ACT EU Programme overview

MSP AG meeting 4 July 2024

ACT EU initiative

- Initiative led by the EMA, HMA and European Commission (DG Sante and DG RTD)
- Established in January 2022, building on the momentum of the implementation of the Clinical Trials Regulation (CTR)
- Vision to have better, faster and optimised clinical trials in the EU rendering the European Union a favourable environment to conduct clinical research
- ACT EU Workplan illustrates the focus of the 11 priority areas
- Objective of the meeting: starting from ACT EU identified priority areas discuss possible gaps or areas that would benefit for inclusion in the workplan or expand activities of existing initiatives

1 ACT EU update at MSP AG

ACT EU Priority actions 2023-2026

ACT EU is delivering benefits to clinical trial stakeholders across key areas:

Mapping & governance

Implementation of the Clinical Trials Regulation

Multinational clinical trials by non-commercial sponsors

Multi-stakeholder platform

Good clinical practice modernisation

Clinical trials analytics

Consolidated pilots on scientific and regulatory advice

Clinical Trials methodologies

Clinical trials safety

Clinical trials training curriculum

Clinical trials in public health emergencies

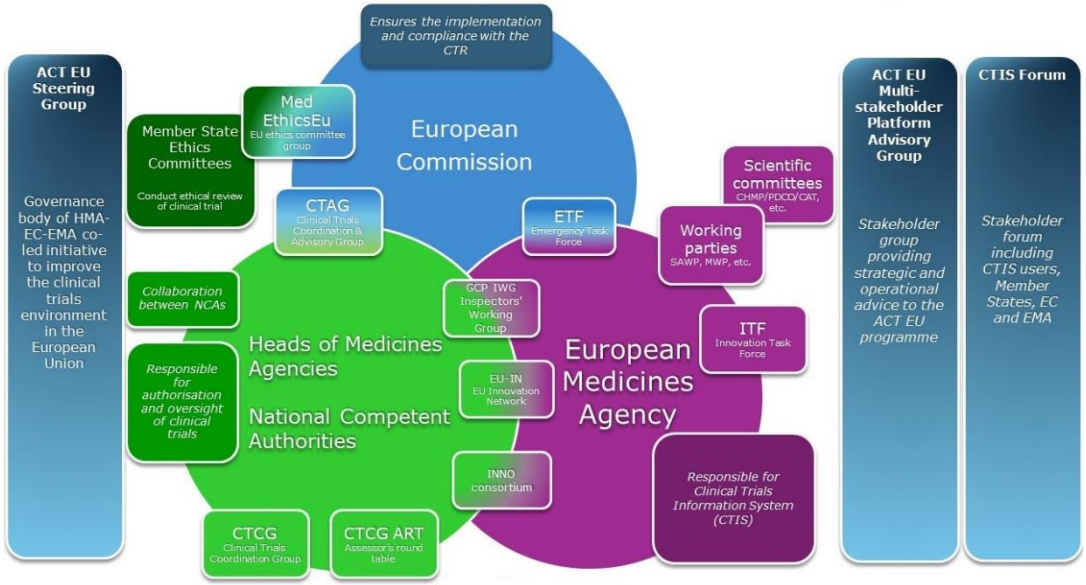
Mapping & governance

Map existing expert groups dealing with clinical trials considering a governance rationalisation strategy

Aligning different expert groups and working parties in the EMRN and ethics infrastructure

Deliverables

- Mapping of existing CT governance groups published
- CTR Collaborate established, anchored to PA1



Mapping & governance

- **CTR Collaborate** initiative led by CTCG
- Collaboration across and within MSs (NCA and Ethics) focusing on harmonised procedures, support to sponsors, trust building and strengthening the role of the RMS
- Complementary to **MedEthicsEU**
  - A group of national representatives of Medical Research Ethics Committees, recently established as a special group under the umbrella of the European Commission
- Report of the CTR Collaborate project is currently finalised
- Stakeholder meeting in September 2024
  - Presentation of report and collection of feedback from sponsors and investigators on the next steps to be taken.
  - Details on the event will be shared in the upcoming weeks via the CTCG website and other channels.

