



Blood - Tissue - Cells

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

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Newsletter 2

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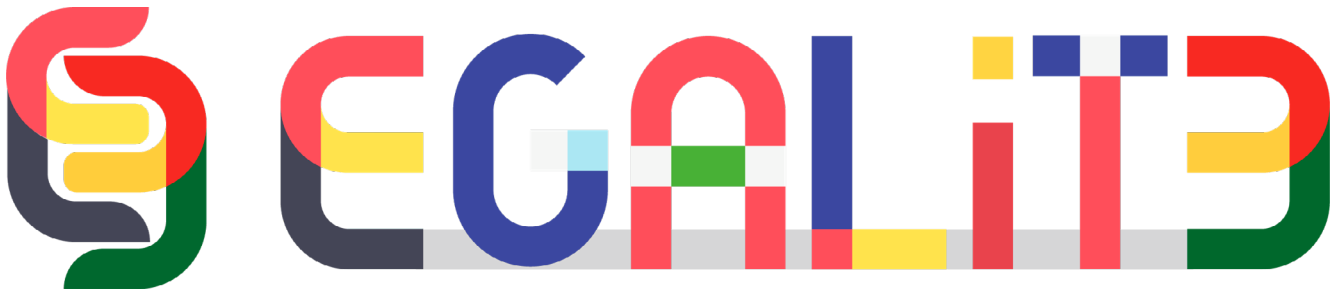


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EGALiTE

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 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 (20 of 30)



Deliverables (08 of 22)



Milestones (26 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

EGALiTE at #EHA2023Congress in Frankfurt



EGALiTE participated at the **EHA Collaboration Plaza** during this year's hybrid **EHA Congress**, which took place **8th - 11th June, 2023** in Frankfurt, Germany, with extended virtual sessions during 14th and 15th June.

EGALiTE was present with its own booth at the Collaboration Plaza among more than 80 exhibitors and a diverse range of partners, EU funded projects, patient organizations, network partners, and more, who all come together to discuss the latest advances in the field of hematology.

The congress was an opportunity - provided by our partner EHA - to showcase the EGALiTE project to EU stakeholders to discover more on the Action's work on the accreditation of SoHO establishments, the harmonization of practices among Collection Centers, Blood, Tissue and Cell Establishments, encouraging sustainability and collaboration, and the implementation of strategies to improve accessibility and sufficiency of SoHOs in the EU by developing and establishing a quality programme, delivering significant benefits and utility for citizens, health systems and organisations.

For the occasion, a banner design was developed in-house as a canva, to be displayed as background drop at EGALiTE's mini booth. The EGALiTE logo featured on a forex table banner with personalized QR code, directing visitors to the project's website. Furthermore, tailor-made **branding and promotional material** was developed for distribution to visitors at EGALiTE's mini booth, including pens with EGALiTE logo and a **4-page digital/print flyer** - a shorter version of the digital leaflet - for a quick overview on our work and the collaboration of our partners, towards a common EU accreditation program which will help achieve mutual recognition among SoHO Entities.



The events of our project

Rita Piteira at the EATCB Conference



November 22 - 24, 2023 Hilton Garden Inn, ZAGREB - Croatia

31st Annual Congress of the
European Association of
TISSUE AND CELL BANKS



Rita Piteira, on behalf of the Consortium, presented the EGALiTE project to over 300 participants at the esteemed 31st Congress of the European Association of Tissue and Cell Banking (EATCB 2023). The presentation showcased an overview of the project and promoted its future outcomes among Tissue Bankers and stakeholders in Tissue and Cell transplantation.

The presentation aimed to provide a comprehensive understanding of the project, highlighting its goals, achievements, and the collaborative efforts made by various European Organizations, including EATCB. It served as an opportunity to reach out to the beneficiaries of the project's outcomes and to inform them about the availability of future deliverables. These include the upcoming accreditation and technical assistance programs, the BTC Database, and Contingency Plans, which will be made available later this year.

This dissemination activity generated significant interest amongst attendees, allowing to explore future avenues for collaboration. It ensures that the project's impact will extend widely within the tissue transplant community, a crucial aspect of our ongoing efforts.



Technical Work developed so far

Interim Report

During this period the EGALiTE Interim Report was prepared with the contributions of all WPs and timely submitted to HaDEA for evaluation.

The document provides an overview of all the work performed by the project's partners, thus providing HaDEA crucial information related with the progress, challenges, potential impact of the future deliverables and financial aspects.

