



D5.1 FIRST SYNERGY REPORT

WP5



**Co-funded by
the European Union**

Funded by the European Union under the Horizon Europe Framework Programme. Grant Agreement N°: 101095426.

Technical References

Deliverable No.	5.1 (D 0.5.1.1)
Dissemination Level¹	PU - Public
Work Package	5
Lead beneficiary	ISCIII
Version	2
Due date of deliverable	M12 (01/11/2023)
Actual submission date	2 nd November 2023

Versions

Version	Person	Partner	Date
1	Astrid Valencia	ISCIII	09 October 2023
2	Astrid Valencia (Inputs received: Floriane Nguyen FICYT, Sara García Rodríguez ISCIII, Marta del Alamo ECRIN, Martine Batoux ANR, Hendrik De Ruyck ILVO, Cristina Nieto ISCIII)	ISCIII	30 October 2023

Approved by Coordinator on: 02-11-2023

Disclaimer. Funded by the European Union under the Horizon Europe Framework Programme. Grant Agreement N°: 101095426. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or European Health and Digital Executive Agency (HADEA). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them

¹ PU = Public

DELIVERABLE NAME

Table of contents

GLOSSARY / LIST OF ACRONYMS	3
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	4
1. PURPOSE and OBJECTIVES	5
2. METHODOLOGY	7
3. RESULTS	9
BACKGROUND	10
a. Connections with other initiatives	11
b. Representation of ERA4Health in other forums:	15
4. CONCLUSIONS	21

GLOSSARY / LIST OF ACRONYMS

CLEVERFOOD CSA: CONNECTED LABS FOR EMPOWERING VERSATILE ENGAGEMENT IN RADICAL FOOD SYSTEM TRANSFORMATION

COO: COORDINATOR

EC: EUROPEAN COMMISSION

ECRIN: EUROPEAN CLINICAL RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORK

EJP: EUROPEAN JOINT PROGRAMME

EJP RD: EUROPEAN JOINT PROGRAMME ON RARE DISEASES

EMA: EUROPEAN MEDICINES AGENCY

ERA: EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA

ERA PERMED: ERA-NET COFUND ON PERSONALISED MEDICINE

ERA-CVD: ERA-NET ON CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASES

ERA-LEARN: PLATFORM FOR THE SUPPORT OF RESEARCH FUNDING ORGANISATIONS, POLICY MAKERS AND RESEARCHERS REGARDING PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVES

EU: EUROPEAN UNION

EU4HEALTH PROGRAMME: EUROPEAN UNION FOR HEALTH PROGRAMME

FOODPATHS CSA: CO-CREATING THE PROTOTYPE 'SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS PARTNERSHIP'

HTIC: HEALTH TECH INNOVATION CONFERENCE

IHI: INNOVATIVE HEALTH INITIATIVE

IICS: INVESTIGATOR INITIATED CLINICAL STUDIES

JPI HDHL: JOINT PROGRAMMING INITIATIVE A HEALTHY DIET FOR A HEALTHY LIFE

JPI: JOINT PROGRAMMING INITIATIVES

JTC: JOINT TRANSNATIONAL CALLS

THCS: TRANSFORMING HEALTH CARE SYSTEMS PARTNERSHIP

FUTUREFOODS: PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS

SWG SYNERGIES WORKING GROUP

WP: WORK PACKAGE

EC-DG RTD: DIRECTORATE-GENERAL FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

European Partnerships bring the European Commission and private and/or public partners together to address some of Europe's most pressing challenges through concerted research and innovation initiatives. They are a key implementation tool of Horizon Europe, and contribute significantly to achieving the EU's political priorities.

By bringing these partners together, European Partnerships help to avoid the duplication of investments and contribute to reducing the fragmentation of the research and innovation landscape in the EU².

By strengthening linkages and teaming up with other Horizon Europe initiatives, other MFF funded programmes, and national, regional, private programmes, future European Partnerships have better chances to deliver on the ambitious transitions and contribute to EU priorities and policies. Effective synergies maximise the possibility that successful research results are taken up and effectively deployed³.

