



**Joint Action
on REspiratory
Diseases**

August - September 2025

Newsletter

Joint Action on REspiratory Diseases (JARED)

**Subject: Enhancing Lung Health Across Europe
JARED's Latest Progress & Opportunities**

Welcome to the First Internal Newsletter for the Joint Action on REspiratory Diseases (JARED)

In this edition, we bring you the latest updates on our collaborative efforts to improve lung health and reduce the burden of chronic respiratory diseases (CRDs) across the European Union. As the first EU-wide initiative dedicated to long-term lung conditions, JARED continues to make significant strides in prevention, early detection, vaccination, and self-management.

With this first Newsletter we aim to keep you informed about the progression of JARED (JA) and all current affairs. Keep scrolling to find out more about it!

KICK OFF MEETING IN BUDAPEST

29-30 January 2025

The international project “Joint Action on chronic REspiratory Diseases “JARED” has started to run by a professional coordination of the National Korányi Institute for Pulmonology (NKIP) in Hungary. This project’s aim is to strengthen and renew the efforts made by the European Union in order that chronic lung diseases should be reduced with innovative solutions.

JARED, supported by the EU4Health programme, brings together 35 organizations from 14 countries in field of healthcare, research and education to improve the prevention of these diseases, promote innovative treatment methods and raise awareness among European society about the importance of lung health and improve healthcare by providing a better quality of life to the patients.



In **Pauls Stradiņš Clinical University Hospital in Latvia** we are working under the **WP 6.3** and preparing a clear patients' path from their GP to university hospital. It is an acknowledged problem the world over that patients with interstitial lung diseases get referred to a specialist center with a delay even up to 2 years.

To minimize such risk, we are currently developing a patient's pathway with a clear graphic scheme for general practitioners. We have now done the modeling of the pathway and have designed a visual representation of this pathway.

Next step is to have the layout done by a graphic designer before making it public. At this point we are a little ahead of the schedule.

On the 6th of March 2025, Vilnius University Hospital Santaros Klinikos (VULSK), the leader of WP6 T6.4 **Early detection, diagnosis and treatment of chronic respiratory diseases**, organized the first meeting of the group consisting of VULSK (Lithuania), NKIP (Hungary), ISS (Roma, Italy). Tuberculosis and non-tuberculous mycobacterial lung diseases (NTM LD) being the problems in many Eastern and Central European countries, patient care practices and outcomes widely vary across countries. The project group decided that the main aim is to find the best treatment practices across the countries.

It is intended to analyze and synthesize current diagnostic and treatment by preparing an English-language draft of the questionnaire on tuberculosis and NTM LD. The final version will be available within 2-3 weeks. An electronic version of the questionnaires will follow afterwards. The questionnaires will be sent to the representatives of all countries participating in the JARED project hoping that each representative from a different country will provide information reflecting the best practice in that country. Summarised information will be published in a scientific journal with an impact finding. The final results will be disseminated via seminars and conferences.

JARED WP8: Reach-out to high-risk vulnerable people

LEAD: Brigid Unim (ISS, Italy)

TASK LEADERS: Maria Elena Tosti and Silvia Declich (T8.1, National Center of Global Health-ISS, Italy); Ausrine Kontrimiene (T8.2, LSMU Family Medicine, Lithuania); Chiara Lorini and Guglielmo Bonaccorsi (T8.3, UniFi, Italy); Veruscka Leso (T8.4, Unina, Italy)

■ From the launch of the project, in T8.1-Vulnerable populations the partners have been working on a literature review to identify barriers and possible solutions regarding access to prevention, early diagnosis, treatment and follow up services for vulnerable populations (migrants, socially deprived, etc.) with chronic respiratory diseases (CRDs), such as tuberculosis, COPD, and asthma.

■ In a subtask of T8.1, educational videos in Romani language addressing COPD and smoking cessation will be prepared with the Roma People association.

