An analytics framework for integrated and personalized healthcare services in Europe screening (AEGLE)

Big Data analytics for health bio-data present excellent opportunities and encounter big challenges. The AEGLE project, following a unique user-oriented approach, overcame these difficulties and generated value from healthcare data through the development of a framework for Big Data analytics that aims to improve translational medicine, to facilitate personalised and integrated care services, and to promote data-driven research across Europe, by allowing integration with data of different types and scales, and creating advanced analytics pipeline.

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Co-founder & CEO at Wellics

1. Describe your project through three key words/ key phrases that identify it.

AEGLE can be identified by three words in one sentence: Big Data in Healthcare.

2. In terms of impact, what are the most concrete results your project has or will achieve?

During the course of the project, the new GDPR came into force. The project produced a set of guidelines for all EU countries on how similar initiatives can be applied in each one of them, respecting the existing EU legal and ethical norms and considering the local interpretation. In addition, the project highlighted different methodologies (spanning from data integration to data processing) for tackling the challenges in different healthcare domains. These approaches are currently applied and further expanded in other EU R&I initiatives.

3. Please describe your project overall impact at the European level.

In the early stage, AEGLE's advanced beyond the state of the art towards the provision of more advanced mechanisms for the data analysis, the access to multi-disciplinary sources of data, the ability to provide insights and enable the perception formation concerning the evolution, relation and correlation of various medical parameters, and the business models taking into account both research as well as commercialization purposes enabling the system's after sustainability. In the long term, AEGLE led in increased level of education and acceptance of ICT solutions in health care, improved disease management and treatment, improved collaboration between different healthcare stakeholders and increased confidence in decision support systems. These parameters are key factors supporting the acceleration of the production (and adoption) of electronic solutions in healthcare, which are considered crucial for economic growth and well the development of SMEs in that field.

4. As an applicant, what advice would you have wanted in the Horizon project design process? What support did you receive from National Contact point (NCP) and your organisation, and what improvement of support would you benefit from?

The application process went smoothly. No further help was needed, as the information provided in the info sessions organized by the EU and mainly from our NCP was adequate. At the time of the project, the limitations mainly concerned the processing infrastructures. In addition, despite the final results, the overall aspirations of the project and the compliance with regulations, the participating data providers were very reluctant on sharing their data. The main reason for this is the lack of a data sharing culture (especially for promoting research). Except for technical implementations that can tackle this aspect, the focus should be on raising awareness and the on how data-driven approaches can support the greater good in healthcare.

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