For this reason, under Horizon Europe partnerships are expected to establish formal and regular collaboration with other relevant research and innovation initiatives and this must be reflected in their governance models and joint actions. Since the proposal preparation of ERA4Health, the EC emphasized that synergies among Partnerships were very expected and thus, we incorporated a series of steps to contribute to the achievement of the Topic Outcome 3 "Public health research systems in the ERA are more effective and integrated. Utilization of health services, preventative measures, technologies, tools and digital solutions are more cost-effective", including the ones under WP5.

This public document summarizes the actions related to this WP, and in the next chapters, you may find the results in the development of task 5.1 "Identification and establishment of synergies with other European and International sister initiatives with concurrent activities" and task 5.2 "Representation of ERA4Health in other forums".

² *European Partnerships in Horizon Europe (europa.eu)*

³ *ec_rtd_coherence-synergies-of-ep-under-he.pdf (europa.eu)*

Based in the “Portfolio of Synergies” developed under WP8, the implementation of ERA4Health has included activities in collaboration with other organizations or initiatives. 4 actions have been detailed as CONNECTIONS WITH OTHER INITIATIVES, including relationships with previous networks, with other Partnerships within the Health Cluster, or those to avoid overlapping with initiatives that will launch or support clinical studies/trials. Besides, 12 actions are described as REPRESENTATION OF ERA4HEALTH IN OTHER FORUMS.

1. PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

Synergies among Partnerships will result in better innovation governance, more public-public and public-private cooperation and improved R&I support in the countries & regions. More links and bridges between different programmes would facilitate:

- Use of same bodies to implement different funds to promote synchronisation and links at governance level
- Managing Authorities may identify Partnerships members as intermediate bodies for implementing their actions

For the ERA4Health partnership it is crucial to connect with other key players and initiatives in the health domain and beyond to increase the impact of R&I investments on the societal challenge that it addresses. To ensure coherence and complementarity of activities and leverage knowledge and investment possibilities, the partnership will establish collaborations with other European partnerships and missions under Horizon Europe as well as explore collaborations with other relevant activities at EU and international level. Relationships within Health cluster candidate Partnerships seem obvious. ERA4Health will be instrumental in mobilising public investment as well as industrial contribution towards common goals in priority areas that perfectly complement Research and Innovation activities of other Partnerships. Thus, in practice, collaboration with key actors is needed for setting up priorities, for avoiding overlapping and complementing R&I activities. In addition, there is a long-lasting relationship with members that will participate in almost all the current Partnerships.

This deliverable belongs to Pillar 0, specifically to WP5 “Synergies and External Relations”. The objectives of this WP are:

- to promote synergies and actively engage with relevant stakeholders and initiatives at EU and International level in the area of ERA4Health, so to increase mutual awareness and establish an effective and efficient collaboration in order to avoid duplication of investments, work and related activities.
- To expand the EU-International network of prospective partners of the expected future ERA4Health Partnership to support alignment on its scope, strategies, common objectives, and governance.
- To foster the alignment of action plans of the different initiatives related to this partnership.

This public document summarizes the actions related to task 5.1 “Identification and establishment of synergies with other European and International sister initiatives with concurrent activities” and task 5.2 “Representation of ERA4Health in other forums”. It is important to mention its connection with WP8 and the published “Portfolio of Synergies with the Partnership ERA4health”.

This WP lasts all the Partnership duration (M1-M84) but the purpose of this particular deliverable is to communicate the advances until this moment (M12). There will be subsequent versions which will include the new relationships over time.

The content of this deliverable will be also related with the activities of:

- WP4 – Communication, Dissemination and Exploitation, which main aim is to raise awareness about ERA4Health objectives, activities and results and ensure the timely dissemination of its outputs to different target audiences to enhance actions by governments and stakeholders.
- WP8 – Exploring Synergies, which main objective is to explore synergies between activities in ERA4Health and other relevant networks. In order to fostering an ERA for Health a close interaction of the scientific community with policy makers, R&I funding organizations, health and care systems, European programmes and other stakeholders is needed. This partnership holds a strategic position among the biomedical and health

research community and relevant funding organizations. It brings together public and private research performing organisations, pre-clinical and clinical research communities.

