

ERICA Consortium

The ERICA consortium consists of 29 partners, amongst which all 24 ERNs, EURORDIS, the EJP RD, Orphanet, Mapi Trust Research, and EATRIS.

WP5 Translation and Innovation – Objectives

1. *Capacity building*
Assisting the ERN community in understanding the process of translation, as well as a good overview of the organizations and resources available to them to perform effective translation;
2. *Strategy forming*
Taking the ERN community beyond the state of the art in their ability to collaborate across sectors and borders; and to identify future areas of innovative potential.

5.4. Innovation Expert working Group (IEWG)

- Create an innovation roadmap and strategic plan
- Through mapping of educational and research needs amongst ERNs and the organization of educational webinars and innovation workshops.

European Rare Disease Research Coordination and Support Action (ERICA)

ERICA has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme. The aim of ERICA project, in which all 24 European Reference Networks (ERNs) take part, is to build on the strength of the individual ERNs and create a platform that integrates all ERNs research and innovation capacity.

Work Package (WP) 5 - Translation and Innovation

WP 5 aims to support the process of translating the discoveries made in the clinic and laboratory into new diagnostic and therapeutic interventions for rare diseases. This process is highly complex, costly and time-consuming, with high failure rates. Successful translation requires both interdisciplinary and inter-sectoral collaboration, as well as access to cutting edge analytical technologies, preclinical models and assays, and bio-samples and data. In light of foregoing, WP5 has as its objective to support the ERNs' collective ability to develop knowledge into patient benefit by setting up an Innovation Expert Working Group.

Innovation Expert Working Group (IEWG)

We have reached out to all ERNs with a request to nominate experts in innovation and translation processes within their networks to join our Innovation Expert Working Group. The IEWG will work closely with, and be advised by ERICA Innovation Advisory Board, consisting of external stakeholders from industry and biotech. The IEWG will operate for the lifetime of ERICA, and report to the General Assembly. We foresee the IEWG to meet ca. 3 times per year, of which one of the meetings should be face to face. IEWG representatives would not be expected to do a large amount of work outside of meetings but would be expected to contribute/edit occasional documents (white papers, manuscripts) as part of the output.

IEWG remit

The IEWG remit will be to define an innovation roadmap for a 5-year strategic plan for ERN innovation capacity, and sketch principles in the area of contracting, public/private collaboration and intellectual property. The IEWG will also act as a horizon scanner, identifying areas of strategic interest for the ERN community that should be discussed and a joint position/activities developed.

Working methods

The main task of the IEWG is to create a roadmap and strategic plan for accelerating innovation and translation processes in ERNs. IEWG will deliver this through mapping of educational and research needs amongst ERNs (survey recently held) as well as by organizing educational webinars and innovation workshops. At the first IEWG kick-off meeting (Feb 2022), we will discuss the outcome of the survey to help cluster and prioritize the main bottlenecks, showcase success stories, and identify potential solutions to support ERNs in bringing innovations closer to the patient.