READI

PRESS RELEASE:
READI GENERAL ASSEMBLY ANNUAL MEETING

This project is supported by the Innovative Health Initiative Joint Undertaking (IHI JU) under grant agreement No 101166227. The JU receives support from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme and COCIR, EFPIA, EuropaBio, MedTech Europe, Vaccines Europe, and Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency and Breakthrough T1D.
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READI marks Year One with a bold step towards truly representative clinical research in Europe

The milestone is marked during READI's General Assembly Annual Meeting held between the 28th-30th of January 2026 and opened by the Regional Minister of Health of Madrid, Fátima Matute Teresa.

Madrid, February 2nd, 2026

Clinical Research is vital for understanding diseases, developing treatments and improving care. To deliver better outcomes for all, it must be representative and inclusive. Yet, many populations are still underrepresented and underserved in clinical studies. **READI is changing that.**

The pioneering READI Project (Research in Europe and Diversity Inclusion) has **completed its first year** with major achievements that reaffirm the **strategic value of public–private collaboration** in addressing one of Europe's most persistent challenges in health research: the underrepresentation of specific populations in clinical studies.

Backed by 75 organizations across 18 countries, READI is laying the foundations for a future where clinical evidence truly reflects Europe's broad populations, including underserved and underrepresented (US/UR) groups.

From ambition to action: How READI is already reshaping the clinical studies ecosystem in Europe

One year into its journey, the READI Project **has moved decisively from ambition to coordinated actions across its multi-stakeholder consortium.**

Key achievements include:

- The publication of the project's first scientific article: "The READI European project: Enhancing inclusivity in clinical research," published in the European Journal of Clinical Investigation.
- Clearer understanding of US/UR populations, driven by real-world data analysis, literature reviews and expert insights. Progress on an open, patient-centred digital platform, designed to improve access to study information for US/UR populations and enable more inclusive recruitment.
- Mapping clinical site capabilities across Europe. Setting the groundwork for community clusters by establishing a shared, consortium-endorsed definition of "community" in the context of clinical research.
- Establishing the Prioritization Development Committee, which will select clinical studies to test and validate READI's outputs in practice.

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These activities are underpinned by a shared ethical and regulatory framework that includes the establishment of the **Ethics Advisory Board**, composed of Dafna Feinholz, Director a.i. Division of Research, Ethics and Inclusion. UNESCO, Tom Lindemann, Secretary-General at Luxembourg Agency for Research Integrity, and Emilia Niemiec – as well as the creation of the **Scientific Advisory Board**, composed of Elena Petelos – Senior Academic Researcher, Ashish Rashi – Patient Representative and Laura Pioppo, ACT EU Programme Manager at the EMA.

In just 12 months, the consortium has built the scientific, digital, methodological and ethical foundations needed to begin improving representation into the clinical research ecosystem in Europe.

What's next: turning foundations into concrete proposals for change

As READI moves into 2026, the project continues to strengthen its foundations, expand collaboration with new partners, and build practical tools that will support a more inclusive future for clinical research in Europe. With growing engagement from communities, clinical sites, researchers and institutions, READI is well positioned to drive meaningful change and help ensure that clinical studies reflect the needs and voices of all populations. The consortium will:

1. Advance and pilot the digital platform
2. Finalize the first descriptors of US/UR populations
3. Propose methodologies to make protocol design more representative
4. Develop community clusters and expand reach to clinical sites
5. Roll out targeted training programmes for patients, clinical sites and research stakeholders to support inclusive clinical study design and participation.
6. Initiate the first use cases that will evaluate the real-world applicability of the project's innovations.

READI ultimate goal is clear: to prove that inclusive, representative clinical research is not only possible – it meaningfully strengthens the science and transform what's possible for everyone. After one year, READI has moved toward this vision. The work ahead will show how READI holistic approach can make representation become part of standard practice across Europe's clinical research ecosystem.

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About READI

The READI consortium brings together leading public institutions, clinical research infrastructures, patient organizations, universities, SMEs, regulators and industry partners. Coordinated by SERMAS (Servicio Madrileño de Salud) through Hospital Universitario La Paz (Spain) and led by Novartis (Switzerland) with support from The Synergist (Belgium), the partnership combines complementary expertise to drive a more representative and inclusive clinical research ecosystem in Europe.

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