

**PROJETOS DE DESENVOLVIMENTO E IMPLEMENTAÇÃO DE INFRAESTRUTURAS DE INVESTIGAÇÃO INSERIDAS
NO RNIE – DESPACHOS MCTES****CR-digital**

Digitizing clinical research in the North of Portugal

Project Name: CR-digital**Project Code:** NORTE-01-0145-FEDER-083448**Main Objective:** OT 1 - Reforçar a investigação, o desenvolvimento tecnológico e a inovação**Region of Interve:** Norte**Beneficiaries:****Coordinator:** CCAB - Centro Clínico Académico Braga, Associação;**Partners:** Centro Hospitalar Universitário do Porto, E.P.E – CHUP;

Instituto de Ciências Biomédicas Abel Salazar da Universidade do Porto- ICBAS-UP;

Faculdade de Medicina da Universidade do Porto- FMUP;

Centro Hospitalar Universitário São João - CHUSJ.

Approval Date: 15-4-2021**Start Date:** 01-04-2021**End Date:** 30-06-2023**Total Budget:** 2 379 888,59 €**EU Financial Support:** FEDER – 2 022 905,30 €**CCAB Budget:** 919.395,48 €**Summary**

Clinical research, namely through clinical trials, is a pivotal pillar for the provision of high quality healthcare. The traditional system for promoting these clinical studies impacts significantly the development and implementation of new drugs, devices and interventions in the health system. The concept of digital transformation of clinical research involves taking advantage of digital technology to improve access / recruitment of participants, adherence, collection of clinical data related to the study and / or interventions, with the potential to transform clinical trials, while reducing their costs and optimizing their outcomes. In Portugal, there is a handicap in the area of clinical research that is largely explained by the deficiency in the infrastructures supporting this area of research, since the quality of health services and researchers compare well on the international scene. In the last decade, and in order to mitigate this misalignment, several actions were initiated, including the creation of Clinical Academic Centers (CACs). In the North of Portugal, there are 3 CACs and several units providing health care, bringing together significant technical, scientific and clinical competence to promote clinical studies; in an integrative strategy, this proposal expands that universe to other healthcare institutions in the region which, despite being not formally part of any CAC, add significant value in the field of clinical research,

as is the case of the Portuguese Institute of Oncology of Porto (IPO- Porto). With this project - CR-Digital, we aim to create a platform that unifies and aggregates the efforts of these institutions in the area of clinical research, increasing their efficiency and competitiveness. This unprecedented joint effort will significantly enhance the region's capacity in the field of clinical research, attracting industry-promoted studies (pharmaceutical, medical device and biotechnology industry), but also increasing our capacity to carry out robust clinical studies driven by researcher-initiative. Ultimately, the goal of CR-Digital is to establish regional and national priorities and strategies to successfully take advantage of the benefits of digital technologies for clinical research and, at the end of the project, to create the conditions for the constitution of a common structure that significantly increases the competitiveness of the institutions involved in clinical studies in Northern Portugal.

Project Description:

The project proposes:

- (1). Define and development a digitization strategy and platform for clinical research in Northern Portugal;
- (2). Optimize the recruitment and retention of clinical trial participants (healthy and sick) using digital technology;
- (3). Dematerialize the administrative processes, data collection and data entry of the trial clinical (CRF), compliant with legislation/regulations, data protection and privacy;
- (4). Promote digital analysis and scientific approaches to clinical and real-world data through state-of-the-art information technology (IT) methodologies;
- (5). Establish regional and national priorities and strategies to successfully take advantage of the benefits of digital technologies for clinical research.