



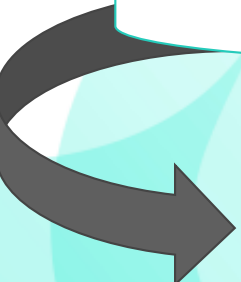
# prOmoting evidence-bASed rEformS: OASES

Paolo Michelutti, Age.Na.S. (Italy)

# Medical deserts and medical desertification



**Those situations or areas where people have difficulty in  
accessing health services**

- 
- Remote areas with poor health services
  - Lack of medical specialists in poor urban areas
  - Young health workers moving to cities and depleting rural areas
  - Difficulty in replacing the retiring workforce with a young and well-trained workforce



# EU call for proposals

## "Support to reforms in health workforce field - **Initiatives on medical deserts**"

- Definition and taxonomy of the **concept of medical deserts**.
- Feasibility of **measurement framework**.
- Root **cause analysis** of factors driving "desertification".
- Consensus-building exercise on **optimal mix of policy measures**.
- Updated figures and **forecast of health workforce shortages**.
- **Possible approaches** to mitigate medical deserts.



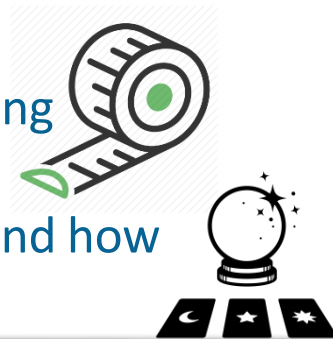
# EU initiatives at the base of the OASES project



## JOINT ACTION ON EUROPEAN HEALTH WORKFORCE PLANNING & FORECASTING

### Some results

- Which **data** are useful for HWF planning and how to collect them.
- How to **measure** current HWF stock and how **estimating** its future changes.



## SEPEN: SUPPORT FOR THE HEALTH WORKFORCE PLANNING AND FORECASTING EXPERT NETWORK

### Some results

- HWF EU **country profiles**, including main challenges
- **Stakeholders'** dialogues.
- EU HWF experts' **network**.
- **Tailored** advice and guidance to EU countries.



# OASES project objectives ...

1. Enhance and share **knowledge** on medical deserts.
2. Identify and analyse aspects that are relevant to **reforms** on medical deserts.
3. Organise dialogues and events to presents **lessons learnt**.
4. Provide **materials** that can be useful for healthcare authorities and providers.



## ... and limits

- A. Measurement method focused on **geographical dimensions of accessibility** NOT on social deprivation indexes.
- B. Pilot studies limited **to identify and agree on possible solutions** to medical deserts NOT to implement those solutions.



# OASES project structure

## WP4: METHODOLOGY

### Taxonomy and measures of medical desert

WP4 is

- (1) developing an **accurate index of accessibility** and
- (2) defining spatial **taxonomy** including other dimensions than healthcare accessibility.



**EHESP  
IRDES  
(France)**

Spatial access measure tool package (including scripts, examples of data sets, scenarios and pedagogical support).

#### Pilot sites

Romania
Moldova
Cyprus
Italy
Finland
Hungary
France

# OASES project structure

## WP5: Analysis and sustainability

- 1) Medical desert **analysis**.
- 2) **Sustainability** and scale-up of the initiatives to mitigate medical desert.

WP5 is

- (1) analyzing the state of art of medical desertification in Europe
- (2) analyzing what are the main antecedents and outcomes.
- (3) identifying effective and sustainable measures to mitigate desertification



**THL**  
(Finland)

State of art of desertification in Europe and ways to mitigate desertification  
Sustainability of ways to mitigate desertification

