

D. 4.3. First Communication Annual Activity Report

WP4



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¹ PU = Public SEN = Sensitive





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GLOSSARY/LIST OF ACRONYMS

Abbreviation/Acronym	Definition
СТ	Communication Team
DEC	Dissemination, Exploitation and Communication
ECN	Early Career Network
EC	European Commission
ECSs	Early Career Scientists
ETPN	European Technology Platform on Nanomedicine
GA	Grant Agreement
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulation
HaDEA	European Health and Digital Executive Agency
HE	Horizon Europe
IICS	Investigator Initiated Clinical Studies
JCS	Joint Call Secretariat
JTC	Joint Transnational call
KPIs	Key Performance Indicators
MB	Management Board
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
RRI	Responsible Research and Innovation
SRIA	Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda
STAB	Strategic Advisory Board
SWG	Synergies Working Group
TP	Target Population





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report outlines the communication, dissemination, and exploitation efforts of the ERA4Health Partnership from November 2022 to November 2023.

Key summary points are provided below:

- Emphasis is placed on effective communication to raise the project's profile within and outside the partner networks and to influence key stakeholders.
- Key tasks include developing a Dissemination, Exploitation and Communication (DEC) Plan and Strategy, creating a website with intranet capabilities, and implementing outreach and public engagement activities.
- The DEC Plan targets various stakeholders, including academia, industry, clinicians, public health organizations, civil society, and European/international initiatives.
- Communication strategies include brochures, an informative website, social media engagement, webinars, newsletters, and meetings with key stakeholders.
- Dissemination efforts focus on reaching the right audience through webinars, training courses, workshops, and engaging in the ERA4Health Early Career Network.
- Exploitation activities aim to engage new stakeholders, increase political commitment, and gather research infrastructure for the sustainability of ERA4Health.
- The report includes a comprehensive review of communication channels like the ERA4Health website, social media platforms (LinkedIn, X (formerly Twitter), YouTube), newsletters, and promotional materials.
- Detailed accounts of communication team meetings and organized events under various pillars of the project are provided, highlighting the collaborative efforts and achievements.





• The report also reviews the joint calls initiated by ERA4Health Partnership, focusing on areas like cardiovascular diseases, health equity, brain ageing through nutrition, and advanced technologies for disease prevention and therapy.





1. Purpose and Objectives

- The European Research Area for Health (ERA4Health) Partnership has always prioritized effective communication, acknowledging its critical role in elevating the project's visibility across various networks and influencing key stakeholders. This strategic approach aims to enhance the project's impact both within the partnership and in the broader research community. In alignment with this objective, the specific responsibilities and activities of Work Package 4 (WP4) under Pillar 0 are comprehensively outlined in the Grant Agreement (GA), reflecting our commitment to structured and impactful communication efforts.
- Task 0.4.1: Dissemination, Exploitation and Communication (DEC) Plan and Strategy (Leader: CSOMOH; Participants: all partners; Duration (M1-M84):
 - The plan will define the objectives of the communication activities; define the key messages and target audiences; identify, relevant stakeholders to be engaged and informed; and define channels and tools to disseminate the results and maximise their impact. Further developing methods and channels for stakeholder knowledge to inform ERA4Health decision making (i.e. Two-way engagement).
- Task 0.4.2: Website and project communication material (Leader: FICYT; Participants: ISCIII, EV ILVO, ZonMw; Duration (M1-M84):
 - The Partnership will create a website (a preliminary one by M1 and a final one by M6) with intranet capabilities, a design aesthetic, and social media outlets (from M1) based on the DEC strategy. Information about ERA4Health, publications of the calls' results, project results, news, etc. will all be available on the website. To make the website more user-friendly, it will be separated into smaller websites. Additionally, the intranet will enable GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation)-compliant communication among governance bodies with restricted regions.
 - The project's logo will help in recognition and increase its visibility. The website, maintained by FICYT with assistance from partners, will serve as an important tool in informing the public about ERA4Health activities.
 - A section of the intranet will also function as a tool for gathering key performance indicators (KPIs) and tracking the progress of financed projects under Pillar 2A.
 Additionally, the monitoring tool developed in Task 2A.3.3 (Pillar 2) will be integrated into the ERA4Health project website.
 - The partners' online and offline events will be used to distribute information with interested parties and will make use of their presence on social media sites like Twitter and LinkedIn. Additionally, all project-related communication products,





including project posters, rollups, brochures, flyers, leaflets, and postcards, will have their corporate identities and images developed for this task.

- Task 0.4.3: Outreach and public engagement of ERA4Health project activities (Leader: EV ILVO; Participants: ISCIII, ZonMw, ANR, IT-MoH, ECRIN; Duration (M1-M84):
 - Outreach activities need to be adapted to the different target groups, which will be defined based on the potential impact and involvement in the national activities. These groups include higher authorities/ministries, the research community, health care providers, industries, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), patient groups, and others.

The dissemination activities will have the next main outlets which will be distributed mainly online:

- Regular updates on new developments and important events shall be provided through a newsletter. To ensure the reach of the newsletter content, a list of subscribers will be developed, adhering to GDPR compliance. There should be at least two newsletters issued per year.
- Flyers or brochures will be developed and distributed for general information about the ERA4Health Partnership. Additionally, they will serve as a means to advertise its activities, including conferences, workshops, and events.
- Furthermore, a layout of the strategic papers developed by this project will be designed and the documents will be distributed via the communication channels.
- A public annual ERA4Health activity report will be compiled to present, in a comprehensive document, all the activities carried out during the year and the results obtained, making it accessible to all stakeholders.
- Dissemination of information and participation in events such as the Partnership Stakeholder Forum, an annual event that brings together the entire community, will be prioritized. This event is aimed at promoting networking, broadening engagement, sharing experiences, and discussing both policy and practical aspects related to partnerships.
- Task 0.4.4: Coordination and support of Pillars 1, 2 and 3 communication and dissemination activities (Leader: EV ILVO; Participants: ISCIII, ZonMw, IT-MoH, ANR, ECRIN, RCN; Duration (M1-M84):





Along with supporting the alignment with other European Union (EU) and international projects, this WP, led by EV ILVO, will also encourage the participation of the scientific community, medical and healthcare professionals, politicians, the general public, and other important stakeholders. By guaranteeing the timely transmission of its findings to various target groups to support actions by governments and stakeholders, ERA4Health will optimise its visibility and effect. The goals of WP 0.4 are to raise awareness of ERA4Health among interested parties by fostering stakeholder participation in ERA4Health activities and raising the visibility of ERA4Health activities and outcomes.





