JARED
Joint Action on REspiratory Diseases

September - October 2026

Newsletter

Joint Action on REspiratory Diseases (JARED)

Subject: Enhancing Lung Health Across Europe
JARED's Latest Progress & Opportunities

Welcome to the 7th Newsletter of JARED JA!

Discover the Latest News and Highlights!

The latest JARED newsletter brings together exciting project updates, scientific achievements and collaborative initiatives from across Europe, highlighting the ongoing efforts to strengthen respiratory health, improve prevention and care, and support people living with chronic respiratory diseases.

In this issue, we look back at JARED's participation in the ERS International Congress 2026 in Barcelona, where the project shared its work with the international respiratory health community, presented new scientific findings and strengthened collaboration with European stakeholders. We also highlight new research published in Medical Science Monitor, findings presented at the SISMEC Congress in Italy, and JARED's contribution to raising awareness of lung health and smoking cessation in Latvia.

Discover how JARED partners are working together to address challenges in respiratory care, promote knowledge exchange and advance digital health solutions through the international conference "Digital Bridges: Remote Healthcare and Self-Management for Chronic Conditions." This issue also features JARED's participation in the first-ever EU Screening Week and introduces Croatia and University Hospital Centre Zagreb (UHCZ) which contribute with their expertise to the project.

From scientific evidence and international collaboration to public awareness and innovative approaches to care, JARED continues to build momentum towards better respiratory health across Europe.

Keep reading to explore the latest developments, discover inspiring achievements from our partners, and find out how JARED is helping shape the future of respiratory health!

JARED at the ERS Congress 2026 in Barcelona

Connecting European expertise, strengthening respiratory health, and driving collaboration across Europe

The **JARED** was showcased at the European Respiratory Society (ERS) Congress 2026 in Barcelona, bringing the project's work on respiratory health to an international audience.

On 8 September 2026, a dedicated JARED session took place as part of the Congress programme, with participants joining both in person and online. The session explored how European countries can strengthen respiratory health systems and develop more effective and sustainable approaches to the prevention and care of chronic respiratory diseases, with a particular focus on COPD.

The discussion also highlighted the JARED approach to addressing gaps in respiratory health by supporting the implementation and scale-up of proven strategies across EU Member States. It provided a valuable opportunity for stakeholders to exchange experiences, learn more about JARED and discuss the challenges and opportunities for improving respiratory health across Europe.

JARED's participation in the ERS Congress provided an important platform to ***raise awareness of the Joint Action, share its objectives with the respiratory health community and strengthen collaboration with European stakeholders working towards better prevention and care***.

The JARED session was further enriched by the participation of Hilary Pinnock, Senior Expert of the RESPIRE project, United Kingdom, who joined the discussion and shared insights from the **RESPIRE** experience.

Her contribution provided an opportunity to explore the complementary strengths of JARED and RESPIRE and the value of collaboration between the two initiatives. The exchange highlighted how sharing knowledge, experiences and approaches can help strengthen public health strategies and support more effective respiratory care across Europe.

The Congress also marked the beginning of Dr. Marc Miravitlles' mandate as the new President of the European Respiratory Society. JARED was particularly pleased to welcome Dr. Miravitlles to its session, where he emphasised the importance of collaboration and joint efforts in advancing respiratory health across Europe.



Sharing JARED findings and insights with the European respiratory community

JARED project findings were presented at the **ERS International Congress 2026**, held in Barcelona from 5–9 September, by pulmonologist **Vaiva Kumpauskaitė** from Vilnius University Hospital Santaros Klinikos (VUHSK).

Three posters presented findings from surveys of experts across European countries, highlighting differences in clinical practice in the diagnosis and management of **sarcoidosis, nontuberculous mycobacterial lung disease (NTM-LD) and tuberculosis**.



Dr. Vaiva Kumpauskaitė

The presentations provided an opportunity to share JARED findings with the international respiratory community and highlight differences in clinical practice across Europe.

JARED Marks World Lung Day in Latvia

On 25 September 2026, as part of World Lung Day activities, the Latvian JARED project team contributed to raising awareness about lung health and smoking cessation in Latvia.

The team translated the JARED World Lung Day leaflet into Latvian and published it on the website of the **Centre for Disease Prevention and Control of Latvia (SPKC)**. This made the information and key messages from the project available to the Latvian public in the local language.

The team also prepared a social media post for World Lung Day, highlighting the importance of lung health and smoking cessation and sharing the link to the translated leaflet on the SPKC website.

Through these activities, the Latvian JARED team supported the dissemination of the project's messages and helped make information on lung health and smoking cessation more accessible to the public.

