

D7.3 Stakeholders engagement events report

February, 2023

Author: Covadonga Rayón Barcelona and Chiara Davalli - EBN



Document Control Sheet

Grant agreement number	872873
Project acronym	CHERRIES
Project website	www.cherries2020.eu
Deliverable number	D7.3
Work package number	WP7
Lead	EBN
Nature	Report
Dissemination level	Public
Delivery date	20/02/2023
Author(s) Email	Covadonga.Rayon@ebn.eu ; Chiara.Davalli@ebn.eu
Project Coordinator	ZSI
Executive summary	The following document presents the 25 events (online and in-person) organised by CHERRIES partners to communicate project opportunities, activities and results at regional and European level.



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement n° 872873. This document reflects only the author's view and the Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information it contains.

Versioning & Contribution History

Version	Date	Author/Editor	Contributors	Comments
1	07/12/2021	Covadonga Rayón		
2	27/12/2023	Chiara Davalli		
3	03/02/2023	Chiara Davalli		
4	15/02/2023	Chiara Davalli	ZSI, CEEIM, Orebro Lan, CyRIC	
5 (final)	19/02/2023	Chiara Davalli		

Document last saved on 19/02/2023

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	3
1. Stakeholders' engagement	4
2. CHERRIES Call & Community Webinars	7
2.1 CHERRIES Webinar Series 2020 Exploring Responsible Healthcare Ecosystems in Europe	7
Webinar Series 2020 overview	8
Webinar series 2020 highlights	8
2.2 CHERRIES WEBINAR Open Calls for Solutions in Murcia, Cyprus and Örebro	9
2.3 CHERRIES Webinar Series 2021 Shaping Responsible Healthcare Ecosystems in Europe	10
Webinar Series 2021 overview	11
Webinar series 2021 highlights	12
3. CHERRIES Territorial Workshops	13
3.1 CHERRIES Cyprus Territorial Workshops	13
Call for Needs	13
Call for Solutions.....	14
Results of the regional pilot	14
3.2 CHERRIES Murcia Territorial Workshops.....	15
Call for Needs	15
Call for Solutions.....	16
Results of the regional pilot	16
3.3 CHERRIES Örebro Territorial Workshops	17
Call for Needs	17
Call for Solutions.....	17
Results of the regional pilot	18
4. EU Workshop(s)	19
4.1 CHERRIES at EBN congress 2020 "Mission-driven health-ecosystems– From Abstract Responsible, Research and Innovation Practices to Concrete Business Action"	19
4.2 CHERRIES at EBN Congress 2021 "Emergent Futures"	20

4.3 CHERRIES workshop at European Week of Regions and Cities 2022 “Shaping the Next Generation of Regional Innovation Policies: Open, Responsible and Inclusive”	21
5. CHERRIES Mutual Learning Events	23
5.1 CHERRIES General Assembly in Nicosia, Republic of Cyprus 04-05 November 2021.....	23
5.2 CHERRIES Workshop at the Conference on the Future of Europe “Every voice counts. The role of citizens in shaping European R&I”	24
5.3 CHERRIES Community Event in Brussels, Belgium 24 May 2022.....	27
CHERRIES Mutual Learning Workshops for the Mirror Regions	28
CHERRIES Mutual Learning Workshops on Culture Management Change	29
5.4 CHERRIES General Assembly in Cartagena, Spain 08-09 November 2022.....	29
6. Other Events	31
CHERRIES Partners.....	34

Executive Summary

The following report presents a series of online and in person events held by CHERRIES partners over the project lifetime, addressing either territorial or European audiences.

These events aimed to mobilise and involve different stakeholder groups throughout the project implementation phases.

CHERRIES main events can be clustered as follows:

- **CHERRIES call and community webinars:** webinars organised to first promote the 3 territorial calls for solution to a wider EU audience, and then present main outcomes and results of the 3 territorial pilots and grow the CHERRIES community.
 - CHERRIES webinar series 2020
 - CHERRIES webinar March 2021
 - CHERRIES webinar series 2021
- **CHERRIES Territorial Workshops:** workshops organised in each pilot territory by local partner organisations to launch the territorial call for needs, to promote the call for solutions aiming at attracting potential applicants, and to present the final outcomes of the experimentation phase to territorial R&I actors.
 - CHERRIES Territorial Workshops in Cyprus
 - CHERRIES Territorial Workshops in Murcia
 - CHERRIES Territorial Workshops in Örebro
- **CHERRIES European Workshop(s):** to present to a European audience the CHERRIES methodology and some concrete examples of its application in the 3 pilot territories. The workshops addressed European R&I actors from different sectors to discuss adaptability and scalability of the methodology to other geographical and sectoral contexts. The workshops run in the framework of wide European events like the EBN annual congresses and the European Week of Regions.
 - CHERRIES at EBN congress 2020
 - CHERRIES at EBN Congress 2021
 - CHERRIES session at European Week of the Regions 2022
- **CHERRIES mutual learning events:** to enable an exchange of experiences between the CHERRIES territories about their eco-systems, strategies and instruments. These events were originally planned to be organised back-to-back to the GAs and each territory had budget to invite territorial stakeholders to accompany them to these events. COVID-19 highly impacted this activity, which was postponed and re-thought to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on its implementation while keeping the original goal of the task.
 - CHERRIES GA in Nicosia, Republic of Cyprus, 2022
 - CHERRIES Voices of EU 2022
 - CHERRIES at EBN Congress 2022
 - CHERRIES GA in Cartagena, Spain, 2022

Moreover, partners participated in **other relevant events** (territorial and European ones) to reach out a wider audience and disseminate project activities and results.

A dedicated report on CHERRIES Conference is provided in D7.4.

As the COVID-19 pandemic spread in March 2020 - M3 of CHERRIES project – the whole Task 7.3 had to be reviewed according to the restrictive measures taken by the EU Member States for almost 2 years. Subsequently several events originally planned to take place physically have had to be organised online or postponed.

In particular, the mutual learning events which were meant to take place back-to-back to the consortium General Assemblies to allow regional stakeholders of the three CHERRIES pilot regions to visit the other ecosystems, they had to be suspended due to COVID-19 and were organised during the last 12 months of the project in the framework of the last two General Assemblies (in Nicosia, Republic of Cyprus, and Cartagena, Spain), the CHERRIES event organised within the Conference for the Future of Europe (online) and the CHERRIES conference (in Brussels, Belgium).

Originally due in M24, the report is therefore delivered at the end of the project to cover all the activities presented below.

1. Stakeholders' engagement

Since the beginning, for CHERRIES project to have a large and positive impact on European territories it has been key to involve a wide range of stakeholders throughout the whole experimentation phase, from the definition of social challenges in the healthcare sector, to the selection of the innovative pilots, to the co-creation of innovative solutions and at a later stage in the definition of future policies. Moreover, CHERRIES aimed to move from a territorial dimension to a wider European one, therefore opening up its community to other European territories and stakeholders interested in our experimental approach (Mirror Regions).

The engagement of stakeholders is the key to success for CHERRIES overall mission. Not to mention that it is one of the European Commission six RRI “keys”: the major mechanism for bringing together diverse sets of societal actors and let them work together during the whole R&I process aligning both the process and its outcomes with the values, needs and expectations of society.

As indicated in the D2.1. Guidelines for Territorial Mapping, CHERRIES project identified the following stakeholder groups as the main stakeholders involved in the CHERRIES methodology:

Public Administration Organizations (Healthcare & Innovation Policy makers)

As the main objective of CHERRIES project is to propose and pilot RRI and demand-driven approaches to shape regional R&I policies in the healthcare sector, we aim to involve policy makers to give them access to the results and recommendations of CHERRIES as inputs to improve their Research & Innovation policies and support measures.

The governmental institution category lumps together all identified institutions that are primarily governmental. This definition considers institutions that are not primarily research or funding organisations. In practice, this category encompasses Ministries and departments of public administration. Healthcare Policymakers establish the framework within which health care is provided to the country's citizens. Innovation Policymakers shape the complex environment in which creation, diffusion, and learning as well

as the exploitation of economically valuable knowledge in innovation takes place.
<p>Hospitals or Research Hospitals (Healthcare providers including practitioner)</p> <p>Research hospitals are hospitals that, alongside their clinical activity, perform a sizeable amount of R&D or clinical research; many research hospitals are also closely associated with universities and, therefore, are involved to some extent in teaching.</p> <p>This collaboration partnership is an advantage when working with groups of stakeholders. Healthcare provider operationalizes care delivery within the policy framework. They provide health services to patients and maintain health information about them. The providers coordinate patient care with other providers as care team members.</p>
<p>Research Funding Organisation (RFO)</p> <p>Funding organizations are organizations whose primary stated goals are concerned with the stimulation and support of science through the allocation of funds. The word primary is key here: organisations which allocate funding next to doing their own research (such as the various Academies of Science) are classified as research institutions.</p>
<p>Civil society Organisation (CSO)</p> <p>Non-State, not-for-profit, voluntary entities formed by people in the social sphere that are separate from the State and the market. CSOs represent a wide range of interests and ties. They can include community-based organizations as well as non-governmental organizations (NGOs).</p>
<p>Firms, business and the private sector / SME's / Spin-offs</p> <p>This category refers to for-profit companies and is used for large multinationals as well as for SMEs. Spin-offs from universities, whether independent or affiliated to the university, fall under this category as long as they are for-profit. Other organisations that fall under this category are pharmaceutical and biomedical companies for despite acting as funding agents of research institutes, their core activity is still to sell products and services.</p>
<p>Venture capital</p> <p>Also called risk capital. Venture capital is a type of funding for a new or growing business. It usually comes from venture capital firms that specialize in building high-risk financial portfolios. With venture capital, the venture capital firm gives funding to the start-up company in exchange for equity in the start-up.</p>
<p>Start-ups</p> <p>A start-up is a venture that is initiated by its founders around an idea or a problem with a potential for significant business opportunity and impact.</p>
<p>Patients</p>