2. DEC Plan and Strategy

To ensure immediate success and lasting impact beyond the end of the project, ERA4Health developed a clear DEC strategy. The impact strategy was detailed in this DEC strategy (D0.4.1), submitted to the European Commission (EC) on May 8, 2023.

The plan, first of all, identified the key target population (TP) groups:

TP1	Research and innovation ecosystem including academia (universities, research organisations, public and private research institutions).
TP2	Industry (pharma, biotech, ICT), including spin-offs, start-ups, SMEs and large industries.
TP3	Clinicians and clinical settings
TP4	Public health organisations
TP5	Civil society and end-users, including patient/citizen advocacy groups, formal and informal care organizations, health professionals' entities, international organizations, and NGOs
TP6	Research funding organisations (national and regional)
ТР7	Other sectorial Ministries, in particular Ministries of Health and Ministries of Education
TP8	Other European partnerships and European/international initiatives
TP9	European Commission: DG RTD, DG SANTE, DG CONNECT, DG REGIO, the Joint Research Centre (JRC), DG DEVCO, DG TAXUD and DG ECFIN.





2.1. Communication channels

The main communication tools and channels for disseminating the Partnership results are outlined below. A strategic report (D.4.2) on project communication materials was submitted to EC on May 4, 2023. We have strategically incorporated KPIs into all our communication activities. These KPIs are essential for measuring the effectiveness, reach, and impact of our communication efforts both quantitatively and qualitatively. By systematically tracking metrics such as media mentions, social media engagement, website visits, and stakeholder feedback, we will obtain valuable insights into the effectiveness of our communication strategies. This data-driven approach will enhance our assessment and reporting of communication activities and guide us in improving these initiatives. All communication-related activities are accompanied by KPI indicators, identified as KPIa-g.

- 1. Brochure and general poster serve the purpose of reflecting the status of the project and to support the presentations at events and the individual meetings carried out. These materials effectively communicate our project's goals, progress, and key achievements to a broad audience, enhancing our visibility and engagement. Additionally, they serve as valuable tools for fostering discussions and collaborations during various professional gatherings KPIa: 1 Brochure and 1 generic poster.
- **2. Website** was designed to support and reinforce the rest of the above-mentioned dissemination activities. The website will initially contain general information such as description, objectives, participants, activities, contact links, calls documents, funded projects, etc. In addition, as the project evolves, the website will be updated with project news, and downloadable versions of all public documents generated by the project will be made available. The website will contain the information on calls, funded projects, trainings, etc. KPIb: 45,000 visits.
- **3. Social media**: The developed contents (on the website, press releases, poster, etc.) will be shared on social networks such as Twitter, LinkedIn or Research Gate. Promotional videos, recorded webinars, info days and lectures will be shared on a designated YouTube channel for ERA4Health. This will be done through the institutions, researchers and companies' accounts. KPIc: LinkedIn: +1000 followers, Twitter: +2000 followers, >4000 interactions and shared in social media; KPI YouTube: +1000 views.
- **4. Webinar strategy**: Webinars are an excellent method for knowledge sharing. A well-defined strategy for a series of webinars will include determining the purpose of the webinar, focusing on its value, and creating high-quality content. A key advantage of webinars is their interactive nature, allowing lectures and content to be tailored to specific audiences. These webinars will be organized for each call at the European level. One webinar should specifically address the calls and topics and guide on how to prepare a proposal. Additionally, webinars could be organized at





the national and regional levels, targeting various stakeholders. The webinar strategy, involving WP11 for the Launch of a Joint Transnational Call (JTC), aims for an average attendance of 100-300 participants per webinar, with at least one webinar per call at the European level.

- **5. Newsletters**: Two newsletters per year will be generated and digitally distributed to a large number of subscribers in compliance with GDPR. KPIe: 1000 subscribers.
- **6.** Individual presentations and meetings with key stakeholders: To achieve the ERA4Health objectives, it will be essential to bring new partners into the partnership and to find synergies with other organisations and initiatives. To this end, specific meetings and/or workshops with future partners and other initiatives will be arranged. KPIf: 100 stakeholders
- **7. Additional documents**: The Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) for ERA4Health was established prior to the Partnership's inception and will undergo updates throughout its duration. This document will be accessible on our website and communicated to all potential stakeholders. It outlines the EU's evolving strategy, developed in collaboration with international entities, to enhance health research in Europe. KPIs include the publication of the SRIA (KPIg1) and its subsequent updates (KPIg2).
- **8. MS Teams**: The internal communication of the Partnership will be done through MS Teams, a proprietary business communication platform which offers workspace, chat and video conferencing, file storage, and application integration.

2.2. Dissemination

The dissemination activities will aim to reach out with the Partnership's key results to the right target audience. To achieve this, we are utilizing diverse platforms such as webinars, online and physical training courses, specialized events, and engaging in the second year of the project in ERA4Health Early Career Network (ECN). Additionally, we will organize and participate in summer schools, which provide an in-depth, interactive learning experience. These varied channels are strategically chosen to ensure optimal engagement and effective communication with different stakeholder groups. We continuously monitor the impact of these activities, adapting our strategies as needed to enhance their reach and effectiveness. The most important dissemination activities in ERA4Health are:

• JTC webinars and info days: The purpose of these webinars and info days is disseminate the open calls at European level. KPId: 1 webinar per call.