- WP15 – Synergies with other initiatives implementing clinical studies, which main aim is coordinate the funding of multinational Investigator Initiated Clinical Studies (IICSs) through the ERA4Health mechanism with all the other funding sources able to fund multinational clinical studies and identify the initiatives /organisations able to provide support in the planning, design and conduct of multinational IICS. Contact persons for each initiative are essential to initiate collaborations and organise common activities.

2. METHODOLOGY

The Partnership “Fostering an ERA for Health Research” aims to establish a flexible and much more effective coordination between most funding organisations of the numerous networks established in the European Research Area (ERA) for Health and Well-being. This will be done by centralizing those activities that are common or quite similar, while keeping the diversity needed for the scientific development in each of the thematic fields.

As mentioned in previous chapter, the ERA4Health actively seeks collaboration with other ongoing initiatives and funding bodies, which will be paramount to ensuring maximum synergy and avoiding duplication of effort.

Since the beginning of the proposal preparation, the EC emphasized that synergies among Partnerships were very expected since this would result in better innovation governance, more public-public and public-private cooperation and improved R&I support in the countries & regions and so it was reflected in the call topic. Thus, we incorporated a series of steps to contribute in the achievement of the Topic Outcome 3 “Public health research systems in the ERA are more effective and integrated. Utilization of health services, preventative measures, technologies, tools and digital solutions are more cost-effective”, including the ones under WP5.

It is expected that through WP5, ERA4Health will attract new potential national and funding organizations, as well as other European Research infrastructures, to join the Partnership and create a more efficient research and innovation environment. Thus, the active participation of programme research owners/managers and research performance organisations (including

health and care systems), will facilitate the alignment of the Partnership's activities with national/regional and EC research priorities.

During the partnership preparation, some areas for collaboration were already identified according to the nature and aim of each specific initiative. In general terms, these are:

- EU funding programmes: based on EU policies that will help define a relevant approach within each specific area and research priorities.
- ERA-NETs/Joint Programming Initiatives (JPI)/European Joint Programme (EJP)/Partnerships: close collaboration will be promoted with these initiatives in terms of peer-learning and research priorities selection.
- Other EU funding instruments: information on complementarities with research priorities will be exchange to avoid duplications.
- EU co-funding instruments: promotion of regional/national complementarities with EU co-funding instruments to leverage EU funding.
- European Research Infrastructures: the existing EU Health research infrastructures are a key element for building a European Research Area for Health research offering facilities that provide resources and services for the research communities to conduct research and foster innovation in their fields.

And during its implementation (M1-M12), more addressed activities have been done following the descriptions of the tasks below:

Task 5.1: This task aims at identifying synergies with partnerships, programmes, infrastructures and other activities at both EU and international levels in order to avoid duplication and ensure added value to initiatives and instruments that are ongoing.

The development of this task rests in the D8.4, which aims to identify overlaps that may help to avoid duplicities with other research programmes and to be aware of other initiatives with which potential collaborations may be initiated. It was submitted in month 8 so we intend to reinforce its utility during the next years. In the meantime, ERA4Health has been connecting with other initiatives based in the external relationships that funding agencies historically have, and

according to their level of involvement due to previous experience in specific research fields. At this point, there is not a continuous follow up of these relationships even when some long-term commitments have been contracted. This will be detailed in the “Results” chapter.

The collaboration with the “Partnership Knowledge Hub” will be very important. This hub will allow working-level interactions and meetings between the Commission, EU countries and associated countries of Horizon Europe, as well as partnership representatives. It drives the work along all the objectives of the partnerships strategic coordinating process. At this point, we have not started an active participation but we are expecting to consolidate our membership in this hub in the oncoming years. The COO and some additional members have been already included in the ERA4Health Sharepoint where a Horizon Europe Commission expert group sets up advise in the implementation of the strategic coordinating process for EU R&I partnerships (mainly working in tasks related with WP21/Monitoring by now).

