



New Joint Action to reduce the burden of cardiovascular disease and diabetes

21 European countries unite in the EU Joint Action JACARDI to reduce the burden of cardiovascular diseases and diabetes

A new four-year project called the Joint Action on Cardiovascular Diseases and Diabetes (JACARDI), funded by the EU4Health programme with an unprecedented EUR 53 million, was launched in Rome on 27th November 2023. This initiative, engaging ministries, public health bodies, non-governmental organizations and universities aims to assist 21 European Union (EU) member states in reducing the burden of Non-communicable diseases (NCDs), such as diabetes, cardiovascular diseases (CVD and associated risk factors, both at the individual and societal levels.

The initiative is set to deploy 142 pilot projects across Europe, covering the entire patient journey: from improving health literacy and awareness, enhancing screening and primary prevention among high-risk populations, reaching out to people living with cardiovascular diseases and diabetes as well as their care providers and improving service pathways, self-management and labour participation. JACARDI will also address transversal and intersectional aspects, e.g., promoting equity in health, social, cultural, and ethnic diversity, and the improvement of data availability.

Facing together a significant public health challenge

CVD remains the leading cause of death in the EU, affecting about 63 million people. The prevalence of diabetes has also risen dramatically, with the number of adults living with the condition nearly doubling in the past decade, reaching 32.3 million in 2019. These chronic diseases pose a significant threat to individual health and well-being, while also straining healthcare systems and hindering social and economic development.

A coordinated European response of unprecedented scale

JACARDI emerges as a unified European response to the growing challenge of CVD and diabetes. The project will focus on the implementation of proven and effective practices in the treatment of CVDs and diabetes through the execution of 143 pilot projects. JACARDI is coordinated by the Italian National Institute of Health (ISS) and has received €53 million in funding from the European Commission. The initiative brings together 21 European countries, including Ukraine, involving 76 partners and over 300 public health experts.

Objectives set to leave a lasting legacy

JACARDI will test and offer solutions throughout the entire patient journey, including prevention, early detection, treatment, care, and self-management in order to reach the following objectives:

1. Enhance health literacy and raise awareness about CVD and diabetes among the general population.
2. Implement effective primary prevention measures, screening and improved care pathways for CVD and diabetes among high-risk groups.
3. Enhance self-management support, and labour market participation for individuals diagnosed with CVD and diabetes.
4. Improve data availability, quality, and accessibility across the patient journey.
5. Promote equity in access to healthcare services and information, ensuring that everyone has equal opportunities regardless of language proficiency, abilities, age, or life situation.

A commitment to healthier futures

JACARDI represents a significant step forward in the fight against CVD and diabetes in Europe. JACARDI's approach prioritizes addressing complex health challenges inclusively, with a focus on social and commercial determinants of health, cultural diversity, and equity. The project will identify key social dimensions of inequalities in CVD and diabetes, and a common methodology will be developed for implementation and evaluation of the pilot projects. JACARDI emphasizes local and transnational cooperation, knowledge-sharing and application, and endorses sustainable practices for impactful outcomes, including effective co-design between science and policy.

Furthermore, it promotes gender equity in public health leadership, advocating for a collaborative and inclusive governance model that empowers younger generations and fosters healthier, more resilient, and fair communities for millions of Europeans.

Hungary's involvement in the Joint Action

Gottsegen National Cardiovascular Center (GOVKI) is the competent authority in the project from Hungary. GOVKI is responsible for leading and management the work in the sub-area of patient care pathways and will implement 2 pilots, as well as supports the overall international management of the project by coordinating communication and dissemination tasks. National Directorate General for Hospitals (OKFŐ), participates as an Affiliated Entity in the Joint Action, and will also implement 2 pilot projects besides taking part in the organisation and evaluation of science communication trainings, which aim to ensure the sustainability of the project's professional outcomes.

National Directorate General for Hospitals (OKFŐ)

One of the pilots of OKFŐ is linked to the work package obtaining up-to-date information about screening practices for diabetes, CVD and their risk factors in the Member States. This pilot aims to provide data on the current status of in population and/or opportunistic screening, existing standardised screening protocols, including methods used, new screening in non-clinical settings and risk assessment tools.

The other pilot OKFŐ is coordinating is within the framework of the work package dedicated to the improvement of integrated patient care pathways and prevention. This pilot will focus on planning and monitoring personalised patient care pathways with the involvement of hospitals and general practitioners and aims to build out a system between **General Practitioners'** medical practice and specialised care in order to increase patient participation in diabetes prevention programmes, as well as enhance sharing data between the two levels of care to support integrated care for people diagnosed with multiple conditions.

Gottsegen National Cardiovascular Center (GOKVI)

One of GOKVI's pilot projects aims to improve access to screening for people with CVD-s and of type 2 diabetes by offering free of charge screening tests at mobile screening units. The screening will include personalised, brief lifestyle counselling and developing a digital patient pathway plan for those ending up with positive screening results. The mobile screening programme will target the working-age and high-risk population in densely populated locations and in disadvantaged regions of Hungary.

Another pilot, implemented by GOKVI, aims to improve patient pathways among people living with chronic heart failure. It will analyse patient data through remote monitoring and then compares the results of traditional medical follow-up with the potentials of digital after-care.

Further information:

<https://jacardi.eu/>

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/jacardi/>