



Blood - Tissue - Cells

EU4Health
European Group
For Accreditation And Liaison
Of Blood-Tissues And Cells Establishments

Contact details
coordination@egalite-europe.eu
dissemination@egalite-europe.eu

Newsletter 1

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EGALiTE

EGALiTE - the European Group for Accreditation and Liaison of Blood-Tissues and Cells Establishments - is a **30-month project**, which aims to promote the **harmonization of practices** among Collection Centers, Blood, Tissue and Cell Establishments , to encourage **sustainability and collaboration** among stakeholders, and the implementation of **strategies** to **improve accessibility and sufficiency of SoHO** (Substances of Human Origin) at the European level.



Key Goals of EGALiTE

for better accessibility and sufficiency of SOHO

The **outcomes** of EGALiTE aim to support the activities performed in Member States with distinct technical capacities by developing and establishing:

- ★ A **European Accreditation Programme** as a means to achieve mutual recognition amongst SoHO organisations
- ★ An efficient **database** of resources (Collection Centres, facilities, activities and innovative techniques, etc.) which will be used to design sufficiency plans and promote the collaboration among professionals and CAs, to ensure an adequate supply of Blood, Tissues and Cells (BTC) in the different MS
- ★ **Contingency plans** to assist the responsible persons in the decision making process during a crisis
- ★ A **Technical Assistance Programme** to assist the implementation of good practices and optimization of activities in the different EU Member States

Groups EGALiTE aims to assist

EGALiTE project and its outcomes aim to assist SoHO stakeholders of different types of organisations:

- ★ SoHO Establishments
- ★ Collection Centres
- ★ Professionals of medical societies - EBMT, EBA, EEBA, EATCB, WMDA, AEBT, SETS, EHA
- ★ National Competent Authorities

The impact

- ★ Sharing Resources at EU level is expected to be simplified
- ★ Member States will have the opportunity to easily request and obtain Technical Assistance
- ★ The primary aim is for SoHO organisations/establishments to develop the ability to react during crises and catastrophes, as a result of improved cooperation among involved stakeholders and the immediate adoption of the developed contingency plans.
- ★ Competent Authorities, will be able to rely on an independent group of qualified European experts

Stay In Touch

To find out our future activities, and how the project's advances enhance accessibility and sufficiency of SoHO in the EU, sign-up to EGALiTE's [newsletter](#)

Summary of Project's Progression:

Months elapsed (13 of 30)



Deliverables (4 of 22)



Milestones (16 of 64)



“ Overall, the aim is to develop and establish a quality programme, delivering significant benefits and utility – for citizens and health systems/organisations – on the provision of blood, tissues and cells.



The events of our project

Kickoff meeting - Barcelona 26th and 27th May 2022

The kick-off meeting focused on defining the future work and strategies of the project, and establishing a network of experts and professionals to accomplish the goals defined in the project proposal and Grant Agreement.

Representatives of HaDEA and all fifteen (15) beneficiaries and scientific societies were present, with a total of forty-six (46) participants attending the face-to-face meeting and twenty-six (26) participants connecting virtually. The second day included a technical meeting, which aimed to promote discussion and receive technical inputs from all partners.



Figure 1. Participants of EGALiTE's face-to-face kickoff, in Barcelona

Technical meetings WP6 & WP7 and EATCB Congress - Warsaw 20th & 21st October 2022

A total of thirty-nine (39) participants (twelve (12) attending face-to-face and twenty-seven (27) participating virtually) attended the double technical meetings.

This meeting formally launched the *WP6 and WP7 and was organized in parallel with the congress of the European Association of Tissues and Cells Banks (EATCB), hence allowing the optimal use of project's resources.

Technical (WP4 and WP5) and Coordination meetings - Lisbon, 2nd and 3rd February 2023

Thirty (30) participants attended the face-to-face meeting and a total of twenty-five (25) virtually, representing beneficiaries and participating scientific societies, in the technical meetings of WP4 and WP5.

This gathering provided the opportunity for work package's (WP) Leaders to hold the 1st Coordinators meeting and define the work plans required for the progression of the different WPs.

Technical Work developed so far

Accreditation Programme (WP5)

Two (2) technical meetings were held by WP5 (7th November 2022 and 2nd and 3rd February 2023). These meetings focused on the definition of the scope of the future EGALiTE Accreditation Programme, and associated "Accreditation Guide" which will define the procedures of the future accreditation process.

The WP5 is currently developing in parallel:

- The **EGALiTE Standards**, which will apply to all activities performed by SoHO Entities and all activities on SoHO preparations, including donor recruitment, selection, evaluation, testing and SoHO collection/ procurement, sampling, testing, processing, preservation, storage, release and distribution for clinical application.
- The features, specifications and work flows of the future **Accreditation Platform**: This work is being developed by the EBMT. The platform should go live for JACIE activities by the end of 2023. The implementation of the same flow and a similar platform for the other SoHO's activities shall start by then, and be available after three (3) months.

BTC Database (WP6)

After its 1st Technical meeting (21st October 2022), WP6 Leaders performed a survey among partners to determine the features and specifications of the future **BTC Database**.

The results of this survey were presented in Lisbon, during the coordination meeting (3rd February 2023). Based on partners' inputs, it has been defined that the BTC Database will include technical information that aims to assist professionals and promote the collaboration among peers. This information is intended to provide data about accredited establishments, while giving a general overview of establishment and their capabilities. Minimum information on products will be included as well as the terms / fields used in database will be clearly defined, so that all users enter data with the same understanding

The future BTC Database will be implemented on the same IT platform as the **Accreditation Platform**. This unique solution aims simplify its future management and use by the scientific societies.

Contingency Plans (WP7)

The WP7 has completed the **Status Quo Study**, which aimed to identify potential crisis scenarios (based on real experiences and hypothetical circumstances), management procedures and corrective and preventive measures implemented by the different Member States.

The study focused on:

- Defining situations or scenarios that would require a contingency plan.
- Determining the existing state of affairs, with regard to availability, accessibility and sufficiency of SoHO in different MS.
- Identifying views and thoughts regarding the relevance of realizing a European Accreditation Programme for SoHO activities and organizations involved in the SoHO field.

The results of this study will now be used to define the framework of the Contingency Plans approach that will now be developed by WP7 working group.

EGALiTE

Technical Assistance Program (WP8)

The 1st meeting of this WP was held virtually (23rd May 2023) with the participation of twenty-five (25) attendees. WP8 Leaders have circulated a draft version of the deliverable D8.1. "Procedures of the Technical Assistance Programme (TAP)" for comments among partners, which has been used as a starting point for the definition of actions to be included in the TAP.

The procedures defined by TAP will also be included in the pilot actions performed by the WP4 in a later stage of the project.

To gain insights into each Work Package and the beneficiaries involved visit:

www.egalite-europe.eu/wps-beneficiaries

Remembering Jan Klerke

A few months ago, our colleague and friend passed away, suddenly and unexpectedly.

At EGALiTE he participated in WP6. His loss has left our hearts with sadness and is missed by all of us.

Our thoughts are with Jan's family, friends and colleagues at DGFG.



Our Partners



Invited Experts & Collaborative entities



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Website: www.egalite-europe.eu

LinkedIn/ [@egaliteeurope](https://www.linkedin.com/company/egaliteeurope)

Twitter/ [@EgaliteEurope](https://twitter.com/EgaliteEurope)

Email/ coordination@egalite-europe.eu - dissemination@egalite-europe.eu



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