■ In T8.2-Remote population, educational materials and pilots to improve health literacy (HL) are being prepared. The targets of the educational intervention in Lithuania are five nurses to be trained as case managers and 50 patients with asthma and COPD to be monitored through a Telemedicine platform after hospital discharge. The sample in Italy will include 50 patients from a remote area in Tuscany, recruited through a primary healthcare setting.

■ In T8.3-Improving Health Literacy, two reviews are conducted to describe the relationship between HL and CRDs, the measurement tools for assessing HL in the context of CRDs (both general HL and HL specific for CRDs), and the interventions designed to improve HL in high-risk individuals. The activities of

■ T8.4-Exposed workers at risk of CRDs are proceeding with literature revisions on the status of the art concerning the contribution of occupational risk factors to CRDs and the impact that such pathologies may have on the quality of life, work ability and productivity of affected patients. This will be helpful to elaborate specific recommendations for the primary prevention of work-related asthma and define health surveillance strategies for its early detection.

Vilnius University Hospital Santaros Klinikos (VULSK), the leader of **WP6 6.3 Interstitial lung diseases (modifiable risk factors)**, organized the group's first meeting on the 6th of March 2025, with participants and representatives from VULSK (Lithuania), PSCUH (Latvia), and IDIVAL (Spain) discussing interstitial lung diseases problems which account for about 15 percent of all lung diseases. Sarcoidosis is the second most common chronic lung disease in young people after bronchial asthma and there is a lack of clear guidelines for many aspects of sarcoidosis-related care. The leader suggested to collecting and analyzing sarcoidosis management practices in different countries using questionnaires.

Creating a draft of the questionnaires on sarcoidosis at the next meeting, the electronic version afterwards and distribute them to all countries participating in the JARED project is planned.

WP3: Evaluation

Leaders: SAS (Andalusian Healthcare Service), FIMABIS (Spain).

Collaborators: H120 (Madrid), IBSAL (Salamanca), IDIVAL (Santander), Municipality of Aarhus (Denmark), CDPC-SPKC (Latvia), LSMU-DP (Lithuania).

Overview

WP3 ensures continuous evaluation and assessment of the progress and impact of the JARED project. This WP is committed to ensuring that all activities align with the overall project objectives and contribute to its success. By developing a structured Evaluation Strategy (ES), WP3 plays a crucial role in identifying areas for improvement and providing insights for the continuous enhancement of the project's implementation. The evaluation process will also contribute to the overall transparency and accountability of the project.

Key Actions and Progress

In the initial months of the project, WP3 focused on designing a comprehensive evaluation framework. This involved defining key indicators and establishing clear criteria for assessing the success of each task. An Evaluation Team (ET) consisting of experts from various partner institutions was formed to guide this process and ensure that the evaluation strategy was thorough and effective.

In addition, the ES has been finalized after receiving input from these experts and through discussions with WP and task leaders. The finalized strategy identifies indicators that will provide both qualitative and quantitative insights into the project's implementation, helping to monitor progress and make data-driven decisions. This collaborative approach has been crucial

in ensuring the ES reflects the diverse perspectives and needs of all involved.

Furthermore, a pilot study conducted by WP6, task 6.2.1, which focuses on "Early Diagnosis and Treatment of COPD" and aims to implement a case-finding protocol that includes questionnaires and spirometry in several countries and different settings. This pilot study will help identify tools and methods that can facilitate the early diagnosis of COPD, ultimately improving patient outcomes.

Evaluation Process and Tools

WP3 will continue to work closely with all other WPs to ensure the alignment of the evaluation process with the overall goals of JARED. The proposed evaluation model is cyclical, incorporating regular interviews to assess progress, surveys to gather feedback from stakeholders, and biannual interim reports. This ongoing process will allow WP3 to identify any necessary adjustments and ensure that the project stays on track, continuously improving its strategies and achieving its goals.