Implementation of the CTR

Supporting the successful and timely implementation of the Clinical Trials Regulation (CTR) and its implementing acts

Includes several workstreams:

- Tracking the performance of the European clinical trials environment
- Regularly consulting sponsors on their experience implementing the CTR and using the Clinical Trials Information System (CTIS)
- Supporting and guiding sponsors during the transition period of the CTR
- Reducing administrative burden while ensuring high levels of transparency and publication of clinical trials data and documents
- Action plan to support non-commercial sponsors to conduct multi-national trials

Implementation of the CTR

Deliverables

1. Key performance indicators tracking implementation of the CTR via monthly reports since May 2022

2. Prioritising and resolving sponsor issues with CTIS and CTR implementation
   - Surveys used to prioritise reported issues and monitor progress
   - 1st survey on CTR implementation launched in Jul 2022 *(survey report)*; 2nd survey launched in Sep 2023 – next survey Q4 2024

3. Transitioning clinical trials
   - Workshops (Q1 2024) and training opportunities throughout the year, publication of key documents defining requirements to transition clinical trials on Eudralex V 10 and CTCG websites
   - Annexes available on cover letter and fees for transitional trials
   - Communication campaign

Implementation of the CTR

4. Revision of CTIS transparency rules

May – June 2023

Public consultation on CTIS Transparency rules

5 October 2023

Revised CTIS transparency rules adopted by the EMA Management Board

18 June 2024

Launch of a revised CTIS public portal

Update of relevant documents including:

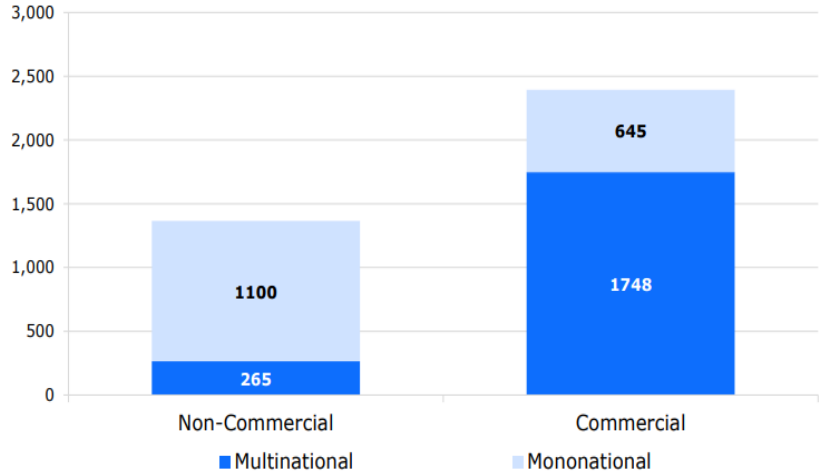
- Guidance on how to approach the protection of PD and CCI while using CTIS Version 2.0
- Q&A on the protection of commercially confidential information and personal data while using CTIS
- Quick user guide clarifying technical aspects and CTIS use

4,000+ trials now public and around 500 more trials per month will be published

Support to non-commercial sponsors (CTR implementation)

Aims to understand the bottlenecks that prevent non-commercial sponsors from planning and initiating multinational CTs and create an action plan