Task 5.2: Representation of ERA4Health in other forums. ERA4Health consortium will maintain the surveillance of the ecosystem and the existing forums, in order to detect possible new ones.

During the first year of ERA4Health execution, the Coordination Unit as well as Pillar leaders have participated in several forums and conferences. The attendance has been in response to direct invitations or official meetings organized by the EC and considering the information collected under the WP8 “Exploring Synergies”.

3. RESULTS

This chapter collects information of a first contact with organisations at an organisational level (during board and EC meetings that the coordinator or partner members have attended) and also involves approaching with other R&I initiatives at European and international level.

BACKGROUND

In relation with this deliverable, it is important to mention the work developed under WP8 and specifically what has been collected in D8.1 –Synergies Working Group Establishment and D8.4 – Portfolio of Synergies of JTC2022.

D8.1 –Synergies Working Group Establishment. It followed to establish the Synergies Working Group (SWG). The main purpose of the action carried out was to identify a contact person for each of the European/international initiatives identified and nominate a chair from the ERA4Health partners for each of the categories of the initiatives.

The objective of that deliverable is to describe and give an overview of:

- the activities carried out to identify and select the members of the Synergies Working Group,
- the establishment of the Synergies Working Group. Afterwards, it is described the methodology followed for the creation of the SWG.

Main results:

- 59 contact persons have been identified for those initiatives.
- 59 contact persons have been contacted.
- 37 contact persons have been officially included so far as members of the SWG.
 - 19 members of the SWG in the field of Health
 - 6 members of the SWG in other fields than Health
 - 12 members of the SWG in the category of Initiatives related to Clinical Studies and Research Infrastructures.

D8.4 –Portfolio of Synergies. The main purpose of the action carried out was to identify overlaps which may help avoid duplicities with other research programmes and to be aware of other initiatives with which potential collaborations may be initiated.

The objective of that deliverable was to describe and give an overview of:

- the synergies identified for the definition of the JTC2022,
- the activities carried out to update and identify new European/international initiatives with potential synergies with ERA4Health,
- the activities carried out for the search of synergies with the initiatives identified, and
- elaboration of a portfolio of initiatives and synergies with ERA4Health

An online international workshop was organized on 9th June 2023 to bring together all the Synergies Working Group (SWG) members (representatives of each of the initiatives identified), the JTCs Secretariats, the involved partners and national/regional agencies to present all the initiatives and initiate a debate on the synergies identified and future potential collaborations.

Main results:

- 59 initiatives have been identified.
 - o 26 in the field of Health
 - o 9 in other fields than Health
 - o 24 in the category of Initiatives related to Clinical Studies and Research Infrastructures.
- Description of the synergies found with all the European/international initiatives identified.
- Elaboration of the first Portfolio of Initiatives and Synergies with ERAHealth.

A. CONNECTIONS WITH OTHER INITIATIVES

✓ JPI HDHL, ERA-CVD AND ENM3 (CALL TOPIC SELECTION)

The main funding instruments in ERA4Health are the Joint Transnational Calls (JTC) for projects. However, other instruments could be implemented (call for networks/knowledge hubs, mobility grants, etc.) according to the specific needs of the respective research field. JTCs enable scientists in different countries to build an effective collaboration on a common interdisciplinary research Project based on complementarities and sharing of expertise, with expected impact to use the results in the future for the benefit of patients. The flexibility of ERA4Health to target new areas will also allow the participating countries and EU, to quickly launch a JTC to address an identified health societal challenge in times of need such as in case of health emergencies or other urgent research needs.

This collaboration enables not only transnational collaboration but also collaboration between public and private partners from academia (research teams from universities, higher education institutions, public research institutions) and clinical/public health research (research teams from hospital/ public health, healthcare settings and other healthcare organisations) or research teams from industrial enterprises (all sizes).

