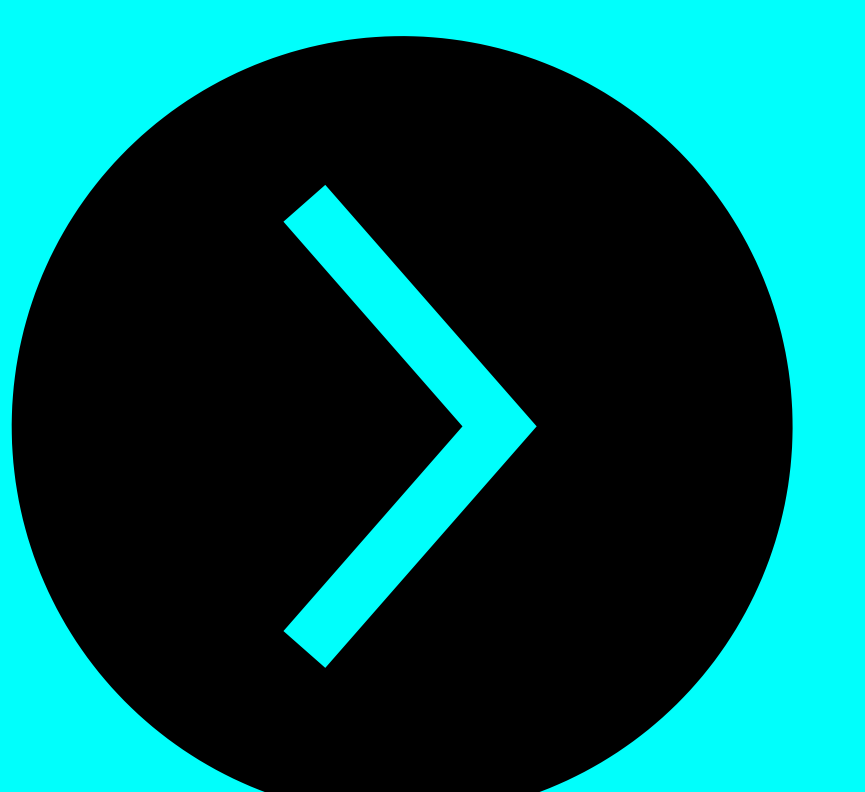


Impact so far

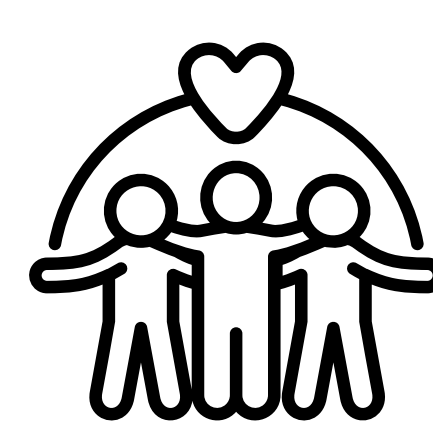
Addressed mobility challenges faced by 80,000+ people with visual impairments in Romania. 

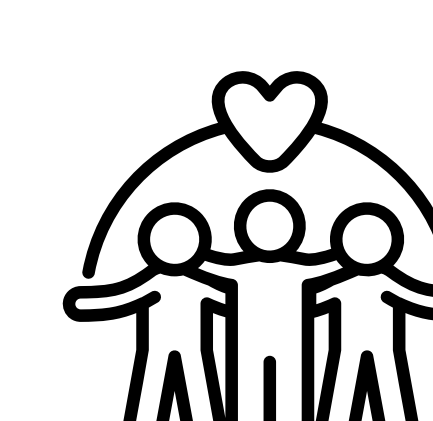
Delivered 623 live demos to help users experience the technology first-hand. 

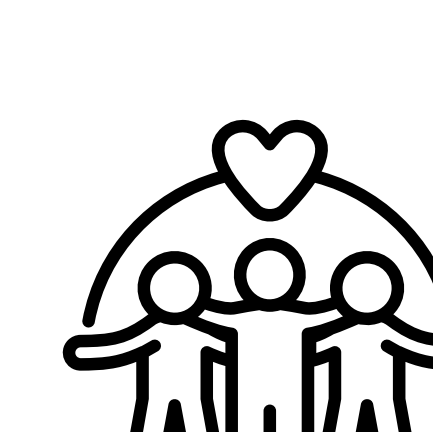
Promoted mobility, confidence, and inclusion. 