Authorised clinical trials since 31 January 2022



Source: *Monitoring the European clinical trials environment May 2024*

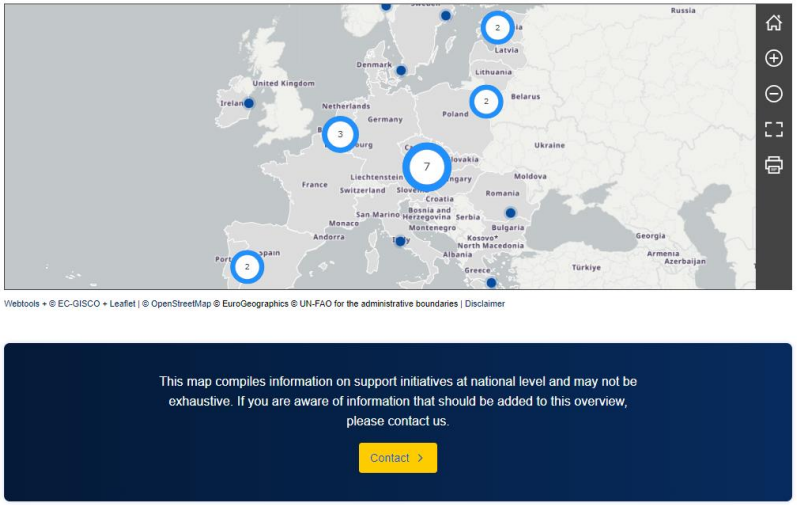
Tailored initiatives, resulting in:

- **higher number** of non-commercial CTs conducted in more than one EU/EEA MS
- **high quality** scientific evidence generated by non-commercial clinical trials
- benefit for **EU citizen's** health through optimised therapies and access to innovative medicines

1. Mapping initiatives at national level

Aims to enable sponsors to easily identify and leverage supporting mechanisms in different MS, easing the conduct of multinational CTs

- Information on national initiatives was provided by member states participating in the CTCG
- The webpage will be updated regularly and if new information becomes available
- Webpage launched on 24 June 2024
- Webpage includes relevant documents on funding under ERA4health
- Regular updates with other initiatives



National initiatives for non-commercial sponsors

2. Transition of CTs – webinar for academics

ACT EU Training for non-commercial sponsors: Transitioning trials to the CTR (CTIS)

- Q1 2024 training dedicated to non-commercial sponsors / academics on transition of clinical trials from CTD to CTR
- The event was specifically addressed to non-commercial sponsors / academics with limited or basic experience in CTIS
- Broadcasted and recorded - material available at: [ACT EU Training for non-commercial sponsors: Transitioning trials to the CTR (CTIS) | European Medicines Agency (europa.eu)]

3. Definition of "non-commercial sponsors"

Lack of a common definition for "Non-commercial sponsors" across MSs

Often also referred to as:

- Academia / academic institutions
- Investigators
- Non for profit organisations / NGOs
- Research organization

As part of the action plan, ACT EU collected the definitions in place at national level from CTCG representative of member states

Next step would be to agree on a common definition and on the scope

4. Dedicated CTIS and regulatory support

- Difficulties using the new IT system (CTIS)
- Challenges in keeping up with the implementation of the CTR
- Lack of resources

- Establish a **direct dialogue with** non-commercial sponsors with dedicated CTIS / regulatory support (helpdesk)
- Raise **awareness** and make available useful resources and tools to **support and encourage** non-commercial sponsors to submit their trials in CTIS

Support to non-commercial sponsors (CTR implementation)

- How to best identify support needed for non-commercial sponsors (incl. academia)?
- Any comments on the proposed action plan / suggestion for additional activities?

EU level funding to support academic sponsors

One of the key principles for ACT EU is to leverage external initiatives including networks, funding mechanisms, communications, etc.

To date, ACT EU has been supported exclusively through matrix working of experts of its founding organisations with some programme management and meeting support from EMA.

To fully realise the potential benefits of ACT EU, external funding will be required for some of the actions.

EU level funding to support academic sponsors

- Priority areas for possible EU level funding to support the transformation of the European clinical trials environment described in a paper published in Q3 2023
  - **Supporting academic sponsors conduct of multinational clinical trials**
  - Delivering a clinical trials data analytics research agenda
- Proposal builds on feedback from stakeholders, recommendations from STARS project, mapping for multinational investigator initiated clinical studies conducted by the Research Partnership with EU Member States – ERA4Health.