Evolving from a predecessor framework on these areas, will enable the European Research Area to have major possibilities of strengthening and growth. Biomedical and Health research at EU level needs to be more efficient to deliver better and of higher-quality solutions for prevention, diagnosis and treatment as well as providing better and equal access and affordable Health Care Systems to the citizens. Common inputs such as national and regional cash funding, in kind contributions, consolidated databases, experts and advisory boards' support and mainly their multidisciplinary expertise, will serve as a basis for the development of ERA4Health⁴.

During ERA4Health first year, there has been two-sided participation mainly in the selection of new topics launched by the new partnership. It has been possible through the contact and common participation of partners while making decisions.

The methodology of the selection of topics in ERA4Health includes as point 3 the consultations of scientific communities, other initiatives (partnerships, JPI, missions...) and identification of the expected impacts of the funded research by stakeholders (e.g. patient or consumer associations). This refers mainly to the base's structures of JPI HDHL, ERA-CVD and ENM3. A big number of partners is common to those networks so the links have remained in order to align the scientific interest and capacities.

✓ EP PERMED, THCS AND OTHER PARTNERSHIPS IN HEALTH

Regarding the collaboration among Partnerships belonging to the Cluster Health, even when there are several that are foreseen to be contacted according to the Synergies Portfolio, our current activity mainly involves EP PerMed, THCS and RD at this moment.

The main tool to develop collaborations and synergies is the Strategic Research and Innovation agenda (SRIA), which allows long-term planning and is mandatory for all European Partnerships under Horizon Europe, but we have not reached that step at this moment. Nevertheless, given the participation of common partners and representatives, the implementation of each of them have consider also the development of the others trying to avoid overlaps and supporting capacity activities one to other.

EP PerMed (ERA PerMed)

As personalised medicine is non-disease-specific, but rather an overall approach that can be adopted and adapted to a multiplicity of medical conditions, research projects in every disease

⁴ Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda ERA4Health "Fostering a European Research Area for Health"

entity are encouraged. The clinical relevance of the proposed PM approach needs to be convincingly demonstrated. Moreover, proposals must combine pre-clinical or clinical research with research on data and information and communication technology (ICT) as well as research on ethical, legal and social aspects (ELSA) or health economics/implementation support. ERA PerMed fosters research and innovation activities that build close linkages between the aforementioned research areas. This implies a wide range of multidisciplinary activities brought together by different stakeholders from academia, clinical/public health research and private partners such as small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), policy makers, regulatory/health technology assessment (HTA) agencies and patients/patient organisations. The involvement of partners with the respective expertise in the consortium is required.

Management and Governance: ERA PerMed is an ERANET with may have similar governance structure. It is remarkable to mention that the current ERA4Health COO, Cristina Nieto from ISCIII, is also the COO of ERA-PerMed and has been involved in the preparation of the next Partnership that will guarantee its continuation. The knowledge of both structures and both networks allow her to advise and provide complementary activities.

THCS (Transforming Health Care Systems Partnership)

- Public health promotion and disease prevention (including issues such as how to design an environment and public policies that support healthy eating, how substance abuse can be better addressed by healthcare services, what measures are needed to make lower alcohol consumption socially desirable, etc.)
- Inequities in health (including issues such as reducing inequities in health, monitoring social determinants of health, etc.)
- Integrate research and innovation findings in evidence-based decisions in health and care.
- Advance the co creation and the uptake of user-friendly innovative solutions in health and care (Actions contributing to the development of innovative tools to promote healthy lifestyles and maintaining population health).

Management & Governance: the partnership will support joint calls for proposals in priority areas identified by partners.

Stakeholders: strengthen the health and care community for a sustainable dialogue among different actors.

Further contacts will be done in the future with other Health-related Partnerships.

- ✓ Specific synergies and avoiding overlapping with initiatives that will launch or support clinical studies/trials (e.g. EP Rare Diseases, Remedi4all, Pandemic Preparedness, etc) (in connection with WP15)

WP15 will coordinate the funding of multinational IICS through the ERA4Health mechanism with all the other funding sources able to fund multinational clinical studies, and identify the initiatives or organisations able to provide support in the planning, design and conduct of multinational IICS. Based on a mapping of funding opportunities, a coordination and liaison mechanism will be established with all the other relevant funding sources for multinational IICS to avoid duplication and overlap and avoid as far as possible the funding gaps. Preliminary contacts have been established with the EJP RD programme (currently preparing the next Rare Diseases Programme (ERDERA), the CSA BE READY and the REMEDI4All project.

