

Strengthening cardiovascular care resilience for healthier hearts: The RESIL-Card project



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The devastating consequences of disrupted CV care were highlighted during the COVID-19 pandemic where a substantial decline in life-saving interventions is likely to have increased deaths and long-term complications, with a considerable economic impact.

Prompted by concerns over the disruption of CV care continuity, PCR joined with 'Stent – Save a Life!' to launch 'We CARE' in May 2021. We CARE's remit is to support all stakeholders in the CVD field to sustainably deliver effective and timely CV care, whatever the circumstances.

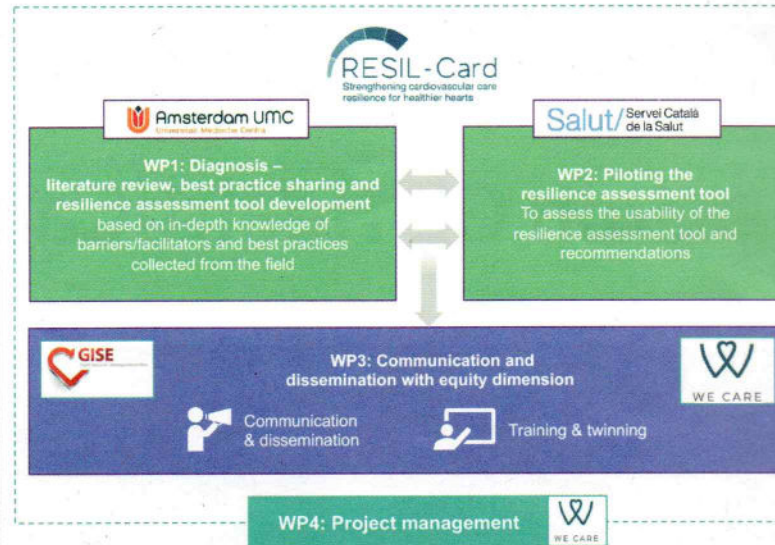
A key aim of We CARE is to learn important lessons and help to build more resilient healthcare systems that can withstand future challenging situations. We CARE, in partnership with the Italian Society of Interventional Cardiology, GISE, with public health experts from Amsterdam UMC and with the Catalan Health Service, CatSalut, formed a consortium and launched the RESIL-Card project in December 2023. Co-funded by the EU4Health programme, the 3-year RESIL-Card project aims to develop and implement a groundbreaking resilience assessment toolkit to be applied to European CV care systems. The main objectives are to:

- Identify and document major gaps/barriers, good practices and lessons learned from the pandemic regarding CVD care efficiency and resilience in times of crises.

- Develop a resilience assessment toolkit to support local and regional processes and minimum requirements for resilience.
- Make recommendations and contribute to guideline development for improved care pathways to enhance communication between all patient care levels and between HCPs, patients and their families.
- Empower EU Member States and policymakers to provide patients and healthcare systems with protocols, monitoring tools and awareness engines that ensure actionable measures in a variety of scenarios.
- Mobilise and engage all relevant stakeholders in piloting a set of recommendations across sites where pandemic preparedness levels differ.
- Reduce inequalities with respect to awareness, accessibility and inclusion in care pathways by integrating underrepresented and marginalised social groups.

The project is supported by the expertise of Ireland's National Institute for Prevention and Cardiovascular Health, Italy's Cittadinanzattiva, the Global Heart Hub and Europa Group. An Advisory Board is made up of members of Women as One, the EAPCI's NAP committee, the European Emergency Medical Services Leadership Network, the GISE Foundation, as well as interventional cardiologists from Ukraine.

RESIL-Card comprises four interlinking work packages (WP). WP1, led by Amsterdam UMC, involves developing the resilience assessment tool using a bottom-up approach. Development will be based on diagnosis of continuity of care issues, including a scoping literature review, a large-scale survey of HCPs and the feedback of focus groups, with multiple stakeholders involved in discussing key barriers/facilitators



and best clinical practices. The consortium welcomes the support of the PCR community to collect their pandemic experiences, particularly regarding disruptions of CV care pathways, innovative practices and solutions implemented to maintain continuity.

In WP2, the resilience assessment tool will be pilot tested by CV HCPs and institutions from Spain (Catalonia) and Italy. Leading this phase, CatSalut will initially define a set of performance indicators to enable assessment of the tool's applicability and usability. After first-stage pilot testing, feedback will be collected, with the aim to adapt and refine the tool before its official launch.

Co-leading WP3 – the communication and dissemination strategy – GISE and We CARE will encourage widespread adoption of the tool and recommended standards among the interventional cardiology community thanks to their respective networks. A national twinning approach will be used to foster broad implementation. Efforts will also include engaging with patient organisations to develop communication materials aimed at improving awareness and health

Calling all 27 European Member States and Ukraine participants, provide your pandemic insights by completing this survey:



literacy among patients and the public. Workshops will be held with non-governmental organisations and collaborations will be enhanced with the European Joint Action on Cardiovascular Diseases and Diabetes. We CARE will oversee project coordination as part of WP 4.

Through collaboration, innovation and a commitment to excellence, the project aims to future-proof CV care across the continent. **Want to support RESIL-Card while also helping your own CV health?** EuroPCR participants can take part in the CardioLeague initiative by scanning the QR code below – each step you make will contribute to a funding pot to support further communication activities, aiming to foster greater adoption and public awareness.



**COUNT YOUR STEPS
FOR A GOOD CAUSE!**

Join the CardioLeague and convert your movement into positive impact!

Together, we'll foster a healthier community, and

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