



# Coordination Centre

## Introduction of the DARWIN EU<sup>®</sup> Coordination Centre

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Executive Director

Chair Department of Medical Informatics Erasmus MC



# Disclaimer

This presentation represents the views of the DARWIN EU® Coordination Centre only and cannot be interpreted as reflecting those of the European Medicines Agency or the European Medicines Regulatory Network.

By 2025 the use of Real-World Evidence will have been enabled and the value will have been established across the spectrum of regulatory use cases

- European Medicines Regulatory Network (EMRN) [strategy to 2025](#) -

# Enabling use & establishing the value of RWE

Clin Pharmacol Ther. 2022 Jan;111(1):21-23. doi: 10.1002/cpt.2479.

- Facilitating access
- Build business processes
- Set standards
- Validate methods
- Train/share knowledge
- Establish value across use cases
- International collaboration:
  - build on ICMRA → [RWE statement](#): 4 collaboration areas
  - [ICH](#) RWE reflection [paper](#) 'International harmonisation of real-world evidence (RWE) terminology, and convergence of general principles regarding planning and reporting of studies using real-world data, with a focus on effectiveness of medicines' → public consultation





Countdown to 2025

Enabling use

# Towards delivering the 2025 RWE vision



## EMA studies using in-house databases

- **Primary care** health records from the **France, Germany, UK, Italy, Spain** and **Romania**. Some data sources include data on specialist.



## Studies procured through EMA FWCs

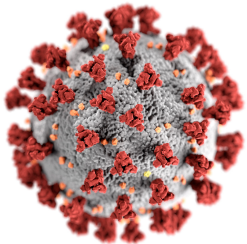
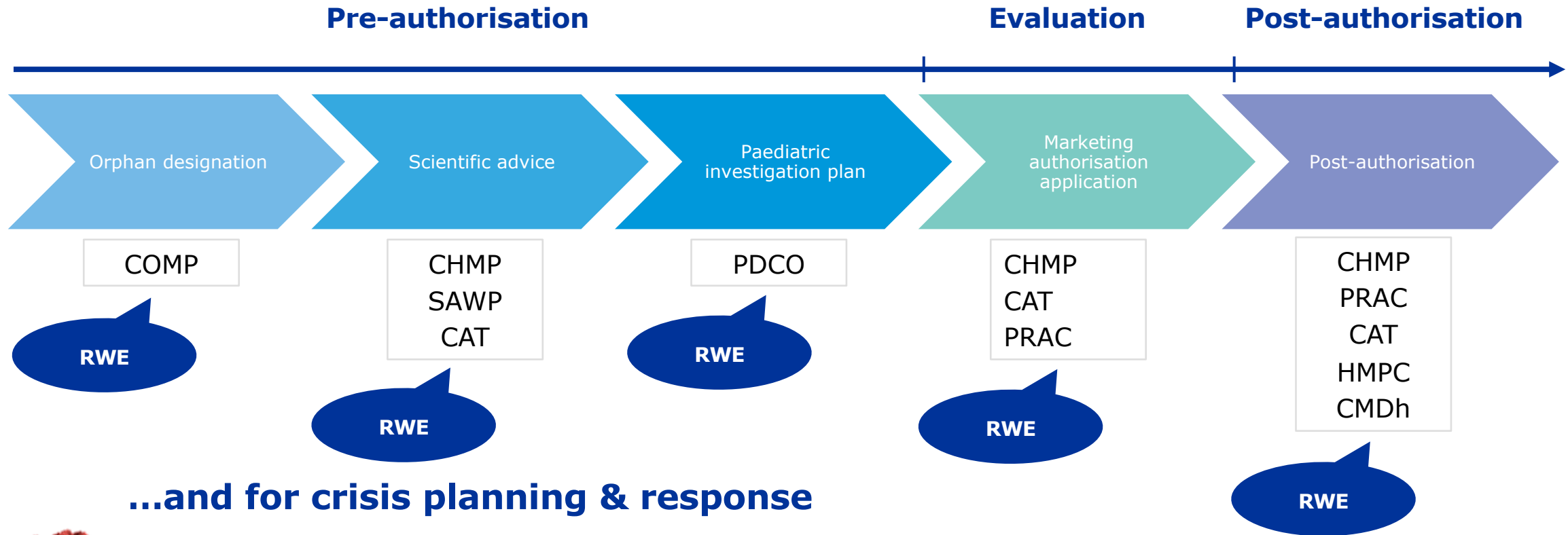
- New framework contract (FWC) since September 2021: services of **8 research organisations** and academic institutes
- Access to **wide network of data sources**: 59 data sources from 21 EU countries
- Ability to leverage external **scientific expertise**



## DARWIN EU®

- Coordination Centre launched February 2022
- Onboarded first **10 data partners**
- **First studies** finalised
- Additional 10 data partners are foreseen to **be added each year** for 2023-2025

# Demand: RWE use across the medicinal product lifecycle



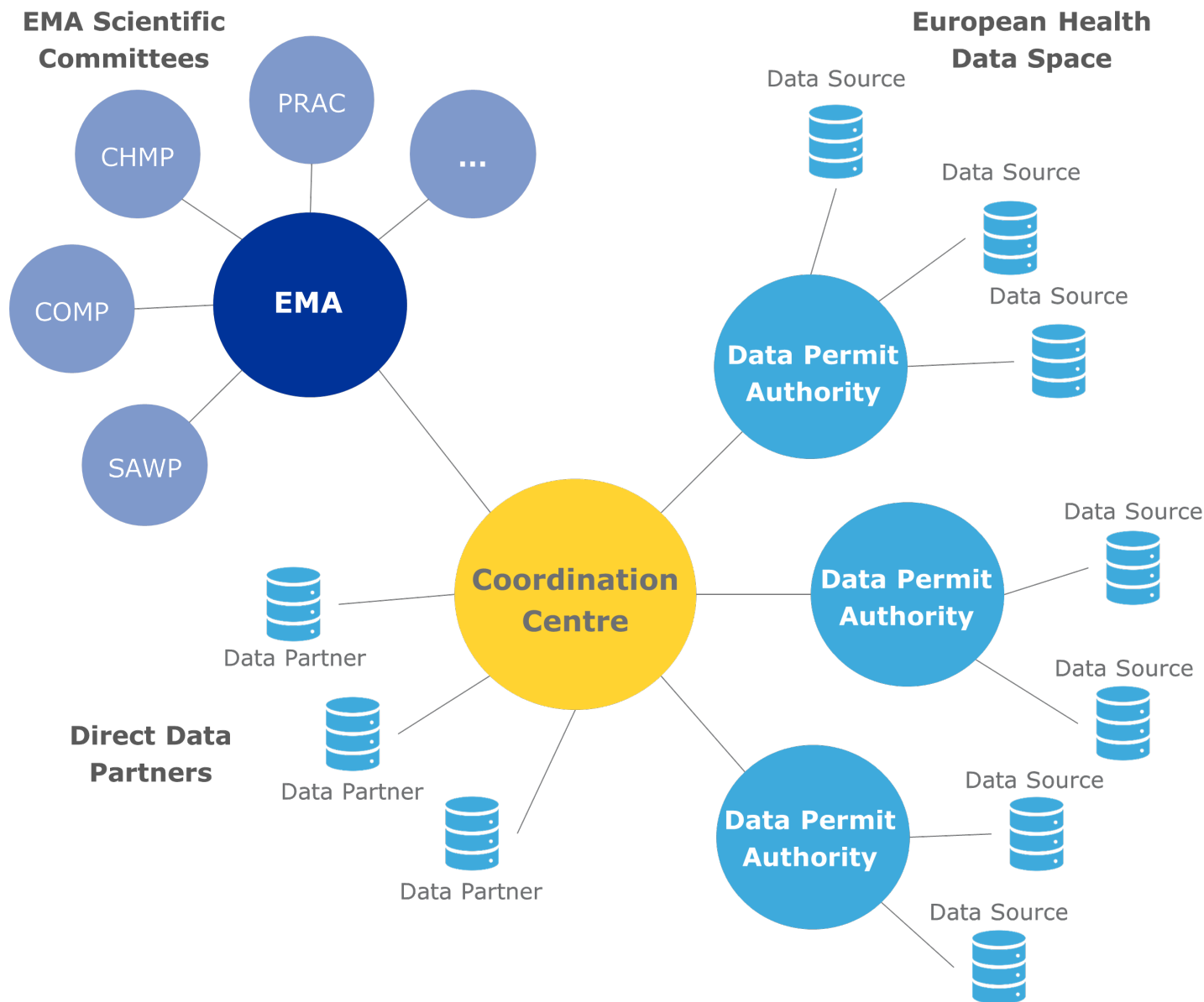
- Monitoring the use of medicines to predict demand and shortages
- Understanding the disease natural history → development of vaccines and therapeutics
- Provide evidence for repurposing existing medicines
- Monitor the safety and effectiveness of vaccines and therapeutics post-authorisation



DARWIN EU® is a federated **network of data, expertise and services** that supports better decision-making throughout the product lifecycle by generating reliable **evidence from real world healthcare data**

### FEDERATED NETWORK PRINCIPLES

- Data stays **local**
- **Use of OMOP Common Data Model** (where applicable) to perform studies in a timely manner and increase consistency of results



## DARWIN EU® Coordination Centre



Executive Director  
Prof. Peter Rijnbeek  
Head of the Department of Medical Informatics  
Erasmus MC



*Deputy Director*  
*Prof. Daniel Prieto Alhambra*  
*Erasmus MC, Oxford University*



*Deputy Director*  
*Associate Prof. Katia Verhamme*  
*Erasmus MC*

### Contractor



### Sub-contractors



## DARWIN EU® establishment in 2022 and 2023

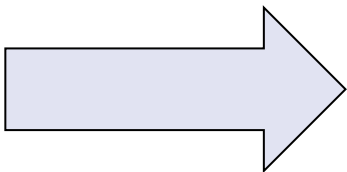
- ✓ 2<sup>nd</sup> year of establishment in progress, delivery on target and according to plan
- ✓ Focus on selection of further Data Partners and study conduct (various use cases)
- ✓ Establishment of standard analytical pipelines and codes

		Phase I	Phase II	Phase III	Option I	Option II
<b>Studies</b>	<b>Off the shelf</b>	2	6	30	60	60
	<b>Routine repeated</b>	1	6	30	60	60
	<b>Complex study</b>	1	4	12	24	24
	<b>Very complex</b>	0	0	0	1	1
<b>Data Partners (total)</b>		10	20	30	40	40



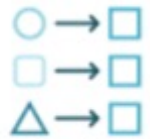
## DARWIN EU® Implementing a paradigm shift

- A highly needed paradigm shift for the fast delivery of reliable evidence for regulatory decision-making on the utilisation, safety and effectiveness of medicinal products throughout their lifecycle
- A long-term investment needed to significantly scale up the number of studies on more databases and improve public health.