<p>Patients are typically citizens, and voters, and sometimes taxpayers. Policymakers have a fiduciary duty to this population, and the country's policy framework is established to benefit patients. Patients receive care services from providers and are the beneficiary customers of the payors.</p>
<p>Payor</p> <p>Payors operationalize the financial elements of the policy framework. Payors enroll patients as beneficiaries. They procure care services from the providers on behalf of their patient beneficiaries. They also must take on the actuarial task of ensuring the financial sustainability of the care program.</p>
<p>Higher Education Institutions (HEI) or Universities</p> <p>Nationally recognized as HEIs or Universities, and whose major activity is providing education at the tertiary level (ISCED 2011 level 5, 6, 7 and/or 8). R&D activities might be present but are not a necessary condition to include them. They might be public and private.</p>
<p>Public Research Organisations (PRO)</p> <p>Defined as entities whose main activity is to carry out Research and Development (R&D). Have the legal status of public organization or be publicly owned by the Government (i.e. created by a political process). Be publicly funded on a regular basis, receive significant parts of its budget from the Government. The PRO perimeter excludes companies whose main mission is to sell for profit goods or services. Examples include large national umbrella organizations like CNRS and MPG, CSIC or laboratories.</p>

In order to ensure key-stakeholders were involved during the whole project duration, CHERRIES followed a co-creation-inspired and impact-oriented dissemination strategy that included the organisation of a set of different online and face-to-face events addressing territorial and European audiences. This principle ensured that the solutions developed for the healthcare sector in the target territories (and the mirroring territories as a result of our mirroring task, WP8) were appropriate and met the specific needs of the locally embedded beneficiaries by engaging all the relevant stakeholders in the process.

COVID-19 strongly impacted the organization of regional and European in-person events originally foreseen in the Description of Activities. Nevertheless, partners managed to mitigate this risk by moving most of the events to a virtual environment or postponing them.

Events (even if run online) proved to be a key activity to promote the regional calls for needs first and the open calls for solutions and the co-creation results then, and to communicate about the CHERRIES methodology and overall project learnings to both regional and European stakeholders.

The mobilisation of relevant stakeholders both at regional and European level was key for the success of the project. While some of the events took place in regional languages to attract and engage the higher number of regional stakeholders as possible, others were specifically thought and designed for a European audience.

Partners have organised more 25 regional and European events to promote and disseminate project opportunities, preliminary results and final outputs while fostering the engagement of the different stakeholders.

Explore, shape, and connect regional innovation (healthcare) ecosystems in Europe: this was the “file rouge” CHERRIES partners followed to develop a series of networking, mutual learning and info sessions throughout the whole project lifetime.

2. CHERRIES Call & Community Webinars

CHERRIES Community is a cornerstone of the whole project methodology: we could rather speak of communities that have been mobilised in different regions and across regions to enable truly inclusive innovation processes, and to transfer knowledge, methods and tools to other territories and stakeholders interested in the CHERRIES approach.

Despite the strong territorial dimension, since the very beginning, CHERRIES always considered the wider European dimension as a must to effectively disseminate project results and to grow the community beyond the consortium and the pilot regions.

As of 2020, CHERRIES regularly designed and run online webinars aimed at reaching out wider European audiences; the so-called CHERRIES Call & Community Webinars.

2.1 CHERRIES Webinar Series 2020 | Exploring Responsible Healthcare Ecosystems in Europe

A promotional banner for the CHERRIES Webinar Series 2020. The top half has a red background with white text. The CHERRIES logo is in the top left. The dates '22, 29 SEPTEMBER' and '6, 13 OCTOBER' are in the top right. The main title 'WEBINAR SERIES 2020' is in large white letters, followed by the subtitle 'EXPLORING RESPONSIBLE HEALTHCARE ECOSYSTEMS IN EUROPE'. On the right, a list of 'WEBINAR SESSIONS' includes '» NEED-BASED INNOVATION', '» RRI IN HEALTHCARE', '» PUBLIC PROCUREMENT', and '» HEALTHCARE INNOVATION ECOSYSTEMS'. The bottom half features a collage of four images: a scientist with a brain model, a hand holding a pill, a group of people in a meeting, and a doctor with a laptop. A small European Union logo and text 'Co-funded by the Horizon 2020 programme of the European Union' are in the bottom left corner.

In 2020, CHERRIES set up a first series of online sessions dedicated to responsible healthcare ecosystems in Europe: 4 modules where academic experts and practitioners exchanged around different aspects of Responsible Innovation in the healthcare sector. <https://www.cherries2020.eu/the-importance->

[of-communication-in-the-healthcare-sectors-complexity-take-home-messages-from-cherries-webinar-series-2020/](#)

We invited experts from different fields to guide participants into a preliminary exploration of the key dimensions of regional innovation ecosystems in the healthcare sector: the demand driven and user-led approaches to healthcare innovation; how RRI can mitigate the complexity of healthcare ecosystems; the role of procurement in healthcare innovation and how regional smart specialisation strategies can shape more inclusive and efficient healthcare ecosystems.

We counted on the valuable contributions of our Advisory Board Members and colleagues presenting concrete experiences and initiatives from different European ecosystems.

These webinars were thought for a diverse audience, including academic players, innovation-active actors, intermediary organizations and regional and health policy actors. Each session saw two speakers addressing the main topic from different perspectives, so to be relevant for practitioners with different backgrounds.

Webinar Series 2020 | overview

1. [The role of need in open and user-led innovation approaches in healthcare](#) - 22 September (15:30-16:30). Prof Wouter Boon (University of Utrecht) and Myriam Martin (Ticbiomed)
2. [RRI practices in healthcare](#) - 29 September (14:30-15:30). Rosina Malgrida (IrisCaixa Barcelona) and Barbara Kieslinger (ZSI)
3. [The role of procurement in healthcare innovation](#) - 06 October (14:30-15:30). Dr John Rigby (Bibliometica Ltd.) and Samuli Kauppinen (Oulu University Hospital)
4. [Regional innovation ecosystems for healthcare](#) - 13 October (14:30-15:30). Gaston Heimeriks (University of Leiden – CWST) and Anett Ruszanov (ERRIN)

This webinar series was run on the GoToWebinar platform. Overall, 123 individuals registered for the 4 webinars. 59 attended the sessions and 15 watched the recordings on the GoToWebinar platform. All registered participants received a follow up email with presentations and a link to the recordings.

After each webinar, a post was created on the CHERRIES website to highlight key messages, share experts' presentations and recordings. A final post was made to summarize the whole webinar series and overall learnings. This resulted in 575+ views of the relates posts on the CHERRIES website.

Moreover, the recorded videos were uploaded on EBN Youtube Channel (CHERRIES Playlist), where they registered 126 views more.

Webinar series 2020 | highlights

The [first webinar](#) with the speakers Wouter Boon (University of Utrecht) and Myriam Martin (Ticbiomed) focused on **role of need in open and user-led innovation approaches in healthcare**. Questions were revolving around need identification between actors with different perspectives and the implementation of innovation cultures in and between organisations.

In the [second webinar](#), Rosina Malgrida (Head of the Living Lab for Health at IrsiCaixa) and Barbara Kieslinger (ZSI) explored how **RRI and maker approaches contribute to manage the complexity that innovation in the healthcare are facing**. The main points stressed were that RRI and co-design help to create real impact with and for society, moving from an organisational perspective to a community one.

During the [third webinar](#), with the speakers John Rigby (University of Manchester; Bibliometica) and Samuli Kauppinen (Oulu University Hospital), questions of **demand-side policy and public procurement of innovation** have been discussed with insights from the Manchester area and the development of a new procurement programme at the Oulu University Hospital.

The [fourth and final webinar](#), focused on **regional innovation policy and eco-system approaches in the context of European cohesion and healthcare policy** with inputs from Gaston Heimeriks (Leiden and Utrecht University) and Anett Ruszanov (ERRIN). Questions of governance and the importance of networks, both within and beyond the regional borders, have been discussed in the context of the regional potential to specialise in specific sectoral niches and technologies.

Reflecting the eight inputs and subsequent discussions, two themes emerge as shared experience.

First, **the complexity of the sector** that makes it impossible for a single actor or organisation to have a comprehensive overview of all processes running in parallel within a healthcare (innovation) system – John Rigby even described the sector as a jungle rather than a system. This complexity is necessarily leading to distributed governance structures that pose the risk of silos and poor alignment between system elements.

In direct connection to that, the second theme has been **the importance of communication**. The distributed knowledge about the sector's needs implies that agency – understood as the ability to act within the system – must be understood as a collective effort. The constant enhancement and adaption needed to support high quality, safe, and effective care thus is depending of communication processes. These communication processes include patient – general practitioner, general practitioner – specialist, specialist – hospital management, hospital management – innovative SME relationships and many more communication processes that contribute to effectively translating needs to innovative solutions that are well aligned with organisational and technological requirements as well as with societal expectations.

2.2 CHERRIES WEBINAR | Open Calls for Solutions in Murcia, Cyprus and Örebro

On March 4th 2021, a webinar was organised to promote the 3 territorial calls for solutions to a wider EU audience. CHERRIES info-webinar aimed at presenting the three specific regional challenges, the application and selection process, and providing some highlights on the RRI dimension that applicants had to embed in their proposals – especially in terms of inclusive and participatory approaches.

CHERRIES Cyprus called European companies and organisations to solve the “Provision of medical services to the Cypriot citizens that live in rural and remote areas and do not have easy access to healthcare services and prescribed medicines” challenge.

