VELES Excellence Hub

Strengthening the South-East Europe Smart Health Regional Excellence and Boosting the Innovation Potential

T3.2 Regional Smart Health Data Space infrastructure and technologies specification
T5.5 Synergies with relevant EU initiative

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Project Overview

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Duration: 4 years – 48 Months

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Start date   **End date**
1 June 2023   31 May 2027

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Widening participation and spreading excellence

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€ 4 750 000,00

EU contribution
€ 4 750 000,00

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VELES Excellence Hub | European Commission (europa.eu)

The initial activities are focused on studying the national and regional context and on identification, establishing contacts (beyond project partners) and engaging all the relevant actors and defining their respective roles and responsibilities. It includes also collaborators to support the Data Space establishment – public and private data providers, infrastructure/platform providers, DaaS and advanced data processing and AI tools and components providers and stakeholders - data users (public organizations, businesses, researchers, citizens) and high-tech companies (SMEs, startups) to develop data driven innovative applications.

IoT	Big Data	Smart Health	Data Spaces

Personalized medicine	Health care Services

Excellence Hub	Innovation Eco System

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Consortium

7 from EU countries I 15 Consortium Partners

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Challenges
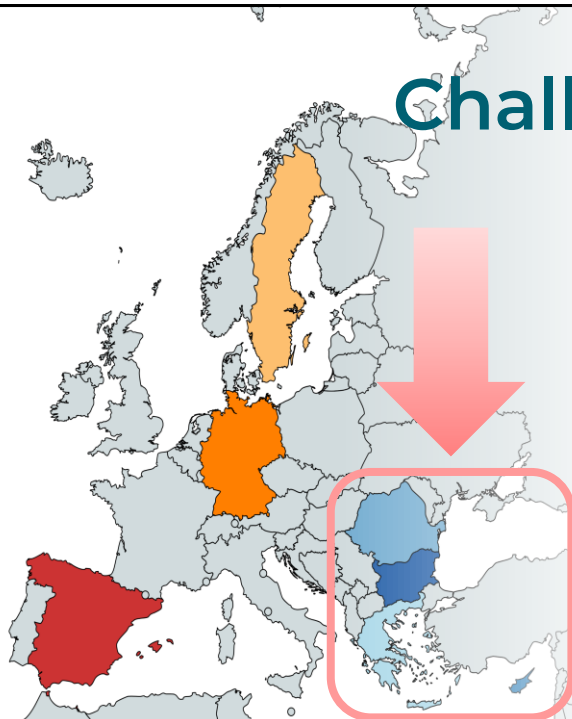
- **Bulgaria, Cyprus, Greece and Romania** are part of the countries which are **lagging in terms of digitalization of the healthcare sector and innovation driven initiatives***.

- Current regulations in these countries provide a framework to set up centralized healthcare databases but offer **no specific guidance** on interoperability standards.

- The innovation potential in the healthcare domain of the 4 participating widening countries is growing but **specific policies and instruments for support are necessary to be adopted**.

- as per reports of ICT&Health, DESI Index and others

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Vision

The creation of a **European Health Data Space** as one of its main priorities till 2025, to promote better exchange and access to different types of health data.

VELES HUB accelerates the **innovation excellence** in **smart healthcare** within the **widening countries Bulgaria, Greece, Romania and Cyprus,** facilitated by **advanced partners from Germany, Spain and Sweden**.

VELES creates a **sustainable place-based innovation ecosystem**, enabled by **Regional Smart Health Data Space**, that includes a **novel transformational framework, R&I and investment strategy and action plan for research**, development and adoption of **innovative and secure digital solutions** that underpin the **delivery of sustainable healthcare services**.

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Pilots

The Regional Smart Health Data Space is demonstrated through 4 interrelated pilots

Bulgaria (BIOBG/ GATE Inst.**)**
Alzheimer

Cyprus (CYENS**)**
Dementia

Greece (HDHC**)**
Cancer treatment

Romania (IMAGO-MOL**)**
Cerebral tumors (in the North-East Region of Romania)

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Pilots' objectives

The Regional Smart Health Data Space is demonstrated through 4 interrelated pilots

- To specify the pilot projects architecture and technologies following the Data Space framework.

- To define legal, ethical, security and business requirements of the pilot projects related to data sharing.