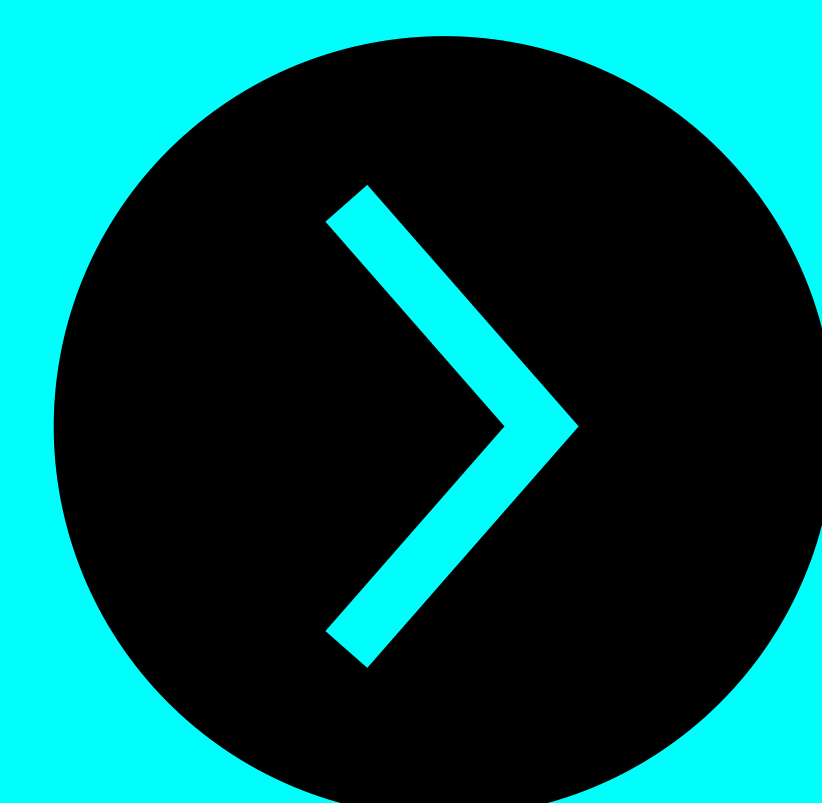


Impact so far

Reached 40 cities through 51 demo days. 

Invested 169 person-days in direct community
interaction. 

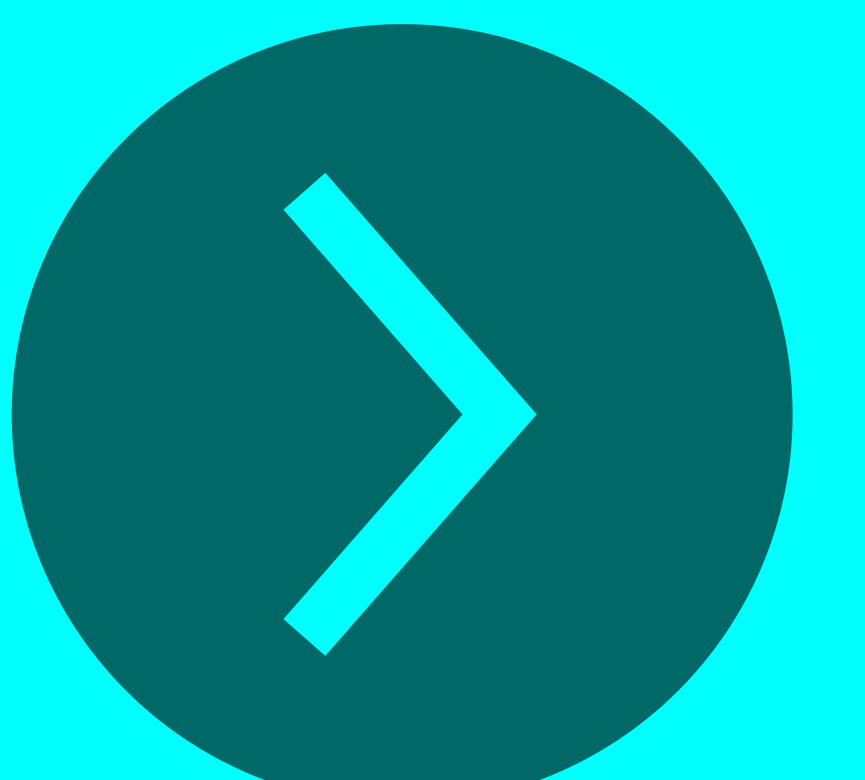
Engaged users, families, associations, and
stakeholders. 





What you can replicate

- Bring solutions closer to the people who need them instead of waiting for them to ask for help.
- Give people the chance to experience new ideas directly before deciding if they are useful.
- Create small moments of connection where people can share experiences and needs.
- Test your ideas with real people and improve them based on their feedback.



Social Innovation Spotlight

Episode 30

**If this case sparked an idea,
don't let it stay on this slide.**

**Adapt it, remix it, and bring social
innovation to life where you are.**

Follow Seed2Scale for more
Social Innovation Spotlight episodes



Co-funded by
the European Union

Social Innovation 
Initiative

seed2scale