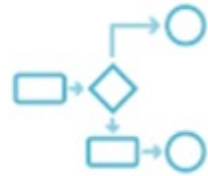


Not possible by simply scaling up the traditional approaches.

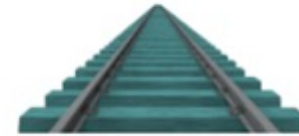
# What is needed to facilitate observational studies at scale?



*Data interoperability*



*Standardised analytics*



*Technical Infrastructure*



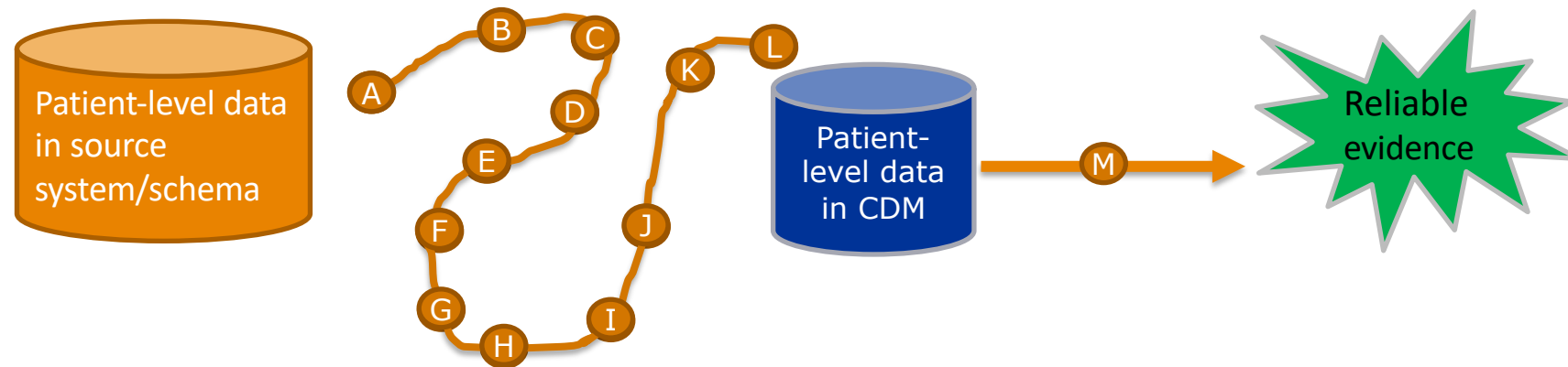
*Data network*



Research Memory.

# Generating Reliable Evidence using the OMOP Common Data Model

We need to make studies repeatable, reproducible, replicable, generalisable, and robust



A Common Data Model enables standardised analytics to generate reliable evidence.



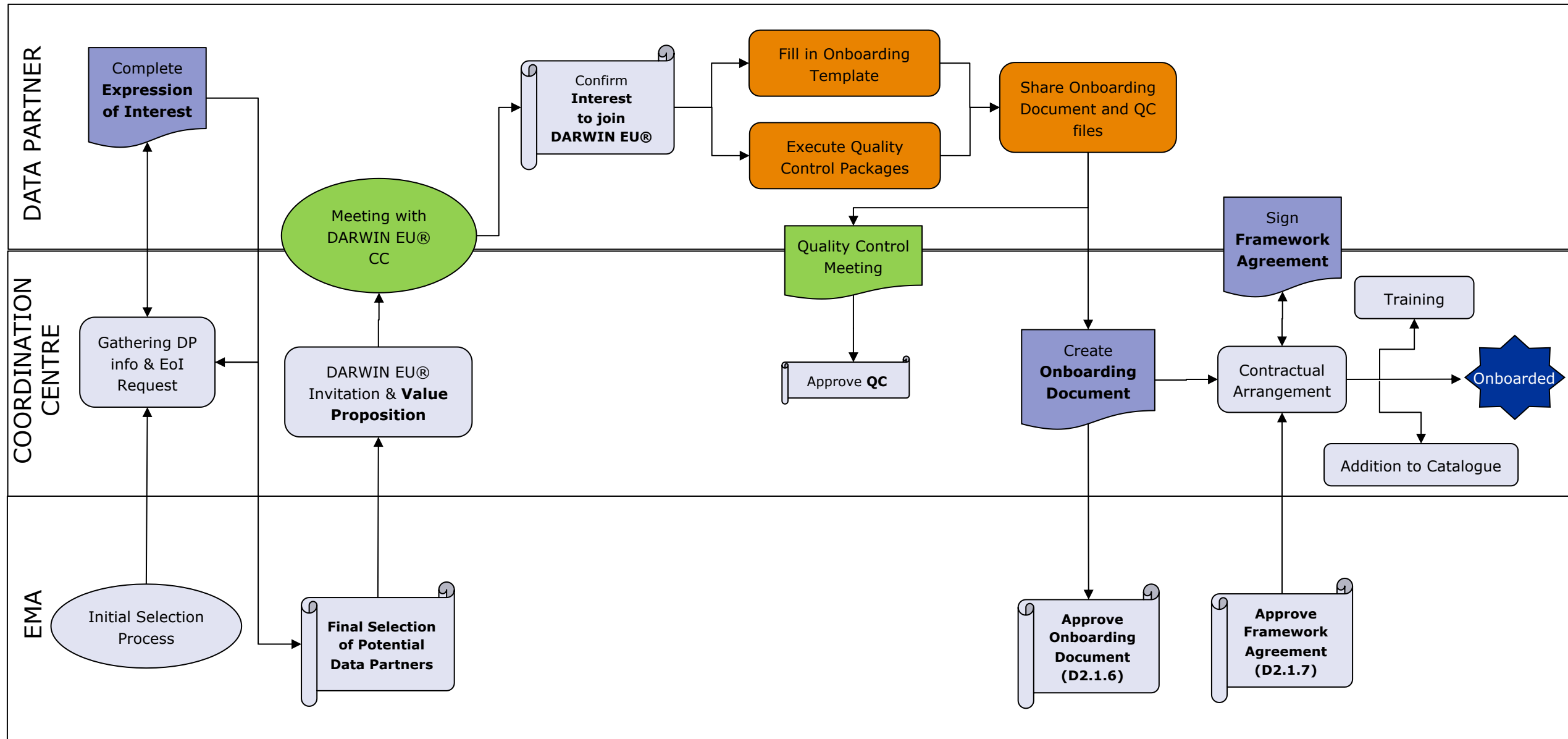
## Operating a high-quality Data Network

- Selection of data partners
  - 1) Prioritisation of already converted data sources
  - 2) Potentially mapping highly valued data sources
- All data sources will go through an onboarding process approved by EMA including quality control steps

See <https://darwin-eu.org/index.php/data/how-to-join-the-network> for more information.

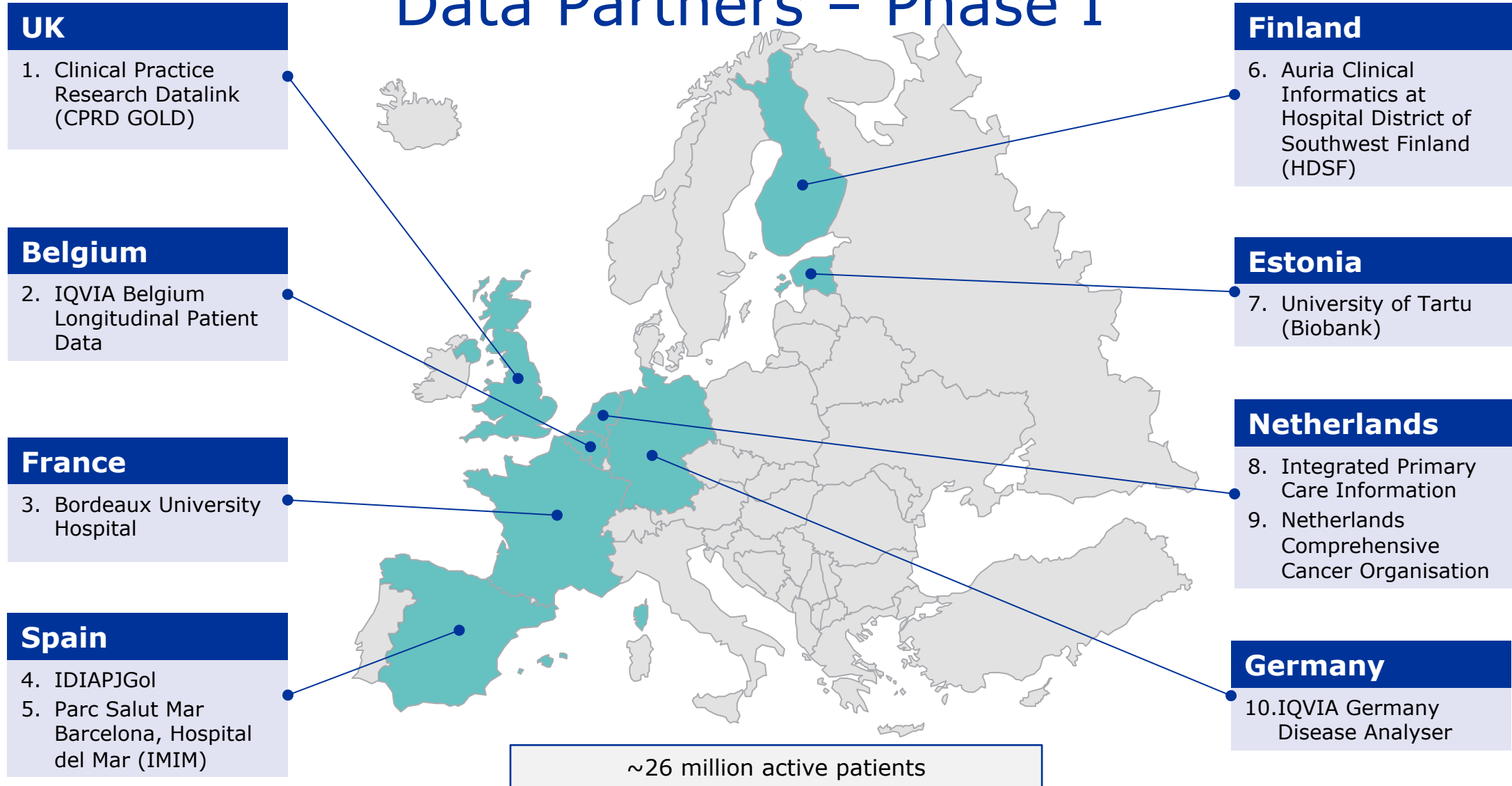
Deadline Open Call for Expression of Interest: 31<sup>st</sup> October.

