

## **Advancing the Understanding and Treatment of Heart Diseases**



Start March 2021



**Duration 48 months** 



Budget €5 Mio



9 Partners 8 Countries



## **The Situation**

- Cardiovascular diseases (CVD) are the leading cause of death in Europe and cost the EU economy EUR 210 billion annually.
- Potential drugs are tested on living tissue and animals, which do not behave like a human heart, leading to time-intensive and costly drug development processes and fewer approved drugs against CVDs.

## **Scientific Approach**

- Creation of novel electroactive, elastic and bioactive scaffolds for 3D cell cultures
- Development of a miniaturized bioreactor for adult-like cardiac cells derived from human stem cells (hiPSC-derived cardiomyocytes) with improved maturation quality
- Development of 3D-printed multi-material heart-on-chip devices mimicking the functionality of a human heart





## **Our Goals**

- Delivery of the most accurate heart models to date
- · Elimination of animal testing for cardiovascular drug screening
- Fewer failed clinical trials due to early-stage drug efficacy and cardiotoxicity testing and less costly drug development processes
- Higher drug approval rate and overall fewer deaths due to CVDs

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