



Newsletter 1 - Q4 2023

Internal News

CoLAB TRIALS developed a simple, intuitive medical device classification tool.

Classifying your medical device comprises usually the first step in the certification process. While detailed rules on classification are provided in both the EU MDR and additional guidance documents, this process can be very confusing and long for people who have no experience with the regulation. We aimed to create a simple questionnaire with the goal of classifying the medical device in only a few questions. Try it [here](#) and let us know how we did.

CoLAB TRIALS attended the Horizon Europe Academy, in Barcelona.

CoLAB TRIALS has attended the training course Horizon Europe Academy, held in Barcelona, from October 16th-20th 2023. The course, organized by Europa Media, comprised two parts, one focused on proposal writing and one on project management. It consisted of five days of intensive and immersive hands-on experience on Horizon Europe topics, as well as a great opportunity to meet other research/grant managers and administrators and change experience and vision about European funding!

External News

Artificial intelligence boosting innovation in clinical trials. AI is bound to enter the entire lifecycle of medicines. Healthcare is a highly regulated and risk-averse business, explaining the lag in adoption of AI. Still, numerous actors have suggested its potential application in clinical trials, from early use in pre-clinical research, prediction of outcomes and disease progression, improving recruitment and conduct, as well as performing statistical analysis.

The European medical technology industry in figures. MedTech Europe released its figures regarding the industry in 2023. Medical technologies range from surgical masks, to MRI machines and smartphone apps. These are regulated by the EU MDR or IVDR which classifies devices according to their risk to the patient and the overall public. About half of IVDs represent medium risk technologies while only 4% fall into the higher risk category. The report highlights these products have a typical lifecycle of 18-25 months before improved products emerge, which showcases the bottlenecks generated when trying to get certified. Still, medical technology receives the second highest number of patent applications in the European patent office (2022), only behind digital communication. Interestingly, among the 35k medical technology companies in Europe, 92% are small and medium enterprises, highlighting the highly innovative environment of smaller groups.

Portugal with its best performance in the European Innovation Council Accelerator – and the healthcare startup TargTex is among the selected ones.

The results of the third European Innovation Council (EIC) Accelerator programme cut-off of June are out and Portugal had its best performance ever, with three tech startups raising 37,4M€. The pool of successful Portuguese startups includes PICadvanced, Sea4Us and TargTex. The latest is a healthcare company developing targeted therapies for the treatment of a type of brain cancer, glioblastoma multiforme. TargTex will receive up to 14M€ to support the clinical development of one of its lead therapies in a phase 1/2a clinical trial in recurrent glioblastoma patients. In this cut-off, forty-seven companies were selected to receive funding, combining grants and equity, in a total estimated budget of 347M€.

New year, more funding - upcoming funding opportunities for clinical research. The new year of 2024 will bring new opportunities to fund activities related to clinical research. From more conceptual to more translational projects, funding opportunities can be found at both national and European levels. Here are some programmes to keep an eye on:

- Horizon Europe – Cluster Health (April 2024)
- Horizon Europe – Widening participation and spreading excellence (March 2024)
- Horizon Europe – European Innovation Council
- Horizon Europe – European Innovation Ecosystems (April and September 2024)
- Innovative Health Initiative – call 5 (January 2024)
- Portugal 2030 – Projetos de investigação científica e desenvolvimento tecnológico, SAICT
- Portugal 2030 – Projetos de transferência do conhecimento científico e tecnológico, SAICT
- Portugal 2030 – Projetos de I&D empresarial, SIID

About us

CoLAB TRIALS is a collaborative laboratory constituted as a nonprofit association by Universidade Nova de Lisboa/Nova Medical School, Universidade de Évora, Centro Hospitalar Lisboa Ocidental, Grupo Luz Saúde Learning Health, Centro de Medicina Laboratorial Germano de Sousa, APIFARMA and EUPATI-PT.

Our ecosystem makes us a critical partner in projects aiming: i) the clinical validation/evaluation of health technology products (medical devices, IVD, biologics (including ATMP)), ii) community literacy in clinical trials, iii) the capacitation of clinical teams in trials' project management and iv) the access to real-time and real-world clinical data for sharing and reuse according to FAIR principles and the GDPR.

