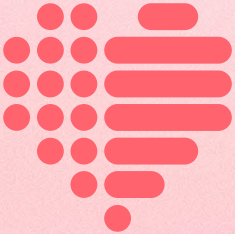


Grace®

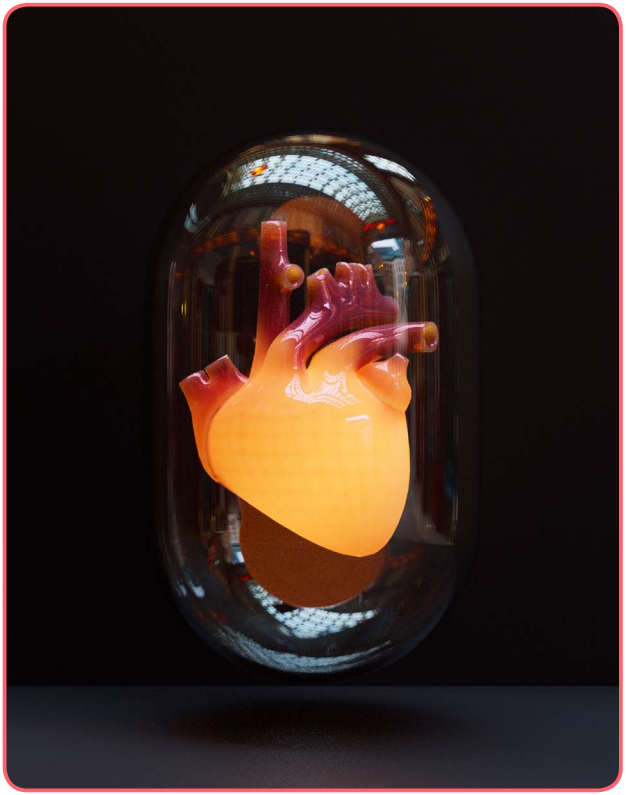
Transforming **cardiovascular care** through **innovation** and **collaboration**.

INDEX

Intro

GRACE is one of the most ambitious cardiovascular innovation projects in Europe, funded under the Innovative Health Initiative (IHI). This public–private partnership brings together leading hospitals, research institutions, academia, patient associations, and MedTech industry innovators.

Its mission: to revolutionise how cardiovascular diseases are diagnosed, treated, and followed up through cutting-edge technologies, with the ultimate goal of improving patient outcomes, empowering healthcare professionals, and strengthening the sustainability of healthcare systems.



The challenge

Cardiovascular diseases (CVD) are the leading cause of death and disability in Europe, responsible for more than 3.9 million deaths every year. Beyond their human toll, they represent a major economic burden, costing EU healthcare systems billions annually.

Despite advances in therapies, significant challenges remain:

- Too many conditions are diagnosed late or remain under-detected.
- Care pathways are fragmented and inconsistent
- Risk prediction tools are limited.
- Growing demand is placing unprecedented pressure on healthcare services.

To address these gaps, Europe needs coordinated, evidence-based interventions that are scalable, replicable, and clinically effective across different health systems.

Our approach

GRACE tackles these challenges through six real-world clinical interventions (Use Cases), combining mature and emerging solutions such as digital health, advanced diagnostic imaging, novel biomarkers, wearable devices, and predictive analytics and AI-driven tools.

The six Use Cases:

1. **Transforming atrial fibrillation (AF) management** – enabling earlier detection, continuous remote monitoring after ablation, and greater patient empowerment.
2. **Improving aortic stenosis (AS) care for oncology patients** – facilitating early identification of severe AS, and ensuring remote follow-up after TAVI to prevent progression and reduce complications.
3. **Redefining cardiac surgery recovery** – implementing early recovery protocols and prehabilitation programmes to accelerate recovery, reduce postoperative complications, and shorten hospital stays.
4. **Advancing cardiac MRI for INOCA diagnosis –** delivering faster, more accurate, and more patient-friendly diagnostic pathways through automated imaging and personalised guidance.
5. **Optimising heart failure (HF) management –** enhancing care coordination and enabling proactive management through digitised guidelines, predictive models, and advanced monitoring.
6. **A holistic pathway for CVD** – building an integrated model of care, covering prevention, acute care, and long-term follow-up for AF, CAD, and HF.

These interventions are designed to deliver scalable, evidence-based solutions that can be implemented across diverse healthcare systems in Europe.

Expected benefits

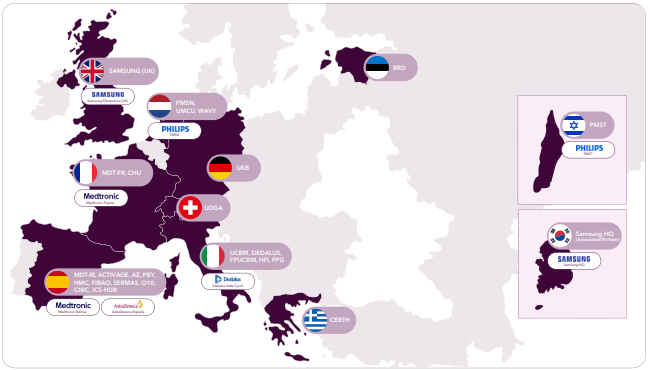
GRACE aims to deliver tangible, measurable impact across clinical, operational, and societal levels:

- **For patients**: improved outcomes and quality of life through timely diagnosis, fewer complications, shorter hospital stays, and more personalised treatments.
- **For healthcare professionals**: decision-support tools and streamlined workflows that enhance efficiency, reduce administrative burden, and strengthen clinical decision-making.
- **For healthcare systems**: lower readmission rates, fewer hospitalisations, and better allocation of resources, leading to more resilient and sustainable health services.
- **For society**: stronger digital engagement of citizens in their own care, fostering empowerment, improved adherence, and better overall experience.
- **For research and innovation**: robust real-world evidence to guide the adoption and scale-up of new care models, and stronger collaboration and knowledge sharing across countries, sectors, and disciplines.

The consortium

The project brings together 27 partners from 11 European countries, including hospitals, research institutions, academia, patient associations, and top MedTech industry leaders.

This public–private collaboration creates a unique multidisciplinary environment, bringing together hospitals, academia, patient associations, industry leaders, SMEs, and public stakeholders. It ensures that solutions are scientifically sound, technologically advanced, and aligned with the real needs of patients and healthcare systems across Europe.



Grace®

www.grace-ihi.eu

Follow us: @grace-project-ihi @graceproject

This project is supported by the Innovative Health Initiative Joint Undertaking (IHI JU) under grant agreement N° 101194778. The JU receives support from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme and COCIR, EFPIA, Europa Bío, MedTech Europe, and Vaccines Europe.

Funded by the European Union, the private members, and those contributing partners of the IHI JU. Views and opinions expressed are however those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the aforementioned parties. Neither of the aforementioned parties can be held responsible for them.