During the COVID-19 outbreak, ECRIN rapidly deployed support and services to the design, planning and conduct of clinical trials, tools to facilitate clinical research, and to coordinate COVID-19 clinical research in Europe.

Support for COVID-19 clinical trials

Early in the crisis, ECRIN promoted the use of large adaptive platform trials to test multiple treatments simultaneously, avoiding the duplication of trials.

ECRIN is now a participant in all the EU-funded COVID-19 clinical trial initiatives.

Three COVID-19 trial initiatives with ECRIN

- **EU-RESPONSE** project funding both Discovery and EU SolidAct trials
- **RECOVER** project, funding REMAP-COVID trial
- **VACCELERATE** project establishing a pan-European vaccine network and designing master protocols for vaccine trials.
Tools for COVID-19 clinical research

The Clinical Research Metadata Repository: enables the discovery of all clinical trial metadata (registry data, protocols, informed consent, data management plans, etc), for any disease area, not only COVID-19, and represents more than one million documents. The development was supported by the H2020 XDC project and the EOSC Life project.

Individual Participant Data Repository for COVID-19 clinical trial data sharing: is a secure, GDPR-compliant, patient-level, data repository enabling COVID-19 trial data sharing. This tool is funded through the EOSC-Life project and a pilot repository will be available this summer linked to the EU COVID-19 data portal.

Toolbox for the design, planning and management of adaptive platform trials: will support adaptive platform trials in any disease area, allowing cross-fertilization across medical disciplines.

ECRIN COVID-19 toolbox:
- a literature review
- trial registries
- funding calls
- fast-track regulatory approvals for COVID trials
- regulatory & ethical considerations
- pandemics
- other resources

ECRIN leads a work package acting as a bridge between RECOVER and EU-RESPONSE, in charge of coordinating the major COVID-19 trials in Europe.

The Trial Coordination Board coordinates the investigators of REMAP-COVID, Discovery, EU-SolidAct, and also the WHO Solidarity, the UK Recovery and Principle trials, and the NIH ACTIV-III. It also promotes a dialogue with the major stakeholders (EMA, HTAs, CTFG, Ethics Committees, Industry) and policymakers (WHO, ECDC, EU Commission).

The Joint Access Advisory Mechanism coordinates the activities of each trial’s prioritization board and provides a single contact point for investigator-initiated or industry-initiated arms requesting access to the large European COVID-19 platform trials.

Another board allows the exchange of unblinded information on safety between the DSMB chairs.

ECRIN’s mission is to support the conduct of multinational clinical research in Europe. For this purpose, it supports sponsors/investigators to effectively design, plan and conduct multinational clinical trials, while providing relevant tools and operational services to support their research.