ERDERA is planning to implement at least one Joint Translational Call including IICS. Thus, communication and collaboration with ERDERA coordination will be ensured to avoid overlapping and secure synergistic actions.

ECRIN/ERA4Health is also collaborating with the CSA BE READY in the preparation of a survey aiming to create a trials funders database as part of the work on the preparation of the Pandemic Preparedness Partnership, considering the link of this activity with ERA4Health Deliverable D14.1.

The REMEDI4All consortium brings together a unique combination of expertise to address the complexities of drug repurposing, including a catalogue of services for “repurposed drugs” developers. Considering that academia is poised to play an important role on drug repurposing, ERA4Health future call on IICS might explore funding academic developers, making collaboration with REMEDI4All a key element for potential applicants to the call.

- ✓ **ERA4HEALTH, A MEMBER OF THE STRATEGIC ADVISORY BOARD OF FOODPATHS CSA**

The EU-funded FOODPathS project sets up a prototype of the European Partnership for Sustainable Food Systems for People, Planet and Climate with the goal of co-creating an inclusive governance model and system approaches. It gathers 17 European partners from public institutions, non-profit organisations and academia to farming and private sectors. They will form

a powerful network with diverse public and private entities to ease the food systems transition and ensure that many stakeholders will be ready to support the food systems partnerships.

ERA4Health accepted to be a part of the Strategic Advisory Board of FOODPathS and joined the second STAB meeting of FOODPaths on June 27th at Rome. ERA4Health was represented by Martine Batoux (ANR). The following topics were discussed:

1. Governance and governance best practices:
 - o Which best practices do you recommend us to study in more depth?
 - o What does inclusiveness in your opinion mean and how should it practically be taken into account?
 - o How should power relations in food systems be taken into account?
2. Systems approaches and co-creation:
 - o What experiences do you have with system approaches, and what about co-creation?
 - o How do you apply them in your programs or funding schemes? Please share specific examples and/or good practices
 - o Which are, in your opinion, the key factors to consider to scale-up those experiences to a wider EU context?
3. Expectations of FOODPathS outcomes:
 - o Which FOODPathS outcomes do you expect?
 - o Where should FOODPathS (better) interact with other Partnerships / large initiatives?
4. Communication, Dissemination and Exploitation (please, see summary of CDE-plan):
 - o Based on the project scopes, do you think that the target audiences and the key messages for them are appropriate? Are there any gaps?
 - o Is there any stakeholder or target audience missing in the AB and do you have recommendations for a major, impactful, future CDE activity?

B. REPRESENTATION OF ERA4HEALTH IN OTHER FORUMS:

September 2022: ERA-CVD Symposium

Description	During the ERA-Net on Cardiovascular Diseases (ERA-CVD) Symposium, ERA4Health was presented in the section of “Developments and Opportunities within Horizon Europe”
Location	Riga, Latvia
ERA4Health Representative	Martine Batoux

Organization	ANR
Main highlights	<p>Based on the work made under ERA-CVD and its strategic research agenda made by the consultation of all relevant stakeholders, ERA4Health has identified different priorities of biomedical research to reduce the burden of cardiovascular diseases:</p> <p>Promoting cardiovascular Health – Better prevention and risk detection New concepts for better treatment Opportunities for better treatment and care Living with chronic cardiovascular diseases</p>

October 2022: ECRIN/EJP RD meeting

Description	Participation in the meeting “Identifying obstacles hindering the development of academic-sponsored trials for drug repurposing on rare-diseases”
Location	Prague, Czech Republic (online participation)
ERA4Health Representative	Cristina Nieto (COO)
Organization	ISCIII
Main highlights	General presentation of the Partnership. JTC procedures and further activities related with IICS framework development