EU level funding to support academic sponsors

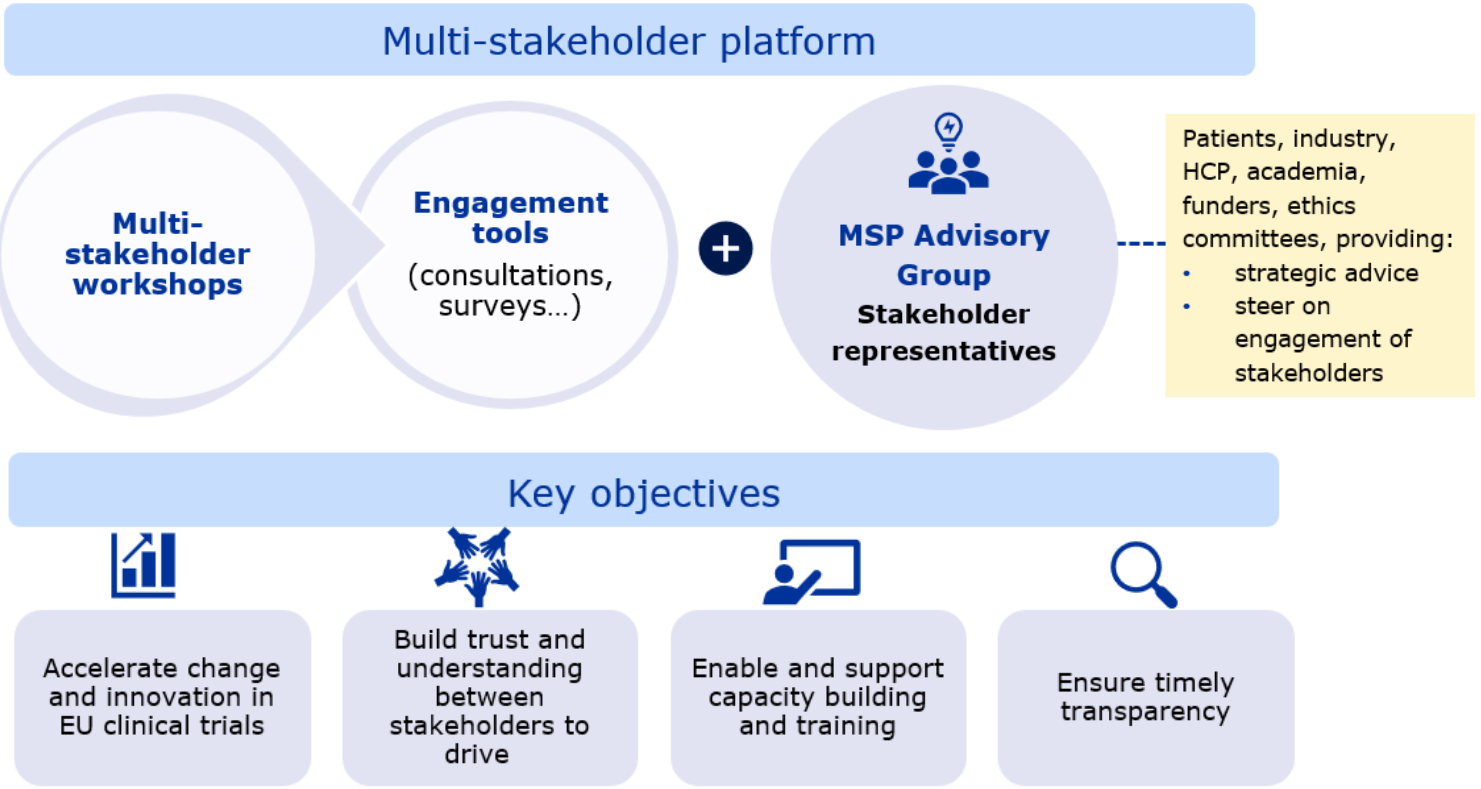
Development of a Member State Network of national helpdesks	Capability and capacity building project based on twinning to incentivise the expansion of existing support structures within NCAs, leading to the creation of a network of national helpdesks
"Train the trainer" regulatory science training programmes for academia	NCAs support national academia offering training to local organisations which can in turn provide support to local academic researchers
Encouraging clinical research network development and collaboration	Sustainable, integrated European networks clustered by therapeutic areas or major public health topics for an ever-warm clinical research workforce
Development of a standard site agreement and other templates	Creation of a suite of templates with standard clauses to address diverse contracting requirements such as agreements with commercial sponsors, material transfer agreements, data ownership agreements etc.