- Workshops: The purpose of workshops is to engage with stakeholders on various topics related to updating the SRIA as well as the Annual Work Plan. KPIh: A minimum of 6 workshops; with each workshop having more than 20 attendees.
- Online and Physical Training Courses: In collaboration with WP20, training courses will be conducted for early career scientists (ECSs), patients, and investigators involved in clinical studies. These courses will cover various topics including Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI), Investigator Initiated Clinical Studies (IICS), thematic research topics, data standardization, open data, patient engagement, regulatory affairs, and more. KPIi: A total of 14 training courses; with each training having over 100 attendees.
- Events: Active participation in various events, including potentially the Partnership Stakeholder Forum and others. Each year, the communication team (CT) will identify and select the three most significant events to attend. KPIj: Participation in 3 major events per year.
- **Summer schools**: The purpose of these schools is to host and support ECSs from interested research institutes, fostering their professional development and research capabilities. Additionally, we will organize a 'Breakfast Club' featuring regular online targeted seminars may be organized in collaboration with WP20.
- **ERA4Health ECN**: The purpose of the ERA4Health ECN is to foster interaction, capacity building, and growth among ECSs involved in ERA4Health-funded projects. KPIk: To engage over 200 ECSs.

2.3. Exploitation

The primary goal of these activities is to promote the use of key project results. Specifically, they aim to engage new stakeholders in the Partnership, increase political commitment at the national level, and secure the necessary research infrastructure for the long-term sustainability of ERA4Health. To achieve these objectives, WP 3.3 and WP 3.6, particularly Task 3.6.3 (General Workshop on Sustainability) under Pillar III, will be conducted to ensure the program's continuity. Additionally, the launch of the first pilot call on IICS in Phase 1 will set the stage for larger IICS calls in subsequent years.

A long-term sustainable Partnership cannot rely on research funds alone but requires wider political endorsement and investments. Therefore, it is important to ensure a highly efficient communication and dissemination strategy, following relevant policy processes, to ensure timely input to discussions. During the 7-year ERA4Health proposed programme, long-term sustainability will be developed by taking advantage of political opportunities. The current





political context opens up new possibilities to discuss the expectations for Europe in terms of a joint funding programme as a one-stop-shop for researchers. It is important to ensure a highly efficient communication and dissemination strategy, following relevant policy processes, to ensure timely input into discussions.

3. Communication channels

3.1. Website

The official ERA4Health website is accessible at https://era4health.eu/. It features various tabs providing detailed information on the Partnership, preannouncements, funding opportunities, results, news and events, publications and resources, partner search, and contact details. PARTFINDER, a newly introduced feature on our project website, is a robust solution for research groups seeking global partners to form national and international research consortia. This tool greatly simplifies participation in grant competitions by facilitating the establishment of cooperative partnerships worldwide. The website boasts a clean and clear color scheme, complemented by a user-friendly design that enhances navigation and user experience. Additionally, it is regularly updated to ensure that the most current and relevant information is always available to our stakeholders.

The ERA4Health website consists of the following pages:

- Homepage
- The Partnership
 - At a glance
 - o Objectives
 - Partners
 - ERA4Health Strategic Advisory Board (STAB)
 - Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI)
- <u>Preannouncements</u>
- Funding Opportunities
 - NutriBrain 2024
 - NANOTECMEC 2024





- Results
 - Funded Projects
 - Success Stories
 - Facts and Figures
- News, Events and Newsletters
 - Latest News
 - o <u>Events</u>
 - o <u>Newsletter</u>
- Publications and Resources
 - Publications
 - o <u>Resources</u>
- Partner Search/PART FINDER
- Contact

On the homepage, a banner at the top displays the latest news and events, sliding from right to left. Below this banner, the same information is presented differently.

- On the 'ERA4Health' website, under the 'The Partnership' section, users have the opportunity to explore various aspects of the Partnership. This includes detailed insights under 'At a Glance,' comprehensive information about the 'Objective,' and a list of 'Partners.' Additionally, at the end of this section, there is information about the STAB and a dedicated section for Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI).
- The "**Preannouncements**" section on the ERA4Health website serves as a platform for announcing upcoming calls for transnational research proposals in various health-related fields. These calls are part of the ERA4Health Partnership's efforts to foster collaborative research funding in Europe.
- The "Funding Opportunities" section on the ERA4Health website provides detailed information about various research funding calls, each focusing on specific health-related topics. These calls invite research proposals from diverse sectors, encouraging international collaboration and innovative approaches.
- The "Result" section will showcase the outcomes of funded projects, success stories, and key facts and figures related to the initiatives supported by ERA4Health. It serves as a repository of accomplishments and impacts made by the projects under the ERA4Health umbrella.
- The "News" subsection URL: https://era4health.eu/category/news_events/news/ provides the latest updates, developments, and announcements related to the activities





of ERA4Health. This may include information about new calls, project results, significant achievements, and other relevant updates. The sub-section "Events" section is dedicated to upcoming and past events associated with ERA4Health. It encompasses workshops, conferences, webinars, and other gatherings that are relevant to the ERA4Health community and its stakeholders. The subsection "Newsletter".

- The ERA4Health "newsletter" on the website offers a subscription service for periodic newsletters. It mentions the acceptance of a privacy policy upon subscription. The newsletter is funded by the EU under the Horizon Europe (HE) Framework Programme, with content reflecting the authors' views, not necessarily those of the EU or European Health and Digital Executive Agency (HADEA).
- The "**Publications & Resources**" section on the ERA4Health website provides various materials including "Logos and Templates," a "Digital Flyer," a "Brochure," the "SRIA Agenda," "Presentations of the First Era4Health Partnership Synergies Workshop," and RRI Guidelines.
- The "PARTFINDER" section on ERA4Health is a tool for research groups to find partners worldwide for forming research consortia and participating in grants. It offers a basic preview without login. Extended features like detailed view, posting announcements, and personalizing profiles are available with the creation of an account. Additionally, it includes functionalities like announcement filtering and data protection.
- The "Contact" section on the ERA4Health website provides a form for visitors to submit their name, email, the subject of their inquiry, and an optional message. It also includes an email address for reporting technical issues with the website.

3.2. Social media

It is important to highlight the role of social media in enhancing the visibility and impact of ERA4Health. Platforms such as LinkedIn, X (formerly Twitter), and YouTube have been pivotal in our outreach efforts. Through these channels, we have effectively engaged with stakeholders, disseminated key findings and announcements, and fostered community interaction. Our social media presence has not only amplified our project's reach but also provided a dynamic medium for sharing progress and outcomes, contributing significantly to the overall success of our dissemination strategy.

ERA4Health will use three main social media platforms: LinkedIn, X (formerly Twitter) and YouTube.