Ismael Garcia Moguel, lead of the Hospital 12 de October (Madrid, España) group

The H120 work in this Project that I lead, is focused on the WPs 3, 5, 6, and 7 package. In WP 5, we compiled a Landscape Analysis on different aspects of vaccination and vaccination policy for vaccines that prevent early childhood infections in Spain, in collaboration with our Preventive Medicine Department. Regarding WP 7, we have searched and done a report for new items (questions) on Chronic respiratory diseases (CRDs).

The goal is to find questions that have been used in previous surveys/interviews/reports to evaluate addressing CRDs in the elderly, mainly asthma and COPD.

The sources were mainly surveys (EU Social Survey, SILC, HES, HIS, national health surveys, etc.), health examination survey; health interview survey; systematic reviews on CRDs (COPD, asthma); Eurostat ECDC websites.

The final reports were revised for the group to add their suggestions. In WP3 no tasks have yet been assigned regarding the group.

Finally, in WP 6, we are writing a review article related to the topic of the task I am working on.

WP5 Prevention of CRDs with focus on early lung development

WP5 has been working on landscape analysis on different aspects of vaccination and vaccination policy of vaccines that prevent early childhood infections to collect information about each country's vaccination programs, policies, and challenges, vaccination coverage, reported cases of vaccine-preventable disease on early childhood infections etc. The questionnaire for health care specialists on vaccination communication also has been drafted. All this information will help us to provide methodological guides and training, based on the needs of health care specialists, as well as promotion of health literacy of general public on vaccination.

WP5 also has been working on landscape analysis to support health-care professionals for smoking cessation, and schools for prevention of smoking of tobacco and novel nicotine products (nicotine and non-nicotine), and addressing challenges in reaching vulnerable groups like pregnant women. This information will help us to create methodological guides and manuals, based on the needs of the target groups (healthcare professionals working in the cessation support system, teachers and other professionals working in school health promotion).

WP5 is developing solutions to reduce early-life exposure to air pollutants linked to chronic airway inflammation and asthma development. An overview of indoor environmental factors affecting children's respiratory health is underway, followed by targeted guidance documents for healthcare professionals, architects, and public building maintainers. Case studies in four countries will test practical, low-cost solutions to improve indoor air quality, including sensor-based monitoring and citizen engagement. Training materials will also be developed and piloted.

To prevent respiratory infections in elderly homes, we are working on raising awareness of the importance of hand hygiene and mask wearing. We have collected different tools and good practices for proper implementation; in the same time, it is hard to find information materials that are specifically tailored to the needs of elderly people. Based on this, we have started to draft training materials and infor-

mative materials to be used for trainings of residents and caregivers of elderly care homes. The first versions are being circulated among task participants and we are excited to further develop these and assess their acceptance by the target audience in real-life settings.



Upcoming events

International conference "Health in Europe, Joint Actions, Joint Future", which will take place on 28 October 2025. The event will gather representatives from Joint Actions under the EU4Health programme, European ministries, and agencies, making it a valuable opportunity to present and exchange on JARED's work.

The programme and practical information are available via the official link: www.HealthinEurope.dk

You can register via the following link: <https://www.survey-xact.dk/LinkCollector?key=L4YQ8GMMJ53K>

Participation plans submission by 10 September 2025

"Breathing Better: Scaling up EU Prevention Policies for Respiratory Health", taking place at the European Parliament in Brussels on 23 September 2025, from 10:30–12:30 CET, hosted by MEP Romana Jerković (Vice-Chair of the SANT Committee and Co-Chair of the MEP Lung Health Group).

This in-person event will bring together EU policy-makers, patient advocates, clinicians, and other key stakeholders to explore how stronger prevention strategies can reduce the burden of chronic respiratory diseases across Europe

Agenda highlights

- The growing burden of preventable respiratory diseases
- The importance of environmental action and early detection
- Translating scientific insights into concrete EU policy recommendations

If you would like to apply to attend, please complete this **attendance form**.

For any questions about the event, please contact Marta Montanari at marta.montanari@ersnet.org

<http://www.europeanlung.org/jared>



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