- To plan the development and implementation of demonstrator R&I projects.

- To assess the feasibility of multi-ecosystem demonstrations of the pilots.

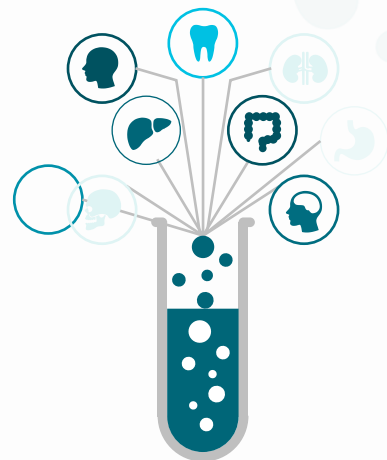- To provide interoperability for all stakeholders involved in the ecosystem.

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Pilots' goals

To provide interoperability for all stakeholders involved in the ecosystem
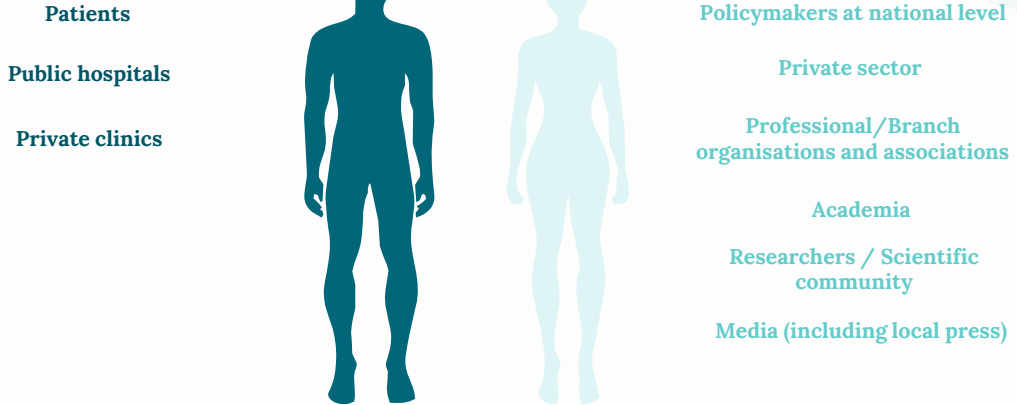
Demonstration planning – combination of various data:

- Smart objectives

- Market placed data from various stakeholders

- Cloud platforms

- Individuals

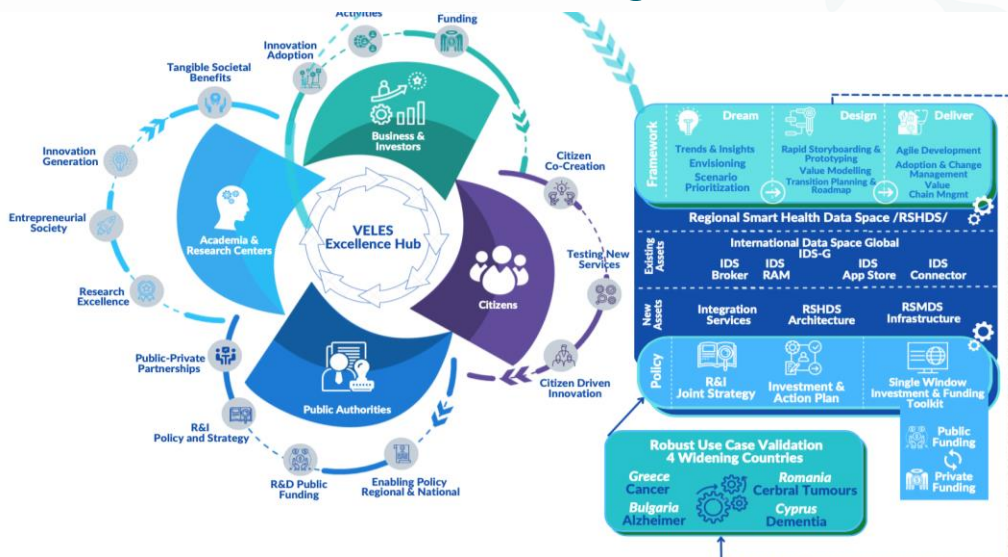- Open data sources – public authorities & policy makers

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Who are stakeholders?

