DESIGN OF AN INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY PLATFORM TO SUPPORT COORDINATION OF CARE FOR RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS PATIENTS WITH CARDIOVASCULAR CO-MORBIDITIES

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BACKGROUND
Coordination of care plans between healthcare sectors and efficient management of patients with co-morbidities is of large demand. Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) patients are at increased risk of cardiovascular diseases. Different stakeholders are potentially involved in the EULAR recommended management processes. Optimized orchestration of accumulated information is of major importance to ensure data quality, meaningful management processes and cost effectiveness. A newly developed information and communications technology (ICT) platform within the Horizon2020-funded PICASO-project (www.picaso-project.eu) will support a continuum of care from hospitals and outpatient clinics to the home.

OBJECTIVES
Our objective was to explore challenges to provide an efficient ICT integrated solution across different healthcare professionals working for various organisations and potentially crossing national borders that complies to privacy and regulatory constraints allowing more efficient care management. Suitable system architecture and appropriate features require identification of target users’ user requirements. PICASO platform will be developed and trialed with patients and clinicians. The proposed system architecture will be evaluated for suitability for a larger scale rollout.

METHODS
Projects’ pre-defined clinical and technological driven work packages started. Various stakeholders (e.g. patients, local data security and IT representatives, healthcare insurance’s representatives, clinicians) were integrated in the design phase. A PICASO ethical board including external members (e.g. Chair of the Standing Committee of PARE) addressed ethical and legal concerns. UDUS’ ethical committee and data security officer are involved.

RESULTS (cont.)
Detailed system architecture descriptions are stipulated. Ethical issues and how to handle these, in particular data-protection and privacy challenges were pre-assigned as these affect platforms’ architecture. PICASO ethical principles and guidelines were stated (2). The platform is still under development see Figure 2 and 3. The overall architecture is depicted in Figure 1. The first trial running over nine months including RA-patients will start after implementation of all the requirements of high priority and is suspected to start in autumn 2017.

REFERENCES