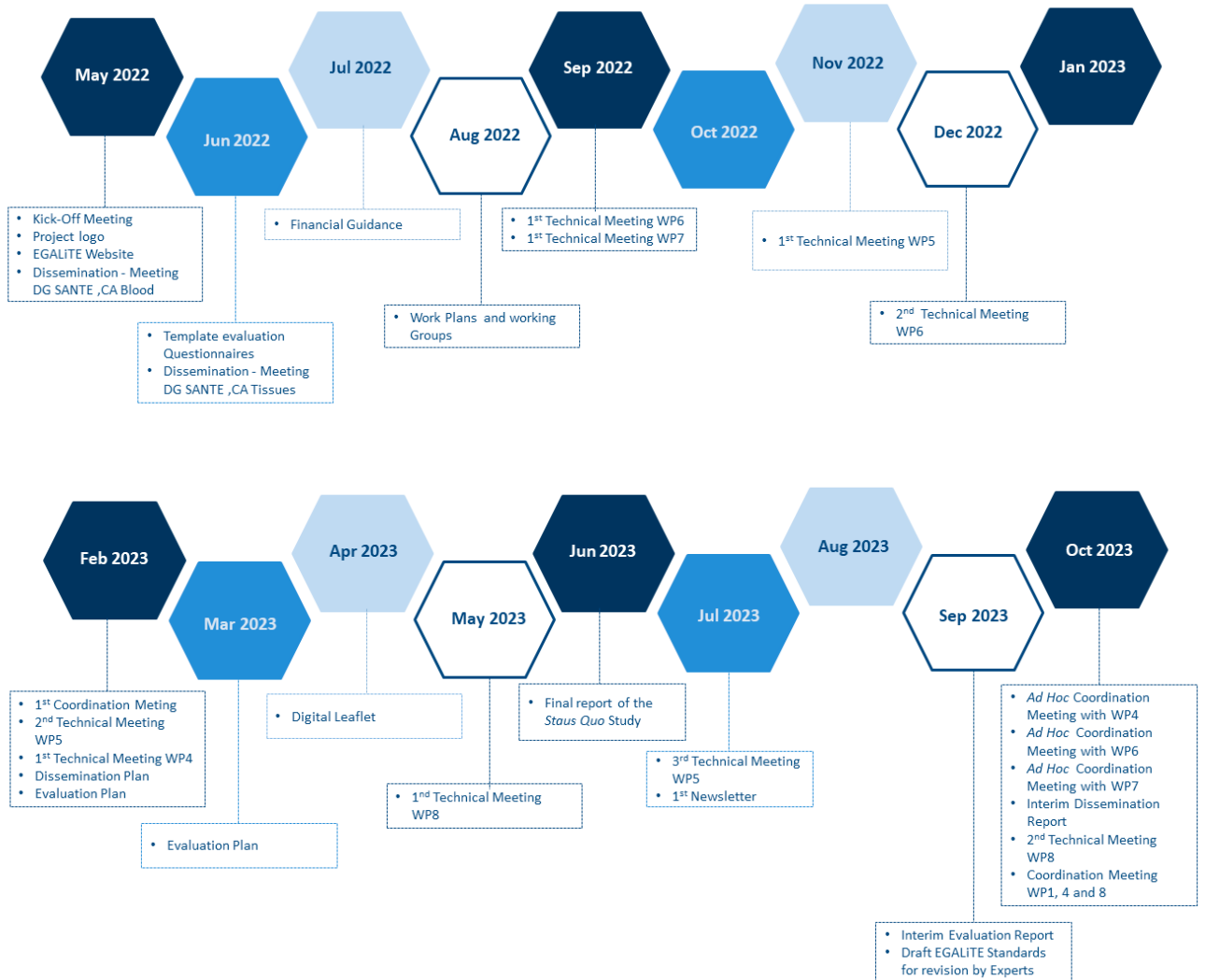
Interim Meeting

The Interim Meeting held in Zagreb, Croatia on November 21st, 2023 was constructive and provided the opportunity to update the Consortium on the current state and progress of the EGALiTE project - presenting the main accomplishments and strategies for future developments; the results of project's evaluation; and discuss the issues arisen during the previous meetings, namely the sustainability of project's outcomes.

At the sidelines of the Interim Meeting, a team event took place giving the opportunity to partners to socialize and come together.



Project timeline



Project Coordination – WP1

Work with Scientific Societies: Discussions and negotiations have taken place, namely with the scientific societies of European Eye Banks Association (EEBA), European Blood Alliance (EBA), European Association of Tissues and Cells Banks (EATCB) and EBMT with the aim of ensuring the future sustainability of the project's outcomes. Presently, the EATCB and EEBA seem to be the most suitable candidates to take over the implementation of the future accreditation programme.

This commitment will be documented by the signature of a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** by the two scientific societies. In addition, a **formal Statement** has been prepared with the aim of documenting the commitment of the scientific societies in ensuring the continuity and practical use of the EGALiTE's outcomes, namely the BTC Database and Technical Assistance Programme (TAP).

