



equicares

COMMUNITY-DRIVEN INCLUSIVE, EQUITABLE,
MENTAL HEALTHCARE ACCESS

D6.4 Exploitation & sustainability plan - v1

Q-PLAN

27/06/2025



Funded by
the European Union

Document Information

Issued by:	Q-PLAN INTERNATIONAL
Issue date:	27/06/2025
Due date:	27/06/2025
Work package leader:	Q-PLAN INTERNATIONAL
Dissemination level:	PU (PUBLIC)

Document History

Version	Date	Modifications made by
0.1	05/05/2025	Boikou A., Gerotziafa M. (Q-PLAN) First draft version
0.2	06/06/2025	Boikou A., Gerotziafa M. (Q-PLAN), All partners Updated version shared to Consortium including input by all partners on Background, KERs and Exploitation Planning
1.0	27/06/2025	Final Version Submitted

Authors

Name(s)	Beneficiary
Boikou Andromachi Gerotziafa Maya	Q-PLAN

In case you want any additional information, or you want to consult with the authors of this document, please send your inquiries to: boikou@qplan-intl.gr

Quality Reviewers

Name(s)	Beneficiary
Mataftsi Konstantina, Kaslama Pinelopi, Artemis Psaltoglou	WR
Adam McBride	LGBTI
Ioanna Dimitrakopoulou Koutava	GIVMED
Clara Massé	EASPD
Marta Lima Serrano	FISEVI
Sara Canella	EHTEL
Leona Hakkaart	EUR
İlker Kayı	KU
Ana Vivas	SEERC
Deyan Kolev, Teodora Krumova	AMALIPE
Laure-Anne Denouel	LADAPT
Suna Su Aksay-Gut	ZI
Jeff Moore	JIGSAW
Francesco De Rosa	DIESIS
Rene Keet	EUCOMS
Stavros Theocharis	SQUAR
Dimitris Ballas, Franziska Bay	RUG

Disclaimer

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Health and Digital Executive Agency (HADEA). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

© EQUICARES Consortium, 2025 - 2028

Reproduction is authorised provided the source is acknowledged.

Executive Summary

In the context of EQUICARES, **the management of innovation and Intellectual Property Rights (IPR)** is crucial for effectively utilising the results of the project beyond its end. Therefore, EQUICARES partners have strategically supported the project's implementation with a tailored strategy and methodology for IP management, carefully planning and working towards exploitation and sustainability. Along these lines, this report is elaborated as the **initial version of the Exploitation and Sustainability Plan of EQUICARES** providing an overview of the project's Innovation and IPR Management strategy as well as the methodology and results of its application in the early stage of the project.

In particular, the report sheds light on the **objectives of IP management** in the framework of EQUICARES, presenting an overview of **key concepts and terms** with a view to raising awareness in the consortium. At the same time, it lays down the main components of our **strategy and methodology** in this respect before ultimately, describing the results of our work, in terms of **Background** as well as **Key Exploitable Results (KERs)** identified so far by the partners. The outline of EQUICARES's KERs is presented in this report together with the partners' plans and actions for post-project exploitation. **Specific exploitation plans are developed per partner** and per each identified KER, including target groups that stand to benefit from their use, key exploitation routes, necessary protection measures, as well as actions required for advancing the exploitation readiness and potential of each KER by the end of the project and beyond. In addition, the innovative company partners aim to expand their service portfolios, strengthen their innovation management, and deepen their expertise by integrating fresh insights into mental health practices and cutting-edge methodologies. To support this effort, the use of **Horizon Results Booster** services will also be considered in the coming months of the project.

The current report on Exploitation and Sustainability will be further elaborated and updated as the project progresses. An interim version is foreseen to be delivered in M24, with the final version scheduled for M48, reflecting the final results of the consortium with respect to exploitation planning, with a view to guiding post-project exploitation of EQUICARES's Key Exploitable Results.

Table of Contents

1. INTRODUCTION	8
2. OBJECTIVES AND KEY CONCEPTS OVERVIEW	9
2.1 OBJECTIVES.....	9
2.2 KEY CONCEPTS OVERVIEW.....	9
2.2.1 <i>Background and Access Rights to Background</i>	9
2.2.2 <i>Results and Ownership of Results</i>	10
2.2.3 <i>Key Exploitable Results</i>	10
2.2.4 <i>Access Rights and Rights of Use</i>	11
2.3 PROTECTION OF RESULTS	11
2.3.1 <i>Copyrights and Creative Commons Licenses</i>	12
2.3.2 <i>Non-disclosure and Confidentiality Agreement</i>	14
2.3.3 <i>Trademarks</i>	14
2.3.4 <i>Trade Secrets</i>	15
2.3.5 <i>Patents and Utility Models</i>	15
2.3.6 <i>Industrial Designs</i>	16
3. IPR MANAGEMENT	17
3.1 GRANT AGREEMENT PREPARATION STAGE	18
3.1.1 <i>Grant Agreement</i>	18
3.1.2 <i>Consortium Agreement</i>	19
3.2 PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION STAGE.....	19
3.2.1 <i>Further Identification of Background</i>	19
3.2.2 <i>Capturing Results, Assessing Exploitability and Defining Owners</i>	20
3.2.3 <i>Protection of Results</i>	20
3.2.4 <i>Exploitation of Results</i>	21
3.2.5 <i>Dissemination of Results</i>	22
3.3 POST PROJECT STAGE	22
3.4 MAIN ROLES	23
4. METHODOLOGY	25
4.1 OUTLINE OF METHODOLOGICAL STEPS AND TOOLS	25
4.2 BACKGROUND IDENTIFICATION / MODIFICATION FORM	26
4.3 EXPLOITABILITY ASSESSMENT AND PLANNING TEMPLATES.....	27
5. BACKGROUND AND KEY EXPLOITABLE RESULTS	30
5.1 OVERVIEW OF EQUICARES IDENTIFIED BACKGROUND.....	30
5.2 EQUICARES KEY EXPLOITABLE RESULTS AT A GLANCE.....	30
6. EXPLOITATION PLAN PER KEY EXPLOITABLE RESULT	34
6.1 KER 1. EQUICARES SERVICE ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK.....	34
6.2 KER 2. RESEARCH DATASETS.....	37
6.3 KER 3. SMART HEALTH LABS.....	38
6.4 KER 4. MOOCs AND CAPACITY-BUILDING PROGRAMMES	47
6.5 KER 5. CITIZEN SCIENCE BASED ACTIVITIES	49

6.6	KER 6. ATLAS ON MENTAL HEALTH AND CARE INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS	51
6.7	KER 7. REPLICATION HANDBOOK.....	52
6.8	KER 8. EQUICARES POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS	53
6.9	KER 9. INCLUSIVE MENTAL HEALTH AND CARE POLICY DASHBOARD	55
6.10	KER 10. AI-BASED ASSISTANT	57
6.11	KER 11. NETWORK OF INTEREST (NOI).....	59
6.12	KER 12. EQUICARES ETHICS HANDBOOK	61
6.13	KER 13. VALIDATED INTERVIEW GUIDE AND SURVEY ON MESO-LEVEL BARRIERS TO MENTAL HEALTH ACCESS.....	63
6.14	KER 14. FORECASTING METHODOLOGY AND TOOLS.....	65
7.	EXPLOITATION PLANS PER PARTNER.....	67
8.	CONCLUSIONS	74

List of Figures

Figure 1: The pillars on which EQUICARES IP management strategy	17
Figure 2: IP Management in EQUICARES	18

List of Tables

Table 1: Terms and Definitions.....	7
Table 2: Access Rights	11
Table 3: The most up-to-date licenses offered by Creative Commons	13
Table 4: Indicative Protection of Results	21
Table 5: Background identification / modification form.....	26
Table 6: Exploitability Assessment Template	27
Table 7: Exploitation Planning per KER Template	28
Table 8: Exploitation Planning per Partner Template.....	29
Table 9: EQUICARES list of Identified Backgrounds	30
Table 10: EQUICARES Key Exploitable results	30
Table 11: Exploitation plan for the EQUICARES service assessment framework.....	34
Table 12: Actions needed for the exploitation of the EQUICARES service assessment framework	36
Table 13: Exploitation plan for the Research datasets.....	37
Table 14: Actions needed for the exploitation of the Research datasets	37
Table 15: Exploitation plan for the Smart Health Labs	38
Table 16: Actions needed for the exploitation of the Smart Health Labs	45
Table 17: Exploitation plan for the MOOCs and Capacity-building programmes.....	47
Table 18: Actions needed for the exploitation of the MOOCs and Capacity-building programmes	48
Table 19: Exploitation plan for the Citizen Science based activities	49
Table 20: Actions needed for the exploitation of the Citizen Science based activities	50
Table 21: Exploitation plan for the Atlas on Mental Health and Care Innovative Solutions	51
Table 22: Actions needed for the exploitation of the Atlas on Mental Health and Care Innovative Solutions ..	51
Table 23: Exploitation plan for the Replication Handbook.....	52
Table 24: Actions needed for the exploitation of the Replication Handbook.....	52
Table 25: Exploitation plan for the EQUICARES Policy Recommendations	53
Table 26: Actions needed for the exploitation of the EQUICARES Policy Recommendations	54
Table 27: Exploitation plan for the Inclusive Mental Health and Care Policy Dashboard	55
Table 28: Actions needed for the exploitation of the Inclusive Mental Health and Care Policy Dashboard	56
Table 29: Exploitation plan for the AI-based Assistant.....	57
Table 30: Actions needed for the exploitation of the AI-based Assistant.....	58
Table 31: Exploitation plan for the Network of Interest (NoI).....	59
Table 32: Actions needed for the exploitation of the Network of Interest (NoI).....	60
Table 33: Exploitation plan for the EQUICARES Ethics Handbook	61
Table 34: Actions needed for the exploitation of the EQUICARES Ethics Handbook	62
Table 35: Exploitation plan for the Validated Interview Guide and Survey on Meso-Level Barriers to Mental Health Access.....	63
Table 36: Actions needed for the exploitation of the Validated Interview Guide and Survey on Meso-Level Barriers to Mental Health Access	64
Table 37: Exploitation plan for the forecasting methodology and tools	65
Table 38: Actions needed for the exploitation of the forecasting methodology and tools	66
Table 39: Individual exploitation plans per partner	67

List of Terms and Definitions

Table 1. Terms and Definitions

Abbreviation	Definition
BG	Background
CA	Consortium Agreement
CC	Creative Commons
EC	European Commission
EM	Exploitation Manager
EUIPO	European Union Intellectual Property Office
GA	Grant Agreement
IP	Intellectual Property
IPR	Intellectual Property Rights
KERs	Key Exploitable Results
NDA	Non-Disclosure Agreements
NoI	Network of Interest
QR	Quality Review
SHL	Smart Health Lab
TBD	To Be Determined
WIPO	World Intellectual Property Organisation
WP	Work Package

1. Introduction

The development of meaningful project results that can sustainably be utilised beyond the end of the grant is both a priority as well as a commitment of EQUICARES's partners. To this end, Intellectual Property (IP) management plays a key role and underpins the implementation of EQUICARES throughout its course, paving the way for the smooth exploitation of its results.

Our approach to IP management has been updated to incorporate novelties and strategic shifts related to IP management in the context of projects funded under the European Union's Framework Programmes for Research and Innovation. In particular, our work considers: (i) the existing guide [“Your Guide to IP in Horizon 2020”](#), since the tips and recommendations it provides remain valid and helpful for Horizon Europe projects; (ii) the new guide [“Your Guide to Intellectual Property Management in Horizon Europe”](#) which focuses on Horizon Europe collaborative projects; and (iii) the guide [“Successful Valorisation of Knowledge and Research Results in Horizon Europe”](#), which explains how to boost the impact of a project through effective communication, dissemination and exploitation.

With these in mind, this report presents the **initial version** of EQUICARES Exploitation and Sustainability Plan, and addresses the following:

- **Section 2** provides an overview of IP management in the context of EQUICARES, defining objectives and clarifying key concepts and terms (including IP protection measures).
- **Section 3** outlines the IP management strategy of the project and its underlying stages of applications during the different stages of EQUICARES's implementation.
- **Section 4** introduces the methodology and tools used to capture the Background and key exploitable results of EQUICARES, as well as to craft an exploitation plan for each one.
- **Section 5** offers an updated overview of EQUICARES's Background (BG) and Key Exploitable Results (KERs) along with a brief description of each one.
- **Section 6** describes the exploitation plans developed per KER, including the actions which are currently foreseen as necessary for the KERs to be effectively exploited.
- **Section 7** outlines the individual exploitation plan set out by each of the members of the EQUICARES consortium at this stage of the project.
- **Section 8.** Finally, this report concludes with the next steps foreseen in the context of the project towards the exploitation of its KERs.

The methodology of EQUICARES for exploitation and sustainability builds on know-how, tools and templates that were developed internally by Q-PLAN as well as on good practices from the literature (such as guides developed by the IPR Helpdesk for H2020 and Horizon Europe). As in previous EU-funded projects, tailored modifications to the methodology were implemented for EQUICARES as well, in order to comply with the conditions of the Grant Agreement (GA) and the particularities of the project. Along these lines, this deliverable presents the adjusted methodology as it was further developed and applied in EQUICARES.

2. Objectives and Key Concepts Overview

2.1 Objectives

The overall purpose of EQUICARES IP management is to appropriately protect all the results that (will) stem from the project during its lifespan, handle and manage them effectively, ensuring exploitation and dissemination of Key Exploitable Results (KERs).

To this end, the main objectives of the Exploitation and Sustainability Plan are to:

- Develop a common understanding among EQUICARES partners concerning key terms and issues revolving around IP, Background, KERs as well as access rights.
- Assess and conceptualise a strategy along with a framework for managing IP that can be employed for each identified KER of EQUICARES.
- Establish common guiding routes and actions within the consortium to safeguard the smooth implementation of IP management.
- Describe the IP management methodology to be followed within the context of EQUICARES for the identification and exploitation of results.
- Define ownership of the KERs, including joint ownership, and exploitation strategy for each of the KERs.
- Define exploitation routes for each KER by each partner during and beyond the project lifetime.

In this section, we provide definitions and key information on important terms and issues with an eye on developing a shared understanding among EQUICARES partners. We also facilitate the protection of IP stemming from EQUICARES by providing helpful information on available protection measures and relevant concepts.

2.2 Key Concepts Overview

In general, the key concepts to consider when designing the Exploitation and Sustainability Plan of Horizon Europe projects are the following:

- Background knowledge
- Results and ownership of results
- Key exploitable results
- Access rights and rights to use

Therefore, the following subsections aim to clarify the main terms concerning the key elements of IPR management, representing key aspects of our IP management procedures.

2.2.1 Background and Access Rights to Background

Background knowledge means any data, know-how or information — whatever its form or nature (tangible or intangible), including any rights such as intellectual property rights — that is: (a) held by the beneficiaries before they acceded to the Consortium Agreement and (b) needed to implement the action or exploit the results¹.

¹ See Article 16, "Intellectual property rights (IPR) — background and results —access rights and rights of use", in the Terms and Conditions of the EQUICARES Grant Agreement

According to the EQUICARES Consortium Agreement (CA), the background needed to carry out the project activities must be accessible to the other project partners on a royalty-free basis unless otherwise previously agreed. All project partners must identify the background pertinent to the project actions and grant the respective access rights. The background is determined and agreed upon within the CA after the internal evaluation of pre-existing knowledge. At the time of signing the Consortium Agreement, all partners—except Q-PLAN—confirmed that they did not possess any background (data, know-how, or information) that would be (a) required by any other partner to implement the action, or (b) necessary for any other partner to exploit their own results. During the project, partners can add background if needed after they give written notice to the other partners and if the Steering Committee approves the addition².

2.2.2 Results and Ownership of Results

Result means any tangible or intangible effect of the action, such as data, know-how or information, whatever its form or nature, whether it can be protected, as well as any rights attached to it, including Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs)³.

According to the EQUICARES Grant Agreement (GA), project results are owned by the partners that generate them⁴. Given the collaborative nature of the project, some results can be jointly developed by several partners. In this case, joint ownership can arise among the contributing partners, with the share of each joint owner and the terms of the exercise of their joint ownership agreed upon between the involved parties⁵. In principle, each joint owner can use their jointly owned results (i) for non-commercial research and teaching activities on a royalty-free basis or (ii) for other exploitation purposes after providing a. at least 45 calendar days advance notice, and b. fair and reasonable compensation to the remaining joint owners⁶. Partners may establish a separate joint ownership agreement to define the allocation and terms of exercising their ownership⁷.

2.2.3 Key Exploitable Results

Overall, exploitation refers to using a result produced in an EU project in further activities (other than those covered by the project), such as performing other research activities or developing, creating, and marketing a product, process or service⁸. Among the various results generated and which could potentially be exploited, some are distinguished as KERs.

Key Exploitable Result (KER) is an identified main interesting result, which has been selected and prioritised due to its high potential to be “exploited” – meaning to make use and derive benefits-downstream the value chain of a product, process or solution, or act as an important input to policy, further research or education⁹.

² See Attachment 1 in the Consortium Agreement for a detailed description of the EQUICARES background and the access rights granted in principle for the consortium.

³ See Section 9.3, “Access Rights for implementation”, of the EQUICARES Consortium Agreement

⁴ See Article 8, “Results”, of the EQUICARES Consortium Agreement

⁵ See Article 16, “Intellectual property rights (IPR) — background and results —access rights and rights of use”, in the Terms and Conditions of the EQUICARES Grant Agreement

⁶ See Article 8, “Results”, of the EQUICARES Consortium Agreement

⁷ See Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) — background and results—access rights and rights of use” (—article 16) in Annex 5 of the EQUICARES Grant Agreement

⁸ See “Intellectual property rights (IPR) — background and results — access rights and rights of use (— article 16)” in Annex 5 of the EQUICARES Grant Agreement

⁹ European IP Helpdesk, Introducing the Horizon Results Platform and Horizon Results Platform TV, Horizon Results Platform, Bulletin No. 4 – Horizon Europe, <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/support/glossary>

Usually, there are many results as project outcomes, and the purpose is to distinguish the key KERs, meaning those that can really “make a difference”¹⁰. Selecting and prioritising results as KER can be based on the degree of innovation, exploitability, and impact potential¹¹.

2.2.4 Access Rights and Rights of Use

Access rights refer to rights to use the project results or Background¹². They are required if carrying out specific project tasks or exploiting the results would be impossible without them (or if project implementation would be significantly delayed or require significant additional financial or human resources)¹³. The granting of access rights within a collaborative Horizon Europe project follows specific rules pre-defined in the GA and the CA. Depending on their purpose of use, access rights within EQUICARES can be depicted in the following table.

Table 2: Access Rights¹⁴

Purpose for Access	Access to Background (Article 16 in Annex 5 of EQUICARES's GA)	Access to Results (Article 16 in Annex 5 of EQUICARES's GA)
Project Implementation	- Royalty-free - Unless otherwise agreed by participants before accession to the GA	Royalty-free
Exploitation of Own Results	- Subject to individual agreement - Granted under fair and reasonable conditions	

The European Commission (EC) does not own the results produced under EQUICARES. However, for policy, information, communication, dissemination, and publicity purposes, the EC has the right to use non-sensitive information and other materials and documents relating to the project, such as deliverables, pictures, or audio-visual material, on a royalty-free basis, both during the project implementation and afterwards¹⁵. All public deliverables must be openly accessible (e.g., via the CORDIS portal) under Horizon Europe's open-access rules. While EQUICARES commits to publishing these deliverables, ownership remains with the project and is not transferred to the EC or any other party.

