



RAPIDE is developing, validating and demonstrating a new logic model for healthcare, which will be supported by a portfolio of powerful tools that enable healthcare systems to predict demands for their resources, to make the best use of existing facilities and capabilities, and to reconfigure how and where care is delivered.

RAPIDE will identify elements of usual care which can be reconfigured or relocated while maintaining or improving the quality of this care.



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

RAPIDE is reshaping European healthcare systems respond to cross-border health emergencies, such as pandemics. When healthcare services become overwhelmed by surges in demand for emergency care, there can be delays and backlogs in regular planned care that lead to poorer outcomes for patients. RAPIDE will develop, validate and demonstrate a portfolio of tools for healthcare systems that will help maintain access to regular planned care during unexpected crises through an adaptive dashboard. The tools will include a suite of powerful prediction and planning tools to help healthcare providers forecast demand, optimise resources, and deliver care flexibly—in hospitals, communities, homes, or hybrid settings.

The project draws on lessons from COVID-19 to ensure that regular planned care, including care for vulnerable groups, remains accessible during health emergencies. Through patient-centred design and real-world testing in four EU countries (Italy, the Netherlands, Slovenia, and Malta), RAPIDE co-creates and validates new models of care using the best digital tools available.

Uptake of RAPIDE's open access outputs will facilitate resilient, efficient healthcare systems that can adapt quickly in emergencies without compromising care quality. Project results will support long-term transformation by helping health systems plan better, invest smarter, and deliver more agile, inclusive care for all.

2. In terms of impact, what will be the most tangible your project will achieve?

RAPIDE responds to the challenge of cross-border health emergencies by equipping healthcare systems with the tools, models, and approaches necessary to adapt rapidly and effectively — ensuring that quality care can be maintained, whether delivered in hospitals, communities, homes, or through hybrid models. RAPIDE results will help healthcare systems to be more resilient and adaptable in the face of cross-border health emergencies.

- A suite of predictive modelling tools will allow exploration of future resource demands along with tools for monitoring current demand, which can be used together to give a clear picture of demand for both regular and emergency healthcare resources to facilitate planning and resource allocation across the entire chain — from hospital care to home-based services. Decision-makers will be empowered to plan ahead and put in place contingency arrangements that protect regular care while responding to emergencies.

- A portfolio of healthcare processes and technologies, such as remote health monitoring or novel methods for consultations, will also be developed to address the critical issue of relocation of care, so that patients continue to receive excellent regular care, outside the hospital environment.

- Training for health and care professionals on how to deliver regular care during a health emergency and patient/carer communication materials and strategies, co-developed with key stakeholders, will improve care delivery during emergencies

3. Please describe your project's overall impact, if applicable, at the European level.

The project focuses on evidence from European and international research to learn from past health crises, evaluate digital health technologies, analyse patient flows and healthcare resource usage, and co-design new care models and training programmes with key stakeholders. RAPIDE's solutions will be rigorously tested and validated through simulations and real-world demonstrations in four European countries, with an eye on implementability in the diverse healthcare systems across Europe.

To demonstrate the utility of the portfolio of tools developed, the project will host demonstration events, involving project partners and other stakeholders from across the European healthcare space, as well as key external actors involved in cross-border emergencies, such as the European Centre for Disease Control (ECDC), World Health Organisation (WHO) and relevant Directorate Generals of the European Commission. These events will showcase RAPIDE's tools and resources, which will be freely available for use.

In the long term, RAPIDE envisions a future where healthcare systems across Europe adopt its tools and approaches to enhance both everyday care and emergency preparedness — laying the groundwork for a more agile, responsive, and high-quality healthcare landscape.

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?

As an applicant, there was valuable support available for Horizon Europe on the EU Funding & Tenders Portal. As Coordinator, support was provided by the Radboudumc Grant Support Office (GSO) which helped to streamline communications with all partners. Advice was also received from the National Focal Point for Health at the Netherlands Enterprise Agency. Consortium partner Pintail Limited, who specialise in EU projects, also brought significant expertise in Horizon Europe project design and implementation.

5. Please highlight aspects of your Horizon project's strengths that you consider important and that may constitute good practice for other applicants.

The RAPIDE project adopts a holistic approach that positions it as a model of excellence for future Horizon Europe initiatives. A great emphasis is placed on identifying, mapping, involving and engaging stakeholders throughout the project, from conception to co-creation to validation of the project outputs. Individuals and communities most affected by health emergencies (patients, vulnerable groups, but also GPs, hospital nurses, clinicians) are central to the definition, design and delivery of the research and its outputs.

RAPIDE is also built on a clearly articulated and strategically focused research agenda. From the beginning, RAPIDE has ensured that its objectives are tightly aligned with the priorities of the funding call—striking a balance between ambition and feasibility. This alignment not only enhances the strength of the project but also reflects a thorough understanding of the call's aims, significantly boosting the project's credibility and potential for lasting impact.

Another key pillar of RAPIDE's strength lies in its dynamic and diverse consortium. The project unites 13 expert partners from 7 European countries, each bringing deep expertise across outbreak management, digital health, primary care, behavioural science, predictive modelling, and health systems research. This multidisciplinary collaboration is further enriched by leaders in implementation science, participatory research, vulnerable patient representation, training, and digital transformation. Together, they ensure that RAPIDE takes a holistic, inclusive, and forward-looking approach to redefining healthcare delivery across Europe.