Presentation about CHERRIES Cyprus challenge [CHERRIES infowebinar Cyprus Challenge](#)

CHERRIES Murcia called European companies to solve the “Early detection of progression in Multiple Sclerosis” challenge.

Presentation about CHERRIES Murcia challenge: [CHERRIES infowebinar Murcia Challenge](#)

CHERRIES Örebro called European companies and organisations to solve the “Breaking and preventing involuntary loneliness among elderly” challenge.

Presentation about CHERRIES Örebro challenge: [CHERRIES infowebinar Örebro Challenge](#)

During the session it was specified that for each challenge, CHERRIES would award one solution, that the applications' deadline was April 15th 2021, and that selected European innovators had to:

- Co-develop and validate the solution with the challenge promoter
- Receive 50000€ to develop the solution over 10 months

As stated by Stefan Philipp (CHERRIES coordinator) in his introduction to the online session, RRI can help filling the gap between good innovative ideas and existing needs in the healthcare sector, facilitating the processes and dynamics that can result into the successful uptake of those ideas by regional stakeholders.

20 people registered for the session, and 13 participated to it (+ 19 views of the webinar recordings on the GoToWebinar platform). The [session recordings](#) got 40 views on YouTube, while the [follow-up post on the project website](#) received more than 280 views.

2.3 CHERRIES Webinar Series 2021 | Shaping Responsible Healthcare Ecosystems in Europe



CHERRIES webinar series 2021 aimed at showcasing the CHERRIES policy experiments in the healthcare sector held in three European territories of Murcia (ES), Örebro (SE) and the Republic of Cyprus (CY).

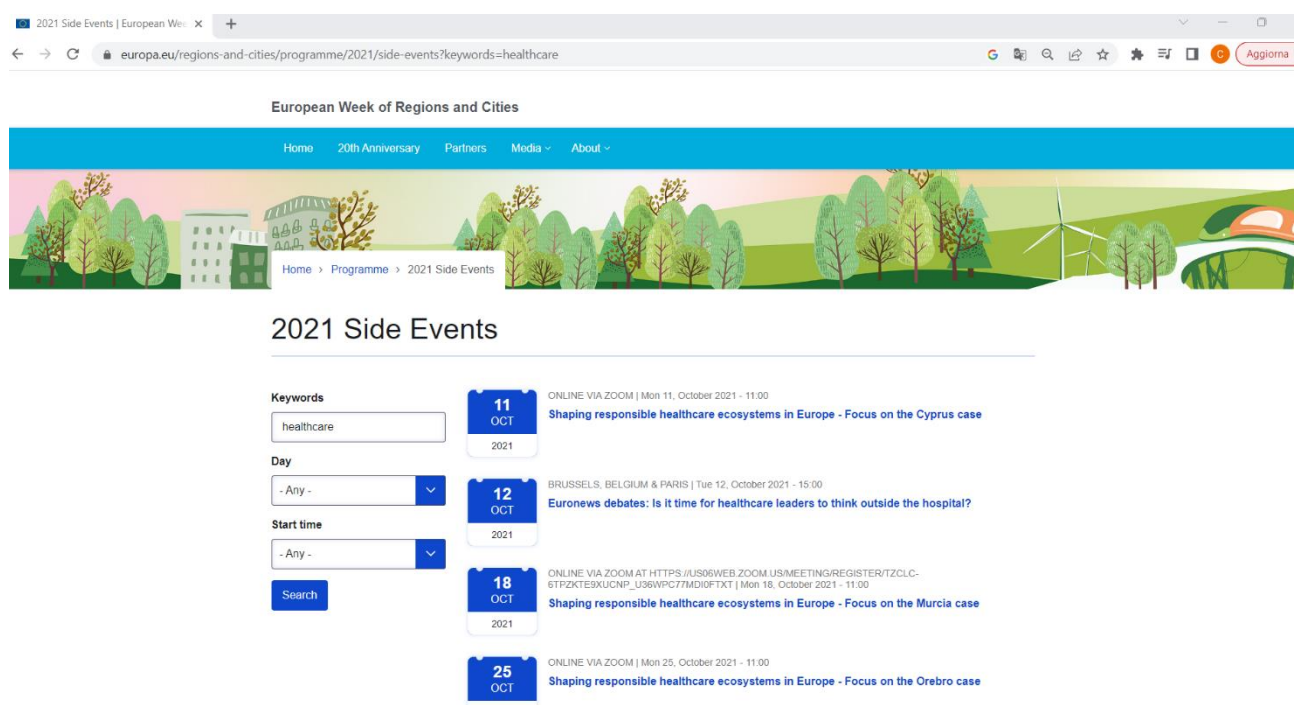
Designed as a peer learning opportunity, the three sessions focussed on the CHERRIES regions to present the territorial innovation ecosystems, their stakeholders and the way CHERRIES methodology was

implemented in each specific context. During the sessions some preliminary results of the co-creation pilots and the impact on the regional innovation policies were presented.

These webinars were thought for a diverse audience, including academic players, innovation-active actors, intermediary organizations and regional and health policy actors. Each session (1 hour) saw the participation of an expert on regional innovation policies and/or RRI to provide some general comments on the presented case.

Moreover, the webinar series offered a unique opportunity for other European regions to understand how the CHERRIES methodology could be applied in their specific context and consider the opportunity to apply to become a [CHERRIES Mirror Region](#).

The webinar series was a side event of the 19th European Week of Regions and Cities 2021 (<https://europa.eu/regions-and-cities/programme/2021/side-events?keywords=healthcare>).



Webinar Series 2021 | overview

- [Webinar 1: Focus on the Cyprus Case: High quality healthcare for everyone – provision of medical services to rural and remote areas in the middle of a General Health System transition](#) – 11 October 2021 (11:00-12:00), with Moyses Moyseos (EU|BIC CyRIC); Dr. Hara Pylarinou (Regional Pilot Experiment Team Leader); Stelios Yiallourous (Aretaeio Hospital); Claudia Colonnello (K&I) – Moderator; Stefan Philipp (ZSI) - Project Coordinator
- [Webinar 2: Focus on the Murcia case - Better healthcare services through cocreation: patients and professional have a say](#) - 18 October 2021 (11:00-12:00), with Gorka Sánchez (Innovation Director at SMS); Adrian Zittelli Ferrari (Director of EU affairs at Murcia Regional Government); Laure RASO (EU Project Manager at EU|BIC CEEIM); Dr. Nick Guldemond PhD DSc (med), Leiden University Medical Center; Stefan Philipp (ZSI) – Project Coordinator

- [Webinar 3: Focus in Örebro case - Meeting healthcare challenges with social innovations: breaking and preventing loneliness in elderly through collaboration between public actors and civil society](#). 25 October 2021(11:00-12:00), with Lena Uvhagen (Örebro Region); Märtha Lundkvist (Healthcare Strategist, Region Örebro County); Simon Elgbratt (Project Manager of the Pilot); Esteban Pelayo (Director of EURADA - European Association of Development Agencies); Stefan Philipp (ZSI) – Project Coordinator

This webinar series was run on the Zoom platform, but very little participation was registered during the live streaming (in average 10 participants per session – mostly consortium partners), but all recordings were uploaded on EBN YouTube Channel (CHERRIES Playlist), where they registered 110 views. The posts on the CHERRIES website related to the events resulted in 1140+ views.

Webinar series 2021 | highlights

Challenge-based innovation processes, used in e.g., open innovation, functional procurement, hackathon etc., have become increasingly popular during the last years and were also core of the experiments conducted in the CHERRIES project. The RRI experiments in CHERRIES were in fact based on demand-driven and open innovation approaches that should address the emerging and unmet needs of the health care sector at territorial level in order to build more equitable and more socially “porous” healthcare systems for the health and benefits of all the citizens within each territory. The three webinars offered insights on the three territorial innovation ecosystems, their stakeholders and the way CHERRIES methodology was implemented in each specific context.

[The focus session on CHERRIES Cyprus](#) offered specific insights on the healthcare sector in the Republic of Cyprus which improved substantially with the implementation of a comprehensive National Health-care System, aimed to make the sector more streamlined and cost effective. Speakers highlighted the need for better coordination, communication, and more efficient processes within hospitals but also with the patient experience as well as other key stakeholders of the health care ecosystem. In addition, the session dig into the Cypriot culture and organization of care that separates the care into distinct systems such as hospitals, home care, skilled nursing facilities, with little formal communication, relationships, or collaboration between and among those settings. The session continued with preliminary learnings on how the regional pilot of Cyprus in eHealth aimed at contributing to provide accessibility and quality of medical services to the population of rural villages (or anybody else with no easy access to medical centres and health professionals) without them having to travel long distances to gain access to healthcare services.

[The focus session on CHERRIES Murcia](#) highlighted how the **ecosystem approach** can be successfully used for creating new digital health solutions in Europe. Concrete collaboration between healthcare stakeholders and IT companies, for developing new innovative digital solutions, is a **win-win-win process**. Companies get **privileged access** to relevant end-users in order to **fully understand** their problems and needs. The healthcare stakeholders **actively participate** in the systematic co-development of need-based innovative solutions that improve their daily work, patient care processes and services. Within the framework of CHERRIES, a solution focused on “Early detection of progression in Multiple Sclerosis” was being developed. In order to guarantee that the developed solution was aligned with the values, needs and expectations of the society, CHERRIES fostered the engagement of societal actors, professionals and patients, therefore the development of the solution includes interactions with all the actors (healthcare, professionals and patients) including mainly those involved in the definition of the need: EMACC the Association for Multiple Sclerosis of Cartagena, the Biomedical Engineering group from

the Polytechnic University of Cartagena and the Neurology Service of Cartagena Hospital. Moreover Dr. Nick Guldemond PhD DSc (med), from Leiden University Medical Center covered the topic “No transformation without co-creation: how user and stakeholder involvement is essential for system improvements in health and social care”, where he discussed the need for patients’/users’ engagement in the innovation process in order to get better outcomes and provision of services in the healthcare sector.