2.3 Protection of Results

When considering IP protection, it must be noted that IP can be protected by several types of IPR, and consequently, the most appropriate protection strategy must be chosen. The selection of the most suitable form of IP protection depends on the nature and specific characteristics of the results under consideration and the objectives of the IP owner.

A few key terms concerning IP protection are the following.

- Copyrights and creative commons licenses;

10 EU Science and Innovation (2023), Horizon Results Platform: Opportunities for ERC Beneficiaries, https://www.youtube.com/live/MA9k6j9zWBs?si=1Fqhc4_ysmFJcD77&t=767

11 European IP Helpdesk, Introducing the Horizon Results Platform and Horizon Results Platform TV, Horizon Results Platform, Bulletin No. 4 – Horizon Europe, <https://intellectual-propertyhelpdesk.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2022-02/HEU%20Results%20platform.pdf>

12 European Commission (2023), AGA — Annotated Grant Agreement: V1.0 DRAFT, EU Grants, EU Funding Programmes 2021-2027, https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/aga_en.pdf

13 Section 1, “Definitions”, of the EQUICARES Consortium Agreement

14 Source: European Commission, European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency, Your guide to intellectual property management in Horizon Europe, Publications Office of the European Union, 2022, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2826/409260>

15 See Article 16, “Intellectual property rights (IPR) — background and results —access rights and rights of use”, in the Terms and Conditions of the EQUICARES Grant Agreement

- Non-disclosure and confidentiality agreements;
- Trade and service marks;
- Trade secrets;
- Patents and utility models;
- Industrial designs.

Short definitions and key elements of these terms are provided in the following subsections.

2.3.1 Copyrights and Creative Commons Licenses

Copyright

Copyright (or author's right) is the term used to describe the rights that creators have over their literary, scientific, and artistic works¹⁶.

An exhaustive list encompassing works eligible for copyright protection does not exist. Nevertheless, there are typically several types of works internationally recognised and covered by copyright, including the following¹⁷:

- literary works such as novels, poems, plays, newspaper articles.
- computer programs, databases.
- films, musical compositions, and choreographies.
- artistic works such as paintings, drawings, photographs, and sculptures.
- architecture (plans, drawings, and blueprints, 3D models and renderings)
- advertisements, maps, and technical drawings.

According to the European IP Helpdesk, in the European Union, copyright protection is automatically granted upon creating a work without the need for registration or other formalities. While registration is not a prerequisite for establishing the right, it can prove beneficial in certain situations, such as resolving disputes over ownership or creation and facilitating financial transactions. In practice, including a copyright notice on the work is common, such as "all rights reserved" or the symbol © along with the year of creation. This informs others about the existence of copyright, reducing the likelihood of infringement. Copyright encompasses both economic and moral rights. Economic rights empower right holders to control the use of their works, allowing them to sell or license the works to others. Meanwhile, moral rights include the author's right to claim authorship and object to any distortion or mutilation of their work. These dual aspects of copyright provide a comprehensive framework for authors to protect their creative endeavours¹⁸.

Creative Commons Licenses

The Creative Commons (CC) licenses are a free, simple, and standardised way that every person and organisation in the world can use to grant copyright permissions for creative and academic works.

¹⁶ European Commission (2019), Your guide to IP in Europe, Publications Office, Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2826/94924>

¹⁷ European Commission (2019), Your guide to IP in Europe, Publications Office, Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2826/94924>

¹⁸ European Commission (2019), Your guide to IP in Europe, Publications Office, Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2826/94924>

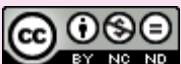
They are free of charge and do not require creators or other rights holders to register with Creative Commons organisation to assign a CC license to their work¹⁹.

According to Creative Commons, CC licenses are copyright licenses and depend on the existence of a copyright to work. Also, as they are built on copyright, CC licenses work worldwide and last as long as applicable copyright lasts. In practice:

- creators who want to preserve their copyright and make their work available to the public for limited kinds of uses shall consider using CC licenses.
- instead, if they want to reserve all their rights under copyright law, they should not use CC licenses²⁰.

In November 2013, CC published the version 4.0 license suite. These licenses are briefly presented in the following table.

Table 3: The most up-to-date licenses offered by Creative Commons

License buttons	Description of the license
	Attribution (CC BY). This license lets others distribute, remix, adapt, and build upon your work, even commercially, as long as they credit you for the original creation. This is the most accommodating of licenses offered and recommended for maximum dissemination and use of licensed materials.
	Attribution-ShareAlike (CC BY-SA). This license lets others remix, adapt, and build upon your work, even for commercial purposes, as long as they credit you and license their new creations under identical terms. This license is often compared to “copyleft” free and open-source software licenses. All new works based on yours will carry the same license, so any derivatives will also allow commercial use. This is the license used by Wikipedia and is recommended for materials that would benefit from incorporating content from Wikipedia and similarly licensed projects.
	Attribution-NoDerivs (CC BY-ND). This license lets others reuse the work for any purpose, including commercially; however, it cannot be shared with others in adapted form, and credit must be provided to you.
	Attribution-NonCommercial (CC BY-NC). This license lets others remix, adapt, and build upon your work non-commercially, and although their new works must also acknowledge you and be non-commercial, they don't have to license their derivative works on the same terms.
	Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike (CC BY-NC-SA). This license lets others remix, adapt, and build upon your work non-commercially as long as they credit you and license their new creations under identical terms.
	Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivs (CC BY-NC-ND). This license is the most restrictive of our six main licenses, only allowing others to download your works and share them with others as long as they credit you, but they can't change them in any way or use them commercially.

Source: Creative Commons. About CC Licenses. <https://creativecommons.org/share-your-work/cclicenses/>

¹⁹ Creative Commons (2023), Frequently Asked Questions, <https://creativecommons.org/faq/#what-iscreative-commons-and-what-do-you-do>

²⁰ Creative Commons (2023), Frequently Asked Questions, <https://creativecommons.org/faq/#what-iscreative-commons-and-what-do-you-do>

The CC buttons (i.e., the pictures in the first column of the table above) are a shorthand way to convey the basic permissions associated with material offered under CC licenses. Creators who apply CC licenses to their material can download and apply those buttons to communicate the permissions granted in advance to users²¹.

Deliverable authors and other result creators can simply mark their work with a statement such as **“This work is licensed under the Creative Commons [mention which license you wish to apply to your work from the table above] license.** Or they can insert the applicable license buttons with the same statement²².

2.3.2 Non-disclosure and Confidentiality Agreement

Non-disclosure agreements (NDAs) are legally enforceable agreements between parties that are used to ensure that certain information will remain confidential²³.

NDAs are often used to protect trade secrets (such as know-how), client lists, and financial data in business settings. Similar to NDAs, Confidentiality Agreements aim to ensure that information will remain confidential as well. However, they are typically devised in employment or personal situations instead²⁴. In any case, the subject of an NDA or a Confidentiality Agreement is legally protected and can only be a piece of information that is (i) not known by the public, (ii) not already known by the receiving party, and (iii) not made public in ways other than breaking the confidentiality rules²⁵.

In collaborative projects, such as EQUICARES, maintaining confidentiality is important for organisations involved, from the initial setup of the project to the stages of implementation and exploitation²⁶. For this reason, the EQUICARES CA foresees that, throughout the project and for five years after its end, partners will uphold the confidentiality of any data, documents, or other materials deemed confidential in connection to the project’s execution²⁷.

2.3.3 Trademarks

A **trademark** is an exclusive right over the use of a sign in relation to the goods and services for which it is registered. Trademarks consist of signs capable of distinguishing the products (either goods or services) of a trader from those of others²⁸.

According to the **World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)**, a trademark can comprise a single word, a group of words, letters, or numbers. It can also include drawings, symbols, three-dimensional aspects like the shape and packaging of products, or even specific colours used to stand out. There are countless possibilities for what a trademark can be²⁹. A trademark owner can stop

21 Creative Commons (2023), Frequently Asked Questions, <https://creativecommons.org/faq/#what-is-creative-commons-and-what-do-you-do>

22 Creative Commons, About Cc Licenses, <https://creativecommons.org/share-your-work/cclicenses/>

23 Thomson Reuters (2022), 4 things you should know about non-disclosure agreements, <https://legal.thomsonreuters.com/en/insights/articles/4-things-to-know-about-non-disclosure-agreements>

24 Bloomberg Law (2023), Confidentiality and Nondisclosure Agreements Explained, <https://pro.bloomberglaw.com/brief/confidentiality-and-non-disclosure-agreements-explained/>

25 European Commission (2020), Your guide to IP and contracts – Stay ahead of the innovation game, Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, Publications Office, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2826/607724>

26 European IP Helpdesk, Non-Disclosure Agreement (Template), https://intellectual-property-helpdesk.ec.europa.eu/publications/non-disclosure-agreement_en

27 European IP Helpdesk, Non-Disclosure Agreement (Template), https://intellectual-property-helpdesk.ec.europa.eu/publications/non-disclosure-agreement_en

28 Section 10, “Non-disclosure of information”, of the EQUICARES Consortium Agreement

29 WIPO, Trademarks, <https://www.wipo.int/trademarks/en/>

others from using similar signs for the same or related products and/or services unless they get permission first³⁰.

In order to protect a trademark in a specific country or region, you can do so by registering it. This involves applying to the relevant national or regional trademark office and paying the necessary fees³¹. At the EU level, you can obtain an EU trademark (EUTM) at the European Union Intellectual Property Office (EUIPO)³².

2.3.4 Trade Secrets

Trade secrets can be considered any confidential business information providing a competitive advantage to an enterprise. The information must be secret (meaning that it is not generally known), have commercial value due to its secrecy and have been subject to reasonable measures to keep it secret³³.

A broad spectrum of information qualifies for protection as a trade secret. This encompasses diverse categories, ranging from know-how and technical knowledge to business and commercial data like customer lists, business plans, recipes, or manufacturing processes³⁴.

According to WIPO, various measures are employed to safeguard a trade secret. These can involve securely storing confidential information, entering into NDAs when discussing trade secrets with business partners, and incorporating non-disclosure clauses into various agreements such as employment agreements and consortium agreements. This is particularly important in situations where the exchange of confidential information is highly likely or deemed necessary. If someone who has to keep information secret shares it without permission, it's considered a violation of the agreement. In such instances, the trade secret holder can pursue remedies for the breach³⁵.

2.3.5 Patents and Utility Models

A **patent** is an exclusive right granted to protect inventions (products or processes) that offer a new technical solution or facilitate a new way of doing something³⁶.

According to the European IP Helpdesk, the patent holder is granted the exclusive right to prevent third parties from commercially exploiting the invention for a limited time. In exchange, the patent holder is obligated to disclose the details of the invention in the patent application, making it public knowledge. Permission for others to use the invention can be granted through a mutually agreed-

30 European Commission (2019), Your guide to IP in Europe, Publications Office, Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2826/94924>

31 WIPO, Trademarks, <https://www.wipo.int/trademarks/en/>

32 European Commission (2019), Your guide to IP in Europe, Publications Office, Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2826/94924>

33 Same as above

34 European Commission (2019), Your guide to IP in Europe, Publications Office, Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2826/94924>

35 WIPO, Frequently Asked Questions: Trade Secrets, https://www.wipo.int/trademarks/en/trademarks_faqs.html

36 European Commission (2019), Your guide to IP in Europe, Publications Office, Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2826/94924>

upon arrangement, known as a patent licensing agreement. Alternatively, the patent owner has the option to sell the patent, transferring ownership to another entity³⁷.

Overall, according to WIPO, patent rights are applicable and enforceable within the geographical boundaries of the country or region where they are officially registered. Upon the expiration of a patent, the protection it provides ceases, and the invention becomes part of the public domain. Subsequently, the invention becomes available for commercial exploitation by others, free of charge³⁸.

Similar to a patent, a **Utility Model** grants an exclusive right for the protection of an invention. The criteria for obtaining a utility model are less strict than patents, and the associated fees for acquiring and sustaining a utility model are typically more affordable. Additionally, the duration of protection granted to a utility model is shorter than that afforded to a patent³⁹.

2.3.6 Industrial Designs

An **industrial design** is the outward appearance of the whole or part of a product resulting from the features of the lines, contours, colours, shape, texture and/or materials of the product itself and/or its ornamentation⁴⁰.

According to WIPO, industrial designs are used on many different products, ranging from packages and containers to furniture, household items, jewellery, electronics, and textiles. Essentially, if someone has a registered industrial design, they can stop others from making, selling, or bringing in products that look very similar to the protected design, especially when these actions are done for business purposes⁴¹.

³⁷ European Commission (2019), Your guide to IP in Europe, Publications Office, Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2826/94924>

³⁸ WIPO, Frequently Asked Questions: Patents, https://www.wipo.int/patents/en/faq_patents.html

³⁹ European Commission (2019), Your guide to IP in Europe, Publications Office, Executive Agency for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2826/94924>

⁴⁰ Same as above

⁴¹ WIPO, Industrial Designs, <https://www.wipo.int/designs/en/>

3. IPR Management

The strategy for **Intellectual Property (IP) management** we employ in EQUICARES is founded on the 6 pillars of IP management in Horizon Europe⁴² (as depicted in the figure included below), with the aim of addressing the diverse IP issues that typically arise at different stages of a collaborative Horizon Europe project (from its start, over to its end and beyond).

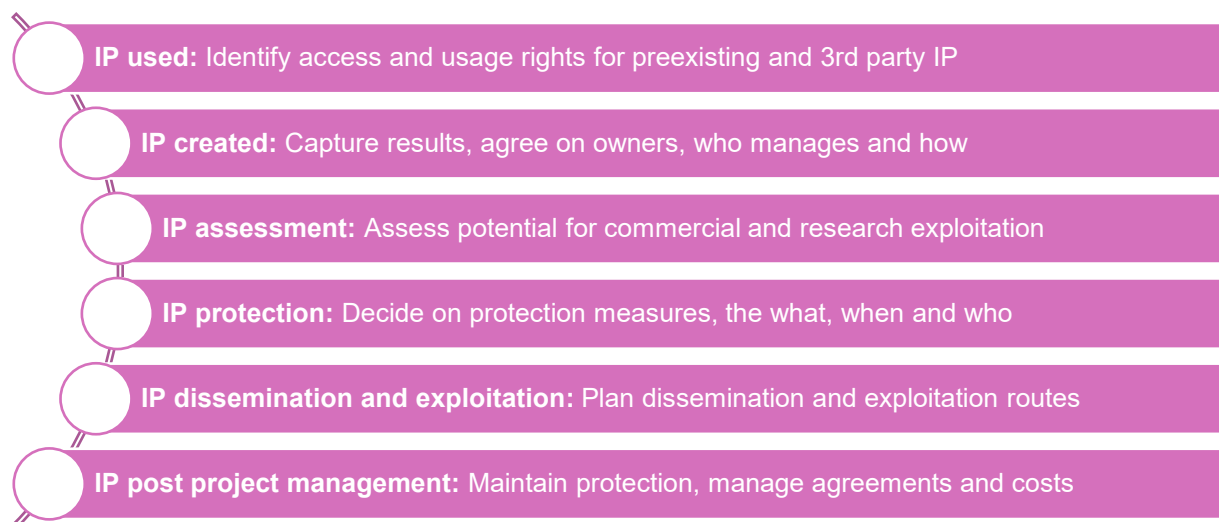


Figure 1: The pillars on which EQUICARES IP management strategy⁴³

At the start of the project, it is crucial to identify and agree on which existing IP is to be shared among partners and under what terms and conditions (Background) for use during the project (implementation) and after its end (exploitation) if needed (Pillar 1: IP used).

As the project progresses, the results born from its implementation need to be captured and defined, while decisions are to be made about their owners that will be managing them (Pillar 2: IP created). Along the way, the exploitability potential of the results for commercial or research applications is assessed to identify key exploitable results (Pillar 3: IP assessment) as well as appropriate measures for their protection (Pillar 4: IP protection).

Towards the end of the project, as the (final) results of the project become available and planning of exploitation routes becomes more important, our strategy focuses on fine-tuning dedicated action plans for exploitation (with alternative pathways if needed) towards the long-term sustainability of the project's results (Pillar 5: IP dissemination and exploitation).

The exploitation plans consider the period after the end of the project by design, including any requirements for continuing to disseminate and/or exploit results identified at that time as well as any potential IP transfers or agreements (Pillar 6: IP post-project management).

⁴² European Commission (2022), Webinar: IP Management in collaborative Horizon Europe projects, https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/other/events/20210609/4_ip-management-in-collab-horizon-projects_en.pptx

⁴³ Source: European Commission (2022), Webinar: IP Management in collaborative Horizon Europe projects

Along these lines, the EQUICARES IP management strategy lays out a comprehensive **framework** which distinguishes the **IP management processes** across the following stages:

- **GA preparation stage;**
- **Project implementation stage;**
- **Post-project stage.**

The following figure provides a more illustrative overview of the different IP management stages, as they are considered within the framework of the EQUICARES strategy.

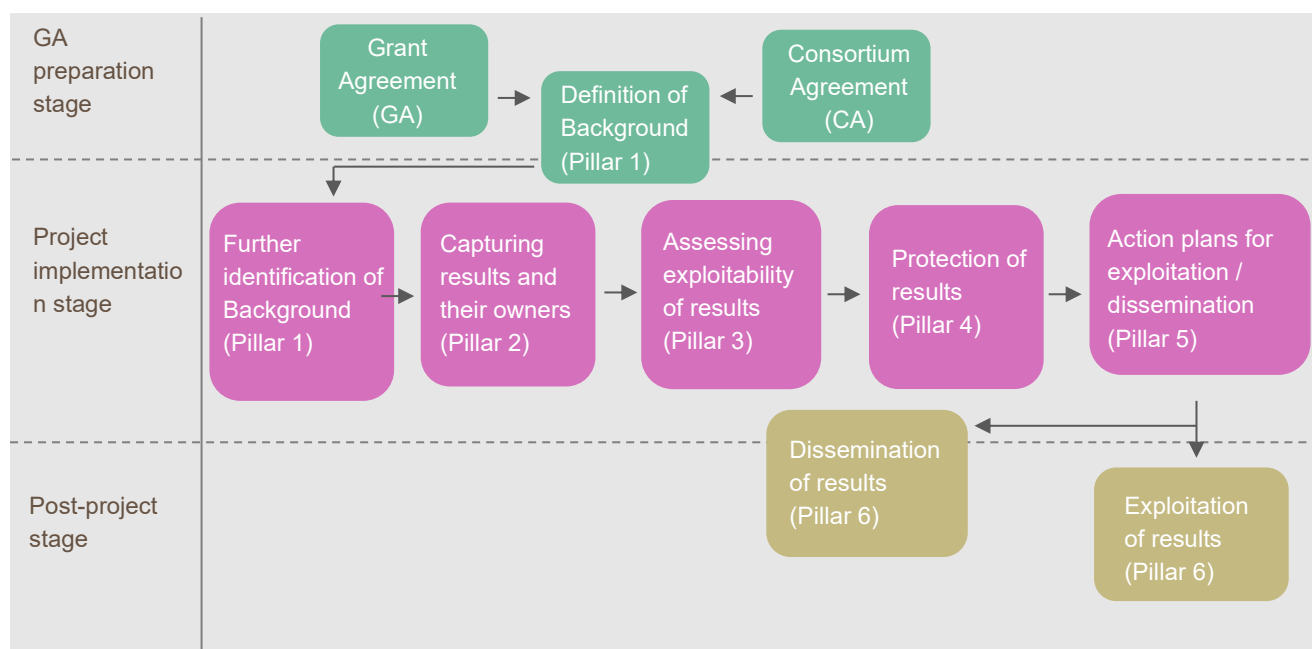


Figure 2: IP Management in EQUICARES

More details about these stages are presented in the sub-sections that follow.