# ONBOARDING PROCESS (already on OMOP CDM)





# Data Partners – Phase I

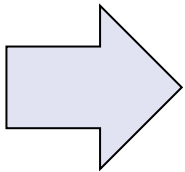


Currently **selecting Phase II DPs** via **open call for expression of interest**, then Phase III to follow



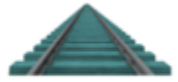
## Standardising the analytics

A catalogue of open source standardised analytics is needed to support “all” regulatory decision-making on the utilisation, safety and effectiveness of medicinal products



Will require alignment on the priority and choice of the analytical methods, and the standardised output!

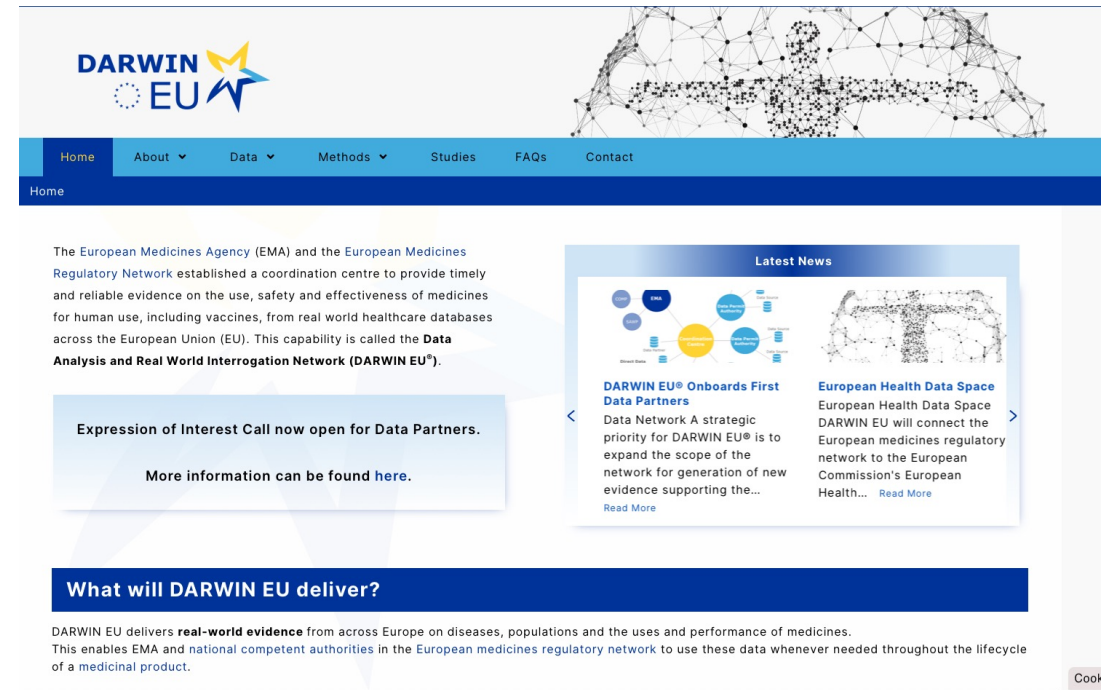
<https://www.darwin-eu.org/index.php/methods/standardised-analytics>



# Creating a strong technical infrastructure

Required components:

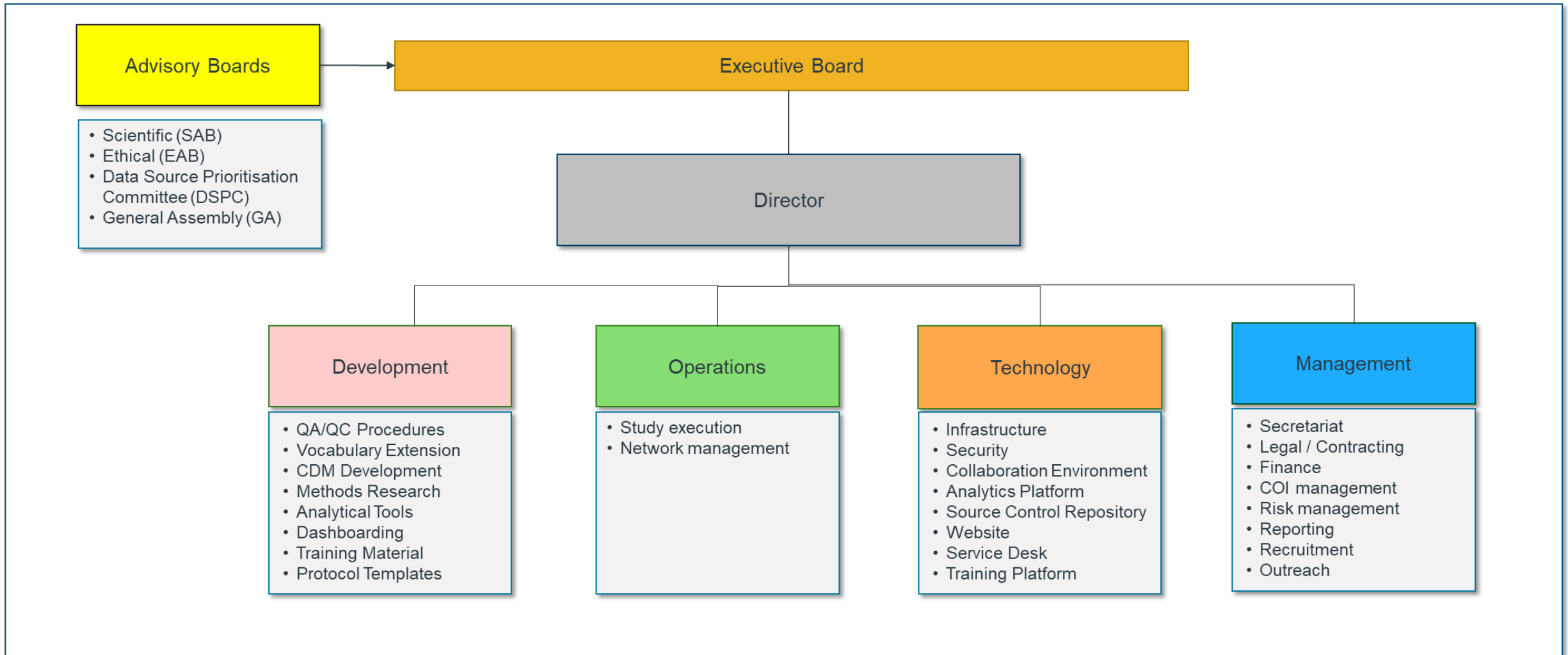
- Collaboration Space for CC and Study Teams
- Analytics Platform
- Study Execution Platform
- Training Platform
- Service Desk
- Source Control Repository
- Phenotype Library
- DARWIN EU Website:
- ...



The screenshot shows the DARWIN EU website interface. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links for Home, About, Data, Methods, Studies, FAQs, and Contact. Below the menu, a large banner features the DARWIN EU logo and a network diagram. The main content area includes a paragraph about the European Medicines Agency (EMA) and the European Medicines Regulatory Network, followed by a call to action: "Expression of Interest Call now open for Data Partners. More information can be found here." To the right, there is a "Latest News" section with two articles: "DARWIN EU® Onboards First Data Partners" and "European Health Data Space". At the bottom, a blue box titled "What will DARWIN EU deliver?" contains text about real-world evidence. A "Cool" badge is visible in the bottom right corner.