The focus session on CHERRIES Orebro highlighted how the healthcare sector is facing major challenges regarding, for example, demographic changes and increased mental illness. The leading question was: can social innovations be part of the solution to the challenges of healthcare?

Social innovations are new ideas that meet social needs, create social relationships, and form new collaborations. These innovations can be products, services, or models addressing unmet needs more effectively. To achieve this, speakers agreed that it is fundamental to promote, encourage and develop collaboration between different sectors, not least between the public sector, which is large in Sweden, and the civil sector.

3. CHERRIES Territorial Workshops

A series of workshops (on- and offline as far as possible) have been organised in each pilot territory by local partner organisations to launch the territorial call for needs and the call for solutions aiming at attracting potential applicants and updating different stakeholders on the different steps of the project.

While the calls for needs had a stronger regional connotation, the calls for solutions aimed to attract as many applications as possible; therefore, a combination of regional and European activities were performed to communicate CHERRIES opportunities to a wider audience and receive a satisfactory number of proposals.

In any case, regional networking activities and info-session from partners were essential and had a wide-ranging impact throughout all the experimentation phases. All CHERRIES regions adopted CHERRIES project visual and brand identity to ensure consistency between the regional and the European dissemination levels of the project.

3.1 CHERRIES Cyprus Territorial Workshops

Call for Needs

For the dissemination of the call for needs in Cyprus, it was decided to use multiple channels through social media as well as bilateral communication with individual potential applicants.

The target groups to be reached through the call in Cyprus were:

- Healthcare professionals of both private and public sector.
- Associations of patients.
- Other public stakeholders (municipalities, organized groups) and citizen representatives.

Different groups required a different approach due to their nature.

Due to the COVID-19 situation, instead of physical meetings, the Cyprus team organized:

1. Bilateral calls with stakeholders to inform them about CHERRIES, the Call for Needs as well as their potential and future involvement (always following up with emails and attachments of relevant material).
2. Bilateral teleconferences with stakeholders and potential applicants to follow up conversations on current and future implications of their involvement.
3. Social Media campaigns through Facebook and LinkedIn that are mainly active and broadly used in Cyprus with follow up private messages to potential applicants and general awareness of the project itself.

Overall, the Cyprus team hosted 26 bilateral teleconferences and several phone calls with organizations/ individuals/professional and associations.

Call for Solutions

In Cyprus, the dissemination of the call for solutions was mostly made on social media (mostly Facebook and LinkedIn) and other local online portals both in English and in local language.

In Cyprus, due to the regional restrictive measures adopted during the COVID-19 pandemic, the regional team followed a personal approach with bilateral individual meetings to inform and raise the awareness of the call as well as to engage potential applicants with the following actions:

- Bilateral calls with stakeholders to inform them about CHERRIES, the Call for Solutions as well as their potential and future involvement (always following up with emails and attachments of relevant material).
- Bilateral teleconferences with stakeholders and potential applicants to follow up conversations on current and future implications of their involvement.

Overall, the Cyprus team hosted more than 50 hours of bilateral teleconferences and phone calls with organizations/ individuals/professional and associations.

Results of the regional pilot

On October 12th, the CHERRIES project was presented in the Republic of Cyprus to a group of over 20 stakeholders including Policy Makers, Healthcare Professionals, Innovators in Healthcare, Patient associations and stakeholders from the Research and Innovation ecosystem. The workshop was an interactive one with constant engagement from presenters and participants and that allowed honest and fruitful conversations with outputs for the future.



During the event, the regional partners CyRIC EU|BIC and the Aretaeion Hospital presented the CHERRIES methodology, and its application in the Cypriot pilot. The presentations brought together the concepts of co-creation and RRI in a pragmatic way with examples delivered during the pilot's lifetime. Lessons learnt were presented revolving around Cyprus' regional context and current healthcare sector status. Important discussions and the Q&A session allowed the team to see that the stakeholders in the room acknowledge the virtues of RRI which allows a holistic approach when applying a solution.

The attendees were also given the opportunity to participate first-hand and witness a live demonstration of medical tests directly from the third member of the regional team, the e-health solution of DoctorsHello. The solution was developed during the co-creation pilot named *“Provision of medical services to the Cypriot citizens that live in rural and remote areas and do not have easy access to healthcare services and prescribed medicines”*. During the live demonstration, all participants and stakeholders involved had the opportunity to discuss the potential sustainability and adoption of such solution to the recently established National Health System in Cyprus and its potential impact and benefits to the society.

The regional team was delighted to see that policy makers that attended the workshop and live demo expressed great interest on how “demand – driven” approaches such as the CHERRIES methodology can aspire to bringing tangible solutions to meet real existing societal needs.

3.2 CHERRIES Murcia Territorial Workshops

Call for Needs



The target groups of the regional dissemination strategy in Murcia were the associations of patients, the researchers and the healthcare professionals of the Sistema Murciano de Salud (SMS).

Due to the COVID-19 situation, in the launching phase of the regional pilots and the announcement of the call for needs CHERRIES Murcia run a series of online webinars.

The first webinar “Jornada identificación retos salud 1. Cómo me puedo beneficiar de CHERRIES” organized on October 28th, 2020, aimed at introducing the CHERRIES project, the general RRI approach and the inDemand project as a good practice in healthcare.

- Agenda: [20201028 Agenda day 1](#)
- Presentations: [20201028 Presentacion day 1](#)
- Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8BMeNELK7MY> (66 views)
- Website: <https://www.cherries2020.eu/cherries-murcia-jornada-identificacion-retos-salud-1/> (2666 views)

The second webinar “Jornada identificación retos salud 2. Tu pones los retos” took place on November 4th, 2020, and had a twofold objective: to present how to identify a need in the healthcare sector and to explain how to propose a need in the framework of CHERRIES programme.

- Agenda: [20201104 Agenda day 2 vs02](#)
- Presentations: [0201104 Presentacion day 2 vs02](#)
- Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4mlqXeESI-c> (92 views)
- Website: <https://www.cherries2020.eu/cherries-murcia-jornada-identificacion-retos-salud-1/> (53 views)

Finally, right after the call for needs was closed, CHERRIES Murcia on December 1st, 2020 organized the webinar “Jornada RRI con Rosina Malagrida (Head of the Living Lab for Health at IrsiCaixa Barcelona)” to

present and explain the RRI framework with concrete examples and case studies from the healthcare and food sector. The objective was to keep the regional community engaged and to bridge the first phase of the regional experimentation to the following one (call for solutions).

- Presentations: [PPT_RRI- Malagrida Cherries December 2020](#)
- Video: <https://youtu.be/WqXu0ROdS88> (20 views)
- Website: https://www.cherries2020.eu/cherries-murcia-territorial-training-on-rri/?preview_id=637&preview_nonce=af965e83f5&thumbnail_id=638&preview=true (57 views)

Overall, 76 participants were registered from all different profiles and each webinar was attended by 20-25 people.

Call for Solutions

CHERRIES Murcia organized a webinar on the 19th of March, 2021, to present the call for solutions highlighting the scope of the challenge and the modalities of the co-creation process. It counted with the participation of the organizations that proposed the challenge and provided information on the call, the application and selection process, and offered the opportunity to clarify participants' questions and doubts during a Q&A session. This event counted with a total of 34 participants, essentially, from technology-based innovative companies.

Moreover, on February 25th, 2021, the regional call for solutions was presented during a webinar organized by the Region of Murcia in the framework of the initiative CARM Europa Proyecto del mes. On this occasion Gorka Sanchez Nanclares (Servicio Murciano de Salud) presented CHERRIES objectives and methodology, the stakeholders involved in the activities of Murcia region and the open call for solutions to solve the "Early detection of progression in Multiple Sclerosis" challenge.

- Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pNa7nARO32o&t=9s> (85 views)
- Website: <https://www.cherries2020.eu/wp-admin/post.php?post=761&action=edit> (102 hits)

Results of the regional pilot

Last October 4th, 2022, CHERRIES project has been presented in the Region of Murcia to more than 50 stakeholders including innovators in healthcare and ICT, entrepreneurs, public and private institutions and innovation agents.



During the event, the regional partners (CEEIM, Murcia Region, Ticbiomed, Sistema Murciano de Salud) presented the CHERRIES methodology and the way it was applied to the territorial context by implementing RRI processes in the healthcare sector.

The attendees had also the chance to learn more about the prototype that was co-developed during the project implementation to early detect the progression of Multiple Sclerosis: a co-creation process that involved several stakeholders, including entrepreneurs, patients, healthcare professionals and researchers.

Adrián Zittelli, Director-General for the European Union Affairs for the Region of Murcia and Representative of the CoR Region of Murcia, explained that *“the joint participation of users with researchers and sector professionals, from the very beginning of the R&I processes, offers innovative companies the advantage of betting on a more democratic and efficient procedure while reducing the time to get research results. Moreover, the innovative CHERRIES methodology contributes making the Region of Murcia a benchmark in the health sector, therefore becoming a pole of attraction for companies active in the sector.”*

Website: <https://www.cherries2020.eu/cherries-murcia-final-workshop-the-rri-bet-in-the-regional-healthcare-sector/> (93 views)

[La Región se posiciona en la vanguardia europea de los modelos de innovación sanitaria](#)

3.3 CHERRIES Örebro Territorial Workshops

Call for Needs

CHERRIES Örebro targeted a broad audience for the regional call for needs: civil society organisations, public healthcare institutions and the general public/private citizens.

Three participatory workshops have been organised to promote the regional call for needs. The first one primarily targeted civil society organisations and private citizens, the second one healthcare professionals, and the third one had mixed participants.