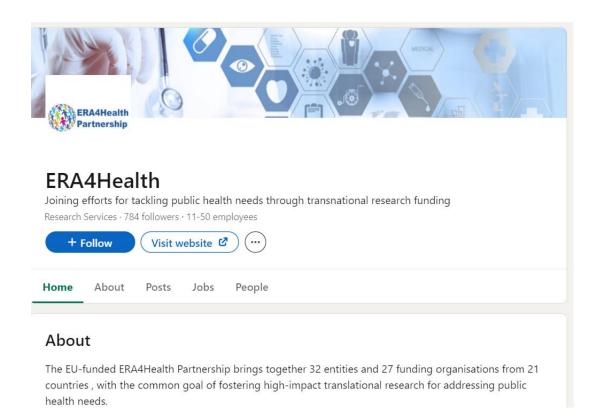
3.2.1. X (formerly Twitter)

ERA4Health's X (formerly Twitter) account (@ERA4Health_EU) features announcements and disseminates information about various activities and events. It also reposts relevant content from related initiatives and researchers. Original tweets primarily include updates from the coordination unit, details of events and activities organized by ERA4Health, and news from ERA4Health partners. Reposts typically consist of messages from initiatives related to ERA4Health, which are pertinent to our stakeholders. Additionally, the account shares updates from ERA4Health-funded researchers about their progress, meetings, outcomes, and publications. The selection of content for tweeting and reposting is managed by the X (formerly Twitter) account manager (FICYT), ensuring relevance and alignment with ERA4Health's objectives.

3.2.2. LinkedIn

Another social media platform that is used by ERA4Health is **LinkedIn**. LinkedIn is a platform mainly used for professional networking and engagement, therefore the main target audience of this platform is the scientific community. An ERA4Health LinkedIn Community has been established for the scientific community (including ECSs and related European projects and organisations), and its content provided by the scientific community itself, as well as by the administrators of the LinkedIn Group (WP4 members and others).





LinkedIn page of the ERA4Health Partnership developed by the communication team.

3.2.3. YouTube

A **YouTube** channel dedicated to ERA4Health Partnership has been established. This channel features a variety of content, including webinars, recorded lectures, informational days, and promotional videos. It can be accessed through the following link: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIdxWE3eCTkllHv17ETW4GA

3.3. Newsletter and newsflashes

The ERA4Health newsletters which are published at least twice a year, follow a clear and consistent structure. They include a note from the coordinator, María Cristina Nieto García (from ISCIII), the latest news, upcoming events, updates on our social media activities, and information on how to enroll in the Partnership. Depending on the target audience, some newsletters are disseminated internally within the partnership, while others are shared externally with different target groups.





There are several ways of dissemination for the newsletter: personal subscription, the ERA4Health website, an email to the ERA4Health partners asking them to disseminate the newsletter to the relevant national and regional stakeholders and, finally, through ERA4Health's social media platforms such as X (formerly Twitter) and LinkedIn.

4. Information and promotional materials

4.1. Flyers

To effectively disseminate information about ERA4Health and its joint calls, we have created a range of flyers, both general and call-specific, available in digital and printed formats.

4.1.1. General flyer

4.1.1.1. Digital flyer

The digital flyer for the ERA4Health Partnership is designed to efficiently disseminate information about the partnership's objectives and activities, engaging a wide range of stakeholders. Its digital format ensures easy sharing and accessibility, enhancing outreach. Visually appealing, it succinctly communicates key messages, fostering awareness and support for the partnership's health research initiatives. The digital flyer can be accessed through the following link:

https://era4health.eu/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/Digital-flyer.pdf

4.1.1.2. Brochure

The ERA4Health flyer is now available in a print version, designed to effectively communicate the key aspects of the ERA4Health program to a broad audience. This tangible format is particularly beneficial for distribution in face-to-face meetings, conferences, and other events where digital access might be limited.





Brochure of the ERA4Health Partnership outlining contact details, networking opportunities, and a call for partnership engagement.

4.1.2. Call announcement flyers

Digital versions of the call flyers for four JTC is available and shown below:

JTC1:









JTC2:



CARDINNOV

"Research targeting development of innovative therapeutic strategies in cardiovascular disease"

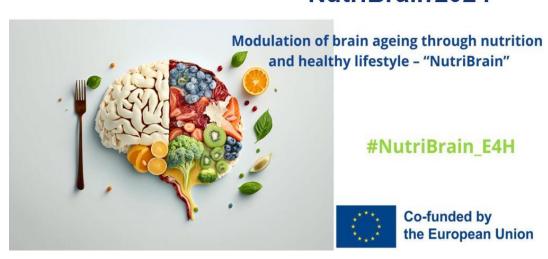




JTC3:



NutriBrain 2024







JTC4:



Now open! Joint Transnational Call on Nanomedicine

"Nano and advanced technologies for disease prevention, diagnostic and thera

NANOTECMEC



#NANOTECMEC_E4H



4.1.3. Roll-up banner

The ERA4Health roll-up poster was finalized on August 7, 2023. It was first presented at our MB meeting held in Paris on September 14, 2023. The poster highlights our goal of advancing health research in Europe, displaying key contact details, our website, and social media links. It also promotes our newsletter and features the European Union's co-funding badge, emphasizing our collaborative funding model.







Roll-up Poster of the ERA4Health Partnership, first presented at the Management Board (MB) meeting in Paris on September 14, 2023 hosted by the French National Agency (ANR)

5. CT meetings 2022-2023

The ERA4Health project's CT, formed in November 2022, has significantly broadened its scope of work. Initially focusing on developing the project website and templates, the team has since spearheaded extensive social media campaigns and regular newsletters to engage stakeholders. Additionally, efforts in media coordination and community outreach have been instrumental in





enhancing project visibility and effectively conveying its objectives to a diverse audience. Following is a summary of key CT meetings.

5.1. The first introductory meeting of the ERA4Health CT – November 2022

The inaugural online meeting of the ERA4Health CT in November 2022 involved key participants from various organizations (IT-MoH, RCN, FICYT, ISCIII, ECRIN, ANR, CSO-MOH). The focus was on creating a foundational strategy for communication, dissemination, and exploitation within the project.

5.2. Second CT meeting – December 2022

The second CT meeting was conducted online in December 2022, this meeting brought together important members to collaborate on vital communication strategies. The participants included members from CSO-MOH IL, IT-MoH, FICYT, ECRIN, ANR and ILVO. Key topics included the development of a CED Plan, introducing the Quote Card concept, formulating a press release strategy, and enhancing website and project communication materials.

