

Healthcare Enterprises
and Research Alliance for
Collaboration, Learning,
and Exploitation of AI-
driven business Solutions



Interreg



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the European Union

NEXT MED

HERACLES

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FIRST ISSUE



Welcome to the HERACLES newsletter!



HERACLES Partnership

- University of Bari Aldo Moro
- National and Kapodistrian University of Athens
- University of Ioannina
- University of Huelva
- Lebanese University
- Business Incubation Association in Tripoli
- Centre of Biotechnology of Sfax



From research to real-world healthcare innovation

Across the Mediterranean, research, technology and healthcare are increasingly called to work together to anticipate future health challenges. This is the vision behind HERACLES, a project co-funded by the Interreg NEXT MED Programme, which aims to turn scientific knowledge, health data and advanced technologies into concrete solutions for predictive medicine, crisis preparedness and more effective healthcare decision-making.

A shared ecosystem for better health solutions

HERACLES brings together a wide ecosystem of actors, including **researchers, SMEs, healthcare professionals, innovation stakeholders** and, ultimately, **citizens and patients**. Through the creation of a Transnational Network, the project provides a shared space for dialogue, knowledge exchange and cooperation across the Mediterranean. By connecting scientific expertise, technological capacity and real healthcare needs, the Network aims to support the transfer of AI-based solutions from research to experimentation and, in perspective, to practical application in healthcare contexts. SMEs play a central role in this process, as key drivers of innovation and essential partners in bringing advanced solutions closer to healthcare systems.

Bridging the gap between ideas and care

Healthcare systems are facing increasingly complex challenges, from emerging health risks to the need for faster, data-driven and reliable decision-making. At the same time, many research results and AI-based innovations still struggle to move from laboratories to real healthcare settings. HERACLES responds to this gap by promoting dialogue, experimentation and knowledge transfer among key innovation actors.



HERACLES Technical Activities and progress

During the first months of activities, the partners maintained an ongoing dialogue through several **technical meetings** aimed at coordinating work and advancing project activities. The partnership worked on defining the project roadmap, starting from **real clinical needs** and the **business context** of the areas involved. This exchange also helped shape the project pilot, designed to create concrete synergies between the business world and the research sector. The continuous dialogue laid the foundations for a **transnational network**, bringing together different skills, experiences, and perspectives.

The Project is Moving: First Activities and New Research

On **11 and 12 February 2026**, the partners of the HERACLES project met in Bari for the **Kick-Off Meeting**, officially launching the project activities. The two days offered a valuable opportunity to get to know each other, exchange views, and share ideas and expectations for the future of the project. Partners presented their expertise, discussed common objectives, and defined the first operational steps, roles, and upcoming activities. The open and collaborative exchange helped create a positive and participatory atmosphere, essential for successfully addressing the project's challenges.





WHAT COMES NEXT

HERACLES' next steps towards AI-driven health innovation



Transnational Network Research

In the next phase, HERACLES will focus on the concrete implementation of its core activities.

The project will work on the creation of a **Transnational Research Network**, connecting universities, research centres, SMEs, start-ups and healthcare actors across the Mediterranean.

Training, seminars and innovation events

Partners will also map clinical needs and innovation opportunities, develop a digital knowledge exchange platform, and start working on AI-driven healthcare pilot solutions.

Training activities, seminars, innovation events and exchanges will support researchers and enterprises in **transforming scientific knowledge into practical solutions** for predictive medicine and digital health.

DIFFERENT PARTNERS, ONE SHARED VISION



University of Bari Aldo Moro (LEAD BENEFICIARY, ITALY)

Public university founded in 1925, it coordinates the HERACLES project by providing consolidated interdisciplinary expertise and long-standing experience in European cooperation in the fields of medicine, economics and computer science.



National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (PARTNER BENEFICIARY, GREECE)

NKUA is one of Greece's leading public universities, covering a wide range of scientific fields and promoting excellence in research and innovation through strong academic expertise and advanced research infrastructure.



University of Ioannina (PARTNER BENEFICIARY, GREECE)

The Department of Economics of the University of Ioannina, through LABED, brings expertise in business economics, decision-making and innovation-oriented research, supporting knowledge transfer, capacity building and the valorisation of research results.

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University of Huelva

(PARTNER BENEFICIARY, SPAIN)

The University of Huelva is a dynamic higher education and research institution in Spain, with strong experience in regional, national and international projects and expertise in health sciences and research transfer.



Lebanese University

(PARTNER BENEFICIARY, LEBANON)

The Lebanese University (LU), established in 1951, is Lebanon's only public university, with strong expertise in education, research and community service across public health, medical sciences, computer science, business and economics.



Business Incubation Association in Tripoli

(PARTNER BENEFICIARY, LEBANON)

The Business Incubation Association in Tripoli (BIAT) supports MSMEs and entrepreneurs in Lebanon, fostering business development, innovation and job creation through incubation services and market-oriented support.



Centre of Biotechnology of Sfax

(PARTNER BENEFICIARY, TUNISIA)

CBS is a leading biotechnology research centre in Tunisia and Africa, combining scientific excellence and technology transfer to support innovation in health, agriculture, industry, and the environment.



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