3.1 Grant Agreement Preparation Stage

Both the **Grant Agreement (GA)** and the **Consortium Agreement (CA)** constitute documents that describe several issues related to **Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs)**. Their provisions are a reference point for IPR issues, underpinning the implementation of our IP management strategy. Any further advancements regarding IPR actions put in place by partners will be facilitated under the underlying provisions of the GA and the CA.

3.1.1 Grant Agreement

The GA constitutes a contract which sets out the key rules and conditions of the project and is conducted between the EC and the partners of EQUICARES⁴⁴. It represents the main contractual basis for EQUICARES, while its main points and sections referring to IPR are included in **Section 2 “Rules for carrying out the action”**⁴⁵. Under this scheme, the management of the EQUICARES IP

⁴⁴ See the respective section of the IPR helpdesk glossary for a definition of Grant Agreement

⁴⁵ See Article 16, “Intellectual property rights (IPR) — background and results —access rights and rights of use”, in the Terms and Conditions of the EQUICARES Grant Agreement

is regulated, whereas access rights and obligations related to the background are set. In addition, the GA defines issues concerning the ownership and protection of the project's generated results, as well as their exploitation and dissemination. Finally, transferability and access rights to results are also defined in the EQUICARES GA.

3.1.2 Consortium Agreement

The CA constitutes a contract among the partners of the EQUICARES consortium, which defines rights and obligations during the partnership for the purposes of carrying out the activities foreseen by the project⁴⁶. The CA minimises the probability of later disputes as it provides rules and responsibilities during the project as well as defines the access rights to be granted to the partners concerning the project. In addition, rights and responsibilities are outlined among the consortium members concerning IP issues.

The main points and respective sections of the EQUICARES CA which refer to IPR are included in:

- **Section 8 “Results”**, which sets out key provisions on ownership and joint ownership of results, as well as on their transfer and dissemination.
- **Section 9 “Access Rights”**, that clarifies the principles governing access rights for implementation as well as for exploitation and dissemination purposes. It also states specific provisions for access rights to software.
- **Attachment 1 “Background included”** presents an initial list of usable Background.

3.2 Project Implementation Stage

During the implementation stage of EQUICARES, IP handling procedures are foreseen to be applied among partners to organise the sound management of the project's results. As the implementation of the project advances, the focus shifts from capturing and assessing the exploitability of the results over to **defining Key Exploitable Results (KERs)** and agreeing on their owners and protection measures. Ultimately, the focus is placed on putting in place and working towards suitable **action plans for exploitation and dissemination**.

Along the way, the EQUICARES IPR management emphasises the establishment of robust handling procedures for IPR issues that are of strategic importance to the project in order to facilitate the exploitation of its KERs. Therefore, partners should focus on two different points:

- **Providing access rights to their knowledge** that is needed for other partners to carry out their work on the project.
- **Establishing procedures for the early identification of key exploitable results** with a view to designing timely action plans for protecting and exploiting them.

In this respect, the following sub-sections cover key IP-related issues that are addressed by the IP management strategy of EQUICARES during the implementation stage.

3.2.1 Further Identification of Background

Partners may **identify, if necessary, further essential knowledge, know-how, or data** complementary to those outlined in the CA, which may need to be added to the Background of the

⁴⁶ See the respective section of the IPR helpdesk glossary for a definition of Consortium Agreement

project. The Background can be attached to the results of the project, which, eventually, will help determine access rights, ownership, and protection measures.

3.2.2 Capturing Results, Assessing Exploitability and Defining Owners

A core process of EQUICARES IP management strategy is effectively capturing the results of the project and carefully assessing their exploitability, all with a view to creating a concrete mapping of the project's KERs, with the potential to enhance the EQUICARES IP portfolio, along with the owner(s) of each one. Thus, all **valuable IP stemming from EQUICARES must be identified, listed, named, described, and analysed in a systematic way.**

To this end, all partners are asked to elaborate further on the provisions of the CA regarding the results born from their work in the context of the project and their ownership (through the EQUICARES IPR management tools, as described in Section 4 of this report). Overall, **KERs are owned by the beneficiary(-ies) that generate them.** Due to the strong collaborative work that Horizon Europe projects entail, typically, two or more partners may jointly contribute to the creation of an individual result. Thus, in the framework of our strategy, **special attention is being paid to handling joint ownership issues.**

Information regarding the ownership of KERs needs to be reported to the EC by the end of the project. Partners are required to elaborate a **"Results Ownership List"** and include it within the final (periodic) report of the project⁴⁷. This list will include all identified KERs of the project and clearly indicate which partner(s) is ultimately responsible for protecting, exploiting and, by extension, managing each one beyond the end of the project⁴⁸.

3.2.3 Protection of Results

Effective exploitation of the new knowledge developed within the frame of EQUICARES requires the **protection of the project's KERs.** Thus, each partner must carefully examine the possibility of protecting its KER(s) and must adequately protect them across an appropriate **period of time** and with proper **territorial coverage** if: (i) the KER can reasonably be expected to be commercially or industrially exploited; and (ii) protecting the KER is possible, reasonable as well as justified (given the circumstances at the time of the decision)⁴⁹.

In this respect, when considering IP protection for the KER(s) they own, the EQUICARES **partners must consider their own interests along with the interests of the entire consortium.** Partners must safeguard the identified KER(s) with adequate protection measures, which will offer a decent protection period within a suitable geographical territory. The following table indicatively illustrates protection instruments that may be applied to various subjects.

⁴⁷ See Annex 5 "Specific Rules" of the EQUICARES Grant Agreement and in particular the Section "Intellectual Property Rights – Background and Results – Access Rights and Rights of Use (Article 16)"

⁴⁸ Scherer, J., Weber, S., Alveen, P. et al. (2022), European IP Helpdesk – Successful valorisation of knowledge and research results in Horizon Europe – Boosting the impact of your project through effective communication, dissemination and exploitation, European Commission, European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency, Publications Office of the European Union, <https://intellectual-property-helpdesk.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-03/Successful%20valorisation%20of%20knowledge%20and%20research%20results%20in%20Horizon%20Europe.pdf>

⁴⁹ European Commission (2022), Webinar: IP Management in collaborative Horizon Europe projects, <http://tinyurl.com/mrykuafu>

Table 4: Indicative Protection of Results

Subject Matter	Copyright	Trademark	Trade secret	Patent	Industrial design
Promotional and advertising material	X				
Scientific articles and technical reports	X				
Computer software, databases	X				
Appearance of technical devices					X
Design of product packaging					X
Company or technology logo		X			
Client lists			X		
Business plans			X		
Industrial processes for manufacturing			X	X	
New technologies used in the industry	X			X	

Overall, IP protection constitutes a tool to create value through the licensing, sale, or commercialisation of IP in the form of products and services. Moreover, its utilisation is vital for prospective commercial or industrial exploitation as it can contribute to supporting the branding of products and services both to customers and investors.

The decision on whether to seek protection for intellectual property rights is made before deciding whether to publish results or not. For instance, when aiming at patent protection, research results can only be published after the patent application has been filed. Therefore, the protection of research results and their commercial exploitation is promoted⁵⁰.

3.2.4 Exploitation of Results

EQUICARES KER(s) will be effectively exploited for research, commercial or other relevant uses. Partners will seek to find and seize exploitation opportunities of the project's results in: (i) further research activities, (ii) developing, creating, or marketing a product or process, (iii) creating and providing a service, (iv) using them in standardisation activities or other use scenarios such as to inform policy or for educational purposes.

Along these lines, following the successive phases of identifying and assessing results as well as defining owners and protection measures, further actions will run, including:

- **Outlining potential exploitation routes** foreseen for each of EQUICARES KERs beyond the end of the project.
- **Elaboration of the EQUICARES Exploitation and Sustainability Plan** to serve as the road map for exploitation actions.

50 Scherer, J., Weber, S., Alveen, P. et al. (2022), European IP Helpdesk – Successful valorisation of knowledge and research results in Horizon Europe – Boosting the impact of your project through effective communication, dissemination and exploitation, European Commission, European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency, Publications Office of the European Union, <https://intellectual-property-helpdesk.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-03/Successful%20valorisation%20of%20knowledge%20and%20research%20results%20in%20Horizon%20Europe.pdf>

All project partners are obliged to take measures to ensure the exploitation of their KER(s) up to four years after the completion of the project⁵¹. Exploitation may occur directly or indirectly by another legal entity (e.g., through transfer and licensing of results). As formalised in the GA, *“If, despite a beneficiary’s best efforts, the results are not exploited within one year after the end of the action, the beneficiaries must (unless otherwise agreed in writing with the granting authority) use the Horizon Results Platform to find interested parties to exploit the results”*⁵². The Horizon Results Platform is hosted at the Funding & Tenders Portal of the EC. It is a free tool that partners can use to disseminate their KER to targeted users and seize opportunities for exploitation through successful matchmaking.

3.2.5 Dissemination of Results

EQUICARES partners are set to select appropriate means for the dissemination of the project’s KERs (e.g., scientific publications, publication on websites, conferences, open access, etc.), according to the conditions set forth in the GA and the CA⁵³, as well as to any confidentiality agreements that might arise to maintain confidentiality during and after the project. In this context, **all partners should be aware that they should first ensure the protection of a project’s KER and then proceed to dissemination actions of the underlying result.**

Overall, EQUICARES follows the **“Open Science”** approach, taking any steps required to spread knowledge as soon as it is available using digital and collaborative technology. Open access to research data follows the principle *“as open as possible, as closed as necessary”*⁵⁴. Thus, partners make their scientific publications and data available with open access. They may decide not to provide open access to research data only if it goes against their legitimate interests or for other justified reasons (e.g., confidentiality or security concerns). In such a case, a justification is included in the EQUICARES Data Management Plan⁵⁵.

3.3 Post Project Stage

Dissemination and exploitation of KER(s) take place even after the project ends. Thus, **EQUICARES IP management continues after the end of the project**, for example, to protect KERs (if needed), manage any agreements related to IP (e.g., licences) or potential costs and revenue sharing. In preparation for the post-project stage, the EQUICARES consortium will:

- **Discuss and agree on (joint) exploitation strategies and pathways.** As some of the KERs are built on the combined knowledge of several partners, partners work on shared strategies for managing, protecting, and exploiting them.
- **Look at possible IP ownership arrangements and related responsibilities** (e.g., on

51 European Commission (2022), European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency, Your guide to intellectual property management in Horizon Europe, Publications Office of the European Union, <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/43e0204c-6ed3-11ed-9887-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>

52 See Annex 5 “Specific Rules” of the EQUICARES Grant Agreement and in particular the Section “Intellectual Property Rights – Background and Results – Access Rights and Rights of Use (Article 16)”

53 See Section 8.4, “Dissemination”, of the EQUICARES Consortium Agreement

54 European Commission, Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (2024), Open Science, https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/strategy/strategy-2020-2024/our-digital-future/open-science_en

55 Scherer, J., Weber, S., Alveen, P. et al. (2022), European IP Helpdesk – Successful valorisation of knowledge and research results in Horizon Europe – Boosting the impact of your project through effective communication, dissemination and exploitation, European Commission, European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency, Publications Office of the European Union, <https://intellectual-property-helpdesk.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2023-03/Successful%20valorisation%20of%20knowledge%20and%20research%20results%20in%20Horizon%20Europe.pdf>

maintenance costs). This requires the definition of the relative contributions of joint owners.

- **Explore, if needed, potential agreements (e.g., licensing) and remuneration options** for the use of IP stemming from EQUICARES and choose what fits better to the circumstances⁵⁶.

With the above in mind, at the project's conclusion, the final version of the project's Exploitation and Sustainability Plan will provide the final outline of the use that the EQUICARES consortium intends to make of its KERs along with the respective action plans and time frame for exploitation. This includes any further activities aimed at the dissemination, use, and sustainability of the EQUICARES KERs, along with any findings concerning IP issues. As a result, the deliverable will envisage our final strategy for exploitation, management of IPR and sustainability, also including any selected commercialisation pathways if applicable.

Finally, **if there is any request from the EC, partners will have to report their progress towards exploiting their KERs, including any needs or obstacles they may have faced after the end of the project.** Such a request may come two years after the end of EQUICARES, and the requested information may be asked in the form of a structured questionnaire incorporated into the System for Grant Management (SyGMA) of the EC⁵⁷.

3.4 Main Roles

The IP management strategy of the project constitutes an integral priority for EQUICARES management structure. **Roles, with clear responsibilities and expected contributions**, have been established to put in place a continuous IP monitoring mechanism that can help ensure that IP information is reliable and timely captured, along with tailored procedures under which newly generated/ identified KERs are handled within the lifespan of EQUICARES.

The key roles established in this context are concisely outlined below.

Exploitation Manager

The **Exploitation Manager (EM) of EQUICARES leads the definition, implementation, monitoring and fine-tuning of the project's IPR management strategy**, ensuring that novel knowledge and results which arise during the project are properly assessed and managed.

In this framework, the EM is responsible for screening any newly identified KERs and handling any corresponding IP issues that may arise during the project's lifespan. To this end, the EM directs partners to commonly establish the most adequate and efficient exploitation route(s) based on the nature of their KERs and the purposes of the EQUICARES consortium concerning their exploitation. This includes a **crucial mediation role in case of IP conflicts**, guiding involved partners to find mutually agreeable solutions (including written agreements whenever necessary) and always in line with the provisions of EQUICARES CA (see Article 12.8 of the CA).

Along the way, the EM closely cooperates with the Project Coordinator and the Steering Committee across the duration of the project to exchange information born from advancing project activities and

⁵⁶ European Commission, European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency (2022), Your guide to intellectual property management in Horizon Europe, Publications Office of the European Union, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2826/409260>

⁵⁷ European Commission, European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency (2022), Your guide to intellectual property management in Horizon Europe, Publications Office of the European Union, <https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2826/409260>

to determine adequate handling and protection of KERs. Finally, the EM coordinates the **development of the project's Exploitation and Sustainability Plan**, including the elaboration of the respective deliverables (initial and updates).

All partners

Efficient management of IP in EQUICARES is achieved through the adoption of a participatory process, based on which **all partners are actively contributing to the timely identification and assessment of the IP being born from their work** under the framework of the project.

Along these lines, **each partner is responsible for: (i) identifying the IP they are bringing** as Background for the implementation of the project and/or exploitation of its results; **(ii) capturing and assessing the exploitability of the results** stemming from their work in the project; **(iii) protecting their results** when meaningful; and ultimately **(iv) safeguarding their exploitation** by identifying and taking any necessary actions during or after the project (e.g. deciding on ownership issues, making any needed IP agreements, maintaining protection measures, etc.).

It is good practice for partners to inform and consult with the EM before deciding whether to protect a KER stemming from their activities or not – particularly if the partner is considering a potential joint IP scheme. Should Work Package Leaders identify a new result generated under their respective Work Package, the EM must be informed.

To facilitate the implementation of our IP management strategy, while supporting each partner to carry out their role in its framework, a dedicated methodology with respective tools has been customised for use in EQUICARES, as outlined in the section that follows.

4. Methodology

4.1 Outline of Methodological Steps and Tools

The implementation of EQUICARES IP management strategy is realised through the utilisation of a tailored methodology along with a suite of IPR management tools which aim at supporting all partners of the project to identify, protect and manage their Key Exploitable Results (KERs) in a way that paves the way for successful exploitation beyond the end of the project.

Our **methodology** is aligned with the different IP management stages of our strategy and can be broken down into **4 distinct but interconnected steps**, as follows:

- **Step 1:** Identify any further background required for implementation or exploitation.
- **Step 2:** Assess project results and define KERs along with their owners.
- **Step 3:** Outline exploitation routes for KERs and decide on protection measures.
- **Step 4:** Craft action plans for exploitation (and commercialisation, if applicable).

To allow for the implementation of these methodological steps, the tools employed by partners in the context of EQUICARES encompass (in brief) the following:

- **Background identification / modification form**, which is to be used by partners to notify the Exploitation Manager in the case that they identify any further own Background required for implementation or exploitation of results as well as in the case that modifications to any already identified own Background need to take place.
- **Exploitability assessment and planning templates**, which partners can employ to capture and convey key information required for assessing the exploitability of the results stemming from their work in the project as well as to outline owners with their contributions, appropriate protection measures and potential exploitation routes.

With that in mind, the structure of our methodological tools along with the data that each one is designed to capture is concisely outlined in the sub-sections of this report that follow below.

4.2 Background Identification / Modification Form

In this context of EQUICARES IP management methodology, the background identification / modification form (see table below) is designed to **collect crucial information about the Background of partners, beyond what is documented and agreed in the CA** of the project. In particular, the form serves a dual purpose as it can be used to: (i) identify any additional Background, on top of the Background already identified in the CA, along with its specific restrictions and/or conditions for implementation / exploitation; and (ii) to modify any previously identified Background and its respective restrictions and/or conditions if applicable.

Table 5: Background identification / modification form

Owners	<i>Please specify the owner of the Background.</i>
Description	<i>Please elaborate here on a brief description of the Background.</i>
Specific restrictions and/or conditions for exploitation	<i>Please list here any restrictions and/or conditions for accessing and using the particular Background for the implementation of the project.</i>
Connected Key Exploitable Result(s)	<i>Please list here any Key Exploitable Result(s) for which the Background is required in the context of implementation and/or exploitation.</i>

To this end, the form calls partners to identify the owner of the Background, provide a concise description of the Background as well as clearly specify any restrictions and/or conditions for the use of the Background by the other partners for implementation or the exploitation of results. A direct reference to any connected KERs is also required if relevant. The form is completed on an ad hoc basis when the need arises during the project and is provided to the EM. The EM will then assess the proper course of action, following the relevant provisions of the project's CA and in cooperation with the proper management bodies of the consortium.

The Background required for the implementation and exploitation of EQUICARES results, as identified by project partners by the final Month -M30, is outlined in Section 5 of this report. The background identification / modification form is included in its Annex (see Annex I).

4.3 Exploitability Assessment and Planning Templates

The exploitability assessment and planning templates of our IP management methodology are designed to **facilitate the work of the partners that are required to identify the KERs of the project as well as to carefully plan and act towards their sustainable post-project use** (be it for research, commercial or other use) during and after the end of EQUICARES. They are accordingly composed of templates dedicated to exploitability assessment of results, exploitation planning per KER and exploitation planning per partner, as described below.

Exploitability assessment template

The exploitability assessment template aims at supporting partners towards identifying and **assessing the exploitation potential and readiness of results**, while also pinpointing and elaborating on **key aspects pertaining to exploitation and IP**, as depicted in the table below.