Technical Work developed so far

Evaluation – WP3

The mid-term evaluation – **Interim Evaluation Report** (MS25, D3.2) – was based on the continuous evaluation carried out until the first half of the 30-month EGALiTE project (15 months). The continuous observation of all ongoing activities and the periodic review of performance, taking into account results-oriented management, provide information on the degree of progress and achievement of project objectives.

Integration and sustainability – WP4

WP4 Leaders have produced the draft ‘Procedures’ to ‘Apply’ to the Pilot Actions of EGALiTE Project. An ad hoc meeting with the coordinators was held in Madrid on the **4th October 2023**, to discuss in detail the contents of the draft document and the practical implementation of the pilots, considering the inherent dependence with the outcomes of other WPs.

Amongst the main conclusions was that the pilot actions aim to validate the procedures defined by WP5 (Accreditation) and WP8 (TAP) acting as a simulation for the future implementation, and verifying whether the outcomes of these technical WPs, are suitable, feasible, and according to the goals defined by the EGALiTE project, and useful for the future implementation.

The pilot actions will be based on the deliverables produced by WP5 and WP8. WP4 will be responsible for the definition of selection criteria of the candidates for the different pilots.

A coordination meeting with the leaders of WP4, WP5 and WP8 was held exactly for this reason, in order to define the applicants’ selection criteria for the pilot actions, and the experts for the TAP missions. Meanwhile the Pilots of TAP are being prepared.

Accreditation Programme - WP5

The 4th technical meeting of WP5 took place on the **21st November 2023** in a face-to-face meeting in Zagreb. Thirty-two (32) participants were present in the face-to-face meeting in Zagreb, and twenty-one(21) participants attended virtually.

The main work focused on receiving feedback from partners on the documents of the “**Accreditation Dossier**” (Accreditation Guide; Applicants’ Guide; Application Form; Audit Procedure & Auditors Guidance; Standards; and Sustainability plan) and defining the next steps required to accomplish WP’s goals.

Moreover, a **demonstrator of the platform** was presented by EBMT. The current platform was developed by EBMT and encompasses all features associated with Jacie’s accreditation procedures.

The customization of this platform to adjust to EGALiTE procedures will start in January 2024, and the process is expected to last three(3) months. The final platform should be available to be tested during the pilot actions and shall be ready to be used by the completion of the project.

Technical Work developed so far

BTC Database - WP6

Currently, WP6 is to actively start the implementation of the BTC Database as soon as the customised EGALiTE Accreditation Platform is developed. The aim is to develop a unique solution – a common platform for managing accreditation and database – in order to promote the introduction of the data required by the BTC Database simultaneously with the introduction of information required for the application for accreditation. This also aims to simplify the future management of these outcomes by the scientific societies.

Contingency Plans - WP7

Currently, WP7 leaders, together with EGALiTE Consortium members are developing specific **Contingency Plans** for several different potential scenarios, outlining clear steps to be taken, considering both short-term and long-term strategies. The goal is to provide support for professionals and optimize the use of all available resources during a crisis, and consider possible exchange of donated SoHO, staff, blood, tissues or cells for transfusion/transplant. It will also include the definition of (hemo and bio) vigilance procedures which aim to oversight the execution of the plans by EGALiTE, as well as the definition of clinical recommendations/procedures for donor evaluation, selection and patient care, based on collected data whenever possible.

This deliverable shall merge the common/standard methodologies employed in the definition of contingency contents, and acts as a point of reference based on the documentation produced by the different EU stakeholders/organizations of the distinct SoHO fields.

Technical Assistance Program - WP8

A draft **TAP procedure** (D8.1) has been defined and includes all the information required by the applicants to accede to the future programme, namely the information related to possible forms of support, assistance fields, application procedures, experts' database and criteria, TAP process and administration, and more.

In addition to the TAP procedure, the WP8 leaders prepared draft versions of the documents namely the TAP application form, guide for experts, confidentiality agreements, feedback and report forms.

All these outcomes were later revised by the members of WP8's WG, discussed during the **2nd Technical Meeting** (MS62, held virtually on **October 19th 2023**) and are currently being finalized to be further used and validated by the WP4's pilot actions.

Technical Work developed so far

An ad hoc coordination meeting with the coordinators and the leaders of WP8 and WP4, was held virtually to clarify how to define the criteria for the selection of experts and applicants to participate in the TAP pilot actions and how to set up the pilot TAP itself. These documents were disclosed after the interim meeting, to allow the timely opening of candidatures.



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

www.egalite-europe.eu/wps-beneficiaries

Our Partners



Invited Experts & Collaborative entities



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