October, 2022: JPI HDHL Management Board Meeting

Description	The initiative Healthy Diet, Healthy Life (HDHL) brings together 17 countries that align research programming and fund new research to prevent or minimise diet-related chronic diseases. ERA4Health participated in the JPI HDHL Management Board Meeting
Location	Bonn, Germany
ERA4Health Representative	Cristina Nieto (COO)
Organization	ISCIII
Main highlights	<p>With the goal of positioning JPI HDHL in the European research agenda of Horizon Europe 2025-2027, they invited different Partnerships: ERA4Health, FutureFoodS, FOODPathS CSA, CLEVERFOOD CSA.</p> <p>ERA4Health was presented mainly focused on its priority area of “Nutrition- and lifestyle-related diseases”</p>

October, 2022: Infodays of Platforms funded by ISCIII to support R&D&I in Biomedicine and Health Sciences

Description	The ISCIII Platforms to support R&D&I in Biomedicine and Health Sciences are a set of infrastructures and professionals belonging to different Spanish institutions, which provide transversal support services to the R&D&I system for the generation and knowledge transfer in the National Health System. Their objectives are to provide high-level scientific, technical and technological support to projects; promote transversal activities; enhance Spain's participation and and promote innovation capabilities in health technologies, independent clinical research and Precision Medicine.
Location	Cádiz, Spain
ERA4Health Representative	Marta del Álamo
Organization	ECRIN
Main highlights	ERA4Health was presented mainly focused on Pillar 2B activities, involving ECRIN Spanish national partner, the platform SCReN

November, 2022: CRIGH meeting

Description	CRIGH (Clinical Research Initiative for Global Health) General Assembly 2023. CRIGH aims to optimise clinical research programmes, develop global standards on clinical research, promote the take-up of innovative methodology and technologies, and encourage international cooperation to rapidly and efficiently respond to global health challenges
Location	Paris, France
ERA4Health Representative	Marta del Álamo
Organization	ECRIN
Main highlights	Introduction to the ERA4Health initiative and the role of the academic clinical trials

November, 2022: ESO Trials Alliance

Description	ESO Trials Alliance is an international European 'network of networks' to support stroke randomised trials in Europe. ESOTA supports stroke research collaboration, education, communication and advocacy in Europe. The main focus is on randomised clinical trials in stroke acute care, prevention and recovery.
-------------	---

Location	On line
ERA4Health Representative	Marta del Álamo
Organization	ECRIN
Main highlights	Introduction to the ERA4Health initiative as a funding mechanism

November, 2022: BioAlliance meeting

Description	BioMed Alliance Task Force meeting (Academic clinical trials)
Location	On line
ERA4Health Representative	Cristina Nieto (COO)
Organization	ISCIII
Main highlights	Introduction to the ERA4Health initiative and the role of the academic clinical trials and analysis of the bottlenecks and challenges in designing and conducting multicountry IICS

November, 2022: Partnership Stakeholder Forum 2022

Description	EC-DG RTD, with the support of ERA-LEARN, organized the first edition of the Partnership Stakeholder Forum. The event brought together the whole community of European Partnership stakeholders to discuss policy and practical aspects related to European Partnerships.
Location	Brussels, Belgium
ERA4Health Representative	Cristina Nieto (COO)
Organization	ISCIII
Main highlights	The correct alignment between the ERA4Health defined SRIA and the funded topics at national and regional level in the different research fields covered by ERA4Health (nanomedicine, cardiovascular diseases, nutrition and lifestyle-related diseases and prevention and public health strategies) will ensure complementarity and avoid a funding overlapping in the different countries and regions. Networking with EC and other partnership representatives.

December, 2022: European Partnership on Rare Diseases preparation meeting

Description	7th meeting for the preparation of the European Partnership on Rare Diseases (RD) under Horizon Europe (EC group). 5. Discussion on clinical trials in the future Partnership.
Location	Online
ERA4Health Representative	Cristina Nieto (COO)
Organization	ISCIII
Main highlights	General information, context and JTCs implementation. In terms of synergies, it was confirmed that close collaboration will be promoted with these initiatives in terms of peer-learning and research priorities selection. For each annual programme elaborated by ERA4Health, a deep analysis and exchange of information will be carried out to avoid doubled funding. Besides that, an analysis of complementarities among funded projects will be carried out to foster connections among the consortia funded.