Table 6: Exploitability Assessment Template

Brief Description	<i>Please enter here a brief description of the key exploitable result that further elaborates on the initial description included in the DoA.</i>
Creators and relevant background (if applicable)	<i>Please list here the partners that were principally involved in the development of the key exploitable result and, if possible, the way each one contributed to this end. If applicable, clearly state any background used in order to create the key exploitable result along with its owner.</i>
Intended users and expected benefits	<i>Please list here the main stakeholder groups that are expected to use the key exploitable result. This includes consortium partners as well as external stakeholders, if applicable (such as SMEs, corporates, research institutes, public authorities, citizens, etc.). Briefly describe why each of the aforementioned groups is expected to use the key exploitable result, highlighting the benefits to be derived from its use.</i>
Intended exploitation route(s)	<i>Please list here the key exploitation route(s) (e.g. exploitation in future research projects, commercialisation, open access dissemination, etc.) foreseen for the key exploitable result, highlighting how it will be provided to its target users (where they will find it, how they will access it, under what terms will they be able to use it, etc.).</i>
IP protection measures	<i>Please mention the measure selected to protect the key exploitable result as well as the rationale behind its selection (concisely).</i>

Besides a brief description of the KER identified, partners are also required to reflect on the following aspects which are important for the exploitation of the result at hand:

- **Creators and relevant background** (if applicable): The partners that were principally involved in the development of the key exploitable result is captured here and, if possible, the way each one contributed to this end. If applicable, any background used to create the key exploitable result along with its owner is recorded here too.

- **Intended users and expected benefits:** The main stakeholder groups that are expected to use the key exploitable result are listed in this part of the template. This includes consortium partners as well as external stakeholders, if applicable (such as SMEs, corporates, research institutes, public authorities, citizens, etc.). Partners are also asked to describe why each of the aforementioned groups is expected to use the key exploitable result, highlighting the benefits to be derived from its use.
- **Intended exploitation route(s):** This part of the template captures the main exploitation route foreseen for the key exploitable result along with any alternatives if applicable (e.g. exploitation in future research projects, commercialisation, open access dissemination, etc.). Attention is given (to the degree possible depending on the stage of the project) to how the key exploitable result will be provided to its target users (where they will find it, how they will access it, under what terms, etc.).
- **IP protection measures:** Partners are asked to define in this part of the template the measure considered (or measures if alternatives are to be considered) to protect the key exploitable result as well as the rationale behind their selection(s).

The main partner responsible for each KER is tasked with the completion of this template (in cooperation with other partners contributing to the creation of the specific result), which serves as the basis for discussing, agreeing and ultimately defining the exploitation plan for each KER of the project, along with the necessary actions required to make it a reality.

“Exploitation planning per KER” template

The purpose of the exploitation planning template in the framework of our IP management methodology is to lay out a road map for exploitation with concrete actions and a specific timeline for each KER, guiding all involved partners on the road to their selected exploitation route(s). An outline of the exploitation planning template is depicted in the table which follows.

Table 7: Exploitation Planning per KER Template

ACTION	WHAT?	BY WHOM?	WHEN?
<i>Intellectual Property Rights</i>			
<i>Testing, validation, and fine-tuning</i>			
<i>Ownership</i>			
<i>Communication and dissemination</i>			

This template calls for partners to consider and document the main points that need to be addressed to **ensure that the EQUICARES KER(s) are ready and on the way for exploitation**. These points may include **key dimensions** ranging from **ownership** (e.g. decision on owners and/or terms of use for each involved partner, preparation of IP agreements) and **IPR** (such as the selection of proper protection measures and the preparation for any applications needed) over to the **actions needed to advance the exploitation readiness and prospect** of the KER (e.g. development, testing and/or validation, design of business model or plan). Such actions may also pertain to the **definition of appropriate dissemination measures** (such as finding a proper repository for the longer-term

accessibility of the KER) as well as the **exploration of different alternatives for exploitation** (e.g. discussing and aligning with other consortium partners or organisations outside of the consortium for licensing or transferring the result, agreeing on costs sharing) if applicable for the chosen exploitation route of the KER.

For each of the identified points, partners are required to define the actions that need to take place to address them and advance towards their exploitation route as well as which partner needs to act and by when, creating a **clear (joint) action plan** to this end. The completion of the template for each KER is led by the main partner responsible for the respective KER and implemented in cooperation with other partners of the consortium, contributing to the creation of the KER with guidance from the EM when needed.

“Exploitation planning per partner” template

The third and final template of our exploitability assessment and planning template package (see table below), aims at outlining the **individual exploitation plan of each EQUICARES partner**, identifying which of the EQUICARES KERs will fit in this context and how, while also facilitating the identification of potential synergies and joint exploitation pathways at the same time.

Table 8: Exploitation Planning per Partner Template

< Partner Short Name >	KER of main interest: KER1, KER2, ..., KERX
<i>Please mention here the main key exploitable results that are of interest to your organisation in terms of exploitation beyond the end of the grant. Explain how they fit with your current work and/or future plans, describing how you plan on exploiting each one.</i>	

Along these lines, through this template, each partner is required to indicate the project’s **KERs that are of main interest** to their organisation in terms of exploitation and/or dissemination beyond the end of EQUICARES. Moreover, they are asked to provide a concise **narrative that elaborates on how the exploitation routes of their selected KERs align and will be integrated within the current or future trajectory of their work**. With that in mind, this template is completed by each partner (starting with information from the GA if available) and is **finally enriched and fine-tuned as the project concludes** to deliver the final individual exploitation plan of each partner.

The KERs of EQUICARES which were identified via the applications of our methodology and tools by the final stage of the project, are presented in Section 5, while at the same time the exploitation plans crafted per KER and per partner are outlined in Sections 6 and 7, respectively.

5. Background and Key Exploitable Results

5.1 Overview of EQUICARES Identified Background

The Background required for the implementation of EQUICARES and/or the exploitation of its results, as it has been identified by partners, is presented in the following table.

Table 9: EQUICARES list of Identified Backgrounds

No. & Brief description	Owner(s)	Specific restrictions and/or conditions for implementation	Specific restrictions and/or conditions for exploitation	Connected KER
1. Know-how on exploitation and sustainability: methodology, tools and templates developed internally, considering good practices from the literature	Q-PLAN	Free to use within the scope of the project	Not to be used outside the scope of the project	-

5.2 EQUICARES Key Exploitable Results at a Glance

The Key Exploitable Results (KERs) of the EQUICARES project have been already identified since the proposal stage and will be further elaborated by EQUICARES partners along with exploitation plans and actions. The following table provides an overview of the EQUICARES KERs, along with an initial definition and partners involved in their creation.

Table 10: EQUICARES Key Exploitable results

Title	Brief Description	Leading partner(s)
1. EQUICARES service assessment framework	A solid monitoring, evaluation, and assessment framework of mental health and care services that will be based on the adaptation of the original Levesque Framework. The aim is to take advantage of the strengths and value of the Levesque Framework and to tailor it for mental health services (supply side) that are aimed at people in vulnerable situations (end-user side).	KU
2. Research datasets	Research datasets with qualitative and quantitative granular and reliable data on mental health inequalities and barriers to service accessibility.	RUG, EUR, KU SEERC, FISEVI

3. Smart Health Labs	Eight Smart Health Labs will be established for each pilot, including representatives from people in vulnerable situations. These labs, both physical and virtual, are designed to innovate the design and delivery of mental health services, ensuring that individuals in vulnerable situations are not only recipients of care but also active co-creators of solutions. By integrating digital innovation, social economy practices, and collaboration among multiple stakeholders, the labs will set the stage for improving healthcare accessibility. This approach will help minimise bias by ensuring diverse representation from people in vulnerable situations.	KU, SEERC, GIVMED, AMALIPE, LADAPT, LGBTI, FISEVI, ZI
4. MOOCs and Capacity-building programmes	A pan-European MOOC programme that will include short courses on digital and mental health literacy. Indicative modules include use of e-health apps, foundations of mental health and self-care strategies, etc. The self-paced modules (≥ 10) will target both people in vulnerable situations (integration of subtitles in pilot and minority local languages will be ensured where necessary) but also service providers, health workers (to equip them with cultural competence, ability to counter bias, etc.) as well as policy makers (e.g. how to interpret data, inclusive data collection). Additionally, 3 capacity-building workshops per pilot will be organised, to engage people who have difficulties attending MOOCs (e.g., low digital literacy, poor broadband connection, etc.).	GIVMED
5. Citizen Science based activities	Design and implementation of one small-scale Citizen Science project on mental care in the pilot local areas (>10 participants per pilot). The aim of these pilot projects is to provide hands-on experience on how to address mental health conditions through community-centric solutions that enable equitable access to care service. Examples include arts-based methods in mental health data collection; minority teachers in intercultural schools in mental wellbeing tracking methods; collective development of community data repositories.	SEERC, Q-PLAN
6. Atlas on Mental Health and Care Innovative Solutions	A handy dashboard which will ensure that critical information on how to apply the right type of service for the right group in vulnerable situations and in under the right conditions is readily available to decision makers.	RUG
7. Replication Handbook	A document, guiding the understanding of local mental health ecosystems, setting up bottom-up Labs, and co-creating innovative solutions. The Handbook will promote the uptake of the Atlas and establish links between existing services and decision-makers.	EHTEL
8. EQUICARES Policy Recommendations	A roadmap consisted of eight site-specific policy briefs per pilot case will be produced, as well as an EU-wide framework for policymakers, and mental health and care workers based on the results from the pilot activities to address mental health challenges.	SEERC

9. Inclusive Mental Health and Care Policy Dashboard	The Policy Dashboard is a centralised platform monitoring, assessment, and cost analysis tools; the Atlas; the AI Assistant; and the policy recommendations. With the Policy Dashboard, policymakers, healthcare providers, researchers and all interested stakeholders will be able to: - Analyse disparities in mental health service accessibility - Identify solutions tailored to specific populations - Use insights to inform policy decisions	SEERC
10. AI-based Assistant	The AI-based Assistant will be designed to support the mental health of individuals in vulnerable situations by offering personalised guidance and directing users to the most appropriate care services based on their specific needs. In addition to improving access to mental health services, the Assistant also will aim to enhance mental health literacy among these populations. Through a conversational interface, it will gather data on users' mental health status and experiences and will deliver evidence-based support in the form of counselling, mindfulness exercises, coping mechanisms, and self-help strategies. Using advanced algorithms and natural language processing, the Assistant will tailor its responses to each individual. The tool will be developed with particular attention to data protection, user privacy, ease of use, and the scalability and reliability of data collection, and will be evaluated through a non-randomised within-subject trial.	SQUAR
11. Network of Interest	The Network of Interest will be a multi-actor body of relevant experts (in mental health, care services, social economy, patient centric technologies, health economic, etc.), providing strategic guidance in key stages and extending the reach to target audiences. Its members support the replication and uptake of activities, by acting as project ambassadors who will inform and invite their networks to benefit from them.	EASPD
12. EQUICARES Ethics Handbook	The EQUICARES Ethics Handbook is a comprehensive internal guidance document developed to support ethical compliance across all project activities, particularly those involving people in vulnerable situations (PVS) and the development and deployment of the AI-based Assistant. It addresses regulatory, ethical, and gender considerations, provides practical templates (e.g. for ethical audits, informed consent), and aligns with EU and international frameworks such as the GDPR, the AI Act, and the Declaration of Helsinki.	WR, SEERC, KU, FISEVI, LGBTQI, ZI, GIVMED, LADAPT, EHTEL, SQUAREDEV

13. Validated Interview Guide and Survey on Meso-Level Barriers to Mental Health Access

Task 1.4 resulted in a cross-country interview guide and survey instrument to assess meso-level barriers to mental health and care service access, particularly for people in vulnerable situations. The tools will be structured around the updated Levesque framework and enriched with national Health System indicators. These instruments enable the systematic collection of stakeholder and citizen insights on system-level accessibility gaps, offering comparable data across diverse European health systems. Findings have been triangulated with secondary datasets (e.g., EU-SILC, EHIS, MISSOC) to provide a multidimensional understanding of access barriers. The outputs of Task 1.4 will feed directly into EQUICARES' dashboard and policy briefs.

EUR

14. Forecasting methodology and tools

This KER will include the methodology, tools, and templates developed for forecasting mental health accessibility trends. These tools are built upon good practices from the literature and will provide an innovative, structured way to gather expert opinions and future insights. The know-how gained from creating these methodologies and tools will be shared freely within the scope of the project.

Q-PLAN

6. Exploitation plan per Key Exploitable Result

In this section of the Exploitation and Sustainability Plan, the main Key Exploitable Results (KERs) of EQUICARES are described, along with the main contributors to their development. Information is also provided on the owner and ownership regime, who their intended users are, the benefits they stand to gain from exploiting that asset, as well as potential exploitation routes and IP protection measures. At the same time, any actions that may be needed to facilitate the intended exploitation route(s) of the KER are also identified, concisely outlining what needs to be done, when and by whom towards this end.

Along these lines, the above information is presented in two tables for each KER:

- The first table summarises the exploitation assessment and plan of the specific KER.
- The second table summarises any actions needed for its exploitation or dissemination.

Each KER is presented in a different sub-section of this section, as follows.

6.1 KER 1. EQUICARES service assessment framework

Table 11: Exploitation plan for the EQUICARES service assessment framework

Brief Description	This KER consists of a comprehensive Monitoring, Evaluation, and Assessment (MEA) framework specifically tailored to mental health and care services targeting people in vulnerable situations. The framework builds upon and innovatively adapts the widely recognised Levesque Framework for healthcare access. By preserving its core strengths—namely, its dual focus on the supply-side characteristics of services and the demand-side abilities of users—the adapted framework introduces new dimensions and indicators that reflect the complex, intersectional barriers faced by individuals in vulnerable contexts when accessing mental health care. The result of Task 1.2 is not merely conceptual but operational: the framework will be developed into a structured set of qualitative and quantitative indicators, covering dimensions of service effectiveness, efficiency, quality, and equity. It will be co-informed by empirical data collected across EQUICARES pilot sites and refined through stakeholder engagement processes, including deliberation hackathons and expert consultations. This ensures high contextual relevance and usability across diverse health system settings.
Creators and relevant background (if applicable)	KU will lead the conceptual adaptation of the Levesque Framework, coordinate the development of indicators, and ensure alignment with mental health system challenges and user needs in vulnerable populations. KU will also lead stakeholder engagement activities, including expert consultations and preparation for the deliberation hackathon together with Brussel based partners.
Intended users and expected benefits	Main Stakeholder Groups and Expected Use: Public Health Authorities and Policy Makers Expected Use: To assess and monitor the accessibility and equity of mental health and care services at local, regional, and national levels. Benefits: Enables evidence-based planning, policy formulation, and resource allocation tailored to the needs of vulnerable populations. Mental Health Service Providers and Community-Based Organisations

Expected Use: To evaluate their own service delivery models and identify structural or procedural access barriers.

Benefits: Supports quality improvement and service redesign to enhance inclusiveness, responsiveness, and user satisfaction.

Researchers and Academic Institutions (e.g., consortium partners like KU, RUG, ZI, FISEVI)

Expected Use: To further investigate health system access, develop comparative studies, and apply the framework in new contexts.

Benefits: Offers a validated, adaptable framework to advance scholarly work in access and equity research.

NGOs and Advocacy Groups

Expected Use: To use the framework for monitoring system responsiveness to vulnerable groups and informing advocacy efforts.

Benefits: Strengthens evidence-based advocacy for equitable mental health access and policy accountability.

European Commission and Funding Agencies

Expected Use: To benchmark outcomes of funded mental health and equity projects, and to identify persistent or emerging access gaps across settings.

Benefits: Provides a systematic lens to focus future funding calls on addressing identified access challenges, ensuring greater impact and alignment with equity goals.

Citizens and Vulnerable Communities (via intermediaries or participatory tools)

Expected Use: Indirectly, through involvement in co-design processes and the future Inclusive Mental Health and Care Policy Dashboard.

Benefits: Ensures their lived experience is integrated into service evaluation, promoting user-centred care and accountability.

Digital and AI Tool Developers (e.g., for integration into smart health platforms or dashboards)

Expected Use: To integrate validated indicators and framework elements into decision-support tools.

Benefits: Adds robustness and user-centred metrics to digital health innovation ecosystems.

Use in Future Research and Evaluation Projects

The framework is expected to be used in future research or evaluation efforts by project partners and other interested researchers working on access to mental health services and health equity. It provides a structured model that can be adapted and applied in similar contexts.

Open Access Dissemination

The final version of the framework, including core indicators and guidance, will be made available through the EQUICARES website and open-access publications. This will ensure it is accessible to other researchers, practitioners, and interested public health stakeholders.

Contribution to the Inclusive Mental Health and Care Policy Dashboard

Elements of the framework will inform the structure and content of the Inclusive Mental Health and Care Policy Dashboard developed later in the project. This will offer a practical way for interested users, especially public health planners, to engage with the framework's logic and indicators.

Sharing with Public and Community Stakeholders

The framework will be shared with relevant stakeholders through project workshops, webinars, and policy briefs. These efforts aim to promote understanding of the framework and its possible application in assessing service access issues, especially for people in vulnerable situations.

Support for Internal Use by Partners

Several partners in the consortium may use the framework in their own institutional evaluations or as a reference in capacity-building and training activities within their local or national settings.

Intended exploitation route(s)

IP protection measures

The KER will be disseminated under an open-access model with proper attribution, rather than protected through formal intellectual property rights. This approach was selected to maximise usability and uptake among public health stakeholders, researchers, and service providers, especially given the framework's relevance to public interest and policy improvement. Attribution will be ensured through publication in open-access academic journals and inclusion in official EQUICARES outputs, ensuring recognition while promoting broad, non-restrictive use.

Table 12: Actions needed for the exploitation of the EQUICARES service assessment framework

ACTION	WHAT?	BY WHOM?	WHEN?
Intellectual Property Rights	Adapted Levesque's Access Framework to mental health services for vulnerable populations. No formal IP protection.	KU (lead), in coordination with WP1 partners	M18
Testing, validation, and fine-tuning	A draft version of the framework will be produced by M6. Internal review and feedback during stakeholder workshops and the deliberation hackathon. Adjustments based on pilot learnings and expert input.	KU, with input from all partners	M6-18
Ownership	Adapted framework with indicators and operational definitions of access dimensions.	KU	M18

Communication and dissemination	Open-access publication, presentation in EQUICARES webinars and workshops, integration into Policy Dashboard, and availability on project website.	KU, with support from WP6 (dissemination lead)	M6-18 and onwards
---------------------------------	--	--	-------------------

6.2 KER 2. Research datasets

Table 13: Exploitation plan for the Research datasets

Brief Description	All data collected as part of the digital ethnography of people in vulnerable situations with mental health care needs, the services available to them and how they interact, this can include, e.g., websites, links, written text taken from publicly available forums, and quotes and sentiments from online communities. All data collected, gathered and used to run the spatial microsimulations.
Creators and relevant background (if applicable)	All data pertaining to the digital ethnographies is collected, explored and analysed by RUG, as leading partner of WP2 and of this KER, with relevant contribution of the piloting and research partners providing a list of appropriate health care providers in the target regions as a starting point for identifying the relevant (online) communities. The methodology is guided by best practices in the current literature. The data used for the spatial microsimulations is collected by the pilot partners led by EUR, additional auxiliary information is gathered from publicly available panel studies from official sources.
Intended users and expected benefits	RUG as the leading partner of this KER is using all data from the digital ethnography to analyse and better understand how providers of innovative mental health care solutions and their target group interact with each other in the pilot regions of the project. This data is used to inform the agent-based models that contribute to the creation of practical interventions in health care as part of EQUICARES. The spatial microsimulations are used to understand the differences in demand and offers for mental health care in different European regions.
Intended exploitation route(s)	All data will not only be used for the development of project deliverables, but also in scientific publications on the needs for and accessibility of mental health care in rural regions and how people in vulnerable situations reach out for help. The intended route of publication is open access, meaning that the resulting paper(s) will be freely available on the internet.
IP protection measures	The data will be stored and secured in the University of Groningen internal data storage network and will not be accessible externally. The publication based on the data will not contain any personally identifying information.