The first of the three has been carried out physically on September 24th, 2020, in Karlskoga and was attended by 25 participants, while the other events had to be organised online due to COVID-19 (9, 23 November 2020) and gathered 21 participants in total.

The workshops provided information about CHERRIES and the call for needs. Many efforts were dedicated to the identification and analysis of the needs, as people tend to go directly to possible solutions without sufficiently reflecting on the actual needs and challenges.

Additionally, a training workshop on RRI in health was held the 19 November 2020 and targeted actors in the innovation system and healthcare policymakers, as well as intermediaries, establishing connections among existing innovation communities (smart specialisation strategy actors; social innovation partnership) and societal actors. The regional call for needs was promoted during the session which was attended by 25 participants.

Call for Solutions

In Örebro, five info webinars were arranged during the opening period of the call on February 1st, February 2nd, February 15th, and February 17th 2021, gathering around 40 participants from over 15 different organizations, mainly CSOs and public service actors such as municipalities and health centers.

The sessions aimed at explaining the challenge identified in the region, and the application process to submit a solution. As many of the interested actors were not used to prepare these type of proposals, CHERRIES Örebro offered support services to help with the proposal development and the application process. Additionally, Örebro also sent a survey to the webinar participants after the call closed and the

results showed that the application process was experienced as complicated by a few organizations and that the offer of support, though not always used, was appreciated.

Results of the regional pilot

Last September 7th, 2022, CHERRIES Örebro organised the closing event of the regional pilot that saw different regional stakeholders working together in the definition of innovative solutions to involuntarily loneliness among elderly people in the Municipality of Laxå.



During the day lectures and panel discussions were mixed offering the audience the opportunity to exchange with experts, regional stakeholders and contribute to reflect on the sustainability of CHERRIES approach in Örebro County.

"The challenges that the healthcare service is facing require us to work in new ways and together with actors we may not be used to working with. The CHERRIES model could be a tool in our toolbox as we need to create a movement within human-centered and integrated care. The project has been both interesting and challenging",

said Lena Uvhagen, Regional project manager for CHERRIES in Örebro County.

When it comes to new ways of working, there are of course challenges. Who owns the issue? How to choose the needs? Which direction should be taken? What happens when the project ends? Who takes over and drives the project forward? During the panel discussions, we got to take part in interesting discussions around these issues. Among other things, the **benefits of working together** and **broadening the perspective for social innovation** and how we can **create together the conditions for innovation** were discussed.

New knowledge was mixed with lessons learned from other countries regarding cooperation and project management. A clear insight was that it can be complicated and complex to work with innovation projects. During the day, we also got to listen to the experiences from the regional CHERRIES pilot project in Laxå.

*"The project aimed to break and prevent the involuntarily loneliness among elderly. It turned out to be a difficult target group to reach – as it required a relevant effort to reach the elderly. Among the lessons learned, it emerged that it makes a big difference to see each other physically. The pandemic also caused some problems. There were also challenges in finding the balance – and getting everyone on board to drive the project forward. **Since it is about cooperation between many different organizations, everyone must be able to participate on their own terms, based on their conditions and driving forces**",* summarized Julia Olsson from Sydnärke's public health team, project coordinator in Laxå.

The CHERRIES model is inclusive and exploratory. The afternoon was devoted to creative work in groups, where the participants got to test the CHERRIES approach.

Stefan Philipp, project coordinator and researcher at the Center for Social Innovation in Vienna, discussed the CHERRIES model and pointed out both strengths and weaknesses, purpose and goals. To a large extent, the project has been about bringing people together in order to create relevant solutions in new participatory ways. The participants experienced this in a workshop when they had the opportunity to discuss and work together following the CHERRIES model and its three steps: Call for Needs, Call for Solutions and Co Creation. The workshop was facilitated by Anestis Amanatidis, Researcher at Leiden University (CWTS) in the Netherlands.

“In the workshop, the participants got to experience both the pros and cons of the working method. It has created important insights for future projects, I think. We have learned a lot and it was really fun to have a joint conference where we shared knowledge, learned from each other and got to broaden the perspective”, said Märtha Lundkvist, Strategist and Unit Manager for Close care at Region Örebro County.

Website: <https://www.cherries2020.eu/highlights-and-reflections-form-the-closing-conference-of-cherriesorebro/> (75 views)

4. EU Workshop(s)

As stated above, CHERRIES consortium has always considered two communication and dissemination levels; next to the strong and widespread territorial approach, **a wider European dimension was considered and nurtured through a series of activities** aimed at presenting the added value of the CHERRIES methodology and some concrete examples of its application in the three pilot territories - therefore encouraging other organisations and territories to replicate/adapt it to their own context (sectorial and geographical).

Instead of organising only one European workshop towards the end of the project lifetime, partners run a dedicated event every year either in the framework of the EBN annual conference or the EU Week of the Regions and Cities to reach out to R&I actors from different sectors and geographies to discuss adaptability and scalability of the project methodology.

4.1 CHERRIES at EBN congress 2020 | “Mission-driven health-ecosystems– From Abstract Responsible, Research and Innovation Practices to Concrete Business Action”

Held on November 4th, 2020, during the EBN Congress, the session aimed at discussing how regional innovation ecosystems can improve citizens' health and wellbeing and how different innovation players can collaborate.

The surge of COVID-19 greatly highlighted the challenges and pressures that European healthcare systems are facing. Among the challenges that are pushing for significant changes are an ageing population, increasing prevalence of chronic diseases, access to healthcare services during and in a post-COVID-19 era, just to mention a few. Different players of regional innovation ecosystems can play a role in this transition towards a more sustainable healthcare sector. How to move from an emergency framework to a systemic change in the healthcare sector?

This was the starting point for EBN and EBN members involved in the CHERRIES project (EU|BIC CyRIC and CEEIM) to design a workshop for the 2020 EBN Congress: in those changing and challenging times for the healthcare sector, responsible and participatory approaches to healthcare innovation could offer interesting reflections for different societal actors, and the role of intermediaries such as EU|BICs – due to their capacity to act as brokers within regional innovation ecosystems – was (and still is) fundamental to facilitate the mobilisation of both the demand and supply side of the innovation chain and engage.

In this session the following speakers enriched the discussion on how the healthcare innovation ecosystems were changing from different perspectives.

Moyses Moyseos, Operations Manager at Gravity Incubator – CyRIC – moderator. He represented the EU|BICs' perspective – intermediary role, and presented the CHERRIES experience, with special emphasis on the role of the EU|BIC in the regional pilot of the Republic of Cyprus. He then briefly introduced the regional healthcare ecosystem (in particular the Cyprus National Healthcare Reform), and the partnership between the EU|BIC CyRIC and Aretaeio Hospital aimed at supporting innovation in healthcare institutions.

Lydia Montandon, Business Development Director at ATOS Spain. She presented Atos' participation in the Horizon 2020 Living Innovation project aimed at exploring how large corporates can embrace RRI practices. She then spoke about the digital transformation of the healthcare sector, and about the need to truly involve patients in this process to ensure a better adoption of healthcare solutions (they need to be aware of how their data are processed and used), this resulting in a more ethical and more responsible healthcare system. As the sector was changing its way of innovating and providing services to patients, she stressed the need for new rules (procurement rules, for example), even if this was not an easy thing due to the fact that often healthcare organisations are not that agile.

She also spoke about open innovation to source new solutions: being part of networks such as EIT Health (where Atos is a member) or EBN, facilitates connections and gives the opportunity to develop and test new business models and organisational processes.

Magda Krakowiak, Head of Open Innovation at EIT Health. She shared some reflections on the growing interest for RRI in the EIT Health Community among the so-called high value care /value-based healthcare organisation. She presented the [EIT Health's High Value Care Forum](#) a strategic initiative aimed at supporting health care providers and professionals to transform care towards outcomes that have the highest impact and are of most importance to patients. « In 2017, the Health Ministers of the OECD countries concluded in a statement that health systems need to become more outcome-focused and centred around what matters to citizens and patients alike. Providers must evolve towards a value-based concept: a model that improves health outcomes while maintaining or lowering overall costs, with the ultimate goal of achieving a healthier population». Report: <https://connections.eithealth.eu/web/internet-eithealth/report-value-based-healthcare>

She then shared of how engaging citizens and patients in the R&I processes brought successful results to those companies that adopted this inclusive approach.

John Rigby, the University of Manchester / Bibliometrica Ltd. CHERRIES Advisory Board member, he spoke about pre-commercial procurement focussing on how to operate innovation partnerships among all the stakeholders involved. He brought the example of Health Innovation Manchester, a regional based solution integrating in one place many innovation actors and different care approaches. *“In a system where innovation happens everywhere you need is a central gravity”*.

The EBN Congress 2020, [Regional Ecosystems shaping European Innovation](#) took place online (via Swapcard platform) due to Covid-19. 52 attendees registered to the CHERRIES session and 73 people connected during the session. The recordings were available to the whole congress audience on the Swapcard platform, and CHERRIES had a virtual booth on the platform where info about the project (and the workshop) were made available to the conference attendees.

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iWIJ2is2c> (47 views)

4.2 CHERRIES at EBN Congress 2021 “Emergent Futures”



The 2021 EBN Congress “Emergent Futures” took place online via Swapcard on September 14-15th, 2021.

CHERRIES experiences and preliminary learnings were shared by Laure Raso (EU|BIC CEEIM) during the Panel 3: Using challenge-driven approaches, co-creation and co-design: methodologies for a green, digital and fair transition, which took place on the main stage on September 15th 2021. 46 attendees registered for

this session.

