

Rome, Italy, Monday 26 May 2025

Press Release

Multiple Sclerosis (MS) - Kick-off of the European Research Project “MUSICALISE”

Today in Rome, a European consortium coordinated by the French School of Public Health (EHESP) and composed of the University of Liège (Belgium), the Italian Multiple Sclerosis Foundation (FISM), the French Multiple Sclerosis Society, the Public Assistance - Paris Hospitals and the Casa di Cura Igea (Italy) ; in partnership with the European Charcot Foundation, **launched a four-year research project entitled: Multiple Sclerosis, how to Instigate Care integrAtion across national contexts via patientS’ Engagement? (MUSICALISE).** The project aims to explore the most advanced **interdisciplinary care model** possible for people with MS.

- Topic of the project: the inspiring model of Multiple Sclerosis Care Units (MSCUs)

Multiple Sclerosis (MS) is a chronic lifelong neurological disease that usually begins in early adulthood. It affects **2.8 million people worldwide** and **1 million people** in Europe.

To ensure continuity of care and fulfil patients’ evolving and specific needs, as much as possible, **Multiple Sclerosis Care Units (MSCUs)** have been established. These units offer a coordinated, multidisciplinary approach to care. However, a comprehensive evaluation of these models is still lacking.

MUSICALISE will focus particularly on these innovative care structures, assessing how they can support care integration and patient-centred practices, helping to prevent discontinuity in care. Their goal is to provide “*the right care, in the right place, at the right time*” says the programme coordinator Emmanuelle Leray.

In the first stage, MUSICALISE will help to improve understanding of the MSCU concept and its impact on care quality and integration.

The research team, will then analyse how this model, which brings together healthcare providers, professionals and patients, can be developed **in other national contexts** or extended to other **chronic diseases** that require the coordination of multiple actors.

- Methodology of the project: an interdisciplinary approach

The project is divided into **seven work packages** and will measure the efficiency and sustainability of these new care models both from the perspective of healthcare providers (within and outside MSCUs) and public health authorities.

The methodology will be based on case studies conducted in France and Italy. The French Ministry of Health has designated **23 MSCUs across France** to address the needs of about **130,000 patients** with MS. In Italy, there are more than **240 MS centres** across the country and around **87% of people with MS** (approximately 137,000 individuals) receive care in these centres.

Results will be based on both existing sources and new data collected during the project through online questionnaires, semi-structured interviews and focus groups. The research team will also use a current survey on the implementation of the MSCU led by the European Charcot Foundation.

The MUSICALISE team will comprise many experts, including epidemiologists and specialists in political science, management, integrated care or healthcare systems. It is therefore expected that MUSICALISE will highlight the need for an **interdisciplinary approach** to caring for people with MS.

The project aims to demonstrate evidence-based strategies for the adoption of **new approaches** to MS care management, and to formulate **recommendations** that could be applicable in other EU member states facing similar health system challenges.

More information: [MUSICALISE: MULTiple Sclerosis, how to Instigate Care integrAtion across national contexts via patientS' Engagement? | Ecole des hautes études en santé publique \(EHESP\)](#)

Practical information

Funding reference: <https://www.thcspartnership.eu/funded-projects/funded-projects-2023.kl>

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Partners:

- EHESP, France
- Casa di Cura Igea s.p.a., Italy
- Assistance Publique Hôpitaux de Paris, Pitié Salpêtrière, France
- Société francophone de la sclérose en plaques, France
- Université de Liège, Belgium
- Fondazione Italiana Sclerosi Multipla FISM Ente del Terzo Settore/ETS, Italy



Key collaborator:

- The European Charcot Foundation



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