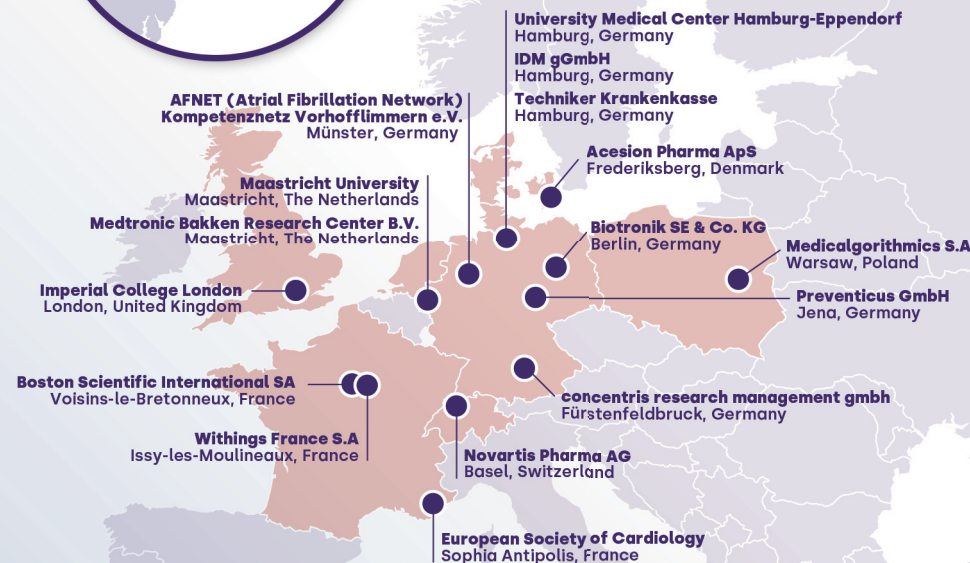




18 partners – one goal

The AF-B-STEP consortium brings together a unique public–private partnership of leading academic institutions, clinical experts, patient organisations, health insurers, and industry innovators across Europe and beyond.



Full project title	Quantifying A trial F ibrillation B urden to inform S creening, T reatment, and hE alth P olicy
Project start	January 2026
Project duration	4 years
Consortium members	18 institutions from 7 European countries and Canada
EC funding	8.15 million €
Industry funding	9.56 million €
Coordination & Management	Prof. Paulus Kirchhof (UKE), coordinator Dr. Mirko de Melis (Medtronic), project leader Dr. Christiana Krammer (concentris), management
Project website	afbstep.eu

PROJECT DETAILS

More project information on social media:



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A global collaboration to reduce the **Burden of Atrial Fibrillation** and advance its quantification and treatment

OUR VISION

From uncertainty to clarity in cardiac health: Redefining atrial fibrillation from YES or NO to what really matters

Our vision is a future where people understand their cardiac health better and can act on it with confidence. Many individuals are told they have an irregular heart rhythm (atrial fibrillation) without clear guidance on what it means for their health. We want to replace uncertainty with clarity – helping people, doctors, and health systems make informed decisions based on meaningful information, not just isolated test results.

We believe that modern technology, used responsibly, can turn health data into real benefits for everyday life. By bringing together patients, doctors, researchers, and industry, our project translates complex medical data into simple, reliable insights. This will support earlier prevention, more personalised care, and fairer access to effective treatments across Europe and beyond.

Advancing evidence-based cardiovascular care through data-driven insights into AF burden

- 01 Put people at the centre of the research** by involving patients throughout the project, sharing results openly, and working closely with healthcare decision-makers and payers.
- 02 Collect data to create clear insights** by combining large, high-quality datasets that link heart rhythm patterns with health outcomes, developing practical solutions.
- 03 Understand how AF develops over time** by studying patterns and changes in AF burden across different groups of people, including differences between women and men.
- 04 Make AF burden information consistent and usable** by developing common standards for how AF burden is measured and reported by implanted devices, wearables, and medical diagnostic tools.
- 05 Clarify how AF burden affects health and daily life** by determining how different levels of AF burden influence quality of life, functional outcomes, and the risk of serious events. We will also define key thresholds to improve patient care.

SIX MAJOR OBJECTIVES

- 06 Support more personalised care by identifying markers** that help distinguish people with low, medium, or high AF burden, enabling better screening, monitoring, and treatment.

Precise identification of patients at risk of stroke

AF-B-STEP will generate a holistic, data-driven understanding of AF burden, clarifying its progression, clinical consequences, and impact on quality of life. By standardising AF burden measurement and linking it to major health outcomes, the project will enable evidence-based, precision-guided treatment decisions and support regulatory acceptance of AF burden as a meaningful endpoint.

Ultimately, this approach aims to improve cardiovascular outcomes, reduce healthcare costs, and accelerate innovation in AF care. Below, we summarise more specific impact areas.

Improved quality of life through personalised care

REAL-LIFE IMPACT

- Robust description of AF burden distribution and trajectories
- Quantification of the effect of AF burden on major health outcomes
- Understanding of AF burden impact on patient-reported outcomes and quality of life
- Standardised AF burden reporting across devices and platforms
- Validated role of AF burden in clinical decision-making and therapy
- Improved cardiovascular outcomes and reduced disease burden
- Reduction of healthcare costs and improved cost-effectiveness
- Acceleration of innovation and regulatory acceptance