The panel explored how the EU|BIC community, with its business models and service offering, was ideally positioned to connect innovators and promote challenge-driven, co-created and co-designed innovation. With a focus on experiences addressing climate neutrality (PentaHelix H2020 Project) and health (CHERRIES H2020 project), the panelists shed light on:

- Why regions should invest in demand-driven innovation and how co-creating solutions can bring about change;
- Why we need to embed demand-driven innovation in incubation, and how co-creation methodologies can drive towards efficient, fair and sustainable responses;
- How to implement these methodologies in decision-make processes adopted by local authorities, incubators, start-ups, and business.

Laure Raso shared the experience of CHERRIES Murcia and some preliminary reflections on how the CHERRIES model can help regional healthcare ecosystems rethinking and reshaping their innovation strategies and processes. During the workshop, Congress attendees were invited to consider the opportunity for European territories and regions to apply to become a CHERRIES Mirror Region—advertised at the CHERRIES virtual exhibition stand too.

Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n5sjl1gLdds&list=PLmPBxQF-AXh1Z8oAq9OdKc_kt8f3106h&index=9 (33 views)

4.3 CHERRIES workshop at European Week of Regions and Cities 2022 | “Shaping the Next Generation of Regional Innovation Policies: Open, Responsible and Inclusive”



In June 2022 CHERRIES has been selected as official partner of the 2022 European Week of Regions and Cities; consortium partners EBN, ZSI, Activa Foundation and Murcia Region applied to the open call for sessions to be on stage to share insights and reflections resulting from almost 3 years of project activities dedicated to exploring responsible and demand-driven innovation approaches in the regional healthcare sector.

On October 12th, 2022, CHERRIES project run the workshop “Shaping the Next Generation of Regional Innovation Policies: Open, Responsible and Inclusive” in the framework of the #EURegionsWeek 2022.

Chaired by Stefan Philipp, ZSI researcher and CHERRIES coordinator, the session offered an opportunity to share some reflections on the role CHERRIES methodology can play in the changing European Regional Innovation Ecosystems.

The introduction allowed the audience to understand the RRI driven project methodology, which focuses on demand-driven innovation processes and co-creation approaches to the definition of innovative solutions to societal needs, through the concrete examples of regional experiments carried out in Murcia (Spain), Örebro (Sweden) and the Republic of Cyprus in the healthcare sector.

The session then was enriched by the insights from Cristina Fanjul Alonso, President of EBN (European Business and Innovation Centre Network), Lotta Karlsson-Andersson, CEO of Activa Foundation, and Adrián Zittelli Ferrari Director-General for the European Union Affairs for the Region of Murcia and Representative of the CoR Region of Murcia. They brought to different perspectives on stage: the one of the EU|BICs (Business Innovation Centres, Incubators, Business Support Organisations, Regional Innovation Agencies, Regional Development Agencies etc), the one of the Civil Society Organisations, and the one of a regional policy maker.

Cristina Fanjul Alonso presented the EU|BICs as multidisciplinary organisations that can act as catalysts for local ecosystems as they can connect the different stakeholders and facilitates on the ground the innovation process, being able to explain/introduce new frameworks and terminology such as RRI and co-creation to different stakeholders (ie: policy makers and SMEs).

Lotta Karlsson-Andersson focused on the importance of creating regional platforms that contribute building coalitions around a perceived problem and co-creating and testing dedicated solutions, thus bringing together actors in a network of shared understanding, trust, and visions.

Adrián Zittelli Ferrari shared the experience of the Region of Murcia in capitalising the results of EU-funded projects (such as CHERRIES) and related EU policies to transform regional innovation policies and instruments. He stressed the importance of international collaborative projects as source of inspiration and mutual learning and the relevance of experimental approaches to regional innovation processes that need to involve citizens more and more.

The workshop continued with an interactive session facilitated via Slido.com. The session aimed at grasping ideas and reflections from the audience on how demand-driven innovation processes and co-creation approaches are/could be applied in other territories (challenges and opportunities).

To conclude, the session highlighted the following findings:

- Open, Responsible and Inclusive Innovation is a set of processes that can be beneficial beyond normative reasons.
- Experimental approaches are needed to deal with complexity and uncertainty. They are a way of learning, building coalitions and challenging hardened institutions.

- Place-based approaches are needed to fit localised problems and capabilities. Context matters!
- Innovation often is evolutionary. There is a need to manage the transition between practices and approaches. Implementation includes the discontinuation of old solutions.
- Power and resources. Not every stakeholder has the same preconditions to engage in this innovation journeys but that does not mean they are not relevant.

Rationales for Regional Innovation Policies are changing as there is an increasing push for moving from innovation for developing an economic competitive advantage (S3) to innovation for meeting sustainability goals (S4, Agenda 2030). The required transformation of socio-technical systems will require a broad set of innovations, and the source of innovation thus might arise from unusual spots and cooperations.

As CHERRIES showed through its regional experiments, RRI driven approaches can un-lock the innovation potential of the wider society therefore leading to the Next Generation of Regional Innovation Policies: Open, Responsible and Inclusive.

The session was attended by 27 participants.

- Video: <https://vimeo.com/759796716>
- Presentation: [2022 EWRC CHERRIESeu workshop](#)

5. CHERRIES Mutual Learning Events

CHERRIES mutual learning events were meant to enable an exchange of experiences between the partners' territories to learn about their ecosystems, innovation strategies and instruments.

Originally planned to take place during the project General Assemblies, **the mutual learning events had to be postponed due to COVID-19**. To compensate the delay in their organisation, project partners organised different online events to let territorial stakeholders exchange experiences and knowledge.

A first occasion for mutual learning was organised in the framework of WP2 on March 17th, 2021, when all the pilot regions attended the inter-regional Reflection Workshop "Toward Responsible Healthcare Ecosystems. It was co-designed and co-organised by K&I, CWTS and the regional pilot teams. The aim was to engage a broader number of key territorial stakeholders (according to the 4P model in health) in the analysis of the actual regional R&I ecosystem and in the validation of the main results achieved from the regional mapping exercise promoted within the WP2. Furthermore, the purpose was to foster a collective reflection about possible potential for improvements of the regional R&I healthcare ecosystems. (see D2.2 For more details).

The CHERRIES Webinar Series 2021 "Shaping Responsible Healthcare Systems in Europe" was originally thought to offer an opportunity to learn more about the three pilot regions and interact with the stakeholders involved in each territory, while approaching other European territories interested in replicating the CHERRIES methodology (see above).

Even if with some limitations and discontinuity, as of November 2021, CHERRIES partners re-started in person events and meetings.

5.1 CHERRIES General Assembly in Nicosia, Republic of Cyprus | 04-05 November 2021

CHERRIES General Assembly in Nicosia (Republic of Cyprus) represented the first in person event after almost two years of online gatherings. On this occasion, consortium partners had the chance to meet and

start sharing some reflections on the regional pilots. Guided by WP5 team, the project partners identified and discussed the following issues:

- Deliberation as a basis for need identification;
- From Pilots to sustainable action;
- Institutional anchor for the model.

These issues (actually, the first two, as the third one was integrated in the second item) were then discussed during the regional policy workshops held at the beginning of 2022. Results of these workshops were then discussed during the mutual learning workshop held in Brussels on May 24th, 2022.

Moreover, in Nicosia, partners could visit the Gravity Incubator of EU|BIC CyRIC. EU|BIC CyRIC as the representative of EBN and the EU|BIC community in Cyprus, operates a private technology incubator – Gravity. The CHERRIES consortium had a first-hand opportunity to spend the afternoon in the premises of the incubator and get a first-hand experience and interaction with deep-tech startups specifically chosen for the healthcare sector that are currently incubated in the incubators' premises.

Photos below depict a live demonstration of Bialoom, a medical diagnostic device for sepsis using photonics (left) and a robotic ramp that carries wheelchair users in rough terrain conditions and inaccessible buildings (right). The visit included a presentation of what the EBN community does for the local entrepreneurial ecosystem through CyRIC EU|BIC in Cyprus and followed with a Q&A session and cocktail.



5.2 CHERRIES Workshop at the Conference on the Future of Europe | “Every voice counts. The role of citizens in shaping European R&I”

In the framework of the “Conference on the Future of Europe”, on the 18th of March 2022, CHERRIES project organised an online event aimed at shaping recommendations on how to best involve citizens in the R&I processes: “Every voice counts. The role of citizens in shaping European R&I.”

The event highlighted the importance of citizen engagement in RRI and discussed different ways to foster their participation and involvement in this kind of processes. We consider this event part of the mutual

learning process, as during the session different regional stakeholders intervened to present their involvement in the regional experiments carried out in the three CHERRIES pilot regions.

The poster features a background image of a child's face. On the left, the CHERRIES logo (a circular cluster of dots) is above the text "CHERRIES RESPONSIBLE HEALTHCARE ECOSYSTEMS". Below this is the main title "“Every voice counts”. The role of citizens in shaping European R&I" in large white font. A red rounded rectangle contains the date and time: "18th of March 2022 From 10:00 to 12:00 CET Online event - Zoom". At the bottom left, a small European Union flag is next to the text: "This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 872873." On the right, a white box titled "AGENDA" lists the event schedule. At the bottom right, another European Union flag is next to the text "Conference on the Future of Europe".

CHERRIES
RESPONSIBLE HEALTHCARE ECOSYSTEMS

**“Every voice counts”.
The role of citizens in
shaping European R&I**

18th of March 2022
From 10:00 to 12:00 CET
Online event - Zoom

This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 872873.

