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“ Accelerating the lab to market transition of AI tools for cancer management (CHAIMELEON)

The CHAIMELEON project aims to develop a structured repository of health images and related clinical and molecular data on the most prevalent cancers in Europe: lung, breast, prostate and colorectal.



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

Our project establishes an EU-wide repository for health imaging data, provides an open-source platform for AI experimentation, and focuses on the development and refinement of decision-support tools for the management of cancer.

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

The CHAIMELEON project has created a cloud-based cancer imaging repository as an online resource for the AI community working on the development of cancer management solutions. The repository not only enables the secure share and reuse of high-quality anonymised data but also incorporates cutting-edge functionalities allowing multicentric image harmonization as well as enhancing the integrity and interpretability of AI solutions. During the lifetime of the project, the CHAIMELEON repository has been successfully utilized by external users to train diagnostic and prognostic AI models for the most prevalent cancers in Europe: prostate, lung, breast, colon, and rectum. Over the last year of the project, these models will be evaluated in an observational clinical study that will address their utility and reproducibility across several European hospitals.

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

With 3.7 million new cancer cases annually in Europe, the CHAIMELEON project tackles the urgent need for improved cancer management tools by creating an AI-experimentation platform for the community of AI developers, leveraging deidentified, curated data as a single-access resource. Alongside, Consortium partners are driving a shift in national laws and contributing to international standards for health data reuse in research, aiming to enhance the acceptance of AI in healthcare among clinicians and patients alike.

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?

Navigating the complexity of health data reuse in research requires addressing technical, legal, ethical, and operational challenges. Our Spanish National Contact Point (NCP) advised us to enhance our legal and ethical expertise and connected us with a key researcher from the University of Valencia, significantly benefiting our project. Future support could be improved by providing insights into potential overcrowding of calls to better strategize our applications.