5.3. Third CT meeting – May 2023

The May 2023 online meeting concentrated on developing communication tools like flyers and roll-up posters, planning newsletters, and supporting other project pillars. Decisions were made to adopt digital flyers for environmental sustainability and design an EC-compliant roll-up poster. The participants included members from ZonMw, RCN, IT-MoH, EV ILVO, Ministero del Salute and ANR.

5.4. Fourth CT meeting – June 2023

In June 2023, the CT meeting focused on finalizing the roll-up poster design, approving flyer designs, addressing the newsletter's content and distribution, and ensuring communication support across the partnership. The participants included members from ZonMw, EV ILVO, IT MoH, Ministero del Salute, EV ILVO, FICYT and ISCIII.

5.5. Fifth CT meeting – October 2023

The October 2023 meeting discussed refining the second newsletter, updating flyer designs, and preparing for the annual DEC report. The team's commitment to advancing the project's communication and dissemination efforts was evident. The participants included: ANR, FICYT, SANITARIA, EV ILVO, CSO-MOH, ISCIII, ECRIN, IT-MOH.





6. Events related to communication and dissemination

During the first year of ERA4Health, various communication activities were organized under distinct pillars to disseminate information about specific events. These included Pillar 0 (kick-off and Management Board [MB] meetings), Pillar 1 (STAB meetings and workshops for synergy exploration), Pillar 2A (activities related to the JTCs), Pillar 2B (workshops about IICS), and Pillar 3 (Ethics and Responsible Research and Innovation Advisory Board [ERAB] meeting).

6.1. Pillar 0 internal communication activities

6.1.1. Kick-Off Meeting Partnership (Online) – 23-24th of January 2023

The inaugural Kick-off Meeting of the ERA4Health Partnership took place virtually via Zoom Meetings on January 23-24, 2023. It was organized by the project coordinator, Maria Cristina Nieto García, Spain. This event witnessed the extensive participation of all 33 consortium partners. Monica Ensini, Project Officer at HADEA, alongside Grzegorz Owsianik and Giorgio Clarotti, representatives of the European Commission (EC), also participated.

The meeting, chaired by Maria Cristina Nieto García, began with a general introduction and overview of logistics, followed by brief reports and feedback from the Pillar leaders. These reports provided updates on the status of their respective Pillars. Subsequently, each WP of the project was meticulously presented by its leader, which included a brief summary and initiated discussions led by the WP Leaders. The focus at the kick-off was primarily on presenting all the tasks of the ERA4Health Partnership.

In the meeting's concluding segment, the project coordinator clearly outlined the key conclusions, actionable items, and topics for further discussion. This first transnational meeting was not only well-structured and efficiently managed but also marked by a strong spirit of cooperation and enthusiasm. Concluding two days of intensive discussions and knowledge exchange, the attendees left feeling inspired and equipped with new ideas and insights, setting a positive and dynamic tone for the future of the ERA4Health Partnership.

6.1.2. MB Meeting (Paris) – 14th of September 2023

The MB Meeting for ERA4Health took place at the Agence Nationale de la Recherche (ANR) facilities in Paris on September 14th, 2023. This event was a significant opportunity for partners in the consortium to connect in person and discuss their progress. The European Commission





(DG-RTD) representative, Grzegorz Owsianik, the Project Officer from HaDEA, Monica Ensini, and the representative of the French Ministry of Higher Education and Research, Bertrand Schwartz, attended the event as well. During the meeting, the various pillars of the consortium and their respective work packages were presented by the responsible partners. This gathering offered participants an opportunity to share insights, pose questions, and gain knowledge from other experts in the field, particularly during designated networking periods. The event focused on fostering collaboration and enhancing healthcare research.

Grzegorz Owsianik gave a presentation on Cluster 1 of HE, while a presentation on the HaDEA was given by Monica Ensini. The presentation on Pillar O Activities, led by Cristina Nieto, covered amendment processes, financial, and technical reporting. Under Pillar O, Hendrik De Ruyck discussed the DEC plan and strategies. Pillar 1, led by Rob Diemel (ZonMw), focused on developing annual work plans, establishing a STAB, and updating the SRIA under Work Package 9 (WP9). Hugo Soares (AICIB) guided discussions on current trends and future developments in WP7, and Inés Rey (FICYT) highlighted synergies explored in WP8. Pillar 2 activities were presented by Martine Batoux (ANR). Flavia Saltelli and Francesca Turco (IT-MoH) gave updates on Pillar 2A activities, including an overview of the JTCs 2023 (CARDINNOV and HealthEquity) and the new JTCs 2024. Pillar 2B activities in the meeting, led by Jacques Demotes and Marta del Álamo (ECRIN), focused on the framework for IICs. They discussed advancements and developments in WP14, 15, 16, and 17, highlighting significant progress. Pillar 3 activities, led by Cecilie Anita Mathiesen, covered key developments in WP18, including the establishment of the Ethics & RRI Advisory Board. Ann Siehoff and Felicitas Bosen (DLR) provided updates on capacitybuilding initiatives under WP20, and Martine Batoux (ANR) discussed the monitoring framework developed in WP21.





A picture taken during the Management Board meeting of ERA4Health Partnership held in in Paris on September 14th, 2023

6.2. Pillar 1 – Internal and external communication activities

6.2.1. Kick-Off Meeting STAB (Online) – 5th of June 2023

The ERA4Health project reached another important milestone with the Kick-Off Meeting of the STAB members held online on June 5, 2023. This meeting was organized and led by Nikki De Clercq from EV ILVO, this inaugural meeting marked the beginning of a significant collaboration among members of the STAB.

The meeting was a dynamic forum where members gained insights into the project's objectives and their vital roles. It also provided an opportunity for each member to introduce themselves and their organizations, fostering a sense of community and shared purpose. The diverse composition of the STAB, which includes representatives from institutional bodies across Europe, scientists from various health-related fields such as Prevention and Public Health strategies, Nutrition and Lifestyles related-diseases, Cardiovascular Diseases, and Nanomedicine, adds to the richness of perspectives within the board. Additionally, the inclusion of stakeholders like the European Health Alliance, patient organizations, industry representatives, and Health





Technology Assessment experts further broadens the board's scope and strategic vision, particularly in public health.