March, 2023: HaDEA networking meeting

Description	First Networking meeting for New Horizon Europe Health projects
Location	Online
ERA4Health Representative	Cristina Nieto (COO)
Organization	ISCIII
Main highlights	Presentation of the partnership including general overview, consortia composition and workplan. There was also time to talk about its governance structure and expected synergies. During this meeting, the COO presented the current JTCs and stated the room for flexible funding topics: transversal approaches towards a better disease prevention, diagnostics and treatment, biomedical research domains not well covered, intervention areas focused on target groups not effectively covered, new health threats or unmet public health needs. Several projects that participated in this networking meeting were included in the ERA4Health Synergies Working Group.

June, 2023: Health Programme Committee meeting

Description	Cluster Health Programme Committee meeting
Location	Brussels, Belgium (online participation)
ERA4Health Representative	Cristina Nieto (COO)
Organization	ISCIII
Main highlights	Presentation of the partnership including general overview, consortia composition and workplan. There was also time to talk about its governance structure and expected synergies. During this meeting, the COO presented the current JTCs focused in the work taking place under pillar 2b (IICSs): Analysis of the bottlenecks and challenges in designing and conducting multicountry Investigator Initiated Clinical Studies, Database for multicountry clinical research, Mapping of organizations supporting the IICSs and measures ensuring high quality of trial implementation plans.

October, 2023. Health Tech Innovation Conference (HTIC)

Description	The HealthTech Innovation Conference gathers over 200 participants. It stands for integration area for biomedical engineers and medical centers in the field of innovative medical technologies in medicine and sports.
Location	Zabrze, Poland (Online participation)
ERA4Health Representative	Cristina Nieto (COO)
Organization	ISCIII
Main highlights	The COO participated in the section “Transforming Healthcare through Collaborative Innovation / Collaboration as an essential factor in transforming healthcare innovation ecosystem”, which was moderated by the national group of EIT-Health. She had the opportunity to talk about ERA4Health: main objectives in terms of transforming healthcare through collaborative innovations, collaborations that can be supported by ERA4Health, how public and private entities can benefit from JTCs, aspect of Central and Eastern Europe's participation and role in implementation of innovative care delivery methods as well as increased digital and health literacy for citizens and professionals.

Once the organisations or initiatives with synergies have been identified, a continuous relationship will be established with them, through the exchange of information by the

communication channels, and specific meetings for discussing synergies, at least once per year. With the previous organizations, we have not reached that point yet, but some are expected to be followed up in from M13 (Nov 2023). These results will be included in the next updated versions.

4. CONCLUSIONS

- The objectives of the WP5 “Synergies and External Relations” are partially achieved at month 12, as stated in this deliverable. It corresponds with the implementation timeline and its tasks are being developed as expected.
- Complementarity among WPs is clearly identified and involved partners need to work hand to hand for better results. In this deliverable, information from 4 different WPs have been mentioned: WP4 – Communication, Dissemination and Exploitation, WP5 – Synergies and External Relations, WP8 – Exploring Synergies and WP15 – Synergies with other initiatives implementing clinical studies.
- To increase mutual awareness and establish an effective and efficient collaboration in order to avoid duplication of investments, work and related activities, a clear methodology must be established. At this point ERA4Health already has a SWG and have already identified the interesting initiatives through the “Portfolio of Synergies” (WP8).
- During the first year of the programme execution, we may find important progress in the development of task 5.1 “Identification and establishment of synergies with other European and International sister initiatives with concurrent activities” (4 actions related to 9 different initiatives) and task 5.2 “Representation of ERA4Health in other forums” (12 representation actions).
- This WP lasts all the Partnership duration (M1-M84) but the purpose of this particular deliverable is to communicate the advances until this moment (M12). There will be subsequent versions which will include the new relationships over time. It needs to be considered as a living document.