

# The ICTUSnet project. A network of excellence for the development and implementation of innovative models of integrated stroke care in Southwest European regions



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## Background

Burden of stroke is similar in Southwest European (SUDOE) regions. However, development and maturity of Stroke plans in SUDOE regions is highly variable leading to unmet needs in terms of availability, accessibility or acceptability of services.

## Objectives

ICTUSnet seeks to create a collaboration network between different SUDOE regions with participation of stroke patients and professionals to promote research by incorporating innovative data analysis technologies to improve stroke systems of care and reduce its impact.

## Methods

Developed by a consortium of 10 partners, gathering together healthcare and research institutions from public and private sectors, covering a population of 20 M people from 6 regions.

The project encompasses 8 work packages where novel benchmarking methods, text mining, natural language processing, deep learning techniques, and the use of innovative data visualization tools are being developed and applied.

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## Results

Expected project outcomes are: 1) development of standardized regional stroke registries and a central integrated platform to perform knowledge-exchange and benchmarking across the SUDOE regions; 2) development of software to analyse unstructured text and neuroimaging to enrich the available datasets; 3) analysis and comparison of stroke care pathways and the identification of best practices to eventually develop an action plan for SUDOE regions.

## Conclusion

ICTUSnet is expected to improve quality of stroke care by creating a permanent network that promotes collaborative research, incorporates new technologies for data analysis, and fosters mutual learning across SUDOE regions.

