

Titel: Value from Nordic health data – VALO

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Problem: The Nordic countries face challenges in effectively utilizing health data for research, development, and innovation for cross-border analysis. There is a need for a standardized approach to manage and analyze health data across borders, ensuring compliance with EU legislation and improving patient care. Funded by the Nordic Council of Ministers, VALO is a collaborative effort in the Nordics that aims to establish common principles for implementing the EHDS regulation in the Nordic countries, streamline research and innovation activities, and test the use of health data across borders.

Background: The VALO project, coordinated by Sitra, the Finnish Innovation Fund, aims to address these challenges by strengthening Nordic cooperation and the secondary use of health data. The project involves leading university hospitals from Denmark, Sweden, Iceland, Finland, and Norway, forming a consortium to leverage the OMOP (Observational Medical Outcomes Partnership) common data model. IQVIA leads the consortium and provides technical expertise in OMOP analytics, ensuring standardized data collection and analysis across borders. OMOP standardizes the structure and content of observational health data, enabling efficient and reliable evidence generation through federated analysis. By leveraging OMOP, the VALO project aims to create a unified approach to health data management and utilization, driving innovation and improving patient care across the Nordic region.

Solution: The VALO project proposes a Nordic cooperation model for the secondary use of health data. The project will conduct research based on federated analysis using the international OMOP common data model to harmonize data from Electronic Health Records. In federated analysis, data is analyzed at its location, in this case in at least three Nordic countries. By adopting OMOP, the project aims to facilitate seamless integration and interoperability of health data, driving innovation and improving patient care. The project will benchmark care quality for patients with metastatic NSCLC in the Nordic countries, describing demographic and clinical characteristics, treatment patterns, and outcomes. This approach will demonstrate the effectiveness of cross-border collaboration and the use of standardized health data.

Brief introduction of the speakers:

- Nima Jokilaakso is a specialist at Sitra, the Finnish Innovation Fund, where he works on international programs promoting the utilization of health data. Nima is involved in projects such as VALO, supporting the harmonized implementation of the European Health Data Space (EHDS).