<https://www.darwin-eu.org/>

# Establishment and Evolution of the Coordination Centre





# Coordination Centre

## Development

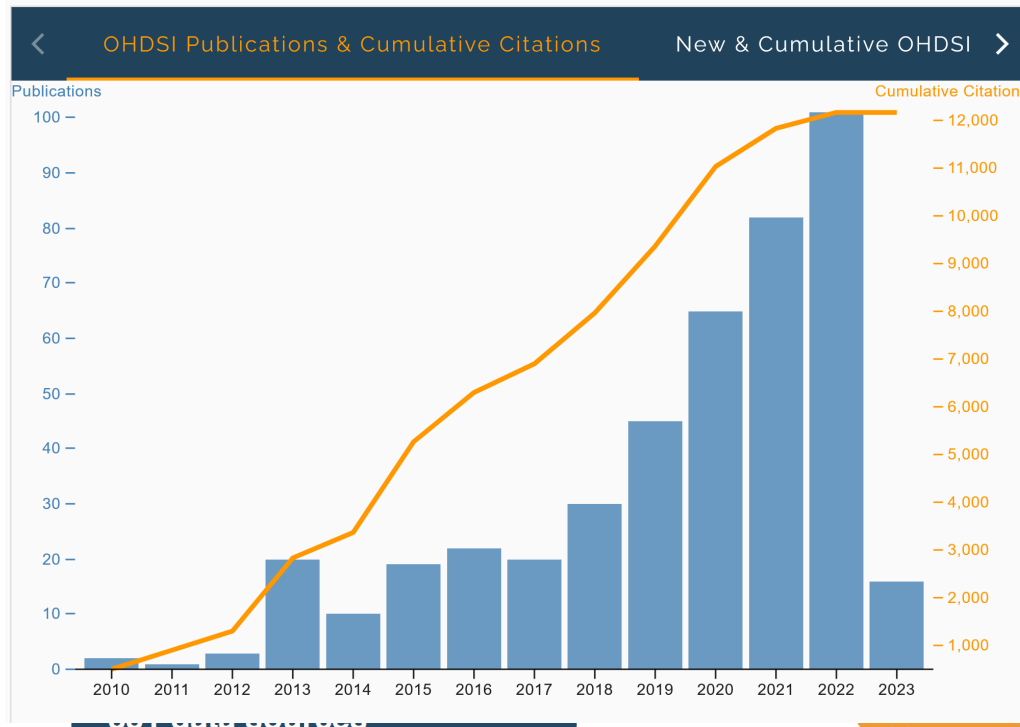
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Ed Burn

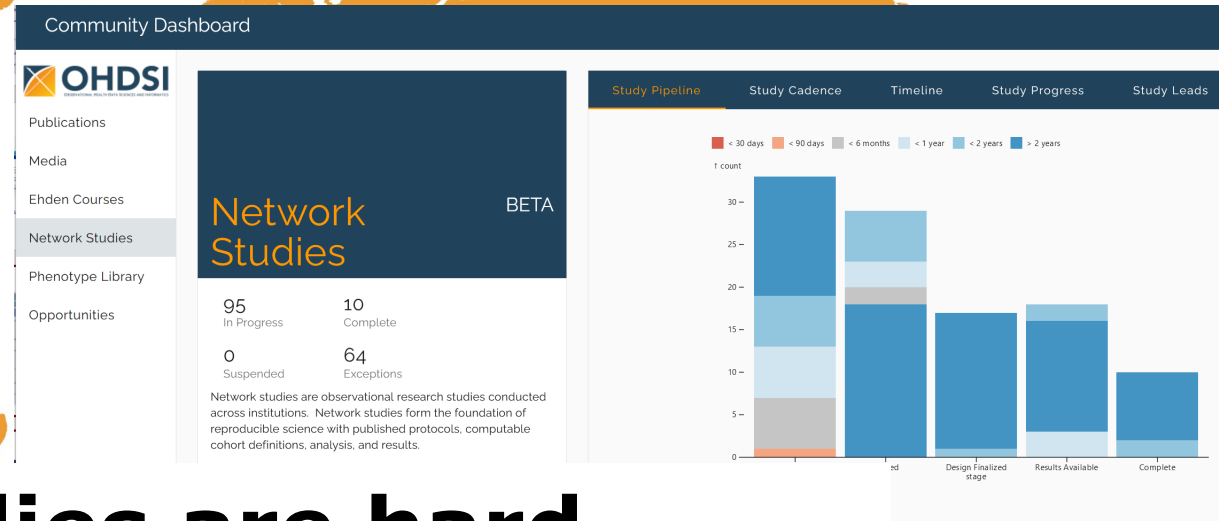


145 studies in 2025

		Phase I	Phase II	Phase III	Option I	Option II
Studies	Off the shelf	2	6	30	60	60
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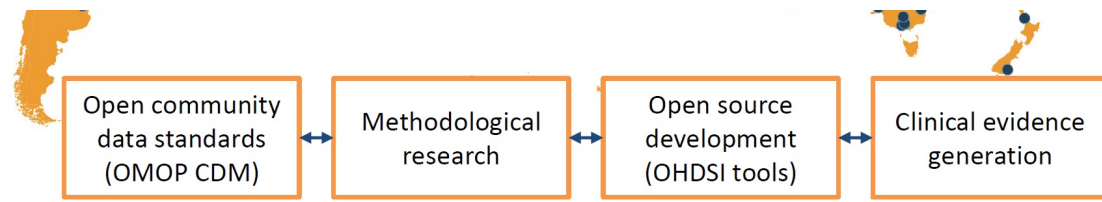


Community  
journey together...



- 284 EHRs
- 28 administrative data sources
- 34 countries
- 810 million unique patient records

# Network studies are hard .....



# Catalogue of Standard Data Analyses

## Off-the-shelf studies



These are mainly characterisation questions that can be executed with a generic protocol. This includes disease epidemiology, for example the estimation of the prevalence, incidence of health outcomes in defined time periods and population groups, or drug utilization studies at the population or patient level.

- + Patient-level characterisation
- + Patient-level DUS analyses
- + Population-level DUS analyses
- + Population-level descriptive epidemiology

## Complex

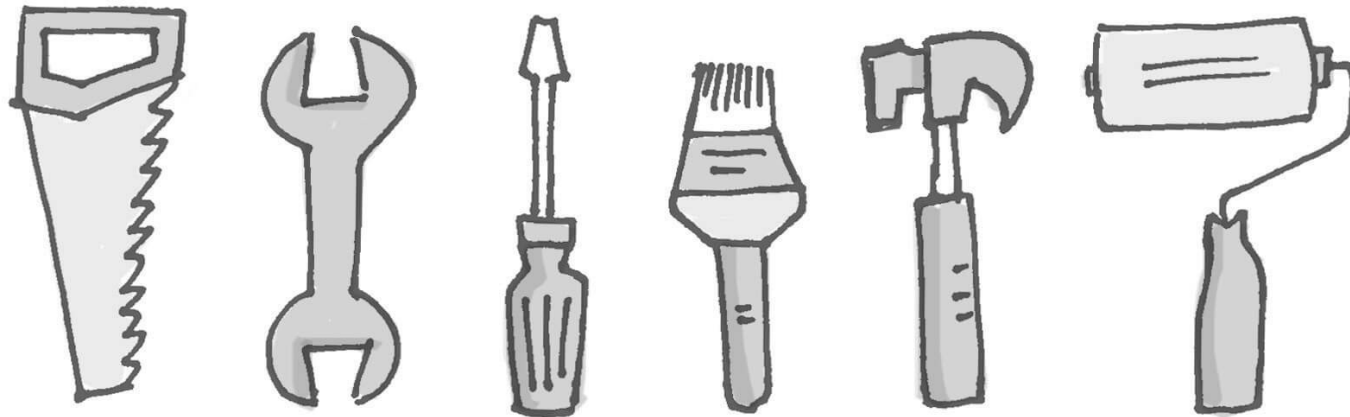


These are studies requiring development or customisation of specific study designs, protocols, analytics, phenotypes. This includes studies on the safety and effectiveness of medicines and vaccines.

- + Prevalent user active comparator cohort studies
- + New user active comparator cohort
- + Self-controlled case risk interval
- + Self-controlled case series
- + Time series analyses and Difference-in-difference studies
- + RMM effectiveness

## Building tools

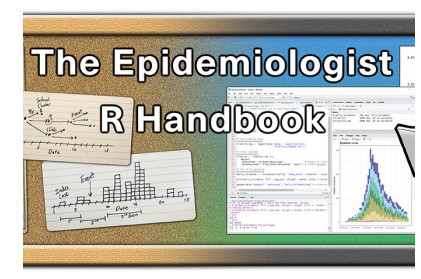
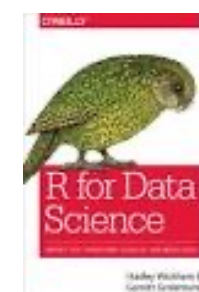
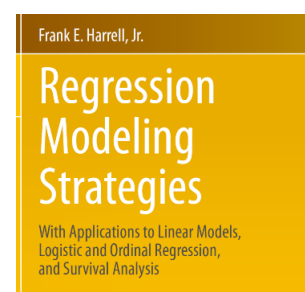
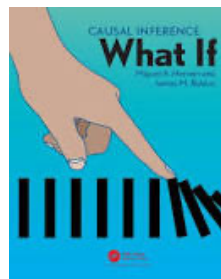
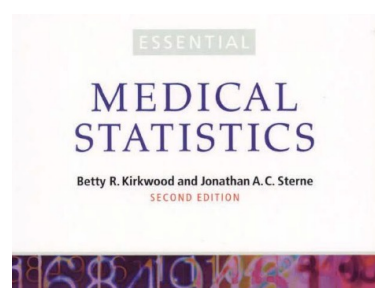
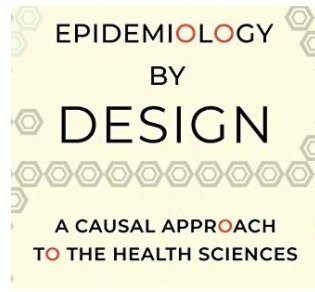
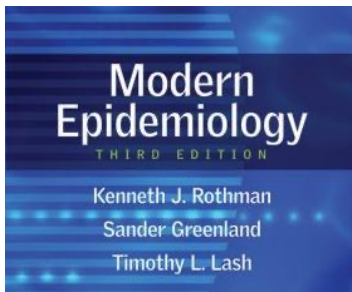
Primary focus of the development pillar is providing tools (mostly R packages) to help users to perform standard data analyses



# User profiles



- Epidemiologists and data scientists
- Interact with our R packages directly, preparing analysis scripts that use them





ORIGINAL ARTICLE | [Full Access](#)

# Background rates of five thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndromes of special interest for COVID-19 vaccine safety surveillance: Incidence between 2017 and 2019 and patient profiles from 38.6 million people in six European countries