### Pilot sites

Romania
Moldova
Cyprus
Italy
Finland
Hungary
France



# OASES project structure

## WP6: Development and implementation of pilot studies to mitigate medical deserts

**UBB**  
(Romania)  
**NPHA**  
(Moldova)

### Pilot sites

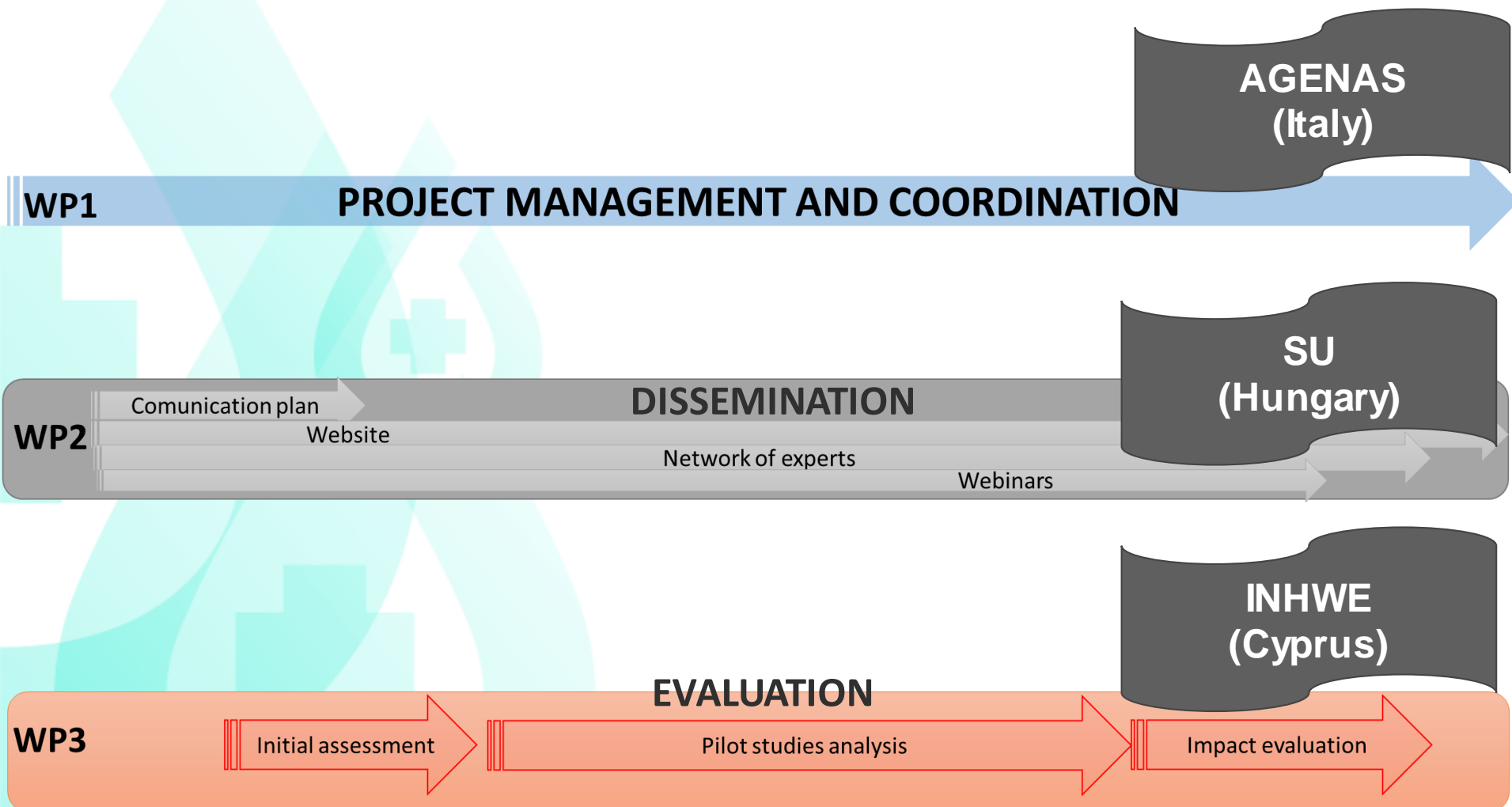
Romania
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Cyprus
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France

- 1) **Measurement** of the medical desert phenomenon at pilot site level (measurement method proposed by **WP4**).
- 2) Situation **analysis** of pilot sites supported by **WP5**.
- 3) Discussion with stakeholders of the causes and potential **measures** to mitigate the medical desert in the pilot sites including scenario building exercise (pilot site profile updating).

