

European partnership on clinical research and trials on Infectious Diseases

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On behalf of the Belgian EU Presidency

The clinical research response during the pandemic

- In response to COVID-19 substantial research **funding** was quickly made available in February 2020 through competitive calls in the ongoing EU research framework programme Horizon2020 to support clinical research.
- Because we had established structures and procedures before the pandemic started to facilitate a rapid, large scale clinical research response in the event of a pandemic, we were able to **rapidly deploy** observational and interventional studies in March – April 2020 in the RECOVER project.
- Subsequently, we failed to successfully enroll patients during the early phase of the pandemic, due to
 - Huge competition with many national studies, some of them supported by national research funding, and international studies (e.g. WHO).
 - EU research programmes were disconnected from clinical research funding of Member States.
 - Lack of consensus across Member States on clinical research priorities.
 - Massive concentration of clinical research efforts and funding for drugs that received a lot of media attention.
 - Large differences in approval times of Institutional Review Boards (IRB) and site contracts between EU countries.
 - Fundamental issues inherent to the clinical research ecosystem resurfaced during the pandemic (e.g. public health and clinical research are siloed)

Developing a partnership to improve coordination of funding and prioritisation of publicly funded clinical research and trials for infectious diseases in Europe

- A collaboration between ECRAID-Base, BE READY and ERA4Health
- Supported by the Belgian EU Presidency, Ecraid Foundation, ECRIN, EWI, Global AMR Hub, GLoPID-R, INSERM, ItaCRIN, JPIAMR/OHAMR, Belgian Healthcare Knowledge Centre
- Goals:
 - Building and maintaining a database of all clinical research institutions and organisations funding clinical research and trials for infectious diseases in Europe.
 - Conducting a survey of publicly funded clinical trials in Europe during the COVID-19 pandemic.
 - Developing a mechanism to improve coordination of funding across national and European public funding institutions and organisations of clinical research and trials for infectious diseases, embedded in global funding, and prioritization of clinical research as new health problems emerge.
- Timing: ASAP