Next steps

- Introduce proposal to the MSP AG – July 2024
- Discussion on best approach to consult academic stakeholders – September 2024;
- Consultation with academic stakeholders to identify potential gaps in the recommendations Q4 2024;
- Provide paper to ACT EU Steering Group for endorsement Q4 2024;
- Provide final recommendations to the Commission services for further consideration for 2026 funding work programmes – Q1 2025.

Multi-stakeholder platform

MSP as a vehicle for CT stakeholders and regulators to come together, voice their views and collaborate to improve the CT environment



Multi-stakeholder platform

The road towards the establishment of the multi-stakeholder platform advisory group (MSP AG)

January 2023

Public consultation on ACT EU MSP participation and priorities for discussion

June 2023

ACT EU MSP kick off workshop

Q3 2023

Launch of call for expression of interest for MSP advisory group

March 2024

MSP Advisory Group established with inaugural meeting

Regulatory co-chair appointed

May 2024

Stakeholder co-chair appointed

Multi-stakeholder platform

MSP AG

- Ongoing dialogue between MSP through the MSP AG and the ACT EU programme
- Keep the dialogue open to identify gaps and agree on priority areas requiring further actions/closer collaboration
- MSP AG online meetings 3 times per year

Upcoming

- Next MSP AG virtual meeting on 27 September
- MSP in-person meeting on 22 October including member of the advisory group and *ad hoc* representatives

Good Clinical Practice modernisation

Support the modernisation of good clinical practice in order to align with the increasingly diverse range of clinical trial types and data sources

Deliverables

- (Early) stakeholder analysis conducted in 2022 based on ICH GCP renovation workplan
- Multi-stakeholder workshop on public consultation of ICH E6 (Revision 3) in July 2023
- Review of the feedback received during the public consultation
- Expected CHMP adoption in Q4 2024 for principles and Annex I
- Moving then to implementation phase
- Annex II public consultation expected Q4 2024

Good Clinical Practice modernisation

Upcoming work

- Multi-stakeholder workshop in Q1 2025 on the final ICH E6(R3) principles and Annex 1
- Impact analysis and change management in relation to the implementation of ICH E6(R3) and interplay with EU guidance
- Coordinate with relevant stakeholders (e.g. GCP IWG, ICH E6(R3) Expert Working group on relevant training/communication (change management)

Clinical trials data analytics

Highlighting research needs and facilitating analysis of clinical trial data

Deliverables

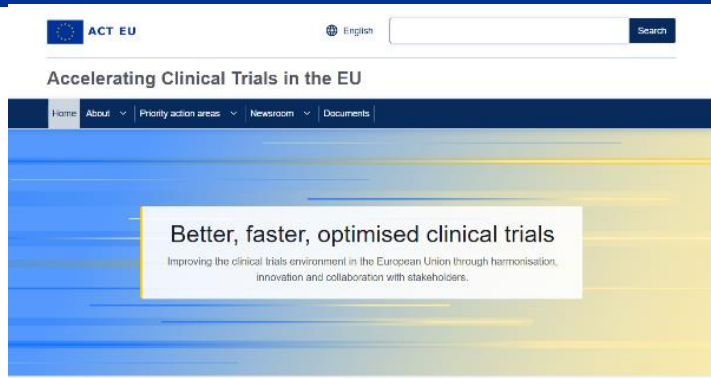
- Multi-stakeholder workshop on the needs for access to, and analysis of, data on clinical trials in January 2024 (Report)
- Ongoing development of a research priorities paper that may be put forward for EU-level funding, based on use-cases for data analytics identified during the workshop