The enthusiastic participation and commitment of the STAB members to share their expertise and advance the aims of the ERA4Health partnership were evident. Their collective passion for healthcare innovation promises to contribute significantly to the project's success. We extend our gratitude to all members for their valuable contributions during the meeting and look forward to the impactful and strategic guidance they will provide, shaping the future of healthcare innovation and public health strategy under the ERA4Health umbrella.

6.2.2. Second physical STAB Meeting – 17th of November 2023

On November 17, 2023, the 2nd STAB Meeting of ERA4Health was successfully convened in Brussels, Belgium, in a hybrid format. The meeting, led by Nikki De Clercq (EV ILVO) and chaired by Alexandre Ceccaldi (ETPN), included key European clinical research figures. The agenda encompassed updates on ERA4Health Partnership by Cristina Nieto García, discussions on capacity building activities by Adelina Ovcharenko and Irit Allon (CSO-MOH IL), presentation on ethics and RRI work in ERA4Health by Cecilie A. Mathiesen (RCN), and the implementation of call topics for the upcoming years presented by Hugo Soares (AICIB PT).

Francesca Turco and Grazia Papagni (SANITA IT) shared insights on joint funding activities. These sessions underscored collaborative efforts and strategic planning in European healthcare research, marking a pivotal step in the Partnership's progress.





A picture of the second physical STAB meeting held in Brussels on November 17, 2023,

6.2.3. First Annual Workshop for the Search of Synergies (Online) – 9th of June 2023

The ERA4Health project successfully held its 1st International Workshop for the Search of Synergies on June 9, 2023, conducted in an online format. The event was organized by MUR and FICYT and it was open for participation to interested individuals, provided they registered in advance. The workshop's primary aim was to foster collaboration and explore synergies between ERA4Health activities and other relevant networks at both the European and international levels. This initiative aligns with our goal of promoting a transnational European Research Area in Health Research. The workshop, attended by over 90 participants including ERA4Health Partnership members, regional/national authorities, research infrastructures, and European Commission representatives, was a testament to our extensive network and collaborative spirit. More than 50 initiatives were presented, categorized into three distinct domains: Initiatives related to Health, those pertaining to fields other than Health, and those focused on Clinical Studies and Research Infrastructures. These presentations were prepared by the members of a Synergies Working Group (SWG), specifically established for this purpose. The SWG will continue its work in identifying and analyzing potential synergies with the Partnership, organizing annual workshops to keep the network updated and expand its reach. These efforts are crucial in ensuring that our activities are aligned with national policies, thereby maximizing the impact of our work in the health sector.







A screenshot of the first annual workshop for the search of synergies (online) - June 2023

6.3. Pillar 2A communication activities

6.3.1. Info Day and Matchmaking Event: JTC CARDINNOV (Online) – 13th of December 2022

For the successful execution of each JTC within the ERA4Health project, several preliminary events have been organized to guide and support potential applicants. One of these events was the CARDINNOV info day and matchmaking event, which took place on December 13, 2022. This event was organized by the Joint Call Secretariat (JCS), led by Dr. Séverine Olivier and Dr. Martine Batoux. The purpose of this event, as detailed on ERA4Health's event page (https://era4health.eu/event/info-day-and-matchmaking-event-online-13th-december-2023/), was to provide potential project applicants with comprehensive information following the preannouncement of the CARDINNOV call. This call focused on research targeting the development of innovative therapeutic strategies in cardiovascular disease. Participation in the event required prior registration, which was open until December 8, 2022. The event was open to all potential project applicants but required registration, suggesting a mix of open and invitation-based participation.

During the event, ERA4Health presented the Call documents and application guidelines, offering important insights to help applicants navigate the submission process effectively. Additionally,





the event served as a networking platform, enabling applicants to seek additional expertise for their consortia or to find opportunities for integrating into existing consortia, thus fostering collaborative research endeavors in the field of cardiovascular health.

For more information about past events, including the CARDINNOV event, you can visit the ERA4Health Past Events page, which provides details about various initiatives undertaken by ERA4Health to support collaborative research and innovation in healthcare: https://era4health.eu/events/.

6.3.2. Health Equity online seminar – 26th of January 2023

The ERA4Health project conducted a focused event to present the HealthEquity call for proposals, reflecting our commitment to addressing key health challenges. The agenda for this event was thoughtfully crafted to provide comprehensive insights into the specifics of the HealthEquity call. The event was organized by the call JCS: Ann Siehoff and Felicitas Bosen. Participation in the event required prior registration.

The session began with an **introductory segment** from 10:00 to 12:00, led by ERA4Health Coordinator Maria Cristina Nieto Garcia, who provided a 10-minute overview setting the stage for the call. This was followed by an in-depth 20-minute presentation on the **Principles of RRI** by Cecilie Anita Mathiesen. An interactive **Q&A session** of 30 minutes allowed attendees to engage directly with the speakers, clarifying various aspects of the call and its objectives.

The event then transitioned into a matchmaking and **group discussion** phase from 12:00 to 13:00. This segment was designed to foster collaboration and networking among participants, encouraging them to form alliances and discuss potential proposals in detail.

Overall, this event not only succeeded in presenting the HealthEquity call but also in stimulating active engagement and discussion among the researchers, thereby laying the groundwork for future collaborative efforts in health equity research.

6.3.3. Info session on the JTC NutriBrain – 10th of November 2023

The ERA4Health event on November 16, 2023, focused on the JTC NutriBrain. The session was introduced by Maria Cristina Nieto Garcia and included a presentation of the NutriBrain call by the JCS. Key aspects such as the scope of the call, dedicated Q&A, call process, eligibility rules, and the submission tool were discussed. Ellen-Marie Forsberg presented the Principles of RRI, and the event also included a Q&A session.





6.3.4. Info session on the JTC Nanotecmec – 21th of November 2023

The NANOTECMEC Infoday event, held on November 21, 2023, from 10h to 12h CET, was a significant initiative organized by ERA4Health. Maria Cristina Nieto Garcia opened the session, which focused on nano and advanced technologies for disease prevention, diagnosis, and therapy. The event covered various aspects, including the scope of the NANOTECMEC call, eligibility criteria, partner search, templates for pre-proposals, and submission tools. There were also presentations by the Joint Call Secretariat and a segment on the Principles of RRI by Ellen-Marie Forsberg, followed by a Q&A session.