Edward Burn, Xintong Li, Kristin Kostka, Henry Morgan Stewart, Christian Reich, Sarah Seager, Talita Duarte-Salles, Sergio Fernandez-Bertolin, María Aragón, Carlen Reyes ... [See all authors](#)

oxford-pharmacoepi / CovCoagBackgroundIncidence Public

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Code Issues Pull requests Actions Projects Wiki Security Insights Settings

main 1 branch 2 tags

Go to file Add file Code

File	Update	Time
ExposureCohorts	updates	2 years ago
Functions	updates	2 years ago
OutcomeCohorts	additional icd9 code	2 years ago
SetUp	updates	2 years ago
renv	Background incidence	2 years ago
.gitignore	updates	2 years ago
CodeToRun.R	updates	2 years ago
CovCoagBackgroundIncid...	Background incidence	2 years ago
README.md	Update README.md	2 years ago
RunAnalysis.R	Update RunAnalysis.R	2 years ago
renv.lock	updates	2 years ago

**About**

Background incidence of coagulopathies, thromboembolic, rare embolic, and thrombosis with thrombocytopenia syndrome events of special interest for COVID-19 vaccine safety surveillance

Readme 0 stars 3 watching 1 fork Report repository

**Releases** 2

v1.0.1 Latest on May 12, 2021 [+ 1 release](#)

```

main CovCoagBackgroundIncidence / RunAnalysis.R
Code Blame 1378 lines (1206 loc) · 53.2 KB Raw
1347
1348 }
1349 }
1350 }
1351
1352 IR.summary<-bind_rows(IR.summary, .id = NULL)
1353 IR.summary$db<-db.name
1354
1355 # save ----
1356 save(IR.summary, file = paste0(output.folder, "/IR.summary_", db.name, ".RData"))
1357 save(Patient.characteristicis, file = paste0(output.folder, "/Patient.characteristicis_", db.name, ".RData"))
1358 save(Patient.characteristicis.for.plotting, file = paste0(output.folder, "/Patient.characteristicis.for.plotting_", db.name, ".RData"))
1359
1360 ## zip results
1361 print("Zipping results to output folder")
1362 unlink(paste0(output.folder, "/OutputToShare_", db.name, ".zip"))
1363 zipName <- paste0(output.folder, "/OutputToShare_", db.name, ".zip")
1364
1365 files<-c(paste0(output.folder, "/IR.summary_", db.name, ".RData"),
1366         paste0(output.folder, "/Patient.characteristicis_", db.name, ".RData"),
1367         paste0(output.folder, "/Patient.characteristicis.for.plotting_", db.name, ".RData"))
1368 files <- files[file.exists(files)==TRUE]
1369
1370 createZipFile(zipFile = zipName,
1371             rootFolder=output.folder,
1372             files = files)
1373
1374 print("Done!")
1375 print("-- If all has worked, there should now be a zip folder with your results in the output folder to share")
1376 print("-- Thank you for running the study!")
1377
1378

```

```
3 # link to db tables -----
```

CDMConnector 0.6.0 Reference Articles ▾ Changelog

# CDMConnector

Are you using the [tidyverse](#) with an OMOP Common Data Model?

Interact with your CDM in a pipe-friendly way with CDMConnector.

- Quickly connect to your CDM and start exploring.
- Build data analysis pipelines using familiar dplyr verbs.
- Easily extract subsets of CDM data from a database.

```
20 cdm_get_database_schema,  
21 ".concept_ancestor"))
```

PatientProfiles 0.1.0 Reference Articles ▾

## Function reference

### Add individual patient characteristics

Add patient characteristics to a table in the OMOP Common Data Model

`addAge()`

Compute the age of the individuals at a certain date

`addFutureObservation()`

Compute the number of days till the end of the observation period at a certain date

`addInObservation()`

Indicate if a certain record is within the observation period

`addPriorHistory()`

Compute the number of days of prior history in the current observation period at a certain date

`addSex()`

Compute the sex of the individuals

54",

IncidencePrevalence 0.3.0 Reference Articles ▾

# Collect population incidence estimates

Collect population incidence estimates

## Usage

```
estimateIncidence(  
  cdm,  
  denominatorTable,  
  outcomeTable,  
  denominatorCohortId = NULL,  
  outcomeCohortId = NULL,  
  interval = "years",  
  completeDatabaseIntervals = TRUE,  
  outcomeWashout = Inf,  
  repeatedEvents = FALSE,  
  minCellCount = 5,  
  temporary = TRUE,  
  returnParticipants = FALSE  
)
```

```
884 # see end.date defined above
```



```

main C1-001-RareBloodCancersPrevalence / RunStudy.R
Code Blame 120 lines (117 loc) · 3.84 KB
81     outcomeCohortName = outcome_cohorts$cohortName,
82     interval = c("years"),
83     verbose = TRUE
84   )
85
86   info(logger, paste0("- getting period prevalence for ", denominators[[i]])
87   prevalence_estimates[[paste0(
88     "period_prevalence_",
89     denominators[[i]]
90   )]] <- estimatePeriodPrevalence(
91     cdm = cdm,
92     tablePrefix = table_period_prev,
93     denominatorTable = denominators[[i]],
94     outcomeTable = table_outcome,
95     outcomeCohortId = outcome_cohorts$cohortId,
96     outcomeCohortName = outcome_cohorts$cohortName,
97     completeDatabaseIntervals = TRUE,
98     fullContribution = c(TRUE, FALSE),
99     interval = c("years"),
100    verbose = TRUE
101  )
102 }
103 # gather results and export ----
104 info(logger, "GATHERING RESULTS")
105 study_resuls <- gatherIncidencePrevalenceResults(cdm,
106                                                  resultList = prevalence_estimates,
107                                                  databaseName = db_name
108 )
109 info(logger, "ZIPPING RESULTS")
110 exportIncidencePrevalenceResults(
111   result = study_resuls,
112   zipName = paste0(c(db_name,
113                     "C1_001_Results",
114                     format(Sys.Date(), format="%Y%m%d")),
115                   collapse = "_"),
116   outputFolder = output_folder
117 )
118
119 print("-- Thank you for running the study!")
120 print("-- If all has worked, there should now be a zip folder with your results in the output folder to share")

```

# IncidencePrevalence

- + Population-level DUS analyses
- + Population-level descriptive epidemiology
- + Time series analyses and Difference-in-difference studies
- + RMM effectiveness

IncidencePrevalence 0.4.0 [Reference](#) [Articles](#) ▾

## Estimate period prevalence

Estimate period prevalence

### Usage

```
estimatePeriodPrevalence(
  cdm,
  denominatorTable,
  outcomeTable,
  denominatorCohortId = NULL,
  outcomeCohortId = NULL,
  outcomeLookbackDays = 0,
  interval = "years",
  completeDatabaseIntervals = TRUE,
  fullContribution = FALSE,
  minCellCount = 5,
  temporary = TRUE,
  returnParticipants = FALSE
)
```

IncidencePrevalence 0.4.0 [Reference](#) [Articles](#) ▾

## Collect population incidence estimates

Collect population incidence estimates

### Usage

```
estimateIncidence(
  cdm,
  denominatorTable,
  outcomeTable,
  denominatorCohortId = NULL,
  outcomeCohortId = NULL,
  interval = "years",
  completeDatabaseIntervals = TRUE,
  outcomeWashout = Inf,
  repeatedEvents = FALSE,
  minCellCount = 5,
  temporary = TRUE,
  returnParticipants = FALSE
)
```

# Software validation: unit testing

IncidencePrevalence coverage - 98.10%

File	Lines	Relevant	Covered	Missed	Hits / Line	Coverage
R/utlis.R	207	47	41	6	10	87.23%
R/plotting.R	248	108	100	8	5	92.59%
R/getDenominatorCohorts.R	501	304	288	16	111	94.74%
R/exportIncidencePrevalenceResults.R	109	41	39	2	3	95.12%
R/getIncidence.R	374	229	221	8	235	96.51%
R/inputValidation.R	386	230	222	8	102	96.52%
R/generateDenominatorCohortSet.R	568	313	313	0	160	100.00%
R/estimateIncidence.R	538	294	294	0	82	100.00%
R/mockIncidencePrevalenceRef.R	492	279	279	0	76	100.00%
R/estimatePrevalence.R	556	259	259	0	63	100.00%
R/getPrevalence.R	363	222	222	0	498	100.00%
R/benchmarkIncidencePrevalence.R	321	185	185	0	4	100.00%
R/getStudyDays.R	141	84	84	0	207	100.00%
R/obscureCounts.R	73	39	39	0	110	100.00%
R/bindEstimates.R	135	38	38	0	7	100.00%
R/recordAttrition.R	65	33	33	0	2671	100.00%

Search for

## Run benchmark of incidence and prevalence analyses

Run benchmark of incidence and prevalence analyses

### Usage

```
benchmarkIncidencePrevalence(
  cdm,
  cohortDateRange = NULL,
  temporary = TRUE,
  returnParticipants = FALSE,
  nOutcomes = 1,
  prevOutcomes = 0.25,
  analysisType = "all",
  outputFolder = NULL,
  fileName = NULL
)
```

### Arguments

**cdm**  
A CDM reference object

**cohortDateRange**  
Two dates. The first indicating the earliest cohort start date and the second indicating the latest possible cohort end date. If NULL or the first date is set as missing, the earliest observation\_start\_date in the observation\_period table will be used for the former. If NULL or the second date is set as missing, the latest observation\_end\_date in the observation\_period table will be used for the latter.

**temporary**  
If TRUE, temporary tables will be used throughout. If FALSE, permanent tables will be created in the write\_schema of the cdm using the write\_prefix (if specified). Note existing permanent tables in the write schema starting with the write\_prefix will be at risk of being dropped or overwritten.