JARED Presented at SISMEC 2026: Reaching a Wider Scientific Audience in Parma, Italy

The JARED project was presented at the ***2026 Congress of the Italian Society of Medical Statistics and Clinical Epidemiology (SISMEC)***, held in Parma, Italy, on 24–25 September 2026.

The Congress brought together researchers, epidemiologists, biostatisticians and healthcare professionals to discuss current developments and challenges in clinical research and healthcare. The 2026 edition focused on ***"Patient-Reported Outcome Measures (PROMs) in the Era of Artificial Intelligence: The Biostatistician's Role and Challenges in Elevating the Patient Voice."***

As part of the scientific programme, the JARED project was presented through **"Knowledge gaps and digital readiness among patients with COPD: results from the European JARED project."** The presentation provided an opportunity to share the project's work and findings with an audience of researchers and healthcare professionals working in related fields.



The presentation was an important opportunity for **raising awareness of the JARED project and increasing its visibility within the scientific community**. It also contributed to the dissemination of the project's work on knowledge gaps and digital readiness among people living with COPD.

The related abstract is published in the ***Society's official journal, Epidemiology, Biostatistics, and Public Health***: **https://riviste.unimi.it/index.php/ebph/article/view/32135**

JARED Study Published in Medical Science Monitor

Healthcare Professionals' Perceptions of the Division of Responsibilities Between Primary and Outpatient Specialist Care in Chronic Respiratory Disease Management: A Cross-Sectional Survey in 10 European Countries

A new scientific article developed within the Joint Action on REspiratory Diseases (JARED) project was published in Medical Science Monitor on 27 September 2026.

Coordinated by the **Medical University of Warsaw**, the study involved collaboration with JARED partners and researchers from institutions across Europe.

The study explored healthcare professionals' perceptions of the division of responsibilities between primary healthcare and outpatient specialist care in managing chronic respiratory diseases, particularly asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).

The survey included 293 healthcare professionals from 10 European countries. Overall, 58% of respondents considered the division of responsibilities clearly defined, while 44% assessed the current arrangements as optimal and 43% considered them non-optimal.

The most frequently reported barriers were long waiting times for specialist appointments (41%) and shortages of specialists (35%). Other challenges included insufficient consultation time (22%) and inadequate cooperation between primary and specialist care (20%).

The findings reveal substantial differences in healthcare professionals' perceptions across participating countries and highlight areas for further assessment to support better coordination of chronic respiratory disease care.

Authors: Paulina Mularczyk-Tomczewska, Mateusz Jankowski, Hanna Nurmi, Ildiko Horvath, Tuula Maarit Vasankari, Cristina Bárbara, Kristina Bieksiene, Andrea Vukić Dugac, Ibon Eguiluz-Gracia, Beatrice Mahler, Antti Pekka Saarinen, Bolesław Samoliński, Ilze Straume, Brigid Unim, and Filip Raciborski.
Published in: Medical Science Monitor, 2026; 32: e954025.

Full article: https://doi.org/10.12659/MSM.954025

International Scientific Conference: "Digital Bridges: Remote Healthcare and Self-Management for Chronic Conditions"

On 16 October 2026, the **Lithuanian University of Health Sciences (LSMU)** hosted the international scientific conference ***Digital Bridges: Remote Healthcare and Self-Management for Chronic Conditions***, bringing together more than 100 participants from Lithuania, Italy, Hungary, Latvia, United Kingdom and Ukraine.

The hybrid conference welcomed participants both onsite and online, demonstrating how digital technologies can connect healthcare professionals and researchers across countries. Thus, technology was not only the topic of discussion but also a tool for international collaboration and knowledge exchange.

The event was organised within JARED JA. The conference was opened by ***Prof. Andrius Macas***, Dean of the LSMU Faculty of Medicine, and ***Prof. Ildikó Horváth***, JARED Project Coordinator.

The programme explored remote monitoring of patients with asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), health literacy, patient empowerment, artificial intelligence and digital technologies in medical education. Presentations and posters showcased research findings and practical approaches to improving chronic disease management.

A key message was that digital innovation must go beyond technology itself: solutions should address patients' needs, support healthcare professionals and become integrated into everyday clinical practice. Digital Bridges provided a valuable platform for international cooperation, strengthening connections between research, technology and patient-centred care.

The conference abstract booklet is indexed in the Lithuanian Integrated Library Information System (LIBIS): www.ibiblioteka.lt. ISBN: 978-609-503-010-8..