6.3.5. ETPN ERA4Health Matchmaking Event – 7th of December 2023

The NANOTECMEC Matchmaking Event, which took place on December 7, 2023, was a key initiative organized by the European Technology Platform on Nanomedicine (ETPN) in collaboration with ERA4Health. This event followed the ERA4Health info-day webinar held on November 21, 2023, and was aimed at fostering collaboration and providing insights into the NANOTECMEC call for transnational research proposals. The matchmaking event was pivotal in engaging potential partners and forming consortia, aligning organizational goals with like-minded entities to construct compelling project proposals. The event was highly interactive, conducted on Zoom with an engaging component on Miro for ideation and collaboration. Participants had the opportunity to discuss and submit project ideas and express their needs for partners in both plenary sessions and dedicated channels. Offering a unique opportunity for members of the nanomedicine community, the event was free to participate in and served as a platform for expanding horizons and identifying potential areas of collaboration.

6.4. Pillar 2B - External communication activities

6.4.1. Analysis of the Bottlenecks and Challenges in Designing and Conducting Multicounty IICS (Paris) – 14 and 15th of September 2023

On September 14th & 15th, the ERA4Health Partnership marked its inaugural face-to-face workshop in Paris. Hosted by the European Clinical Research Infrastructure Network (ECRIN), the event gathered an impressive crowd of over 65 participants. Attendees ranged from the ERA4Health consortia members to a diverse group of stakeholders, including sponsors, investigators, EMA/ACT-EU, European Medicine Agencies, ethics committees, and methodologists. Notably, Grzegorz Owsianik from the European Commission (DG-RTD) and





Project Officer Monica Ensini from HaDEA were also present. The primary focus of the worshop was to discuss the intricacies of planning and designing IIC.

Day one of the workshop shed light on the challenges in planning and conducting IICS and discussed the main barriers identified relating to funding, personnel training, lack of harmonization in applicable regulation and administrative constraints. The day continued with presentations of different stakeholders' perspectives, including investigator's, sponsor's, funder's and regulator's points of view. Regulators highlighted the lack of awareness by the scientific community of the tools developed by regulators to support academia.

Day two of the workshop highlighted the modern trial methodologies, emphasizing complex designs (basket, umbrella, and platform trials), trials within cohorts (TWiCs), and decentralized trials. Insightful perspectives from academic leaders highlighted both challenges—from the novelty of certain methods to the administrative aspects of the current clinical trials regulation—and opportunities. Attendees actively contributed through an engaging feedback session. A big thank you to all participants! Stay connected with our newsletter for future updates and events.









Some glimpses of the workshop on Analysis of the Bottlenecks and Challenges in Designing and Conducting Multicounty Investigator Initiated Clinical Studies (Paris) –September 2023.

6.5. Pillar 3 – Internal and external communication activities

6.5.1. Kick-Off Meeting ERAB (Online) – 26th of June 2023





On June 26, 2023, the ERA4Health project marked another important milestone with the kick-off meeting of the ERAB organised by Cecilie A. Mathiesen (RCN). This inaugural meeting offered an invaluable platform for members to familiarize themselves with ERA4Health's objectives and their respective roles. It also allowed members to introduce their backgrounds and experiences, enriching the collective understanding and approach to ethics and RRI in healthcare innovation.

The ERAB, a new governance body established by ERA4Health, embodies our commitment to advancing ethical practices and responsible research within the healthcare sector. We extend our sincere gratitude to all participants, including ERAB members, ERA4Health partners, and STAB members, for their contributions. Their expertise and dedication are crucial to guiding the partnership's efforts in ethics and RRI, and we eagerly anticipate the collaborative achievements that lie ahead.

6.5.2. RRI Guidelines workshop (Online) – 12th of October 2023

Specific Objective 4 of ERA4Health specifies that the partnership will promote research that anticipates and assesses potential implications and societal expectations with regard to research and innovation, with the aim of fostering the design of inclusive and sustainable research and innovation to ensure a true societal impact. This objective is supported by establishing and develop RRI Guidelines for ERA4Health partners and proposers to calls.

ERA4Health has in a very short timeframe successfully developed, implemented and disseminated RRI Guidelines. These guidelines were endorsed by all partners on October 31, 2023. In sum RRI provides a framework to ask how research and innovation should be carried out to ensure that we achieve the societal goals of research and innovation in an open and inclusive way. ERA4Health believes that the RRI methodology improves the quality of research proposals and projects. The RRI Guidelines are thus an integrated part of the call texts in the JTCs NutriBrain (JTC3) and NANOTECMEC (JTC4). The RRI Guidelines are disseminated via

- I. Separate publication on the ERA4Health webpage as a pdf under section "Publications & Resources".
- II. A newsflash to subscribers of the ERA4Health newsletter





Working on Miro in groups during the workshop, commenting RRI Guidelines draft.

6.5.3. Survey for Capacity Building Activities

Building capacities within the research community and clinical hospitals in conducting ambitious multidisciplinary research projects and IICS at a European scale, as well as developing innovative ways of connecting science to society, are two important priorities in ERA4Health. Capacity building and career development of scientists and patients is an important requirement in emerging multidisciplinary research areas, and in particular for patient-oriented research. To achieve these objectives, it is also necessary to develop and establish suitable tools and training modules for the different stakeholder groups involved.

In August-September 2023, ERA4Health conducted an online survey on Capacity Building Activities. In the survey, we asked potential applicants to ERA4Health, as researchers and/or innovators, what kind of capacity building activities they miss, need, or find attractive. We also included some specific questions for our stakeholders regarding RRI (Responsible Research and Innovation) to develop and integrate it in the most relevant way. The results are used to develop the catalogue of capacity building activities for ERA4Health stakeholders.