**returnParticipants**  
Whether to return participants (requires temporary to be FALSE)

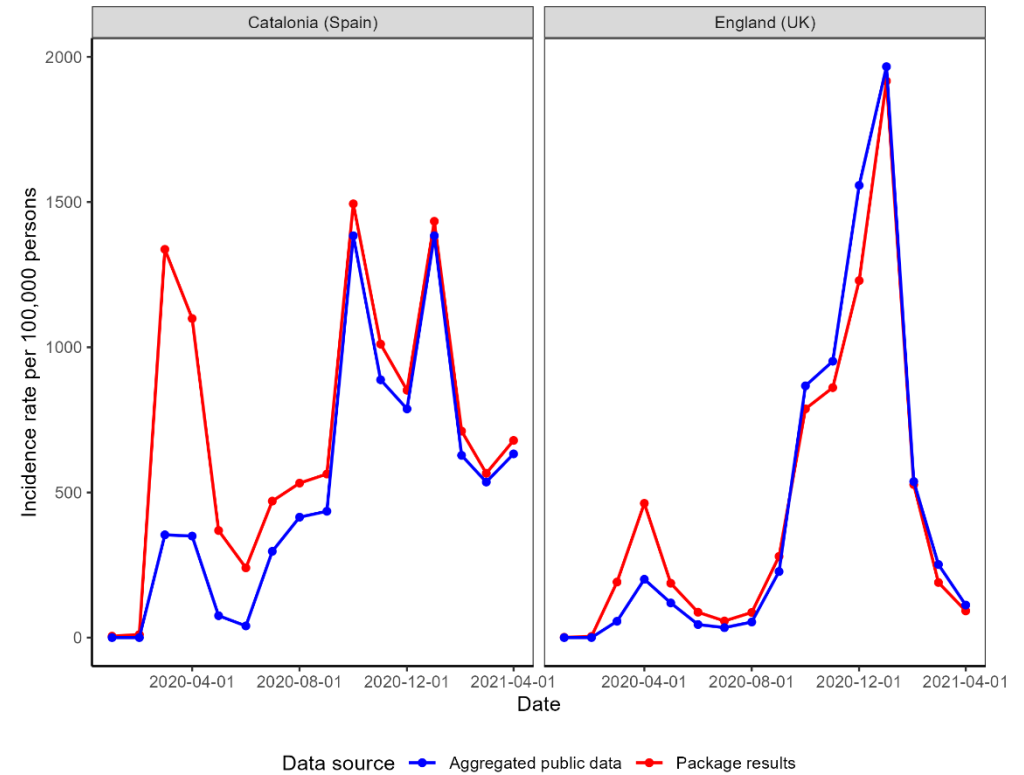
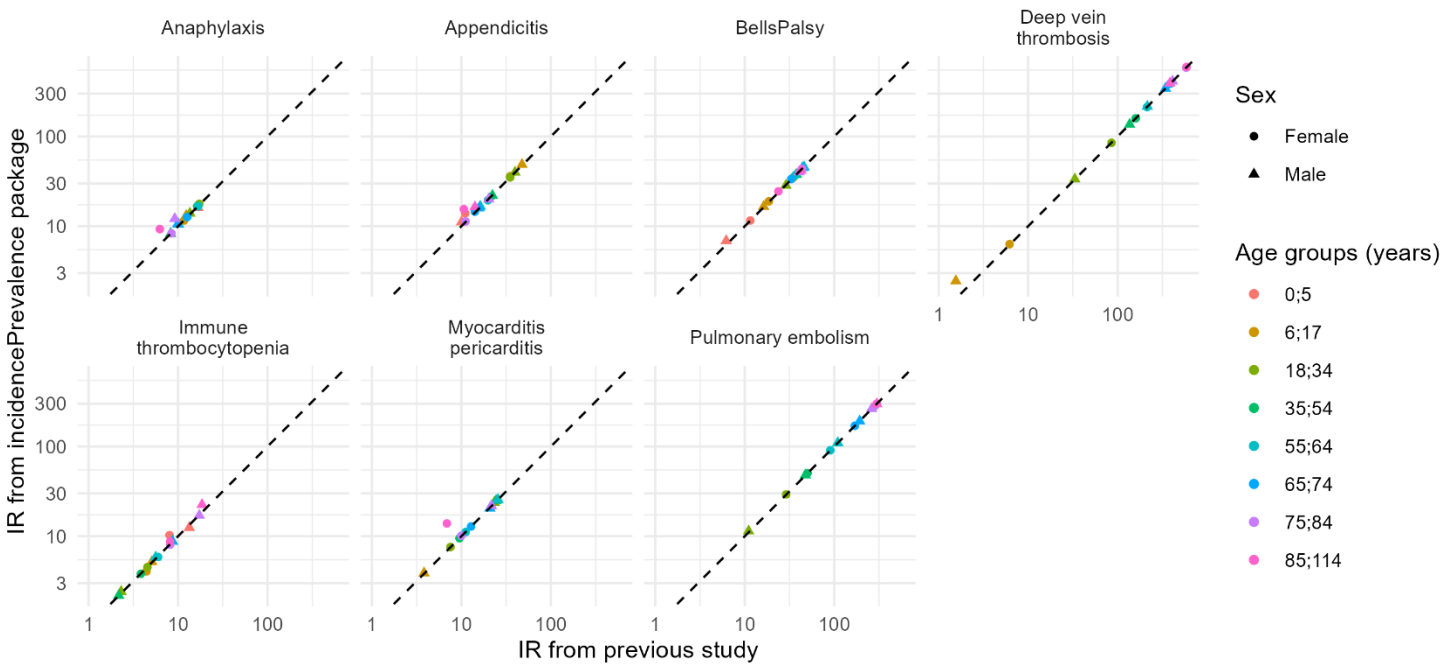
**nOutcomes**  
An integer specifying the number of outcomes to create in the denominator cohort

**prevOutcomes**  
An array of integers for the prevalence of the outcomes in the population (in %). If the user wants all the outcomes with the same prevalence, they can also provide a single integer

On this page

- Usage
- Arguments
- Value
- Examples

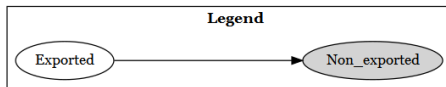
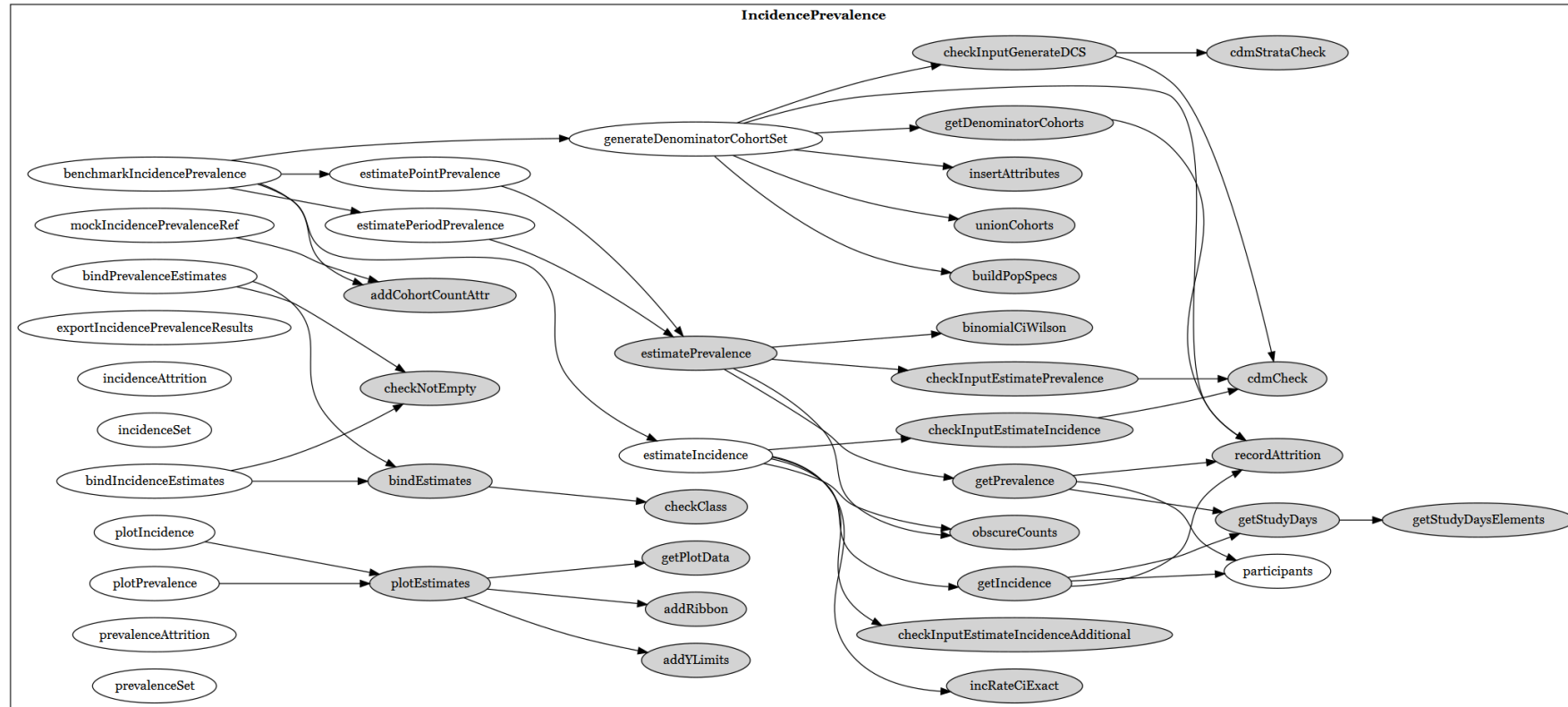
# Software validation: face validity