Table 14: Actions needed for the exploitation of the Research datasets

ACTION	WHAT?	BY WHOM?	WHEN?
Intellectual Property Rights	Data collected in digital ethnographies and original agent-based model	RUG and contributing partners	M16 – April 2026

Testing, validation, and fine-tuning	Data cleaning, exploration, analysis and reporting	RUG and contributing partners	M6 – M12
Ownership	Data sets and models	RUG and contributing partners	From M4 onwards
Communication and dissemination	Internal communication of required info, then later results, external dissemination of results via report/ deliverable	RUG and Q-PLAN	M4-M16

6.3 KER 3. Smart Health Labs

Table 15: Exploitation plan for the Smart Health Labs

Brief Description	A total of eight Smart Health Labs will be established across eight different pilot sites. These Labs will function as both physical and virtual hubs that bring together health service providers, care workers, end-users, and intermediaries such as local NGOs. Their aim is to promote equitable access to mental health and care services and to empower individuals in vulnerable situations. Designed as spaces for co-creation, the Labs will not only support care delivery but will also engage vulnerable individuals as active contributors in the development of innovative solutions. By integrating digital innovation, social economy principles, and multi-stakeholder collaboration, the Labs will serve as catalysts for transforming mental health service accessibility. This inclusive approach will also help reduce bias by ensuring diverse representation in the design and evaluation of services. In addition, local campaigns to raise awareness around mental health related issues will take place to support the setup of the Smart Health Labs and engage key stakeholders to participate in co-creation activities. The labs play a crucial role in: Gathering community insights; Piloting new AI-assisted tools; Increasing access to mental health services; Promoting digital and health literacy; Creating bottom-up models of inclusive care. One of the outcomes will be a report on the mission and structure of 8 pilot labs that will be disseminated publicly. Greece Thessaloniki - SEERC In Thessaloniki, older women and refugees / migrants). One co-creation workshop [per pilot case] (>15 people will participate) will be organised to co-define the structure, mission, and governance framework of the smart lab in Thessaloniki. Athens – GIVMED The EQUICARES pilot use case in Athens, Greece, focuses on improving mental health services for migrants, refugees, and unaccompanied children. The project aims to gather data on the mental healthcare system, particularly community-based primary care, and identify gaps in accessibility for people in vulnerable situations. Bulgaria - AMALIPE Centre AMALIPE will establish Smart Health Labs in the municipalities of Pavlikeni and Strajica (Veliko Tarnovo district, North Central Bulgaria). They will develop broad set of activities among Roma and youths covering not only the municipal centres but also certain villages in both municipalities.
--------------------------	---

Creators and relevant background (if applicable)

Both municipalities are rural ones with many villages. All services in them are poorer compared to the urban centres. Roma community is relatively big and diverse (i.e. composed by different sub-groups) in both municipalities.

France – LADAPT

The Smart Health Lab in France will be established in the Normandie region. It aims to identify local barriers to mental health access, co-create innovative solutions with stakeholders, and empower people in vulnerable situations through awareness campaigns and capacity-building initiatives.

Ireland - LGBTI

Set up of the labs will likely include representatives from the HSE, national mental health bodies (e.g. IACP, Mental Health Commission), relevant charities working in the area and other LGBTQI+ organisations in the region.

Once up and running, we will aim to have the labs facilitated by someone with a background in mental health support and/or facilitation of mental health groups. We have some candidates in mind for this, and we will determine who would be most appropriate once we have received feedback from stakeholders and the community on their needs.

Spain – FISEVI

Smart Health Labs in Seville, Spain, focuses on improving mental health access for people in vulnerable situations, particularly Roma populations and migrant communities. The project aims to co-create innovative solutions that enhance accessibility to mental health services while addressing challenges like substance abuse, anxiety, discrimination, and poverty.

Germany - ZI

The Smart Health Lab at ZI will be established primarily targeting to innovate the design and delivery of mental health services for older migrants. Its main aim is actively seeking the opinions of the target group members and give them space to work with NGOs and health service providers and care workers. With the help of the Smart Health Lab, older migrant people will not only be recipients of care but also active co-creators of solutions.

Turkey – KU

The Smart Health Lab in the Hatay sub-region of Turkey focuses on addressing the mental health needs of populations affected by the devastating Turkey-Syria earthquake of February 2023. The project aims to assess the disaster's psychological impact, identify barriers to care, and develop tailored strategies for people in vulnerable situations such as the elderly, migrants, children, and refugees.

Greece

Thessaloniki - SEERC

All partners will contribute to the creation of the Smart Health Labs, but more specifically SEERC along with the other 7 pilot site partners (KU, GIVMED, AMALIPE, LADAPT, LGBTI, FISEVI and ZI), as well as the end users (people belonging in various vulnerable groups) and local stakeholders engaged in the Smart Health Labs in each pilot site (multi-actor engagement).

Athens - GIVMED

Multi actor engagement in the creation of the 8 Smart Health Labs. The creators will be KU, SEERC, GIVMED, AMALIPE, LADAPT, LGBTI, FISEVI and ZI.

Bulgaria - AMALIPE

Centre AMALIPE develops these SHLs in cooperation with:

- local Roma activists and leaders (incl. educational and health mediators, religious leaders, women leaders, Roma municipal councillors);
- student/youth activists and leaders;
- school psychologists and school principals (the biggest schools that educate Roma and also Bulgarian students from both municipalities);

- health and mental health practitioners: from the hospitals in Gorna Oryahovica and Pavlikeni, Mental health clinic in Veliko Tarnovo;
- municipal officials and administration in both municipalities, especially mayors and experts in healthcare and education.

France – LADAPT

There is a multi-actor engagement in the creation of the French Smart Health Lab, where LADAPT will co-create this with the rest of the pilot leaders (KU, SEERC, GIVMED, AMALIFE, LGBTI, FISEVI, GIVMED and ZI).

Ireland - LGBTI

LGBTQI+ people aged 18 and over predominantly from the South Dublin and Wicklow region. All LGBTQI+ adults will be welcome to attend the Smart Health Labs, and we hope that the attendance demographics will help identify where additional supports are required for community members. We will particularly promote engagement among those LGBTQI+ people who we know to be in more vulnerable situations to ensure a diverse representation of community members.

Spain – FISEVI

Led the conceptual development of the Smart Health Lab methodology, ensuring scientific rigor and the inclusion of multi-actor participatory and co-creation approaches tailored to mental health settings. Contributed background knowledge on participatory research methods and social innovation in healthcare.

All data pertaining to the pilot is collected, explored, and analysed by FISEVI. The methodology to be followed might be in collaboration with the rest of the Pilot Leaders and will be guided by best practices in the current literature.

Germany - ZI

Pilot partner ZI: Conceptual development of the Smart Health Lab methodology, ensuring scientific rigor and the inclusion of participatory and co-creation approaches tailored to mental health settings. Relevant background: One of the leading institutions in the field of mental health research in Germany.

All data pertaining to the pilot is collected, explored, and analysed by ZI. The methodology followed is guided by best practices in the current literature.

Turkey – KU

KU will lead the conceptual adaptation of the Levesque Framework, coordinate the development of indicators, and ensure alignment with mental health system challenges and user needs in vulnerable populations. KU will also lead stakeholder engagement activities, including expert consultations and preparation for the deliberation hackathon together with Brussel based partners.

Intended users and expected benefits	Vulnerable Individuals & Target Populations
	<u>Roma youth & communities</u> : Co-design of mental health solutions, addressing bullying, discrimination, early marriages
	Expected Benefit: Culturally relevant, community-based mental health support
	<u>Adults and Older migrants</u> : Active participation in lab activities
	Expected Benefit: Empowerment, better service relevance, stigma reduction
	<u>Persons with disabilities</u> : Co-creation of inclusive mental health services
	Expected Benefit: Needs-based innovation and inclusivity
	<u>LGBTQI+ community</u> : Contribution to needs mapping via data and participation
	Expected Benefit: Tailored support services and national replication
	<u>General public and mental health service users</u> : Participation in awareness campaigns and events
	Expected Benefit: Improved access and decision-making in mental health care
	<u>Broader vulnerable groups (locally defined)</u> : Engagement via incentives, safe spaces, and mediators
	Expected Benefit: Service co-creation, bias reduction, empowerment

	Health & Mental Health Service Providers <u>Hospitals, clinics, day and community centres:</u> Apply co-creation methodologies in service redesign Expected Benefit: User-centred, more effective delivery, stronger trust <u>Mental socio-health professionals:</u> Engage with labs to rethink practice Expected Benefit: Service innovation, reduced barriers to care <u>Educational & health mediators (Roma-focused):</u> Use and dissemination of developed methodologies Expected Benefit: Improve care for Roma youth and communities across EU countries NGOs & Social Economy Actors <u>Local NGOs and associations:</u> Co-create labs and service models Expected Benefit: Strengthen community networks, promote inclusivity <u>Advocacy organisations:</u> Implement methodologies for outreach Expected Benefit: Greater program relevance and engagement <u>Social enterprises:</u> Adapt Smart Health Labs' frameworks to services Expected Benefit: Alignment with real-world needs, community reinvestment Education Sector <u>School psychologists & directors:</u> Apply know-how on supporting vulnerable students Expected Benefit: Better school mental health outcomes <u>Universities & research centres:</u> Use findings in research on equity and innovation Expected Benefit: Validated methodologies, cross-sector collaboration Public Authorities & Policymakers <u>Municipalities (Roma population):</u> Implement Roma-sensitive mental health policies Expected Benefit: Better-informed, inclusive policymaking <u>National/regional public health institutions:</u> Integrate Smart Health Labs' models into policy and systems Expected Benefit: Inclusive, responsive mental health services <u>Anti-discrimination bodies:</u> Apply insights to support anti-discrimination action Expected Benefit: Knowledge sharing, improved case handling <u>Health insurance funds, migration officers:</u> Align policy and services with Smart Health Labs findings Expected Benefit: Community-driven reforms
Intended exploitation route(s)	SEERC (Thessaloniki, Greece) 1. Open access dissemination. To guarantee unrestricted access, the report on the purpose and organisation of the eight pilot labs, as well as the frameworks and operational models used in their design and creation, will be provided in an open-access manner. They will be accessible to users via the EQUICARE website, consortium partners' institutional archives, and social networking sites like LinkedIn. Researchers, NGOs, stakeholders, mental health service users, vulnerable groups, and mental health experts will be among the target users. Additionally, dissemination through the EQUICARES Conference will increase visibility. 2. Exploitation in future research projects. The report can be used to guide future research projects to replicate or recreate and further enhance the co-creation and co-design of Smart Health Labs in other pilot cases and other vulnerable populations.

3. To help spread and raise knowledge of the Smart Health Labs report, EQUICARES has developed a dissemination and communication plan (T6.1.) and a network of interest (T6.2.).
4. Publication of the evaluation of Smart Labs implementation in an academic journal.

GIVMED (Athens, Greece)

The activities based on the data will not contain any personally identifying information. All information related to methodologies and the mapping of needs as well as educational materials possibly developed can be openly shared appropriately.

AMALIPE (North-Central Bulgaria)

AMALIPE plans to summarise and make public the main exploitable results through:

- social media used by the young people and particularly Roma youth: such as Instagram, Tik Tok, Facebook, etc. Youth activists from both municipalities will prepare practical products that are understandable for their peers;
- professional forums and media used by psychologists, teachers, healthcare practitioners, etc: such as “Pedagozi” Facebook group, etc.
- social media and forums of municipal officials and administrators: incl. ones maintained by the National Association of Municipalities;
- social media and forums of Roma organisations: incl. web page and social channels of AMALIPE, Trust for Social Achievement and others.

LADAPT (Normandy, France)

The KER—namely, the Smart Health Lab model and its co-creation methodology—will be exploited through several complementary routes.

First, it will be openly disseminated via a dedicated online platform hosting practical toolkits (MOOC, posters, webinars etc.), case studies, and implementation guidelines, accessible free of charge to NGOs, service providers, public institutions, and end-users. Second, the methodology will be integrated into future research projects focusing on inclusive mental health, participatory design, and health equity, thus contributing to the scientific community through publications and conference presentations through European network and partners projects network.

Third, social and health service organisations will be encouraged to adapt the model through targeted workshops and policy briefs, fostering a wider application. To maximise reach, all outputs will be accessible in multiple languages and formats, including easy-to-read versions (and maybe audio version) for persons with disabilities.

LGBTI (CHO Area 6, Ireland)

LGBT Ireland is committed to following national IP protection measures. A potential measure to be taken based on the degree of innovation ultimately shown by the Smart Health Labs in Ireland could be to seek Copyright Protection⁵⁸. However, a goal would also be to support open access research standards, so if Copyright Protection will be sought, this might be limited to the running of the Smart Health labs (training, facilitation, and mental health service provision), but not to data obtained from the Smart Health Labs. These data will only be available as anonymised, not personalised, aggregated information.

FISEVI (Seville, Spain)

Integration into future research and innovation projects

⁵⁸ Fact Sheet Copyright essentials, <https://www.ipoi.gov.ie/en/types-of-ip/copyright1/understanding-copyright/what-is-copyright/copyright-fact-sheet.pdf>

The Smart Health Labs model will be further refined and applied in future EU-funded projects and national-level innovation initiatives in health and social care.

Access terms: Partners and collaborators will be able to use and adapt the methodology within the scope of funded projects or formal collaboration agreements.

Target users: Research institutions, innovation consortia, and public health agencies.

Social and Policy influences and strategic uptake by public institutions

Results will be communicated via policy briefs, stakeholder workshops, EU platforms, community networks, and webinars to encourage institutional uptake and scaling. Researchers from FISEVI will participate in dissemination activities aimed to reach the community such as Coffee with Science, Researchers' Night, etc., information in press will be released as well in social media such as Instagram, X, Facebook or LinkedIn.

Access terms: Free and open access to materials and recommendations.

Target users: Local and regional policymakers, ministries of health and social care, and EU-level health bodies.

Open access dissemination of books on storytelling and co-creation in mental health

Scientific dissemination:

Open-access book on storytelling and co-creation in mental health aims to document the lived experiences of vulnerable populations gathered during the pilot phase. They will be published on the project website, shared through institutional repositories, and promoted via relevant networks and professional communities, and EU platforms. The methods and results of the Smart Health Labs could be disseminated to the academy through presentations in National and International Conferences as well through open accessible scientific papers.

Access terms: Freely available under a Creative Commons license (CC BY-NC), allowing non-commercial use with attribution.

Target users: Health and social care professionals, NGOs, educators, researchers, policymakers, and community organisations working with vulnerable populations and the general population.

ZI (Baden-Württemberg, Germany)

The mapping of needs and the needs-driven approach can feed in similar initiatives of other stakeholders in German cities with high migrant populations, designing projects in the area of mental health. Dissemination activities will include talks, posters and presentations at conferences and meetings, policy briefs, stakeholder workshops and online communications (e.g. webinars). The Smart Health Labs model will be further refined and applied in future EU-funded projects and national-level innovation initiatives in health and social care.

Open access dissemination of books on storytelling (lived experiences of people in vulnerable situations) and co-creation in mental health will be considered as an additional exploitation route.

KU (Hatay sub-region, Turkey)

Use in Future Research and Evaluation Projects

The framework is expected to be used in future research or evaluation efforts by project partners and other interested researchers working on access to mental health services and health equity. It provides a structured model that can be adapted and applied in similar contexts.

Open Access Dissemination

The final version of the framework, including core indicators and guidance, will be made available through the EQUICARES website and open-access publications. This will ensure it is accessible to other researchers, practitioners, and interested public health stakeholders.

Contribution to the Inclusive Mental Health and Care Policy Dashboard

Elements of the framework will inform the structure and content of the Inclusive Mental Health and Care Policy Dashboard developed later in the project. This will offer a practical way for interested users, especially public health planners, to engage with the framework's logic and indicators.

Sharing with Public and Community Stakeholders

The framework will be shared with relevant stakeholders through project workshops, webinars, and policy briefs. These efforts aim to promote understanding of the framework and its possible application in assessing service access issues, especially for people in vulnerable situations.

Support for Internal Use by Partners

Several partners in the consortium may use the framework in their own institutional evaluations or as a reference in capacity-building and training activities within their local or national settings.

IP protection measures

SEERC (Thessaloniki, Greece)

Since the goal of the Smart Health labs is to engage vulnerable groups at the community level, as well as to raise awareness for public benefit, the Creative Commons "Attribution (CC BY)" is the best approach, as it guarantees legal clarity while permitting unrestricted reuse by researchers, educators, NGOs, stakeholders, end-users and policymakers.

GIVMED (Athens, Greece)

The activities based on the data will not contain any personally identifying information. All information related to methodologies and the mapping of needs as well as educational materials possibly developed can be openly shared appropriately.

AMALIPE (North-Central Bulgaria)

We will use predominantly two protection measures:

- Copyrights and creative commons licenses: for all products created by authors and practitioners (incl. youths and mediators, psychologists, etc).
- Non-disclosure and confidentiality agreements: as described in the Exploitation & Sustainability Plan. The Smart Health Lab will work based on confidence and partnership between AMALIPE, schools, hospitals, Health centres and municipal administrations. We will have non-disclosure and confidentiality agreements among the partners.

LADAPT (Normandy, France)

LADAPT is committed to respecting French legislation in terms of intellectual property, by following the "Code de la propriété intellectuelle". The data will not contain any personally identifying information. The intellectual production generated through this project will be open access.

LGBTI (CHO Area 6, Ireland)

LGBT Ireland is committed to following national IP protection measures. A potential measure to be taken based on the degree of innovation ultimately shown by the Smart Health Labs in Ireland could be to seek Copyright Protection (see also Fact Sheet Copyright essentials). However, a goal would also be to support open access research standards, so if Copyright Protection will be sought, this might be limited to the running of the Smart Health labs (training, facilitation, and mental health service provision), but not to data obtained from the Smart Health Labs. These data will only be available as anonymised, not personalised, aggregated information.