7. Joint calls

ERA4Health aims to tackle public health challenges by supporting research through its JTCs. These calls facilitate international collaboration in health research, pooling resources and expertise across countries. The initiative focuses on innovative projects that address critical health issues, promoting the development of new solutions and interventions. By doing so, ERA4Health contributes to improving global health outcomes and advancing medical research. ERA4Health is





spearheading innovation in healthcare research through four JTCs: HEALTHEQUITY 2023, focusing on health equity through diet and physical activity, launched in January 2023; NutriBrain 2024, set to explore the modulation of brain ageing through nutrition, pre-announced in October 2023; NANOTECMEC 2024, advancing nanomedicine for disease prevention and therapy, also pre-announced in October 2023; and CARDINNOV 2023, targeting innovative therapies in cardiovascular disease, which opened in December 2022.

ERA4Health communication channels served as important conduits for disseminating call details, deadlines, and guidelines. They provided accessible links to submission portals, hosted informative webinars, and kept audiences updated on the call processes. Importantly, social media extended our reach, engaging diverse research communities and amplifying the calls' visibility, thereby playing a pivotal role in attracting a wide array of high-quality proposals and enhancing the overall impact of our initiatives.

7.1. CARDINNOV

The CARDINNOV 2023 Joint Call was pre-announced on November 7, 2022, and officially announced on December 7, 2022. Focused on innovative therapeutic strategies in cardiovascular diseases, this call encouraged research on heart and blood vessel repair/regeneration, chronic heart failure and atrial fibrillation. The submission system opened on December 9, 2022, with deadlines for pre-proposals on February 7, 2023, and full proposals on June 15, 2023. The expected announcement of results in the fall of 2023 signifies a crucial step towards advancements in cardiovascular research and treatment.

The CARDINNOV 2023 Joint Call was open to a diverse range of participants, including academia (universities and research institutes), the clinical/public health sector (hospitals and health organizations), enterprises of all sizes, and operational stakeholders like patient advocacy organizations, municipalities, NGOs, and local governments. Details of this call can be accessed through the following link: <u>CARDINNOV 2023 - ERA4HEALTH</u>.

7.2. HealthEquity

The aim of the Health Equity call was to develop novel strategies for identifying, understanding, and modifying determinants and mechanisms of diet-related behavior, physical activity, and sedentary behavior. This initiative was designed to break cycles maintaining unhealthy behaviors and lifestyles, and reduce health inequalities. The call particularly targeted research at socioeconomically disadvantaged groups, taking into account their family, social, cultural, and local





backgrounds, as well as digital influences. This focus aligns with the broader goal of increasing health equity through promoting healthy diets and physical activity.

The call was published on January 13, 2023 on our website, followed by an informative webinar for applicants on January 26, 2023. Details of this call can be accessed through the following link: HEALTHEQUITY 2023 - ERA4HEALTH

7.3. NutriBrain

The NutriBrain 2024 call aims at exploring the modulation of brain ageing through nutrition and healthy lifestyle, had several key dates. The call was pre-announced on October 12, 2023, and officially announced on November 3, 2023. The submission system opened on November 10, 2023, which was also the date of the webinar Infoday. Details of this call can be accessed through the following link: NutriBrain 2024-ERA4HEALTH

7.4. NANOTECMEC

The NANOTECMEC 2024 call was pre-announced on October 18, 2023, with the official call publication following on November 14, 2023. This initiative, focusing on nano and advanced technologies for disease prevention, diagnosis, and therapy, opened its submission system on November 21, 2023, the same day as the informative webinar. Details of this call can be accessed through the following link: NANOTECMEC 2024 - ERA4HEALTH

8. Summary of achievements from DEC activities

This ERA4Health Partnership's first-year Annual Communication report demonstrates the pivotal role of DEC activities, including the execution of the DEC Plan and Strategy, development of a comprehensive website, and diverse outreach programs. It details the effective use of social media, newsletters, and informational materials in facilitating project communication. ECN initiatives within the ERA4Health project and different educational training courses and summer schools, which still are in the planning phase for the near future, will have a significant contribution to enhancing collaborative networks and knowledge exchange. By fostering connections and facilitating discussions among researchers, clinicians, and other stakeholders, these activities have strengthened the Partnership's framework and objectives. Social media platforms effectively disseminated information, engaged a broad audience, and facilitated collaboration, underlining their significance in the project's achievements. The active participation and presentation of ERA4Health by the coordinator and other consortium partners





in other relevant events (e.g., ERA-CVD Symposium in September 2022; ECRIN/EJP RD meeting in October 2022; JPI HDHL Management Board Meeting in October 2022; CRIGH meeting in November 2022; ESO Trials Alliance in November 2022; BioAlliance meeting in November 2022; Partnership Stakeholder Forum 2022 in November 2022; HaDEA networking meeting in March 2023; Health Programme Committee meeting in June 2023; and Health Tech Innovation Conference in October 2023) also contributed intensively to the further dissemination of its capabilities. This will undoubtedly lead to interest from new partners and cooperation with other related EU initiatives.

Social media KPIs have played a key role in monitoring the effectiveness of these social media strategies, ensuring the project remains on track with its outreach goals. By evaluating metrics like website visits, follower counts, and social media interactions, the project team can refine their strategies to better engage their audience and promote their initiatives. On October 9, 2023, a comprehensive analysis was performed on our progress in social media and website performance. This evaluation was focused on assessing the KPIs and achievements specific to the social media component of the ERA4HEALTH project. The ERA4Health project's social media and website performance analysis revealed: website visits reached 44,994, near the 45,000 goal; LinkedIn followers stood at 573, 57.3% of the 1,000 target; Twitter followers were at 144, 7.2% of the 2,000 target, with significant retweeting impact; YouTube channel created in November 2023 includes at the moment 3 videos on JTC2, 3 and 4 info days that have respectively 6, 416, and 250 views. Twitter impressions reached 3.1K, reflecting active audience engagement. These metrics indicate the growing digital presence of the Partnership and effectiveness of social media in contributing to the dissemination of project objectives and successes.

All these abovementioned efforts have significantly contributed to the success of the first two JTCs, underscoring the importance of strategic communication and education in achieving goals of this partnership. We have comprehensively compiled and analysed the data on projects funded under the ERA4Health partnership. This detailed breakdown encompasses various parameters, including the specific calls, the year of funding, the participating countries, gender representation among project leaders and teams, the type of entities involved (such as academic institutions, research centres, or private companies), and the specific areas of research and this information can be accessed on our website: https://era4health.eu/fact-and-figures/.