AGENDA

- 10.00 – 10.05 Welcome and Introduction**
 - EBN: Covadonga Rayón
- 10.05 – 10.25 Introduction to RRI and the importance of citizen engagement**
 - IrsiCaixa: Rosina Malagrida
- 10.25 – 10.30 Q&A + Comments from the chat**
- 10.30 – 11.00 Panel 1: Moderated by Lotta Karlsson-Andersson**
 - Stefan Philipp: ZSI & CHERRIES
 - Adrian Zittelli Ferrari
 - Esteban Pelayo: EURADA
 - Vera Egreja Barracho: Social Innovation
- 11.00 – 11.10 Q&A + Comments from the chat**
- 11.10 – 11.40 Panel 2: Moderated by Adrian Zittelli Ferrari**
 - Lotta Karlsson-Andersson: Activa Foundation
 - Joaquin Roca: Polytechnical University of Cartagena
 - Stelios Yiallouris: Arataeio Hospital
 - Vera Egreja Barracho: Health Parliament Portugal
- 11.40 – 11.50 Q&A + Comments from the chat**
- 11.50 – 12.00 Main conclusions and closure**

Conference on the Future of Europe

The event aimed to show how citizen participation can be best channeled thanks to the results of several European funded projects such as CHERRIES that are developing different methodologies and strategies to implement RRI and to ensure that all the actors of the society are involved in research and innovation processes.

The event saw the keynote speech of Rosina Malagrida, Head of the Living Lab for Health at IrsiCaixa and co-coordinator of the Barcelona “la Caixa” Living Lab on why citizens’ participation is key in R&I processes and how we can encourage and enable it. She also explained in detail how civil society can be included in public research and innovation policies.

Two panel discussions followed.

In the first panel the audience heard from Adrián Zittelli Ferrari (Director-General for European Union Affairs for the Region of Murcia) on the need for clearer engagement frameworks and objectives for citizens, and for a better traceability of citizens engagement processes, this to increase citizens’ trust in these processes. Moreover, to foster the participation of citizens, they need to see how their opinions are translated into concrete actions and -at the same time – they need to see how the decisions taken at European level can have an impact in their regions.

Stefan Philipp (Researcher at ZSI and CHERRIES coordinator) presented how CHERRIES capitalised citizens’ inputs to define challenges in the health services prioritising the medical innovations to provide a wider impact accordingly with civil society perspectives.

Esteban Pelayo (Director of EURADA) shared insights from the TetRRIS project on the possibilities of incorporating citizens in regional innovation strategies were analysed; in particular, it was explained how the second generation of smart specialisation strategies are proactively involving civil society. Regions are facing not only the exercise of prioritising when it comes to policy making at regional level, they also need to develop tools to monitor the different policies and processes so they are able to involve all stakeholders through the different steps.

In the second panel, the experiences of the regions of Murcia, Örebro and Cyprus were presented from the perspective of civil society organisations engaged in the territorial pilots. CHERRIES pilots aimed at setting up an inclusive system in which citizens were called to determine their priorities in the healthcare sector and a call for collaboration was launched between companies offering solutions to the proposed challenges and the territorial health services implementing them.

Lotta Karlsson-Andersson (CEO at Activa Foundation) explained how CHERRIES project allowed Örebro region and its partners to take a brave step establishing a platform allowing multi stakeholder interactions and enabling direct exchanges and open dialogue between local and regional authorities and the wider society.

Joaquín Francisco Roca González (Sub Director of International Relationships at Polytechnical University of Cartagena) is one of the regional actors involved in the Murcia co-creation team including the solution provider and the other regional partners (Ticbiomed, EU|BIC CEEIM, Sistema Murciano de Salud). He also contributed to the definition of the regional challenge. He stressed the importance of developing solutions to health challenges by taking into consideration and involving the final users of these solutions and the specialists that will deploy them. The development of the devices/precesses/solutions need to take into account all the stakeholders.

He also stressed the importance of disseminating and advertising this inclusive processes and approaches to R&I, especially towards patients and professional as they need to know that these processes exists and that they can take part on them.

Stelios Yiallourous (Chief Information Officer at Arataeio Hospital) shared his experience from the Cyprus pilot. Based on his direct experience, he recommends that patients, professionals and hospital managers have an active role in the co-creation processes as they are the final users of a technology. They should be taken into consideration from the very beginning of the development of a solution, so to ensure this meets their actual needs.

Moreover, a very interesting comment was raised by Claudia Colonnello Senior Social Researcher at Knowledge and Innovation: *"Before engaging the different actors in a R&I process, we should build a common long-term vision at territorial level on how we want to shape these processes. The involvement of local actors is crucial in order to create a dialogue with the aim to restore trust among the society and to involve them in R&I processes"*.

- Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8l4tH7eevkk> (55 views)
- Website: <https://www.cherries2020.eu/citizen-engagement-how-can-we-move-from-ad-hoc-consultations-to-long-lasting-partnerships-for-ri/> (221 views)
<https://www.cherries2020.eu/events/every-voice-counts-the-role-of-citizens-in-shaping-european-ri/> (436 views)

5.3 CHERRIES Community Event in Brussels, Belgium | 24 May 2022

“**Connecting Responsible Innovation Ecosystem**” was the title of a 2-day event dedicated to the CHERRIES community that was finally meeting in person to discuss main outcomes of two years and half of project activities and exchange on the way forward. On May 24 and 25, 2022, CHERRIES Community gathered in Brussels to discuss connecting responsible innovation ecosystems, with a particular emphasis on the healthcare sector.

The first day of CHERRIES conference – attended by 49 people - was designed for consortium partners, regional stakeholders from the CHERRIES Pilot Regions (Örebro, Sweden; Murcia, Spain; Republic of Cyprus), and the CHERRIES Mirror Regions (Centro, Portugal; West of Ireland, Ireland; Nord East, Romania; Burgos, Spain) to debate the opportunities and challenges of designing and enabling Open and Responsible Innovation programmes, based on demand-driven innovation processes and co-creation approaches.

While designing the event, partners (ZSI, CWTS and EBN) focussed the **mutual learning experience on the concept of change management**.

What is the benefit and need for changing the R&I culture in and between organisations? What is required and how do you initiate and manage these processes in the given regional systems?

On May 24th, an internal workshop took place between 14:30 and 18:30 whereby the first half hour was dedicated for welcoming the Mirror Regions and the regional stakeholders of the Pilot Regions to the event. After this introductory moment, the regional teams split into two parallel workshops: the Mirrors had the chance to exchange with the Pilot Regions on how to best replicate the CHERRIES model in new contexts while the regional stakeholders participated in a mutual learning and reflection session on how CHERRIES methodology and outcomes can contribute to a culture change in regional R&I strategies.



Agenda:

Time	Parallel Session 1	Parallel Session 2
14:30-15:00	Welcome	
15:00-16:00	Mirror Regions. WS1 - Activation phase	Stakeholders. WS1
16:00-16:30	Coffee Break	
16:30-17:30	Mirror Regions. WS2 - Operationalisation	Stakeholders. WS2
17:30-18:30	Plenary session to discuss conclusions	
18.30	End meeting	

CHERRIES Mutual Learning Workshops for the Mirror Regions

The Mutual Learning Sessions between Mirror and Pilot Regions were structured along two main phases of the regional experiments: the activation and the operationalisation ones. These were deemed by organising partners (Ticbiomed, EBN with the support of K&I and ZSI) as key in order to set up a new experiment in another region/territory. For each phase, some key questions were identified to enable a frank discussion between practitioners from all the regions.

- Workshop 1: Activation phase
 - a. *How to set ecosystems: involving the key stakeholders?*
 - b. *Need co-creation. How to identify needs: individually or jointly?*
 - c. *How to transform the identified need into a challenge?*
- Workshop 2: Operationalisation
 - a. *How to set the co-creation groups?*
 - b. *Define the roles of the stakeholders.*
 - c. *Put in place the co-creation process.*
 - d. *How to gear adoption?*

Based on the questions above, each session focussed on the following exchange topics:

- Workshop 1: Activation
 - i. Contextualization of the MR.
 - ii. Things that would be necessary to open the system
 - iii. Considerations to get stakeholders involved
- Workshop 2: Implementation/Operationalisation
 - i. Maximize the impact of the solution
 - ii. Scale up the model
 - iii. Embed regional strategies with CHERRIES methodology
 - iv. Sustainability in terms of funding for future actions

The Mutual Learning Workshop for Mirror Regions and Pilots' practitioners saw the participation of 11 representatives from the Mirror Regions, 2 solution suppliers and 8 representatives of the CHERRIES consortium.

CHERRIES Mutual Learning Workshops on Culture Management Change

The regions had invited local policy makers to the conference, and they engaged in the session that focused on preparing a roadmap for change. The session aimed to define change management as a focal point in the regional context, its benefits, impact, risks, motivation and strategies to achieve the changes as a desirable future considering changing the culture in and between organisations. Based on the results of the regional workshops held in early 2022 by the three pilot regions, the workshops tackled questions of culture and CHERRIES as an instrument of culture making: *“what is required and how do we initiate and manage these processes in the given regional systems?”*

The first session “Change management – Interorganisational” started with the regional stakeholders introducing key outcomes from each regional workshop, then an in-depth discussion among regional teams on interorganisational change followed based on these questions:

- Which behaviour do we need to stop (resistance) and what we should continue doing?
- What would be the impact of this change (expected benefits and potential consequences - stakeholders)?
- What new policies, procedures, and/or processes are needed to support this change?

The workshop continued with a second session aimed at helping participants defining a “Roadmap for change”:

- Is your organisation ready for the change? (organisation readiness)
- What would be a motivation for change?
- How do we start? (visioning and strategy) (short term -midterm – long term)

As a result of the “Roadmap for change” session partners selected three main action points that were then discussed in the morning session on the 25th of May (CHERRIES conference).

5.4 CHERRIES General Assembly in Cartagena, Spain | 08-09 November 2022

In the occasion of the last CHERRIES General Assembly held in Cartagena (Spain) the 8th and 9th November 2022, consortium partners invited regional stakeholders and Mirror Regions to join them in this last CHERRIES event to **discover the regional ecosystem of CHERRIES Murcia and engage in some final reflections of CHERRIES consortium on the overall project learnings and exploitation plans.**

During the “standard” consortium meeting, on November 8th am, Mirror regions and regional stakeholders had the chance to meet at the Polytechnical University of Cartagena (UPCT) some regional organisations currently involved in healthcare programmes and initiatives and that are applying RRI related approaches.