Patients

Public hospitals

Private clinics

Policymakers at national level

Private sector

Professional/Branch organisations and associations

Academia

Researchers / Scientific community

Media (including local press)

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Overall Project Concept

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Project Impact

Increased science and innovation capacity for all actors in the widening R&I systems
- New competencies and skills for researchers, entrepreneurs and professionals in R&I intensive domains.
- Improved knowledge transfer and development of entrepreneurial skills.

Greater involvement of regional actors in R&I process.
- Strengthened role of the Higher Education sector in research and innovation.
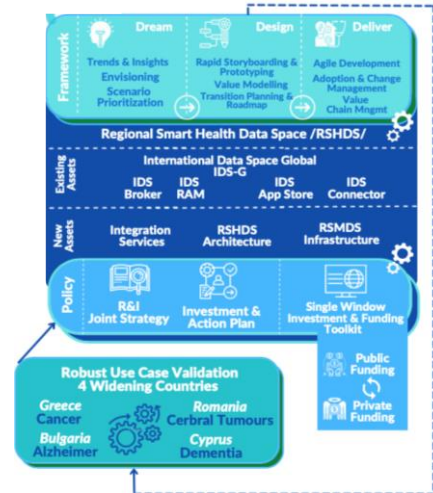- Strengthened linkages between science and business.

Higher participation success in Horizon Europe
- More consortium leadership roles
- Improved outreach to international scale.

Accelerated uptake of innovative technologies.

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Expected results

4 excellent and sustainable Smart Health Place-based Innovation Ecosystems.

A long-term Smart Health R&I Strategic Agenda adopted in the 4 Widening countries.

4 Pilots and a Joint Strategy for cross-border Regional Health Data Space.

Common investment plans for R&I including infrastructures leveraging national, regional and European funds as well as private capital in a synergetic manner.

Learning curriculum for new Smart Health competences and skills for researchers, entrepreneurs and professionals.

Smart Health strategy and R&I Transformational framework.

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How VELES dealing/planning to deal with trust?

From ecosystem perspective: VELES is building a strong ecosystem both at regional and EU level, involving wide variety of players across functions (researchers, healthcare providers and practitioners, infrastructure providers, data & analytics experts, innovators, businesses, national authorities, public organizations and patients). We aim to develop a transition path that connects the different players (Quadruple Helix Innovation approach) focusing on better smart health services and efficient data exploitation.

In order to create trust, a series of data sharing evangelization events will be organized with the aim to raise awareness, to jointly ideate/elaborate new health data sharing driven use cases and business models and to show how to develop new applications and businesses, facilitated by data usage and sharing technologies. The events aim also to demonstrate how to create value by combining health data from different sources, to explain how existing business models can be advanced through data sharing and to introduce new ones that provide for effective data exploitation for primary and secondary use along the Smart Health value adding chain.

From a technical perspective: VELES is leveraging IDSA reference architecture, technologies and components. Thus, it will be realized as safe environment, guaranteeing availability, integrity and sovereignty of data, and providing advanced security mechanisms that are important for the health data providers, thus promoting trust in sharing data.

From a regulatory perspective: VELES is very much aligned with the EC Regulation to set up the European Health Data Space (EHDS)

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How VELES defining governance principals?

VELES aligns with the EHDS that is comprising rules, common standards and practices, infrastructures and a governance framework. Frome one side it supports individuals through increased digital access to and control of their electronic personal health data, at national level and EU-wide, and supports free movement, as well as is fostering a genuine single market for electronic health record systems, relevant medical devices and high risk AI systems (primary use of data).

From the other side, it is providing a consistent, trustworthy and efficient set-up for the use of health data for research, innovation, policy-making and regulatory activities (secondary use of data).

Lessons we are planning to learn from the VELES project

- How to establish a Regional Smart Health Data Space and seamlessly integrate it within the EU Smart Health Data Space.
- Demonstrating the Regional Smart Health innovation potential - enabling Data driven innovations and improving business models and services.
- Transferring Smart Health knowledge and good practices, to support business, science, citizens and policymakers.
- Ensuring long term strategic joint R&I development in line with the regional and national strategies
- Contributing to shaping national, regional and EU strategies, policies and investment initiatives.

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Our presenters

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