# Software performance

<b>Task</b>	<b>CPRD AURUM (n=39,999,011)</b>	<b>CPRD GOLD (n=15,662,217)</b>	<b>SIDIAP (n=8,265,343)</b>	<b>IPCI (n=2,612,850)</b>
Generating denominator (8 cohorts)	19 mins	8 mins	3 mins	1 min
Yearly period prevalence	11 mins	5 mins	5 mins	1 min
Monthly period prevalence	17 mins	6 mins	8 mins	2 mins
Yearly incidence	8 mins	3 mins	4 mins	1 min
Monthly incidence	13 mins	5 mins	7 mins	1 min

# Software review



Show 10 entries

Search:

R    cpp    o    h    java    sql

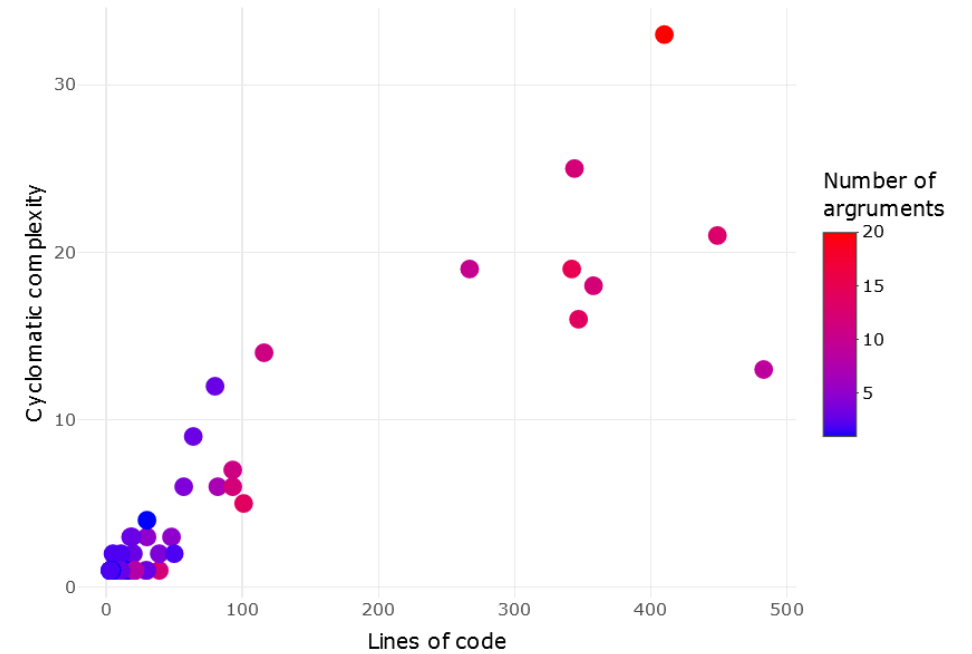
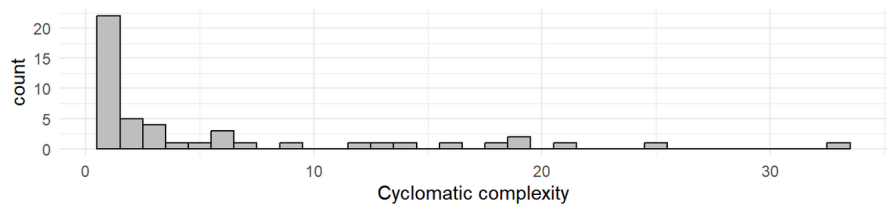
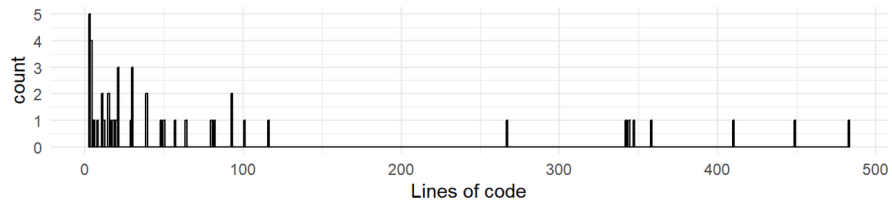
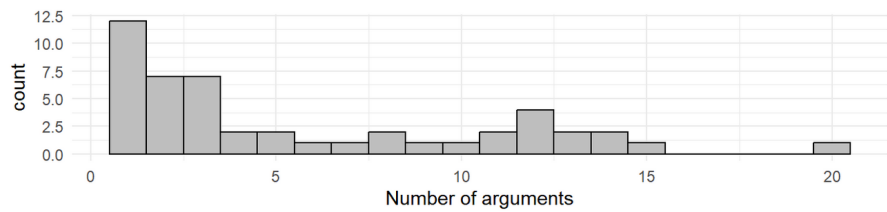
# lines of code	R	cpp	o	h	java	sql
	5099	0	0	0	0	0



# Software review

Summary of package functions



	min	median	max
Number of arguments	1	3	20
Lines of code	3	25	483
Cyclomatic complexity	1	2	33



# Software dissemination

**IncidencePrevalence: Estimate Incidence and Prevalence using the OMOP Common Data Model**

Calculate incidence and prevalence using data mapped to the Observational Medical Outcomes Partnership (OMOP) common data model. Incidence and prevalence can be estimated for the total population in a database or for a stratification cohort.

Version: 0.4.1  
 Depends: R (≥ 4.0)  
 Imports: [CDMConnector](#) (≥ 1.0.0), [checkmate](#) (≥ 2.0.0), [cli](#) (≥ 3.0.0), [DBI](#) (≥ 1.0.0), [dbplyr](#) (≥ 2.0.0), [dplyr](#) (≥ 1.1.0), [glue](#) (≥ 1.5.0), [ggplot2](#) (≥ 3.4.0), [scales](#) (≥ 1.1.0), [lubridate](#) (≥ 1.0.0), [magrittr](#) (≥ 2.0.0), [purrr](#) (≥ 0.3.5), [rlang](#) (≥ 1.0.0), [stringr](#) (≥ 1.5.0), [tidyr](#) (≥ 1.2.0), [tidyselect](#) (≥ 1.2.0), [zip](#) (≥ 2.2.0)  
 Suggests: [knitr](#), [rmarkdown](#), [RPostgres](#), [tibble](#), [duckdb](#), [odbc](#), [here](#), [Hmisc](#), [epitools](#), [tictoc](#), [testthat](#) (≥ 0.3.1), [spelling](#), [PaRe](#)  
 Published: 2023-07-11  
 Author: Edward Burn  [aut, cre], Berta Raventos  [aut], Marti Catala  [aut], Mike Du  [ctb], Yuchen Guo  [ctb], Adam Black  [ctb], Ger Inberg  [ctb], Kim Lopez  [ctb]  
 Maintainer: Edward Burn <edward.burn@ndorms.ox.ac.uk>  
 License: [Apache License \(≥ 2\)](#)  
 URL: <https://darwin-eu.github.io/IncidencePrevalence/>  
 NeedsCompilation: no  
 Language: en-US  
 Materials: [README](#)  
 CRAN checks: [IncidencePrevalence results](#)

Documentation:

Reference manual: [IncidencePrevalence.pdf](#)  
 Vignettes: [a01\\_Introduction\\_to\\_IncidencePrevalence](#), [a02\\_Creating\\_denominator\\_cohorts](#), [a03\\_Creating\\_outcome\\_cohorts](#), [a05\\_Calculating\\_prevalence](#), [a06\\_Calculating\\_incidence](#)

Downloads:

Package source: [IncidencePrevalence\\_0.4.1.tar.gz](#)  
 Windows binaries: r-devel: [IncidencePrevalence\\_0.4.1.zip](#), r-release: [IncidencePrevalence\\_0.4.1.zip](#), r-oldrel: [IncidencePrevalence\\_0.4.1.zip](#)  
 macOS binaries: r-release (arm64): [IncidencePrevalence\\_0.4.1.tgz](#), r-oldrel (arm64): [IncidencePrevalence\\_0.4.1.tgz](#), r-release (x86\_64): [IncidencePrevalence\\_0.4.1.tgz](#), r-oldrel (x86\_64): [IncidencePrevalence\\_0.4.1.tgz](#)  
 Old sources: [IncidencePrevalence archive](#)

## IncidencePrevalence: An R package to calculate population-level incidence and prevalence rates using the OMOP Common Data Model.

Berta Raventós<sup>1,2\*</sup>, Martí Català<sup>3\*</sup>, Mike Du<sup>3</sup>, Yuchen Guo<sup>3</sup>, Adam Black<sup>4</sup>, Ger Inberg<sup>5</sup>, Xintong Li<sup>3</sup>, Kim López-Güell<sup>3</sup>, Danielle Newby<sup>3</sup>, Maria de Ridder<sup>5</sup>, Cesar Barboza<sup>5</sup>, Talita Duarte-Salles<sup>3</sup>, Talita Verhamme<sup>5</sup>, Peter Rijnbeek<sup>5</sup>, Daniel Prieto Alhambra<sup>3,5</sup>, Edward Burn<sup>3</sup>

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# Summary

Software development in DARWIN EU® to support high throughput network studies

- Designed to deliver catalogue of standard data analyses
- Testing to ensure validity and usability
- Flexibility in design to account for expected updates in the catalogue over time
- Extensibility to allow complex analyses to build on top of off-the-shelf tools
- R packages published on CRAN with thorough documentation







# Coordination Centre

## Study operations

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Katia Verhamme, Department of Medical Informatics, EMC Rotterdam, The Netherlands

# What analyses and studies will DARWIN EU<sup>®</sup> deliver?

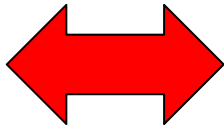
Category of observational analyses and studies	Description
 <b>Routine repeated analyses</b>	<p><b>Routine analyses</b> based on a <b>generic study protocol</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Periodical estimation of drug utilisation</li> <li>• Safety monitoring of a medicinal product</li> <li>• Estimation of the incidence of a series of adverse events</li> </ul>
 <b>Off-the-shelf studies</b>	<p>Studies for which a <b>generic protocol</b> is adapted to a research question</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Estimate the prevalence, incidence or characteristics of exposures</li> <li>• Health outcomes</li> <li>• Describe population characteristics</li> </ul>
 <b>Complex Studies</b>	<p>Studies <b>requiring development or customisation</b> of specific study designs, protocols and Statistical Analysis Plans (SAPs), with extensive collection or extraction of data</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Etiological study measuring the strength and determinants of an association between an exposure and the occurrence of a health outcome considering sources of bias, potential confounding factors and effect modifiers</li> </ul>
 <b>Very Complex Studies</b>	<p>Studies which <b>cannot rely only on electronic health care databases</b>, or which would require <b>complex methodological work</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Studies where it may be necessary to combine a diagnosis code with other data such as results of laboratory investigations, or studies requiring additional data collection</li> </ul>