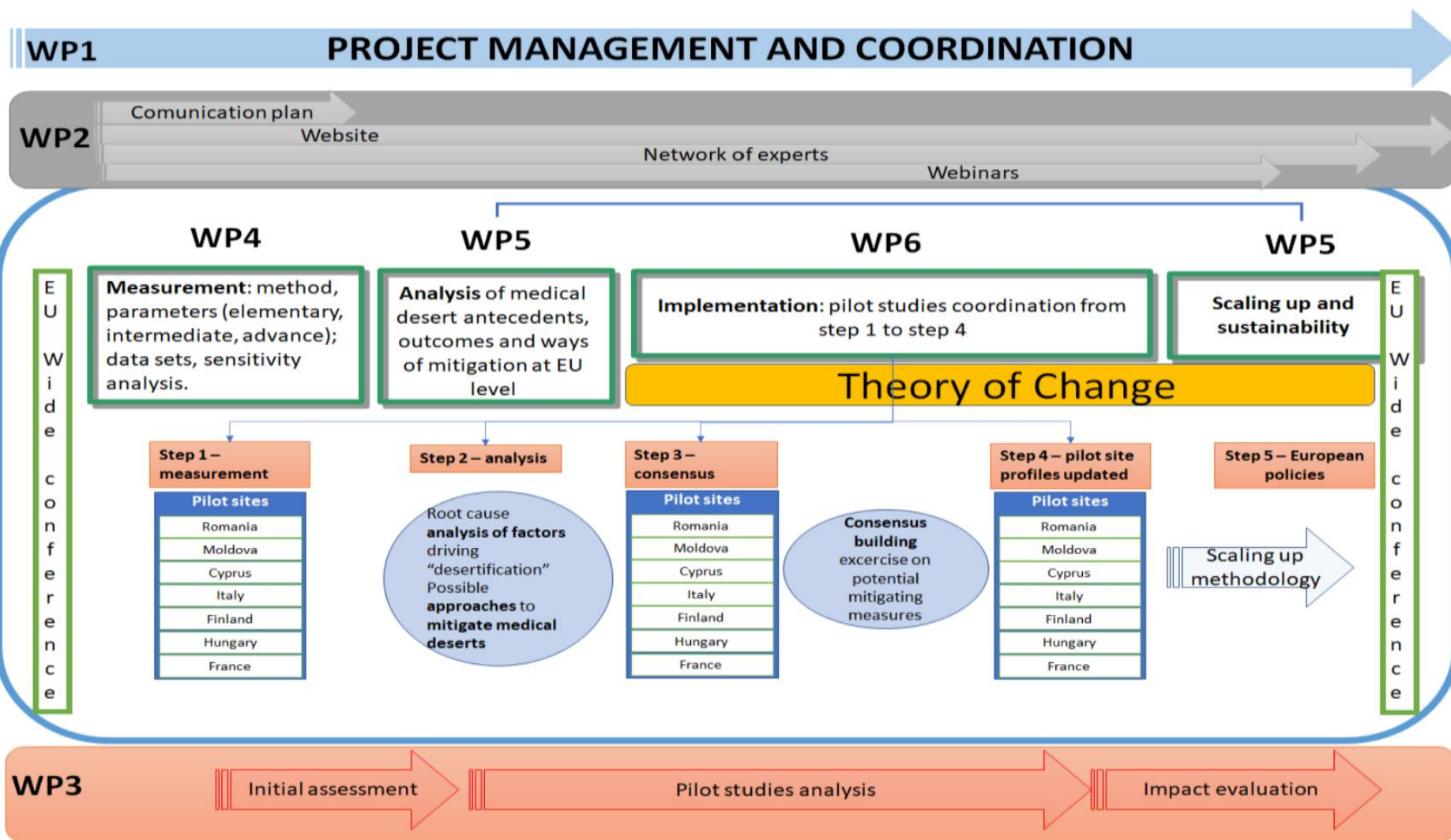




# OASES project structure



# The overall OASES project picture



## OASES project next steps

1. Policy board meeting (23 September 2021)
2. Survey on HWF data collected in the 7 countries (October 2021)
3. EU online wide conference (December 2021)
4. Tailoring of the measurement methodology to the 7 countries (January 2022)
5. First results of the literature review (February 2022)



For more info  
and updates,  
please go to

<https://oasesproject.eu/>

...and please, sign up to  
the **OASES Express**  
newsletter

# Thank you!

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