JARED in Action: Screening for Better Lung Health

Healthy Lungs for Life supports EU Screening Week activities

As part of the first-ever **EU Screening Week (28 September–4 October)**, more than **1,500 people across Europe** accessed free lung health checks through the **Healthy Lungs for Life** campaign.

EU Screening Week is a European Commission initiative that promotes prevention, early detection and health education across a range of health areas. Through Healthy Lungs for Life, **European Lung Foundation (ELF)** and the **European Respiratory Society (ERS),** together with partners, contributed a series of lung health activities in six countries to support the week.

More than **300 people** received lung health checks in **Belgium**, while over **500 checks** were provided across multiple cities in **Poland** as part of Polish Spirometry Day. In **Greece**, nearly **300 people** attended screening activities in Vyronas and Argyroupolis. **Romania** delivered more than **300 checks** through a pharmacy-based initiative in Bucharest. Additional events took place in **Italy**, where more than **120 people** were screened in Padua, and in **Spain**, where almost **60 people** received checks at Vall d'Hebron Hospital in Barcelona.

The campaign highlighted the importance of prevention and early detection and showed how lung health can be integrated into wider screening and public health initiatives across Europe.

Learn more and access resources at the Healthy Lungs for Life website.



National Korányi Institute Expands Access to Lung Health Screening Through EU Screening Week

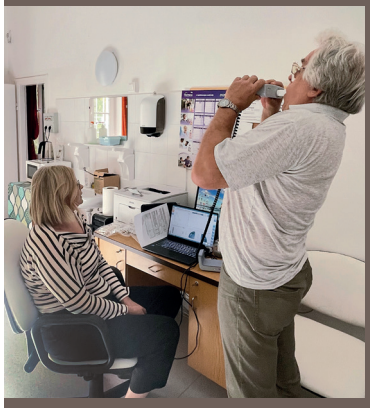
JARED took part in the first-ever **EU Screening Week**, supporting the Europe-wide effort to raise awareness about prevention and early detection. As part of the initiative, the **National Korányi Institute for Pulmonology (NKPI)** in Budapest organised two lung health screening events on **28 September and 1 October**.

The screenings included **spirometry, assessment of smoking-related risks, blood pressure measurement and smoking cessation support**. A total of **25 people** participated in the comprehensive lung health assessment programme, while **114 additional** appointments were booked for October, with the screening days fully booked.

The programme continues beyond EU Screening Week, providing participants with lung function assessments, individual consultation and personalised advice, while supporting early detection and timely follow-up where needed.











☛ You can find the related posts here:

https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7512890228567834624

https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7513251291318616064

Country spotlight

Croatia: Tackling Chronic Respiratory Diseases

Croatia, with a population of approximately 3.8 million, faces significant challenges in preventing and managing chronic respiratory diseases (CRDs). Although the country does not have a dedicated national CRD strategy, several public health initiatives address respiratory health, including the National Lung Cancer Screening Programme, introduced in 2020, tobacco-control measures and tuberculosis prevention programmes.

Smoking remains a major concern, with an estimated 34.5% of people aged 15 and over smoking in 2025. Air pollution also poses substantial health risks, with an estimated 2,886 premature deaths attributable to long-term exposure to fine particulate matter in 2023. Meanwhile, tuberculosis incidence has declined considerably, from 56 cases per 100,000 inhabitants in 2000 to 6.6 in 2024.

Key priorities include strengthening tobacco prevention, addressing the growing use of electronic nicotine products among young people, and raising awareness of the respiratory health impacts of air pollution and climate change.

Within JARED, **University Hospital Centre Zagreb (UHCZ)** contributes expertise in respiratory healthcare, particularly in improving access to care for older people, remote communities and socioeconomically disadvantaged populations. Its experience with digital health tools also offers opportunities to strengthen patient engagement and accessibility.

Explore Croatia's full Country Profile: https://europeanlung.org/jared/project-partners/

JARED is on social media



- The official social media pages of the JARED-JA on Chronic Respiratory Diseases are now live!
- **Follow us for our latest news and updates!**
- We want you to be part of the community!
- We are building a network committed to preventing and managing chronic respiratory diseases and improving respiratory health across Europe, the more people join, the greater impact we can make together.

Please take a moment to like and follow our pages. Feel free to share them with your professional network.

Your support helps amplify our mission!

Thank you for being part of the JARED community—together, we breathe for a healthier future!

Facebook: **https://www.facebook.com/JaredJointAction**
LinkedIn: **https://www.linkedin.com/company/jared-joint-action-on-chronicrespiratory-Diseases/**

JARED Joint Action on REspiratory Diseases
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