Upcoming work

- Delivery of the research priorities paper expected in Q3 2024
- Collaborating expert call now open: Collaborating Expert on clinical trial registry data to target priorities in TAs Job Details
- Exploration of next steps including how to link with EU-level funding to deliver the research priorities

Targeted communication campaign

Providing communication on all things relevant to the ACT EU programme



Deliverables

- ACT EU video
- ACT EU website
- Mandatory use of CTIS: Communication campaign
- News announcements (e.g. CTIS mandatory use, DCT recommendations, MSP kick-off, CTIS transparency rules, consolidated pilots advice)
- Social media (e.g. promotion and broadcast of events); graphic design support (e.g. ACT EU workplan); broad communication campaign for transition trials
- Commentary on ACT EU published in the journal Nature Reviews Drug Discovery
- Dedicated Linked-In live on the ACT EU paper on 16 July

Clinical trial methodologies

Facilitating aligned clinical trial guidance development across the European network resulting in high impact guidance documents implemented in practice

Deliverables

- Guidance document on complex clinical trials, May 2022
- Recommendation paper on clinical trials with decentralised elements, December 2022
- Multi-stakeholder methodology workshop in November 2023 (Report)
- Keeping an open dialogue between MWP, CTCG and HTA coordination group
- (Ongoing) development of a best practice document on guidance development in the EMRN

Consolidated advice pilots

Aims to reinforce scientific advice coordination between clinical trial approval and clinical trial design in Europe, to facilitate the development of safe and effective medicines for human use

Deliverables

- Mapped information on current voluntary procedures available from EU regulators on Medicines for human use, collated in a Q&A document
- June 2024 - launch of 2 advice pilots , offering harmonized advice to improve the quality of applications for marketing authorization and/or clinical trials

SAWP-CTCG pilot

Pre-CTA advice pilot

Consolidated advice pilots

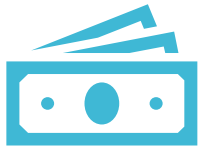
Scientific advice from SAWP-CTCG

Scientific advice on suitability of clinical trial design to support marketing authorisation and/or clinical trial applications

Harmonised advice through increased coordination of Scientific Advice Working Party (SAWP) and Clinical Trials Coordination Group (CTCG) on topics of common interest

Applications via established SAWP procedure

With justification



Normal fee structure ensuring payments are directed to those doing the work

10 cases (1 per month x 10 months)

Pre-CTA advice from CTCG

Technical, regulatory advice before the submission of a clinical trial application (CTA)

Short timeline: 30-day procedure

Applications via Simultaneous National Scientific Advice (SNSA inbox)

Reporting Member State raises a single fee based on the reduced scope of the advice

Interim evaluation of the pilot every 5 applications

Consolidated advice pilots

Training webinar for applicants

Slido open for questions until 10 July 2024

The most popular questions will be answered by speakers during the event

Date: 17 July 2024 at 15:00 (CEST) - 17:00 (CEST)

Virtual

Live broadcast and video recording available after

The webinar aims to:

- provide information on the background, scope, benefits of the newly launched consolidated advice pilots (SAWP-CTCG and pre-CTA advice)
- answer questions and collect feedback from stakeholders

Visit the event page for more information

Clinical trials training curriculum

A training curriculum informed by regulatory experience, with modules on drug development and regulatory science. This curriculum is expected to serve as an educational ecosystem for academia and small and medium enterprises (SME).