	FISEVI (Seville, Spain) A combination of open access licensing (Creative Commons BY-NC) and copyright protection has been selected. The open access license ensures wide dissemination and non-commercial reuse of the co-creation methodology and supporting materials, promoting uptake among public and non-profit stakeholders. Copyright is retained to protect the integrity of the content and to prevent unauthorised commercial exploitation. Non-disclosure and confidentiality agreements are signed, as the Smart Health Lab will work based on confidence and partnership between FISEVI and the NGOs, municipalities, health providers and final users. ZI (Baden-Württemberg, Germany) A combination of open access licensing and copyright protection as suggested by the pilot partner FISEVI is preferred. The open access license ensures wide dissemination and non-commercial reuse of the co-creation methodology and supporting materials, promoting uptake among public and non-profit stakeholders. Copyright is retained to protect the integrity of the content and to prevent unauthorised commercial exploitation. KU (Hatay sub-region, Turkey) The key exploitable result will be disseminated under an open-access model with proper attribution, rather than protected through formal intellectual property rights. This approach was selected to maximize usability and uptake among public health stakeholders, researchers, and service providers, especially given the framework's relevance to public interest and policy improvement. Attribution will be ensured through publication in open-access academic journals and inclusion in official EQUICARES outputs, ensuring recognition while promoting broad, non-restrictive use.
--	--

Table 16: Actions needed for the exploitation of the Smart Health Labs

ACTION	WHAT?	BY WHOM?	WHEN?
All pilot leaders:			
Intellectual Property Rights	- Data Collection in WP3 contributing to the creation of the Smart Health Labs. - Define and apply appropriate licensing (e.g., Creative Commons BY-NC) for co-creation methodology and related materials; evaluate protection options (e.g., copyright, software licenses) for digital tools and platforms developed. (TBD)	KU, SEERC, GIVMED, AMALIPE, LADAPT, LGBTI, FISEVI, ZI	Before implementing the Smart Health Labs. M12-M48 Following initial piloting and before full public release of materials/tools Right before the activity's start on M14.
SEERC: Choose and adopt the attribution (CC BY)			
Testing, validation, and fine-tuning	- Approach key stakeholder for the co-creation & co-design of the Smart Health Labs. - Initial operationalisation of the structure, mission, and governance framework of the local lab as a co-	KU, SEERC, GIVMED, AMALIPE, LADAPT,	1&2: Before implementing the SHLs. 3: Right before the activity's start on M12

	creation process with consortium partners and stakeholders. - Public campaigns to engage the stakeholders and attract potential participants from vulnerable groups. - Implementation of Smart health labs and evaluation. - Conduct testing of Smart Health Labs; collect feedback from participants in vulnerable situations (migrants and Roman population) and key stakeholders; adjust the methodology and digital components accordingly. - Data cleaning, exploration, combination of all sources and information and reporting. - Drafting of the report - Initial peer review and External expert feedback.	LGBTI, FISEVI, ZI	and during the implementation. 4, 5, 6: M14 and during the implementation of the SHLs. 7&8: Once SHLs are finalised M14-M48
Ownership	Smart Health Labs Confirm co-ownership of materials co-developed with community actors; clarify consortium-wide access rights. Educational material Specific input from service users and local-national mental health, community, and policy stakeholders.	KU, SEERC, GIVMED, AMALIPE, LADAPT, LGBTI, FISEVI, ZI	After the project implementation phase has ended. M12-M48
Communication and dissemination	The report will be communicated to the EQUICARES Final Conference, the EQUICARES website, institutional archives of consortium partners as well as social media platforms such as LinkedIn. Prepare dissemination materials (toolkit, policy briefs, scientific publications, social media publications); present results in stakeholder workshops, conferences, and webinars; upload open materials to project website and repositories. Internal communication of required info, then later results, external dissemination of results via report/ deliverable.	KU, SEERC, GIVMED, AMALIPE, LADAPT, LGBTI, FISEVI, ZI	M48 until the end of the project. Ongoing, with strategic intensification towards the end of the project Right before the activity's start on M14. M14-M48

6.4 KER 4. MOOCs and Capacity-building programmes

Table 17: Exploitation plan for the MOOCs and Capacity-building programmes

Brief Description	A pan-European MOOC programme that will include short courses on digital and mental health literacy. Indicative modules include use of e-health apps, foundations of mental health and self-care strategies, etc. The self-paced modules (≥ 10) will target both people in vulnerable situations (integration of subtitles in pilot and minority local languages will be ensured where necessary) but also service providers, health workers (to equip them with cultural competence, ability to counter bias, etc.) as well as policy makers (e.g. how to interpret data, inclusive data collection). Additionally, 3 capacity-building workshops per pilot will be organised, to engage people who have difficulties attending MOOCs (e.g., low digital literacy, poor broadband connection, etc.).
Creators and relevant background (if applicable)	Compiled by GIVMED in collaboration with partners in WP3, based on all information and data that is collected in the process of running EQUICARES.
Intended users and expected benefits	MOOCs and Capacity Building activities to enhance health and digital literacy of people in vulnerable situations, service providers, mental care workers and policy makers. People from vulnerable groups will benefit from the acquired knowledge and it will help them safeguard their mental health care autonomously in the future. The acquired skills will help them carry out their professional activities integrating valuable information and methodologies avoiding bias and including new approaches to provide better services and implement better policy improvements.
Intended exploitation route(s)	All data that goes into the creation of the MOOCs will not only be used for the development of project deliverables but also open to the accessibility of people interested in mental health care. The intended route of publication is open access, meaning that the MOOCs will be freely available on the internet for the long term and will be communicated through appropriate dissemination channels.
IP protection measures	The activities based on the data will not contain any personally identifying information. Hence, the MOOCs themselves can be publicly available free of charge.

Table 18: Actions needed for the exploitation of the MOOCs and Capacity-building programmes

ACTION	WHAT?	BY WHOM?	WHEN?
Intellectual Property Rights	Data Collected in WP3 contributing to the creation of the MOOCs and the capacity building activities	GIVMED	M14-M36
Testing, validation, and fine-tuning	Data cleaning, exploration, combination of all sources and information and reporting.	GIVMED	M16-M36
Ownership	Educational material	GIVMED, EASPD, DIESIS, EUCOMS, EHTEL	M14-M36
Communication and dissemination	Internal communication of required info, then later results, external dissemination of results via report/deliverable.	GIVMED	M16-M36

6.5 KER 5. Citizen Science based activities

Table 19: Exploitation plan for the Citizen Science based activities

Brief Description	This KER focuses on the design and implementation of small-scale Citizen Science projects in local pilot areas, each involving at least 10 participants. These initiatives aim to empower communities to co-develop and test innovative, community-centric solutions for addressing mental health challenges. Methods explored include arts-based engagement, participatory mental wellbeing tracking, and co-creation of community data repositories. The initiative promotes equitable access to care, while enhancing local knowledge and agency in mental health service design.
Creators and relevant background (if applicable)	- Q-PLAN: Responsible for shaping the strategic approach to dissemination and exploitation of the citizen science methodology and outcomes. Ensures visibility, stakeholder engagement, and packaging of results for further use. - Pilot Implementing Partners (local level): Co-developed and facilitated the citizen science activities on the ground. - Academic and research partners: Contributed to methodological guidance and evaluation tools
Intended users and expected benefits	- Policymakers and Governmental agencies: To inform national and regional mental health policy reforms with evidence-based strategies addressing disparities of targeted vulnerable groups in accessing mental health - Healthcare providers and health care provider systems: To improve service delivery, training and accessibility of these vulnerable groups - NGOs and civil society organisations: To support advocacy resource allocation and potentially community-based intervention models - Researchers and academic institutions (including partners of the project): To identify research gaps and inform the design of future research within the field of mental health access. - Mental health service users and advocacy groups: Individuals with lived experience of mental health symptoms and problems will be empowered through data and specific policy tools deriving from our policy
Intended exploitation route(s)	- Open Access Dissemination: Toolkits, case studies, and results shared via project website, EU platforms, and community networks. - Replication in Future Projects: The methodology will inform design in upcoming EU and national-level research and innovation projects. - Workshops and Conferences: Showcased through co-design workshops, stakeholder roundtables, and science communication events. - Policy Input: Outputs can feed into municipal or national mental health policy consultation processes.
IP Protection measures	- Creative Commons License (CC BY-NC-SA) for citizen science toolkits and community data templates to allow non-commercial reuse with attribution. - Attribution-Based Licensing for co-created content, ensuring proper recognition of participant contributions while enabling broader dissemination.

Table 20: Actions needed for the exploitation of the Citizen Science based activities

ACTION	WHAT?	BY WHOM?	WHEN?
Intellectual Property Rights	Define appropriate IP strategy for citizen science outputs (e.g., community toolkits, engagement models), using Creative Commons licensing.	SEERC and Q-PLAN in coordination with pilot leaders	After the activity's start on M14
Testing, validation, and fine-tuning	Evaluate pilot implementations through feedback loops, participant interviews, and shared debriefs; adapt materials accordingly.	Pilot partners + academic evaluators	After activity's start on M14
Ownership	Confirm co-ownership of materials co-developed with community actors; clarify consortium-wide access rights.	Project Coordinator, SEERC, Q-PLAN and Pilot Leads	3 rd & 4 th semester
Communication and dissemination	Promote results through storytelling, videos, blog posts, community newsletters, and conference presentations; share lessons learned.	Q-PLAN (as the Dissemination Lead)	After the activity's start on M14

6.6 KER 6. Atlas on Mental Health and Care Innovative Solutions

Table 21: Exploitation plan for the Atlas on Mental Health and Care Innovative Solutions

Brief Description	A handy dashboard which will ensure that critical information on how to apply the right type of service for the right group in vulnerable situations and under the right conditions is readily available to decision makers.
Creators and relevant background (if applicable)	Compiled by RUG in collaboration with partners in WP2, based on all information and data that is collected in the process of running EQUICARES.
Intended users and expected benefits	Dashboard to inform policy makers, practitioners and the general public about how to apply the right type of service for the right group in vulnerable situations and under the right conditions. Format of a dashboard helps easily visually transmit important information. The set KPI for users of the dashboard is 200.
Intended exploitation route(s)	All data that goes into the creation of the dashboard / mental health atlas will not only be used for the development of project deliverables, but also in scientific publications on the accessibility of mental health care in rural regions and how people in vulnerable situations reach out for help. The intended route of publication is open access, meaning that the resulting paper(s) will be freely available on the internet.
IP protection measures	The data will be stored and secured in the University of Groningen internal data storage network and will not be accessible externally. The publication based on the data will not contain any personally identifying information.

Table 22: Actions needed for the exploitation of the Atlas on Mental Health and Care Innovative Solutions

ACTION	WHAT?	BY WHOM?	WHEN?
Intellectual Property Rights	Data collected in WP2, contributing to the Atlas of mental health	RUG, EUCOMS, KU, EUR	M4-M18
Testing, validation, and fine-tuning	Data cleaning, exploration, combination of all sources and information and reporting	RUG, EUCOMS, KU, EUR	M6-M18
Ownership	Data sets and models	RUG, EUCOMS, KU, EUR	M4-M18 and beyond
Communication and dissemination	Internal communication of required info, then later results, external dissemination of results via report/deliverable	RUG, Q-PLAN	M4-M18

6.7 KER 7. Replication Handbook

Table 23: Exploitation plan for the Replication Handbook

Brief Description	Within Task 5.4 Large-scale replication campaign EHTEL will develop the EQUICARES Replication Handbook, beginning M36. The Replication Handbook is a document aimed at guiding the understanding of local mental health ecosystems, setting up bottom-up labs, and co-creating innovative solutions to deliver mental health services, ensuring that individuals in vulnerable situations are not only recipients of care but also active co-creators of solutions. The Replication Handbook will promote the uptake of the Atlas on Mental Health and Care Innovative Solutions and establish links between existing services and decision-makers.
Creators and relevant background (if applicable)	Beginning from M36 and throughout the 4th year of the Equicares project, EHTEL will launch a replication campaign, supported by pilot partners. Network partners (EASPD, DIESIS, EHTEL) will provide language assistance and they will target communities, such as associations of people with disabilities, or e-health service providers. Pilot partners will scout local organisations willing to replicate results. Four cases will be selected, with pilot partners and consortium experts providing support in designing a roadmap for the access assessment of the mental health and care services in their area and the replication of EQUICARES Handbook.
Intended users and expected benefits	EHTEL, as well as project partners in related EU-funded or other international projects will benefit from EQUICARES pilot learnings (e.g., service providers, HCP, informal carers (to equip them with cultural competence, ability to counter bias, etc.) as well as policy makers) The benefits will be more inclusive mental health services.
Intended exploitation route(s)	EHTEL intends to promote exploitation of findings for its members-only webinars as well as for its symposia, third party events, research meetings, working papers, as well as social media outlets such as our website, LinkedIn account, Bluesky (prospectively) and others.
IP protection measures	Open Access with a Copyrights or CC IP protection to be defined during the upcoming months.

Table 24: Actions needed for the exploitation of the Replication Handbook

ACTION	WHAT?	BY WHOM?	WHEN?
Intellectual Property Rights	TBD	EHTEL	M12
Testing, validation, and fine-tuning	Compilation, validation through Quality Review (QR) of pertinent deliverables	EHTEL, SEERC, DIESIS	M36-48 and beyond
Ownership	Authors / WP and task leads	Consortium	M36-48 and beyond

Communication and dissemination	See above 3. Replication Handbook: EHTEL intends to harvest EQUICARES findings for furthering their advocacy activities both during EQUICARES as well as past the project's duration.	EHTEL	M36-48 and beyond
---------------------------------	---	-------	-------------------

6.8 KER 8. EQUICARES Policy Recommendations

Table 25: Exploitation plan for the EQUICARES Policy Recommendations

Brief Description	Eight site-specific policy briefs, one per pilot case will be produced, as well as one policy brief at EU level addressed to policymakers, and mental health providers and care workers based on the results from the pilot sites (Smart Health Labs, citizen projects, and consultation, co-creation and surveys with end users and stakeholders).
Creators and relevant background (if applicable)	SEERC along with the other 7 pilot site partners (KU, SEERC, GIVMED, AMALIPE, LADAPT, LGBTI, FISEVI and ZI), and the end users (vulnerable groups) and stakeholders engaged with the activities in the pilot site (multi-actor engagement). The policy briefs content and aim will vary depending on the vulnerable population focus of each pilot and could draw from results and insights of the different activities taking place. The EU policy paper will be based on the findings that crosscut the 8 pilot sites and could be related to innovative solutions for improved access to mental health services by populations in vulnerable situations.
Intended users and expected benefits	1. Policymakers and Governmental agencies. To inform national and regional mental health policy reforms with evidence-based strategies addressing disparities of targeted vulnerable groups in accessing mental health 2. Mental healthcare providers and health care provider systems. To improve service delivery, training and accessibility of these vulnerable groups 3. Non-governmental organisations. To support advocacy resource allocation and potentially community-based intervention models 4. Researchers and academic institutions (including partners of the project). To identify research gaps and inform the design of future research within the field of mental health access. 5. Mental health service users and advocacy groups. Individuals with lived experience of mental health symptoms and problems will be empowered through data and specific policy tools deriving from our policy recommendations for participatory governance. Other expected benefits include 1. Improved mental health access for these populations through tailored interventions and inclusive policies combating systemic barriers; 2. Reduced inequalities; 3. Data-driven investment in services. Policy recommendations can function as a bridge between researchers and decision makers fostering communication.
Intended exploitation route(s)	1. Open access dissemination. The policy briefs and policy recommendations will be published in open-access format to ensure unrestricted access. Users will be able to access them through the EQUICARE website, institutional repositories of consortium partners as well as social media platforms such as LinkedIn. Target users will include policymakers, NGOs and health professionals. Dissemination through our Final Conference will also foster visibility

2. Exploitation in future research projects. The policy recommendations can be used as a foundation for future EU-funded or national projects.
 3. Integration into training, education and professional development. Policy outputs can be used to inform training and practice for clinicians and social workers
- EQUICARES dissemination and communication plan (T6.1.) as well as Network of interest (T6.2.) created by EQUICARES will aid in the dissemination and increase awareness of the policy.

IP protection measures	The KER (policy briefs and recommendations) are intended for maximum public benefit, transparency and policy uptake. Therefore, the “Creative Commons Attribution (CC BY)” makes the most sense as it ensures legal clarity while allowing reuse by policy makers, NGOs, researchers and educators without imposing any restrictions.
-------------------------------	---

Table 26: Actions needed for the exploitation of the EQUICARES Policy Recommendations

ACTION	WHAT?	BY WHOM?	WHEN?
Intellectual Property Rights	Choose and adopt the Attribution (CC BY), decide who will authorship the policy briefs, and the EU level policy paper.	SEERC, the Project Coordinator (WR) and the pilot partners.	Before drafting the policy briefs.
Testing, validation, and fine-tuning	1. Initial peer review. 2. The policy drafts will be shared with external experts for feedback. 3. A policy pilot validation workshop will be organised along with the pilot partners to gather feedback from end users.	1. SEERC and pilot partners 2. SEERC with the contribution of pilot partners 3. SEERC with contribution of pilot partners	1. Upon completion of the first draft. 2. After internal review. 3. After incorporating external experts' feedback.
Ownership	Policy Recommendations and EU-wide strategic framework.	The Project Coordinator (WR), people involved in the writing of the policy briefs (researchers or end user/stakeholders from pilot sites & SEERC).	Start of development
Communication and dissemination	The Policy Recommendations and an EU-wide strategic framework communicated to EQUICARES Final Conference, EQUICARES website, institutional repositories of consortium partners as well as social media platforms such as LinkedIn.	SEERC with the contribution of the pilot parents, EQUICARES Dissemination and Communication Plan (T6.1).	M48 and after the end of the project

6.9 KER 9. Inclusive Mental Health and Care Policy Dashboard

Table 27: Exploitation plan for the Inclusive Mental Health and Care Policy Dashboard

Brief Description	The Inclusive Mental Health and Care Policy Dashboard is a centralised platform monitoring, assessment, and cost analysis tools including the Atlas from WP2; and the policy recommendations (see KER 9). It will be an interactive tool that will allow users to search data relevant to mental health using a range of indicators. The Inclusive Mental Health and Care Policy Dashboard will be accompanied by a report on the value of the data and how these can be used for policy and advocacy: 1. input basic local ecosystem information (e.g., vulnerable groups, ecosystem size, accessibility challenges). 2. apply filters to screen innovative mental health care practices. 3. High-level policy guidelines, evaluation and cost analysis techniques.
Creators and relevant background (if applicable)	The Inclusive Mental Health and Care Policy Dashboard will be led by SEERC with the support by RUG and all the partners. It will be developed with the inputs from 4 components: 1. the monitoring, assessment, and cost analysis tools (T1.2); 2. the Atlas (T2.5); 3. the Policy Recommendations (T5.5).
Intended users and expected benefits	1. Policy makers and public authorities. Such as national, regional and local health policy bodies. 2. Health care providers and planners. Including community mental health services, primary care hospitals and NGOs 3. Researchers and academics such as public health and mental health researchers 4. Civil society and advocacy groups Benefits include 1. Communicate information and data on mental health service access (such as, barriers, inequalities) more accessible and understandable to policy makers and other stakeholders (scientific, societal). 2. Sustain and expand knowledge on barriers to access to health and care services through EU policy tools (scientific, societal). 3. Provides integrated tools to evaluate and compare the cost-effectiveness of mental health interventions, supporting smarter allocation of public resources. 4. Through customizable filters, the dashboard helps users screen for innovative, replicable practices that address key barriers in mental health access.
Intended exploitation route(s)	1. Open access dissemination. The Inclusive Mental Health and Care Policy Dashboard will be made publicly accessible through the dedicated project website. Policy makers, health care professionals, researchers and vulnerable populations will have free access to use it. 2. Integration into Policy dialogues. The Inclusive Mental Health and Care Policy Dashboard can be used in both national and EU-level policy dialogues and capacity-building activities, this will depend on resources to translate it into local languages. 3. Policy uptake and scaling. Long-term promotion of the Inclusive Mental Health and Care Policy Dashboard through the participation of national and regional institutions.