Then, they all joined the CHERRIES consortium for the rest of the meeting where the following topics were debated in engaging formats. Programme and content:

November 8th, 2022

14:15-14:30 Introduction Stefan Philipp (ZSI)

14:30-15:45 Transformative Strategies | The role of regional paths and opportunities for change agency
We will investigate the regional mechanisms that enabled transformative strategies in the pilot regions.
We discuss what transformation is needed and actors engage in these processes Stefan Philipp (ZSI)

15:45-16:00 Coffee Break

16:00- 17:15 Transformative Strategies II Stefan Philipp (ZSI)

17:30 (Optional) Cultural Visit to the Roman Theater

20:30 Networking Dinner

November 9th, 2022

09:30-11:00 Regional Co-Creation practices: The keys to create value for stakeholders Workshop on Ticbiomed's experiences and the CHERRIES Community Ticbiomed

11:00-11:30 Coffee Break

11:30-13:00 What did we learn about RRI over 3 years of CHERRIES project? From abstract concept to practical implementation in CHERRIES regions and partners' organisations. Time to reflect on how RRI was applied in different contexts and the practical implications of adopting it in the regional pilots and in consortium partners' organisations UL, K&I

13:00-14:15 Lunch break - UPCT

14:15-15:30 The future CHERRIES model and Policy recommendations Discussion on the Lessons Learned in the course of the CHERRIES project and the policy recommendations that arise from this reflection. UL, ZSI

15:30-15:45 Coffee Break

15:45-16:30 The future CHERRIES model and Policy recommendations II UL, ZSI

16:30-17:00 Wrapping up and Farewell Stefan Philipp (ZSI)

The sessions on transformative strategies allowed CHERRIES pilot regions to share insights on how the project methodology kick-started (among other elements) some transformations in the regional innovation policies and ecosystems.

The discussion highlighted how open co-creation is a form of public governance of R&D&I and stressed the importance of engaging final users and beneficiaries of a solution as early as possible in the innovation process, thus making more efficient and democratic.

Participants also came up with some practical recommendations for regional policy makers:

- To guarantee an annual call for challenges open to society: health professionals, researchers and patients
- To push for adoption commitment if the co-created solution is a success.



The workshop on regional co-creation practices focused on how to encourage and enable inclusive and effective co-creation processes in regional innovation ecosystems. Take home messages:

- find the right balance between top-down and bottom-up approaches
- listen to all stakeholders
- don't give up!

The experiences of Pharaon Project (Pilots for Healthy and Active Ageing, an EU-funded project with the objective to make smart & active living for Europe's ageing population a reality) and MOAI Labs (Laboratorios de Inteligencia Colectiva y Tecnología Sociosanitaria para combatir el aislamiento y la soledad en mayores) offered additional inspiration to the workshop participants.

During the workshops on **the Future of CHERRIES Model** participants were asked to give their feedback on the new model in terms of:

1. Strengths of the CHERRIES Model: What else did you perceive as a strength? Do you disagree with some points?
2. Issues of the CHERRIES Model: What else did you perceive as an issue? Do you disagree with some points?
3. Future of the CHERRIES Model: Do you agree with the ideas of a Hub and a Forth Step? What else should be in a Future model?
4. Other comments: Anything else that might help to finalise this work?

The workshop offered CHERRIES team in charge of the Policy Work (ZSI, CWTS and K&I) to confirm preliminary results and get additional inputs and details that can be found in D5.2.

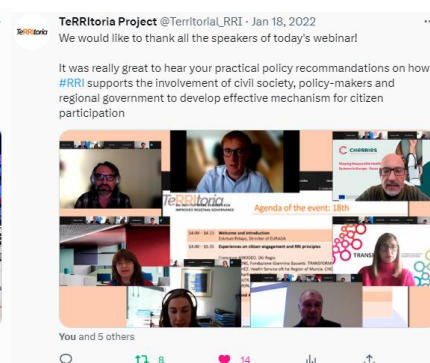
6. Other Events

In addition to the events mentioned above organized by consortium partners to build regional and transnational communities, to enhance mutual learning processes across CHERRIES territories and to disseminate project activities and results, we briefly report below other events attended by project partners to promote CHERRIES opportunities and outcomes.

Date	Event	Info
2020-2022	SUPERMoRRI Swafs ecosystem	Monthly online meetings involving representatives of the Swafs14 projects. Led by CWTS, the series was mostly attended by Claudia Colonnello (K&I) on behalf of CHERRIES. EBN joined only a few of them.
07/10/2020	SISCODE workshop - Co-creation as a method to bring RRI in the project	2-hours online workshop aimed to explore the meaning of integrating and conveying RRI into STI projects, reflecting on how co-creation can help integrating RRI aspects in research questions/projects, using co-creation as a leverage/catalyst for RRI integration.
20/04/2021	RRING Virtual Summit on the future of Socially Responsible Research and Innovation (online)	CHERRIES project (Stefan Philipp) participated on the through the panel: "Where does RRI fits in the future?" panel
18/01/2022	TeRRItoria final conference (online)	Gorka Sanchez (SMS) participated in the first session of the final conference of TeRRItoria project to share insights on the

		importance of involving patients from the very beginning of innovation processes leading to new healthcare solutions.
31/01/2022	Interactive webinar – How do we break involuntary loneliness among elderly?	The CHERRIES Örebro team and pilot Laxå pilot team presented the CHERRIES model and the first pilot in Laxå, followed by group discussions and mutual learning. The target group for the webinar was public professionals and NGOs who in some way meet or work with lonely elderly. The webinar had 60 participants, mainly from Örebro county but also from other parts of Sweden.
30/03/2022	#RRIexplained podcast by RESBIOS Project	Stefan Philipp (ZSI) talked about how the CHERRIES project is using RRI to engage with citizens and healthcare providers and how they work together to create modern solutions for modern healthcare issues.
09/06/2022	Accelerating the Digital Transition in Health in the North-East Region, organised by the NordEast Regional Agency, Piatra Neamt (RO).	The event was organized by North-East Regional Development Agency, one of the Mirror Regions' member from Romania, and the Vanguard Initiative and was part of the European Science Meets Regions Program, coordinated by the Joint Research Center (JRC). EUJ BIC CEEIM presented the CHERRIES model and the pilot experiments of CHERRIES in the three regions in the framework of this national event that counted with the participation of representatives of public authorities, hospital managers, health practitioners, researchers and companies that intervene in the e-health sector.
14/07/2022	Cyprus Responsible Business Awards 2022	Areteaion Hospital and EUJ BIC CyRIC have been awarded the responsible business award in a beautiful ceremony under the auspices of the Cyprus Government and the Deputy Ministry for Research & Innovation and Digital Transformation.
26-27/09/2022	European Cluster Conference 2022, Prague	CHERRIES presented at the EU Cluster Conference 2022 in the session 'Clusters as agents fostering cooperation among EU Industrial ecosystems', promoting cross-border cooperation and investment needs. CHERRIES and their partners were mentioned by Bram Pauwels (EBN) as an exemplary instrument for the development, testing and dissemination of demand-driven innovation funding and methodologies.
05-07/12/2022	ANPROTEC Conference 2022, Salvador -BA	CHERRIES learnings were presented during the keynote speech addressed by Bram Pauwels to the plenary of the ANPROTEC Conference 2022 (07/12/2022). ANPROTEC is the Brazilian network of incubators and science parks. The event was attended by approx. 700 participants. On the third day of the Anprotec 2022 Conference, after a morning of paper presentations, the event received as a speaker at Plenary 3, Bram Pauwels, Strategy Manager at EBN – European Business & Innovation Center Network, who throughout his lecture spoke

		about the current scenario of the European community of business innovation leaders. Pauwels presented CHERRIES as one of the best practise projects in which EBN has taken part. His presentation was divided into two parts: 1) RRI (originating from European Commission as a policy instrument) and 2) CHERRIES methodology as a tool to implement RRI principles at regional level.
12/01/2023	Dissemination webinar: Breaking involuntary loneliness	Laxå pilot team and partners presented their activities and experiences from the two pilots. The target group for the webinar was public professionals and NGOs who in some way meet or work with lonely elderly. The webinar was well attended with over 100 participants from all over Sweden.
23-24/01/2023	KICK-OFF meeting HEALTHCHAIN project (i3-Project 01094676)	Co-creation activities in Murcia in the Healthcare domain explained to the Consortium of the Healthchain Project.
02/02/2023	Pharaon Project Open Session	"Impactful Innovation in Health: How to Make the Best from Stakeholders", speech by Myriam Martin (TICBIOMED) at the Pharaon Project Open session, where she cited also experiences from other projects such as inDemand and CHERRIES.
09/02/2023	TetRRIs Winter School 9-10 February 2023 Online & Santander, Cantabria (Spain))	Laure Raso (EU BIC CEEIM) participated in the Practitioners Panel: "Ethics, Sustainability and Welfare" > "Co-creation and demand-driven innovation in healthcare: the experience of the CHERRIES project in Responsible Research and Innovation" (online)
09/02/2023	Politechnical University of Cartagena, Co-creación desde la demanda (o cómo dejar de hacer la casa por el tejado'	In this session organised by the Faculty of Business Science and Biomedical Engineering, Gorka Sánchez (Murcia Healthcare Services) from the Regional team of Murcia, presented InDeMand and CHERRIES co-creation methodologies to develop innovative products or services in cooperation with the end users in the healthcare sector.



CHERRIES Partners