Q1 2023 training strategy

Q2 2024
Planning/Outline of Training needs (Academia & SMEs)

Q3 2024
Engagement with stakeholders (e.g. via MSP)

2023

2024

2025

Q1 2024 publication of summary Gap Analysis (EU Regulators)

Q2 2025 publication of summary of Training needs (Academia & SMEs)

Q4 2025 publication of revised training strategy

What do we want to achieve?

Main objectives with following steps:

- Training strategy

- Training need assessment/ evaluation with different groups (staggered approach):

    - EU Regulators

    - **Academia**

    - **SME**

    - Ethics committees

- Training curriculum elaboration and regular updates

- Stakeholder engagement

How do we want to achieve our goals?

We aim to attain our objectives through the following strategies:

1.Developing a comprehensive methodology to effectively target Gap Analysis for each group.

2.Establishing strong connections with other Priority Actions (PAs) to enhance collaboration and coordination.

3.Leveraging existing knowledge resources, such as insights from the STARS project, to inform and improve our approach.

4.Collaborating with relevant initiatives (e.g. IncreaseNet project) to harness additional resources and insights for enhanced effectiveness.

Clinical trials training curriculum

Approach to Training needs

1. **Identify** and analyse parts from the STARS comprehensive curriculum in Regulatory Science relevant to clinical trials
2. **Examine** the feasibility of a modular set up of the STARS comprehensive curriculum.
3. **Develop** a draft list of training recommendations based on the STARS comprehensive curriculum analysis.
4. **Perform** stakeholder engagement plan.
5. **Engage with regulators** (clinical trial assessors and inspectors) for feedback on the draft training requirements
6. **Update** the training recommendations based on feedback received via step 5
7. **Engage with academia and SME** for feedback on the training recommendations while leveraging important synergetic activities as listed below and established fora
8. Finalise and **disseminate** the training recommendations

Ongoing work: Training needs analysis for **Academia** and **SME**

- Proposal to build from the existing STARS program;
- How to identify and address training needs for academia and SME?

Clinical trials training curriculum

For discussion:

- Proposal to build from the existing STARS program;
- How to identify and address training needs for academia and SME requires engagement and interaction:
  - Which is the best way to engage with academia to get input?
  - Which is the best way to engage with SME to get input?

Clinical trial safety

Aims to successfully establish clinical trials safety surveillance in the European Union

- Focus on training and exchange for safety assessors, including the development of a training curriculum, to harmonise expertise and optimize the procedures

- Supports exchange on the principles of reduced safety data recording/reporting as of CTR and ICH E19 guideline, as applicable

Deliverables

- EU4Health Joint Action - SAFE CT: Capacity building, mentorship programme & assessors' training ongoing (incl. ICH E19)
- Process established for network and safety coordination – CTCG best practice finalised and implemented, sharing expertise and cases (monthly roundtable, events)
- Annual IT review: identification and re-prioritisation of CTIS functionalities for safety in collaboration with MSs and Sponsor Product Owners

Clinical trial safety

Upcoming work

- IT tools to facilitate communication between different systems for safety
- Build collaboration and exchange with post marketing Pharmacovigilance
- Enforce network and exchange on safety surveillance in clinical trials
- Training curriculum for Pharmacovigilance in clinical trials

CTs in public health emergencies

Aims to facilitate large and multinational clinical trials in the EU to promptly tackle public health emergencies

Deliverables

- Develop a process for involvement of Ethics in public health emergencies (PHEs)
- Develop a PHE application package
- Develop fit-for-purpose regulatory flexibility in assessment and conduct of clinical trials in PHEs

Upcoming work

- Establishment of a PHE Ethics Advisory Group through MedEthics (July 2024)
- Proposal of simplifications in the CTR annexes and listing language requirements per MS
- Analysis of the COVID-19 guidance and existing guidance documents, adjusting to extend to PHEs

Any questions?

Further information

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