4. EQUICARES dissemination and communication plan (T6.1.) as well as Network of interest (T6.2.) created by EQUICARES will aid in disseminating and creating awareness of the policy dashboard.

IP protection measures	Attribution (CC BY) seems to be the best option as it allows others to distribute and display the work provided that they give appropriate credit. If the dashboard includes custom-developed software, then it will require a source code licensing as well such as MIT licensing that allows reuse with minimal restrictions under the condition that the original copyright and license must be included in all copies of the software.
-------------------------------	--

Table 28: Actions needed for the exploitation of the Inclusive Mental Health and Care Policy Dashboard

ACTION	WHAT?	BY WHOM?	WHEN?
Intellectual Property Rights	Choose and adopt the Attribution (CC BY) license as well as the software code license	SEERC, RUG, the Project Coordinator (WR) and the technical creators of the code and interface.	Early in the development phase
Testing, validation, and fine-tuning	1. Internal functioning testing 2. Pilot testing with target users. Conduct usability testing sessions with selected shareholders 3. Collect feedback and fine-tune 4. Launch	SEERC, RUG, Technical team	1. Before pilot launch 2. Mid-to-late implementation 3. After pilot feedback 4. M48
Ownership	Define and formalise ownership, access rights and future exploitation strategies regarding 1. the platform itself (code, infrastructure); 2. data indicators 3. The Atlas on Mental Health and Care Innovative Solutions; 4. the Policy Recommendations (see KER 9.)	The Project Coordinator (WR), the Inclusive Mental Health and Care Policy Dashboard developers and the data providers	Start of development - M24
Communication and dissemination	The Inclusive Mental Health and Care Policy Dashboard	SEERC, RUG, EQUICARES dissemination and communication plan (T6.1)	M48 and ongoing

6.10 KER 10. AI-based Assistant

Table 29: Exploitation plan for the AI-based Assistant

Brief Description	The AI-based Conversational Assistant is a software prototype developed to support individuals in vulnerable situations through personalised, evidence-based mental health interventions. Leveraging natural language processing (NLP) and adaptive algorithms, the Assistant engages users via a conversational interface to deliver guidance, coping strategies, and referrals to relevant services. The tool is designed to enhance user experience, promote early intervention, and increase access to care.
Creators and relevant background (if applicable)	The main partner responsible for this result is SQUARDEV
Intended users and expected benefits	Intended users and expected benefits: - Public health authorities and mental health service providers will use the Assistant to extend their digital reach and provide scalable support tools. - Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) focused on vulnerable populations will benefit from a low-barrier solution for mental health triage and guidance. - Citizens in vulnerable mental health situations will gain access to immediate, tailored self-help resources and directions to professional care, enhancing accessibility and mental health outcomes. - Researchers and developers may use the Assistant as a base for further developments in digital mental health innovation.
Intended exploitation route(s)	The Assistant will be exploited through: - Deployment in follow-up pilot or public health initiatives in collaboration with health authorities or NGOs. - Commercialisation through licensing agreements with healthcare providers and digital health platforms. - Use in future R&D projects to refine and adapt the Assistant for different populations or use cases. - The tool will be accessible through a dedicated web interface or via integration into partner platforms. Usage terms will vary based on licensing or project-specific agreements.
IP protection measures	The result is protected under copyright and trade secret provisions. The rationale is that the software code and NLP models are proprietary to SQUARDEV and will not be publicly disclosed. Licensing agreements will govern third-party access and reuse. Where applicable, trademarks for the Assistant's name or interface design may also be considered.

Table 30: Actions needed for the exploitation of the AI-based Assistant

ACTION	WHAT?	BY WHOM?	WHEN?
Intellectual Property Rights	Define IP ownership, register software assets under copyright, evaluate trademark for Assistant name.	SQUARDEV	M30–M48
Testing, validation, and fine-tuning	Finalise internal testing protocols, conduct usability tests with target users, fine-tune algorithms based on user feedback from the trial.	SQUARDEV	M28–M48
Ownership	Confirm background and foreground contributions, formalise ownership structure in Consortium IP registry.	SQUARDEV	M30
Communication and dissemination	Prepare targeted dissemination materials (briefs, demos, webinars); highlight Assistant benefits via conferences and sectoral networks.	SQUARDEV	M48

6.11 KER 11. Network of Interest (NoI)

Table 31: Exploitation plan for the Network of Interest (NoI)

Brief Description	The NoI is a multi-actor body of relevant experts (in mental health, care services, social economy, patient-centric technologies, health economic, etc.), providing with strategic guidance in key stages and extending the reach to target audiences. Its members support the replication and uptake of activities, by acting as project ambassadors who will inform and invite their networks to benefit from them.
Creators and relevant background (if applicable)	EASPD developed Terms of Reference to provide the basis for the activities of the Network of Interest. EASPD also developed specific criteria and the selection process to recruit the members of the Network of Interest. Partners are in charge of identifying stakeholders from their network (min. 5 members each partner) to take part in the Network of Interest, and who will be assessed against the specific criteria developed before being selected. Networks and associations partners (EHTEL, EUCOMS, DIESIS) contribute largely to the development of NoI by reaching out to their network members for recruitment.
Intended users and expected benefits	The NoI serves as a valuable resource for the EQUICARES project partners, providing access to a diverse pool of professionals and support for vulnerable populations. Consortium partners will be able to engage with NoI members at different stages of the project. These resources of professionals will still be useful for partners after the end of the project to the consortium organisation.
Intended exploitation route(s)	Its members play a pivotal role in: • Providing strategic guidance in key stages of the project. • Contributing to target audience outreach by leveraging their professional networks. • Disseminating information about the project and its outcomes. • Supporting the replication and uptake of activities and key deliverables, such as the Policy Dashboard, by acting as project ambassadors who inform and invite their networks to benefit from them.
IP protection measures	Publications, reports, or other contents that will be produced by the Network of Interest will be under open access.

Table 32: Actions needed for the exploitation of the Network of Interest (NoI)

ACTION	WHAT?	BY WHOM?	WHEN?
	Not directly applicable.		
Intellectual Property Rights	The NoI will produce strategic guidance, shared practices, and recommendations, but not patentable or proprietary content.	N/A	N/A
Testing, validation, and fine-tuning	This applies to how the NoI itself functions. The functioning and structure of the NoI will be adjusted based on feedback from members during its initial set up phase.	EASPD (as task leader), with support from all partners of the consortium.	From beginning of the project (M1) until the creation and launch of the NoI (M12)
Ownership	The NoI is coordinated by EASPD under the Equicares project.	EASPD	From the creation of the NoI until the end of the project (M12 - M48)
Communication and dissemination	Activities, findings, and opportunities of the NoI.	EASPD and communication WP Leader Q-PLAN, in cooperation with all the partners of the project.	From the creation of the NoI (M12) and ongoing; until the end of the project (M12), intensified towards the end of the project.

6.12 KER 12. EQUICARES Ethics Handbook

Table 33: Exploitation plan for the EQUICARES Ethics Handbook

Brief Description	The EQUICARES Ethics Handbook is a comprehensive internal guidance document developed to support ethical compliance across all project activities, particularly those involving people in vulnerable situations (PVS) and the development and deployment of the AI-based Assistant. It addresses regulatory, ethical, and gender considerations, provides practical templates (e.g. for ethical audits, informed consent), and aligns with EU and international frameworks such as the GDPR, the AI Act, and the Declaration of Helsinki.
Creators and relevant background (if applicable)	Main author: WR Contributors: SEERC, KU, FISEVI, LGBTQI, ZI, GIVMED, LADAPT, EHTEL, SQUAREDEV Reviewers: EAB and EA
Intended users and expected benefits	Primary users include EQUICARES partners (especially those involved in research, data collection, and pilot implementation), EAB members, and associated staff. The Handbook enables consistent adherence to ethical standards, helps partners navigate ethics approval processes, ensures responsible handling of sensitive data, and supports inclusive engagement with PVS. Secondary users may include external researchers or projects adopting similar approaches to digital health, AI, and community-based care.
Intended exploitation route(s)	• Internal use during the project lifecycle for ethical oversight and monitoring. • Inclusion in training materials and ethics briefings for consortium members. • Share with other EU-funded projects as a model for ethics oversight in multidisciplinary, cross-border mental health and AI projects. Potential adaptation as a policy or capacity-building tool for healthcare and research organisations seeking guidance on inclusive and rights-based ethical frameworks.
IP protection measures	The Handbook is a project deliverable and is not subject to commercial exploitation. No specific IP rights will be claimed. However, reuse will be encouraged under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike (CC BY-NC-SA) license, ensuring proper attribution while enabling adaptation and non-commercial use by other projects and institutions.

Table 34: Actions needed for the exploitation of the EQUICARES Ethics Handbook

ACTION	WHAT?	BY WHOM?	WHEN?
Intellectual Property Rights	Define and apply a Creative Commons license (CC BY-NC-SA) to enable non-commercial reuse.	WR	M12
Testing, validation, and fine-tuning	Collect feedback from pilot partners, the external Ethics Advisor and the Ethics Advisory Board on the application of the Handbook and revise accordingly.	WR, pilot partners, EA and EAB	M24
Ownership	Acknowledge WR as the lead author with contributions from the consortium partners, clarifying that it is a non-commercial public document.	WR	M24
Communication and dissemination	Share guidelines, lessons learnt and best practices of the Handbook through training sessions, targeted webinars, and recommendations to other EU projects.	WR, Q-PLAN	M24-48

6.13 KER 13. Validated Interview Guide and Survey on Meso-Level Barriers to Mental Health Access

Table 35: Exploitation plan for the Validated Interview Guide and Survey on Meso-Level Barriers to Mental Health Access

Brief Description	Task 1.4 resulted in a cross-country interview guide and survey instrument to assess meso-level barriers to mental health and care service access, particularly for people in vulnerable situations. The tools will be structured around the updated Levesque framework and enriched with national Health System indicators. These instruments enable the systematic collection of stakeholder and citizen insights on system-level accessibility gaps, offering comparable data across diverse European health systems. Findings have been triangulated with secondary datasets (e.g., EU-SILC, EHIS, MISSOC) to provide a multidimensional understanding of access barriers. The outputs of Task 1.4 will feed directly into EQUICARES' dashboard and policy briefs.
Creators and relevant background (if applicable)	EUR – Task leader; responsible for methodology development, literature review, tool design, data analysis, and coordination across pilot sites. Pilot partners – Provided national HSPA indicators, reviewed, translated and adapted the tools, and conducted local data collection. Background used: The Levesque et al. (2013) conceptual framework for healthcare access. Cu et al. (2021) scoping review on access barriers. National HSPA frameworks and EU-level datasets
Intended users and expected benefits	<u>Intended Users:</u> • Consortium Partners (especially WP1, WP2, WP5): To inform dashboard development, service evaluation, and policy recommendations. • Health Policy Makers and Public Authorities: To identify system-level barriers and monitor equity in mental health service provision. • Mental Health Service Providers and Care Networks: To understand user- and stakeholder-perceived shortcomings in service organization and delivery. • Researchers and Academics: To use validated tools and data for further research on health system equity and access. • Civil Society Organisations and Advocacy Groups: To support evidence-based advocacy for system change and inclusion of vulnerable populations. <u>Expected Benefits:</u> • Enhanced cross-country comparability of system-level accessibility challenges. • Practical tools that can be reused or adapted beyond the project's scope. • Better-informed policy decisions, grounded in both expert and end-user perspectives. • Strengthened capacity to monitor progress toward equitable mental health service access.

Intended exploitation route(s)	Exploitation Route(s) The key exploitable results from Task 1.4—namely the validated semi-structured interview guide, survey instrument, and cross-country dataset on meso-level access barriers—are intended for non-commercial exploitation and will be made available through the following routes: <u>Open Access Dissemination:</u> Tools (interview guide and survey) and key findings will be published via deliverables (e.g. D1.3). These resources will be freely accessible to enable broad reuse and adaptation. Exploitation in Future Research Projects: The tools and findings will serve as a foundation for future EU-funded or national research initiatives addressing health system equity, mental health service evaluation, or policy impact assessment. The tools will be free for use in future research, e.g. subsequent grant proposals (e.g., Horizon Europe). <u>Policy Uptake and Practice-Oriented Use:</u> Findings will be shared with national and EU-level health authorities and networks (e.g. WHO Europe, OECD, mental health observatories) via policy briefs, stakeholder workshops, and conference presentations. <u>Academic Publication:</u> Methodological and comparative insights will be submitted to peer-reviewed journals focused on public health, health policy, or mental health systems, ensuring rigorous scientific dissemination and visibility. <u>Protection Measures and Rationale:</u> The interview and survey instruments, as well as methodological guidelines, will be open access This ensures: Full accessibility to researchers, policymakers, and civil society actors Attribution to the EQUICARES consortium and task contributors. Flexibility to adapt and translate tools to other contexts.
IP protection measures	No Commercial IP Protection (e.g., patents or trademarks) is pursued, as the outputs are intended to support public benefit, equity-driven research, and policy development rather than commercial exploitation.

Table 36: Actions needed for the exploitation of the Validated Interview Guide and Survey on Meso-Level Barriers to Mental Health Access

ACTION	WHAT?	BY WHOM?	WHEN?
Intellectual Property Rights	Decide on licensing model (Creative Commons Attribution – CC BY) for open-access use.	WP1-WP9 leaders	M14-M18
Testing, validation, and fine-tuning	Validate tools through pilot site review, feedback loop, and cross-country interviews/surveys.	EUR, WP1, all pilot partners	M6–M10
Ownership	Interview guide & survey development for EQUICARES consortium (EUR as Task leader).	EUR, Coordinator (KU)	M14–M16
Communication and dissemination	Publish tools in peer reviewed journals; deliverable D1.3; present at events, share with stakeholders.	EUR, WP1, all pilot partners	M14–M18 and beyond

6.14 KER 14. Forecasting methodology and tools

Table 37: Exploitation plan for the forecasting methodology and tools

Brief Description	This KER will include the methodology, tools, and templates developed for forecasting mental health accessibility trends. These tools are built upon good practices from the literature and will provide an innovative, structured way to gather expert opinions and future insights. The know-how gained from creating these methodologies and tools will be shared freely within the scope of the project.
Creators and relevant background (if applicable)	Q-PLAN as leader of T1.3. Consortium partners will provide insights from their respective sectors to ensure that the Delphi methodology and tools reflect a multi-disciplinary approach to mental health accessibility and vulnerabilities. Background: The Delphi methodology and forecasting tools are based on established practices in foresight studies and multi-stakeholder engagement. These will be adapted for the mental health sector, ensuring they are effective in identifying barriers and future trends for vulnerable populations.
Intended users and expected benefits	Mental Health Experts and Policymakers: External stakeholders will benefit from the final Delphi survey findings. Future Research Projects: The developed tools and methodology can be adapted for use in future EU-funded research projects that focus on mental health or vulnerabilities (within the boundaries of the project scope).
Intended exploitation route(s)	<u>Internal Use:</u> The forecasting methodology and templates will be freely available for internal use within the project. <u>Training & Capacity Building:</u> Partners will have the opportunity to train others in the use of these tools and methodologies. <u>Open Access Dissemination:</u> The results of the Delphi exercise will be published and shared in open-access reports and academic publications, while the tools and methodology will be shared within the project consortium for use by the partners. <u>Commercial Exploitation (Restricted):</u> Should there be any commercial potential for these tools, methodology and documentation templates, explicit agreements would be required to use them outside the project scope.
IP protection measures	Copyright will be applied to the Delphi questionnaire. The methodology, tools, and documentation templates will be provided under a restricted license (CC BY-NC-ND) that permits free use only within the project scope. Commercial exploitation or use outside the project will require prior consent from Q-PLAN.

Table 38: Actions needed for the exploitation of the forecasting methodology and tools

ACTION	WHAT?	BY WHOM?	WHEN?
Intellectual Property Rights	Copyright the Delphi questionnaire, forecasting methodology, and tools/templates. Apply restricted use for internal project use only.	Q-PLAN	M3
Testing, validation, and fine-tuning	Fine-tune the Delphi questionnaire and tools with WP1 partners for feedback and adjustments.	WP1 partners	M6–M7
Ownership	Ownership of the Delphi questionnaire, forecasting methodology, and tools/templates lies with Q-PLAN.	Q-PLAN	M3-M15
Communication and dissemination	Disseminate the Delphi study findings via open access publications, policy briefs, and public reports. Share the methodology and tools within the project consortium.	Q-PLAN, in collaboration with all partners.	M15

7. Exploitation Plans per Partner

This section summarises, in tabular format, the assets of the EQUICARES project that each partner is currently interested in the most to exploit, as well as how they intend to proceed to this end.

Table 39: Individual exploitation plans per partner

WR	KER of main interest: KER 12. EQUICARES Ethics Handbook
Beyond the duration of the EQUICARES project, the Ethics Handbook will serve as a key reference in WR's ongoing work related to the ethical oversight of research and innovation projects, particularly those involving vulnerable populations and AI systems. WR plans to adapt and apply the structure, templates, and guiding principles of the Handbook in future projects—particularly in Horizon Europe calls focused on health equity, digital health, or responsible AI. The Handbook's modular format allows for easy customisation and reuse, making it a practical tool for supporting ethical design and implementation in similarly structured research contexts. In addition, WR intends to share relevant parts of the Handbook with partners and networks as part of ethics training or capacity-building activities, thereby extending its impact and supporting a culture of responsible and inclusive research practice.	
RUG	KERs of main interest: KER 2. Research datasets KER 6. Atlas on Mental Health and Care Innovative Solutions
RUG is mainly interested in exploiting the data collected as part of the project to investigate new methodological directions in social sciences, define and publish on them, as well as new insights into inequalities in mental health care access and innovation for vulnerable populations in different regions. All data will be used in an anonymised form and no revealing information will be published or shared outside of the organisation (team of involved RUG researchers) at any point. All resulting publications will be made publicly available for everyone to access.	
EUR	KER of main interest: KER 13. Validated Interview Guide and Survey on Meso-Level Barriers to Mental Health Access
EUR is particularly interested in exploiting KER 14. beyond the lifetime of the EQUICARES project. The validated interview guide and survey tool align closely with EUR's ongoing and future work in health systems research, mental health equity, and Health Technology Assessment (HTA) from a societal perspective. These instruments will directly support EUR's research agenda by enabling structured, cross-national comparisons of access barriers in vulnerable populations and by facilitating future EU and nationally funded studies on mental health system performance. Planned Exploitation: - Incorporate the tools in academic research projects focused on access, equity, and system performance in mental health care. - Use the instruments in future proposals, e.g. Horizon Europe, especially those addressing integrated care, underserved populations, or mental health system reform. - Publish papers in peer reviewed journals to disseminate knowledge in assessing (meso-level) access barriers in mental health care. Offer the tools to academic and public health collaborators (e.g., municipal health services, policy institutions) for local needs assessments or system evaluations.	
KU	KERs of main interest: KER 1. EQUICARES service assessment framework KER 2. Research Datasets KER 3. Smart Health Labs KER 4. MOOCs and Capacity-building Programmes

• **KER 9. Inclusive Mental Health and Care Policy Dashboard**

EQUICARES Service Assessment Framework (KU – Leading Partner)

This KER aligns directly with KU's research strengths in global public health, access to care, and mental health equity. It builds on KU's ongoing work to adapt frameworks like Levesque's for real-world settings, including disaster-affected and migrant populations. KU plans to apply the framework in national and international research projects, especially those focused on health systems strengthening and policy evaluation. It will also be integrated into graduate training programs in public and global health.