# Expected number of studies



	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Phases	Phase I	Phase II	Phase III	Option 1	Option 2
Routine Repeated analysis	At least 1 study	-	30	60	60
Off the shelf studies	At least 2 studies	6 + 8	30	60	60
Complex Studies	1	4	12	24	24
Very Complex Studies	0	0	0	1	1

<p>1. Study Exploration</p>	<p><u>Study Feasibility- Study request by EMA:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Do we have the data? – Darwin Portal</li> <li>- Do we have the analytical pipelines? (OTS)</li> </ul>
<p>2. Study Initiation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Work Order Form Data Partners</li> <li>- Creation of Study Team: PI/data analyst</li> <li>- Declaration of Interest</li> </ul>
<p>3. Study Implementation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Study outline/Protocol – Upload to EUPAS register</li> <li>- IRB approval - Kick-off meeting</li> <li>- Phenotyping – Cohort Diagnostics</li> <li>- Study Package – Test Run</li> </ul>
<p>4. Study Execution</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Data Partners run Study Package</li> <li>- Data QC by Data Partners</li> <li>- Results uploaded to DRE</li> <li>- Results reviewed by PI</li> </ul>
<p>5. Study Dissemination</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Generation of Study Report (ENCePP template)</li> <li>- Upload to EUPAS register</li> <li>- Manuscript generation</li> <li>- Study archiving</li> </ul>



EMA

Database Partners

Darwin CC:

- Network Pillar
- Development Pillar
- Technology Pillar
- Management Pillar

Study Title	Committees	Study Type	Type of analysis	Data bases	Status
DARWIN EU® - <b>Prevalence of rare blood cancers in Europe (ICPE P1180)</b>	COMP	OTS	Disease Epidemiology	IPCI (NI) SIDIAP (Spain) CPRD Gold (UK) IQVIA LPD (Be) IQVIA DA (Ge)	Completed
DARWIN EU® - <b>Drug utilisation of valproate</b> -containing medicinal products in women of childbearing potential ( <b>ICPE P42</b> )	Following safety referral	OTS	Drug Utilisation Study	IPCI (NI) SIDIAP (Spain) CPRD Gold (UK) IQVIA LPD (Be) IQVIA DA (Ge) HDSF (Fi)	Completed
DARWIN EU® - <b>DUS of Antibiotics</b> in the 'Watch' category of the WHO AWaRe classification of antibiotics for evaluation and monitoring of use ( <b>ICPE P331</b> )	PRAC/CHMP	OTS	Drug Utilisation Study	IPCI (NI) CHUBX (France) SIDIAP (Spain) IMASIS (Spain) IQVIA DA (Ge) CPRD Gold (UK)	Completed
DARWIN EU® - <b>Background rates</b> of serious adverse events to contextualise safety assessments in clinical trials and non-interventional studies in adolescent and adult patients with <b>severe asthma</b> .	CHMP	Complex (complex phenotype)	Disease Epidemiology	IPCI (NI) SIDIAP (Spain) IMASIS (Spain) CPRD Gold (UK) Estonian Biobank	Ongoing



Study Title	Committees	Study Type	Type of analysis	Data bases	Status
DARWIN EU® - <b>Multiple myeloma</b> : patient characterisation, treatments and survival in the period 2012-2022	HTA/Payers	OTS	Disease Epidemiology and Treatment Pattern analysis	IQVIA DA (Ge) SIDIAP (Spain) IMASIS (Spain) Estonian Biobank ACI Varha (Fi) CHUBX (France) IKNL (NI)	Ongoing
DARWIN EU® <b>Drug Utilisation Study of prescription opioids.</b>	PRAC	OTS	Drug Utilisation Study	Estonian Biobank IPCI (NI)	Ongoing
<p><b>Study Feasibility:</b></p> <p>As of to date: <b>22 feasibility requests</b> in year 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 10 studies received green light</li> <li>- 3 studies suggested to put on hold → different reasons: lack of data or need of more recent data</li> <li>- 7 Feasibility assessments either just received or under review by EMA</li> </ul>					
DARWIN EU® - Co-prescribing of endothelin receptor antagonists (ERAs) and phosphodiesterate-5 inhibitors (PDE-5is) in <b>pulmonary arterial hypertension</b> (PAH)	CHMP	OTS	Disease Epidemiology and Treatment Pattern analysis	CHUBX (France) CPRD GOLD (UK) Estonian Biobank IQVIA DA (Ge)	Ongoing

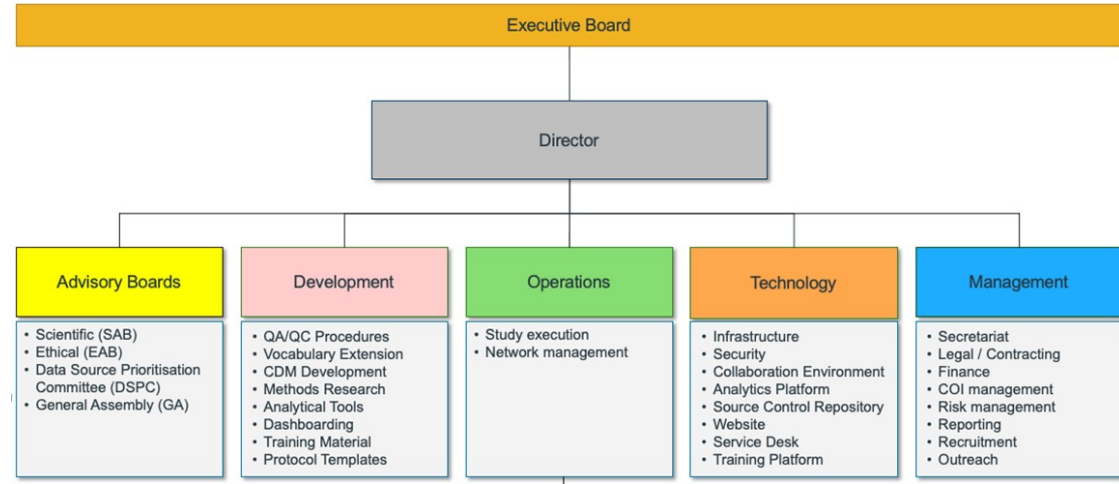
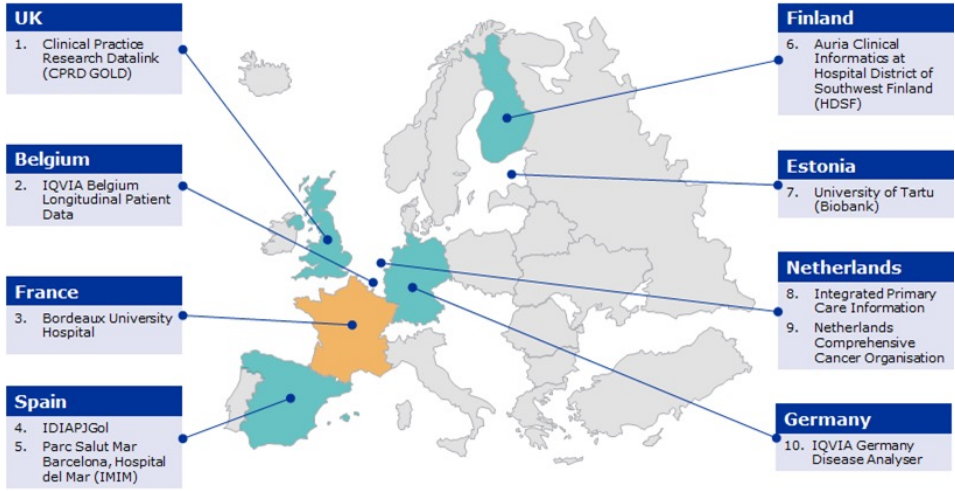
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Study Title	Committees	Study Type	Type of analysis	Data bases	Status
DARWIN EU® - <b>Use of take-home naloxone</b> for opioid overdose treatment	CHMP	OTS	Drug Utilisation Study	IQVIA DA (Ge) IQVIA DA (Be) CPRD Gold (UK) SIDIAP	Ongoing
DARWIN EU® <b>DUS of medicines with prokinetic properties</b> in children and adults diagnosed with gastroparesis	NCA	OTS	Drug Utilisation Study	IPCI (NI) CHUBX (France) SIDIAP (Spain) IMASIS (Spain) IQVIA DA (Ge) IQVIA LPD (Be) CPRD Gold (UK)	Ongoing
DARWIN EU® - <b>Effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines</b> against severe COVID-19 and post-acute outcomes of SARS-CoV-2 infection	ECDC/ Vaccine monitoring platform	Complex	Comparative Effectiveness	CPRD Gold IPCI SIDIAP	Ongoing

# Expected number of studies



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**EMA Colleagues:  
RWE group**

# More Information



[Data Analysis and Real World Interrogation Network \(DARWIN EU\) | European Medicines Agency \(europa.eu\)](#)



[www.darwin-eu.org](http://www.darwin-eu.org)

For questions to the Coordination Centre, please contact: [enquiries@darwin-eu.org](mailto:enquiries@darwin-eu.org)



For regular updates on DARWIN EU® Subscribe to the [Big Data Highlights](#) newsletter by sending an email to: [bigdata@ema.europa.eu](mailto:bigdata@ema.europa.eu)