Research Datasets (RUG, EUR, KU, SEERC)

High-quality data on vulnerable groups in mental health is a gap in Türkiye and the region. These datasets complement KU's work in health disparities and health services research. KU aims to use these datasets for academic publications, policy briefs, and to inform future funding applications. They may also support student thesis work and research capacity-building initiatives.

Smart Health Labs (KU – Co-leading Partner)

The participatory and community-based structure of the Labs complements KU's commitment to co-production and implementation science. KU is interested in continuing the Smart Health Labs model in Türkiye and potentially other regions to inform service delivery innovations. These Labs will serve as sites for ongoing community-engaged research, teaching, and policy dialogue.

MOOCs and Capacity-building Programmes (GIVMED – Lead; KU – Interested Partner)

KU has experience with digital health education and sees these materials as valuable for both professional development and outreach in underserved communities. KU may localise and adapt select modules to integrate them into its continuing education offerings and academic curricula, particularly in global health, psychology, and health policy.

Inclusive Mental Health and Care Policy Dashboard (SEERC – Lead)

The Dashboard fits well with KU's interest in knowledge translation and digital tools that support evidence-informed decision-making. KU plans to use the Dashboard as a teaching and policy engagement tool, and possibly as a model for localised adaptations in Türkiye or in other cross-country comparisons.

SEERC

KERs of main interest:

- **KER 3. Smart Health Labs**
- **KER 5. Citizen Science based activities**
- **KER 8. Policy Recommendations**
- **KER 9. Inclusive Mental Health and Care Policy Dashboard**

SEERC aims to support the stable and smooth development of South-East Europe communities via conducting multidisciplinary research in various fields including Society & Human Development. SEERC has been involved in many projects that aim to increase inclusion, well-being and mental health outcomes of various populations in the local community.

One of SEERC's objectives is also to conduct and promote cutting-edge and innovative solutions, therefore the report of Smart Health Labs implementation aligns greatly with the institution goals.

Our health promotion and Citizen Science initiatives will increase general awareness of healthcare services, enabling citizens to actively maintain their well-being and improve digital and health literacy, offering them necessary skills to navigate the healthcare system, understand health-related information, and interact with providers.

Ensuring that our innovative solutions for improving access to mental health services are not just evidence-based (from a scientific viewpoint) but also respond to real unmet needs, we deploy Citizen Science projects. As we directly involve people in vulnerable situations as main actors of these projects, we are able to generate innovative solutions in the Labs that have high acceptability chances precisely because they are based on research activities carried out by their intended testers. Essentially, by leveraging Citizen Science principles, we transform disadvantaged people to co-creators of innovative solutions in mental healthcare accessibility.

SEERC has a focus on policy research, social inclusion and public health in the South -East Europe. EQUICARES Policy Recommendations align with SEERC's aim of influencing regional policymaking. Policy recommendations

will be integrated into SEERC ongoing policy and social research initiative in the Balkans. They will also be used in policy dialogues with regional actors in Greece and Regional countries. The user-friendly communication formats can also be used improve science to policy communication through SEERC's network of policy makers, academia and civil society.

SEERC has a focus on policy research, social inclusion and public health in the South -East Europe so the exploitation planning could include the following:

1. Continued use as a policy support tool by positioning the dashboard as a reference tool for national stakeholders in Greece. Communicate with the Ministry of Health for service gaps and solutions for challenges.
2. Regional expansion. Potentially scale up new databases within the Balkan area, exploiting established partnerships in the Southeast area of Europe.

Training and public engagement. Launch workshops and seminars for local administrations and NGOs.

GIVMED	KERs of main interest: • KER 3. Smart Health Labs • KER 4. MOOCs and Capacity-building programmes
---------------	---

Smart Health Labs

- i. Build connections and network with people from vulnerable groups and NGO health care providers and strategize to employ those connections to offer services, educational opportunities and develop policy proposals through future projects. Specifically, this will allow us to cooperate with the aforementioned groups to lead impactful initiatives.
- i. The impact achieved will enable GIVMED to receive support from foundations and companies to secure financial sustainability to build and implement impactful projects in the realms of mental health.

MOOCs and Capacity-Building Programmes

GIVMED aims to exploit the developed MOOCs to reach individuals interested in better understanding inequalities in access to mental health care services. By promoting health and digital literacy through capacity-building initiatives, the project's impact will extend beyond its formal duration as the material could be integrated into potential training opportunities that will benefit people in upcoming projects, thus creating lasting value for the society.

GIVMED team will strengthen its skills to participate in and lead capacity building initiatives through the experience of designing and implementing this task. Capacity Building is key for the sustainable development of GIVMED's future projects and collaborations. Therefore, GIVMED can integrate the acquired knowledge in the context of EU-funded as well as national, educational, advocacy and service-providing projects.

AMALIPE	KERs of main interest: • KER 4. MOOCs and Capacity-building programmes • KER 9. Inclusive Mental Health and Care Policy Dashboard • KER 10. AI-based Assistant
----------------	---

Our main interest is to establish Smart Health Labs in Pavlikeni and Strazhica municipalities where we have worked with Roma local communities as well as with schools, educational and healthcare institutions. Developing Smart Health Labs will strengthen our job there. In addition, we will help local communities, especially Roma and other vulnerable groups to receive the necessary health and mental health services.

At the same time, we can contribute/provide help in preparing three other KER:

- MOOCs and Capacity-building programmes: We have a lot of experience in preparing and delivering training packages.
- Inclusive Mental Health and Care Policy Dashboard: We can provide field work information about the inequalities in Roma communities.
- AI-based Assistant: It is a good tool that preserves the anonymity of the victims and that is very popular among young people.

LADAPT	KER of main interest: • KER 3. Smart Health Labs
---------------	---

One of the main KERs of interest to LADAPT is the creation and implementation of the Smart Health Lab in Normandy. This initiative aligns closely with our mission to improve access to health and inclusion for persons in vulnerable situations, particularly persons with disabilities. If the impact of this lab is positive, we plan to continue beyond the end of the project, operating and developing the lab as a space for co-creation, innovation, and collaboration in mental health services.

Furthermore, engaging in strategic networking with stakeholders will support the co-development of collaborative services, the creation of educational opportunities, and the formulation of policy recommendations for future initiatives.

LGBTI	KER of main interest: KER 3. Smart Health Labs
--------------	---

LGBT Ireland are keen to increase the understanding of the Mental Health Support needs of the LGBTQI+ community. Smart Health Labs will assist in identifying needs and solutions as well as providing a dynamic source of information to keep relevant stakeholders and policy makers up to date on community needs.

FISEVI	KERs of main interest: • KER 1. EQUICARES service assessment framework • KER 2. Research datasets • KER 3. Smart Health Labs • KER 4. MOOCs and Capacity-building programmes • KER 5. Citizen Science-based activities • KER 6. Atlas on Mental Health and Care: Innovative solutions • KER 7. Replication Handbook • KER 8. EQUICARES Policy Recommendations • KER 9. Inclusive Mental Health and Care Policy Dashboard • KER 10. AI-based Assistant • KER 11. Network Of Interest
---------------	---

FISEVI is especially interested in leveraging the data collected through the project to explore new methodological approaches and produce both academic and practice-oriented outputs. These include peer-reviewed articles, PhD dissertations, and actionable insights to improve the design and delivery of equitable and innovative mental health services for vulnerable populations in Spain.

Beyond academic use, the findings will inform real-world practices, supporting evidence-based decision-making in healthcare systems and community programmes aimed at addressing mental health disparities.

All data will be used in anonymised form, in full compliance with data protection regulations, and will not be shared outside the FISEVI research team.

All resulting publications and practical materials will be made openly accessible to maximise impact and knowledge transfer.

ZI	KERs of main interest: • KER 1. EQUICARES service assessment framework • KER 2. Research datasets • KER 3. Smart Health Labs • KER 5. Citizen Science-based activities
-----------	---

As a provider of mental health services, ZI will use the KER to develop new or adapted care practices and design RCTs to test them in clinical practice. In addition, networking with stakeholders will be strategic to provide collaborative services and educational opportunities and to develop policy proposals for future projects.

ZI is also interested in using the data collected through the project to explore new methodological approaches and produce both scientific and practice-oriented results. This includes peer-reviewed articles, dissertations and actionable findings to improve the design and delivery of equitable and innovative mental health services for vulnerable populations in Germany. All resulting publications and practical materials are made publicly available to maximise impact and knowledge transfer.

Q-PLAN	KERs of main interest: • KER 1. EQUICARES service assessment framework • KER 4. MOOCs and Capacity-building programmes
---------------	--

- KER 5. Citizen Science-based activities
- KER 8. EQUICARES Policy Recommendations
- KER 11. Network Of Interest
- KER14. Forecasting methodology and tools

EQUICARES Service Assessment Framework

Q-PLAN will support the dissemination and mainstreaming of the framework as a strategic tool for service design and assessment in policy and health system innovation. We plan to integrate the framework into future proposals and consulting work targeting public health modernization and evaluation schemes, especially where equity and access in care are key themes.

MOOCs and Capacity-Building Programmes

Q-PLAN will leverage these learning materials in our capacity-building portfolio and explore opportunities to integrate MOOC elements into national and EU-level trainings. Q-PLAN will also contribute to the promotion and stakeholder targeting strategy to maximize reach and uptake.

Citizen Science-Based Activities

Q-PLAN will use these methodologies to enhance community-led innovation strategies in future projects and consulting assignments. We will support their packaging into toolkits or case studies and highlight them as examples of inclusive engagement and social innovation.

EQUICARES Policy Recommendations

These recommendations will be vital in Q-PLAN's efforts to influence decision-makers and public bodies. Q-PLAN will actively disseminate these through policy briefs, roundtables, and stakeholder events, and will explore their integration into regional policy advocacy initiatives and European policy dialogues.

Network of Interest (NoI)

Q-PLAN intends to help maintain and grow the NoI beyond the project's duration, ensuring that it becomes a strategic asset for replication, collaboration, and new project generation. Q-PLAN will host and facilitate networking sessions, promote cross-sectoral engagement, and keep members actively involved in future initiatives.

Forecasting methodology and tools

We plan to integrate the Methodology and Tools for Mental Health Forecasting into our consulting services for forecasting mental health service needs. The methodology will also support policy advocacy and future research projects. We will ensure the tools are protected by copyright and database rights, with restricted use outside the project scope unless licensed.

JIGSAW

KERs of main interest:

- KER1: EQUICARES Service Assessment Framework
- KER3: Smart Health Labs
- KER4: MOOCs and Capacity-building Programmes
- KER8: EQUICARES Policy Recommendations

EQUICARES Service Assessment Framework

JIGSAW plans to leverage the updated Levesque Framework to develop research which examines the barriers to accessing mental health services for vulnerable populations. We have begun to use this framework in our day-to-day evaluation work & other research studies & this will help us advocate for more effective and tailored early intervention strategies for youth facing mental health challenges.

Smart Health Labs

Through our research we aim to inform the establishment of Smart Health Labs, focusing on co-creating innovative solutions in youth mental healthcare. The labs will provide a platform for our youth-centred approach to mental health, where young people can be active participants in shaping services that meet their unique needs. This also fits well with our existing programs promoting innovation in mental health care access.

MOOCs and Capacity-building Programmes

The pan-European MOOC programme, which includes courses on digital and mental health literacy, is critical for our ongoing capacity-building initiatives. By engaging youth and professionals in understanding mental health, self-care, and digital health tools, JIGSAW can enhance its educational efforts to equip young people and stakeholders with the skills to address mental health concerns effectively.

EQUICARES Policy Recommendations

JIGSAW will use the policy recommendations generated from pilot activities to inform our advocacy efforts and promote youth-focused policy reforms. By contributing to and leveraging the EU-wide framework and site-specific briefs, we aim to push for systemic changes that improve mental health services for young people in vulnerable situations.

EHTEL	KERs of main interest: • KER 1 EQUICARES service assessment framework • KER 3 Smart Health Labs • KER 4 MOOC / capacity building activities • KER 5 Citizen science-based activities • KER 6 Atlas on Mental Health and Care Innovative Solutions • KER 7 EQUICARES Policy Recommendations • KER 9 Inclusive Mental Health and Care Policy Dashboard • KER 11 Network of Interest
--------------	---

EHTEL's main KER, the Replication Handbook, will heavily build on WP2's Atlas of existing services across Europe as well as on T 3.3 Capacity Building Activities.

In addition, in close collaboration with other Equicares WP and task leaders, EHTEL is prepared to explore KER related to frameworks, methodologies, expert networks, and actionable recommendations for policymakers.

DIESIS	KERs of main interest: • KER 2. Research dataset • KER 3. Smart Health Labs • KER 4. MOOCs and Capacity-building programmes • KER 5. Citizen Science-based activities • KER 7. Atlas on Mental Health and Care Innovative Solutions • KER 8. EQUICARES Policy Recommendations
---------------	---

Research datasets

The research datasets on mental health inequalities and barriers to accessibility will be leveraged in DIESIS Network, including its members, consultancy and policy work. Access to detailed, evidence-based insights will allow DIESIS to guide social economy organisations (SEOs) in designing inclusive mental health services tailored to vulnerable populations.

Smart Health Labs

DIESIS will support the replication and sustainability of Smart Health Labs by identifying social economy-driven models for mental healthcare and connecting SEOs to the labs embedding innovative, community-led models of care into local systems and reinforce co-design processes grounded in social innovation.

Citizen Science-based activities

The Citizen Science pilots present an opportunity to promote participatory approaches within the social economy ecosystem. These methods are intended to be disseminated and replicated across relevant networks, encouraging local stakeholders to adopt citizen-driven models in addressing mental health challenges at the community level.

MOOCs and Capacity-building programmes

The training modules offer practical knowledge and tools to improve community-based mental health responses. These materials can be integrated into DIESIS' capacity-building activities aimed at SEOs. By promoting the use of these modules, DIESIS will support the development of competences among practitioners, social entrepreneurs, and intermediaries working in mental health care.

Atlas on Mental Health and Care Innovative Solutions

The Atlas represents a valuable resource for advisory services and policy development within the social economy sector. It will be used to promote best practices and scalable innovations in mental health care, thereby strengthening support for member organisations and initiatives focused on implementing effective, evidence-based solutions.

Policy Recommendations

The Policy Recommendations developed in EQUICARES provide evidence-informed recommendations relevant to mental health systems and social innovation. DIESIS can contribute to the dissemination and contextualisation

of these briefs through its policy advocacy work and network of social economy stakeholders, enhancing their visibility and potential uptake in national and local policy dialogues.

EUCOMS	KERs of main interest: • KER 1. EQUICARES Service Assessment Framework • KER 4. MOOCs and Capacity-building Programmes • KER 9. Inclusive Mental Health and Care Policy Dashboard
--------	--

EQUICARES Service Assessment Framework

As WP4 leader, EUCOMS will use the updated Levesque framework to assess the quality and accessibility of mental health services in the pilot areas. This will be key in co-designing solutions that improve delivery service and meet the needs of individuals in vulnerable situations across Europe.

MOOCs and Capacity-building Programmes

EUCOMS plans to incorporate the self-paced modules into our existing training platforms for service providers, policymakers, and community members, ensuring a broad uptake of the essential mental health skills that can be translated into practice.

Inclusive Mental Health and Care Policy Dashboard

The Policy Dashboard will be a vital tool for EUCOMS, enabling us to monitor and assess disparities in mental health service accessibility. We will use this platform to generate actionable insights, which can inform policy decisions and advocacy efforts aimed at ensuring equitable access to mental healthcare services.

EASPD	KER of main interest: • KER 11. Network of Interest (NoI)
-------	--

The NoI supports EASPD's efforts to equip service providers with practical instruments for improving service accessibility as well as to advocate for policy change.

In addition, the Network of Interest will significantly expand EASPD's professional network by fostering connections with a wide range of experts and stakeholders from different sectors, including academia, healthcare, civil society, and public administration. These relationships will continue to be valuable beyond the lifetime of the EQUICARES project. EASPD intends to maintain contact with these professionals and engage them in future initiatives.

SQUAR	KER of main interest: • KER 11. AI-based Assistant
-------	---

SQUARDEV considers KER 11. a strategic asset aligned with its core mission to develop AI-driven digital health solutions. The Assistant integrates key capabilities from our existing AI platform (e.g., NLP, agentic reasoning, privacy-aware architecture) and offers an opportunity to expand our portfolio into the mental health domain.

Beyond the end of the grant, SQUARDEV plans to exploit KER 11. through two main avenues:

1. Commercialisation:

The Assistant will be adapted into a market-ready product, integrated as a module within our existing digital health platform. It will be offered to healthcare providers, NGOs, and public health authorities under tailored licensing agreements. This aligns with SQUARDEV roadmap to scale into socially impactful AI solutions that address mental health gaps in underserved populations.

2. Further R&D: SQUARDEV will leverage KER 11. in follow-up projects, particularly within the EU health innovation ecosystem, to refine the Assistant's capabilities, extend language and demographic coverage, and integrate it with existing eHealth infrastructures. The aim is to maintain a leading position in AI-assisted preventive care tools.

8. Conclusions

This initial version of the Exploitation and Sustainability Plan has highlighted the main principles of the project's strategy, methodology and tools for IP management, as these have been adjusted, adopted, and applied within the framework of EQUICARES. More importantly, the report presented the results from their application in practice, reflecting the work of the partners so far in terms of assessing the exploitability of the project's results, identifying Key Exploitable Results (KERs), defining their owners, and eventually planning the way towards their exploitation.

Along these lines, this deliverable also provided an overview of the project's Background and Key Exploitable Results as they have been identified by the partners. A plan for each KER has been crafted and reflected within this version of the report, including exploitation routes and concrete actions towards this end. From this point forward, partners are expected to further develop and maximise their exploitation plans—both for each KER and at the individual partner level.

Future updates of the Exploitation and Sustainability Plan v1 will be presented in subsequent updates in M24 (v2) and M48 (v3).



COMMUNITY-DRIVEN INCLUSIVE, EQUITABLE,
MENTAL HEALTHCARE ACCESS

GA 101156500

PARTNERS



university of
 groningen

Erasmus School of
Health Policy
& Management



KOC
ÜNİVERSİTESİ



SOUTH-EAST
EUROPEAN
RESEARCH
CENTRE



GIVMED
Share medicine Share life



AMALIPE
Center For Interethnic Dialogue
and Tolerance



LGBT
IRELAND | For Inclusion
For Equality
For Everyone



Fisevi

Fundación para la Gestión de
la Investigación en Salud
de Sevilla



Zentralinstitut
für Seelische
Gesundheit



Q-PLAN
INTERNATIONAL

JIGSAW

Young people's
health in mind



Collaborating for Digital Health and Care in Europe



European Association of Service providers
for Persons with Disabilities



SQUAREDEV



equicares

Funded by the European Union. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Health and Digital Executive Agency (HADEA). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.



Funded by
the European Union