



User Day 8 October 2024



# *Data management in human exposome projects: the EXIMIOUS experience and how we plan to use it in the EXPOSIM project*

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*Environment and Health, Department of Public Health and Primary Care*



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 874707.

- ***FAIR Data management in exposome research - a case study from the EU-funded EXIMIOUS project***
- ***Building on the EXIMIOUS experience to use it in the EXPOSIM project***

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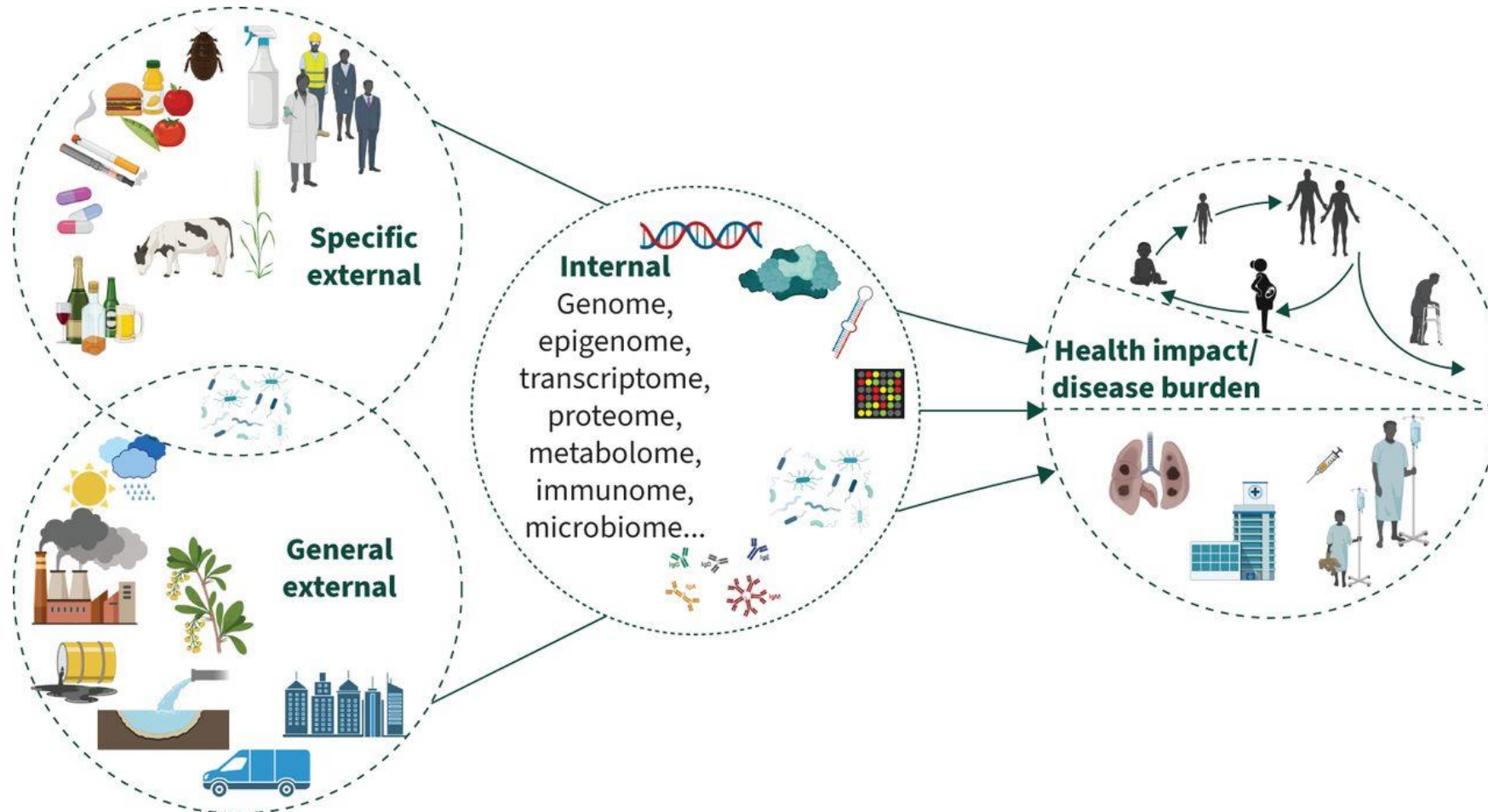
*Manosij Ghosh, Katrijn Broothaerts, Steven Ronsmans, Ingrid Barcena Roig, Jef Scheepers, Mustafa Dikmen, Emily Rose Ciscato, Carolina Blanch, Michelle Plusquin, Unni C. Nygaard, Camilla Sandal Sejbæk, Karin S. Hougaard, Peter HM Hoet*

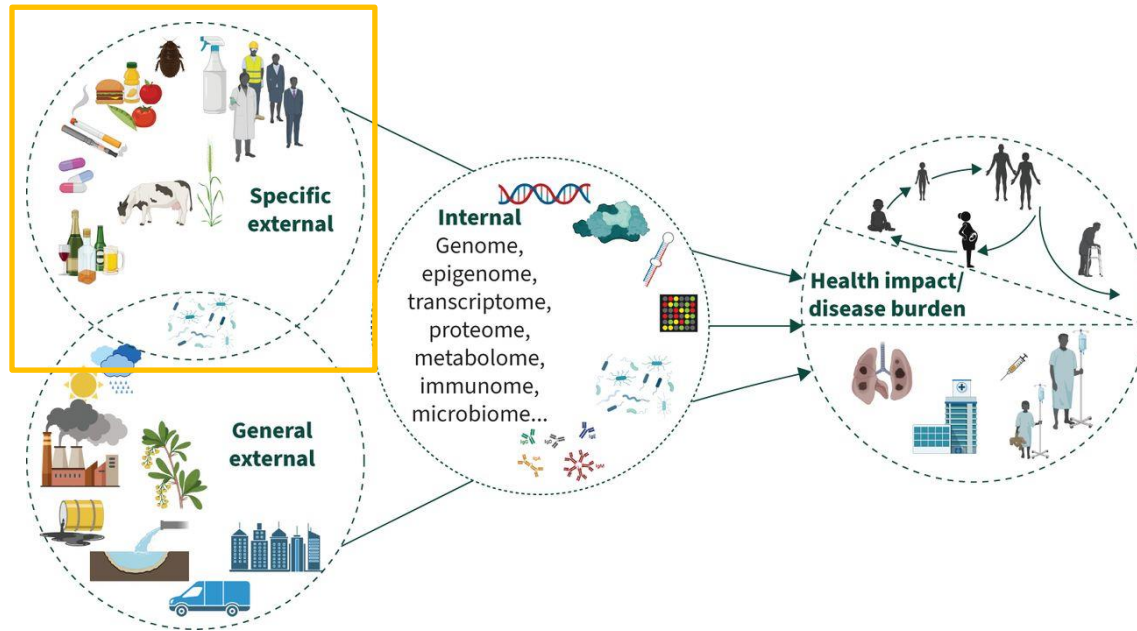
*On behalf of the EXIMIOUS consortium<sup>#</sup>*

- ***Building on the EXIMIOUS experience to use it in the EXPOSIM project***

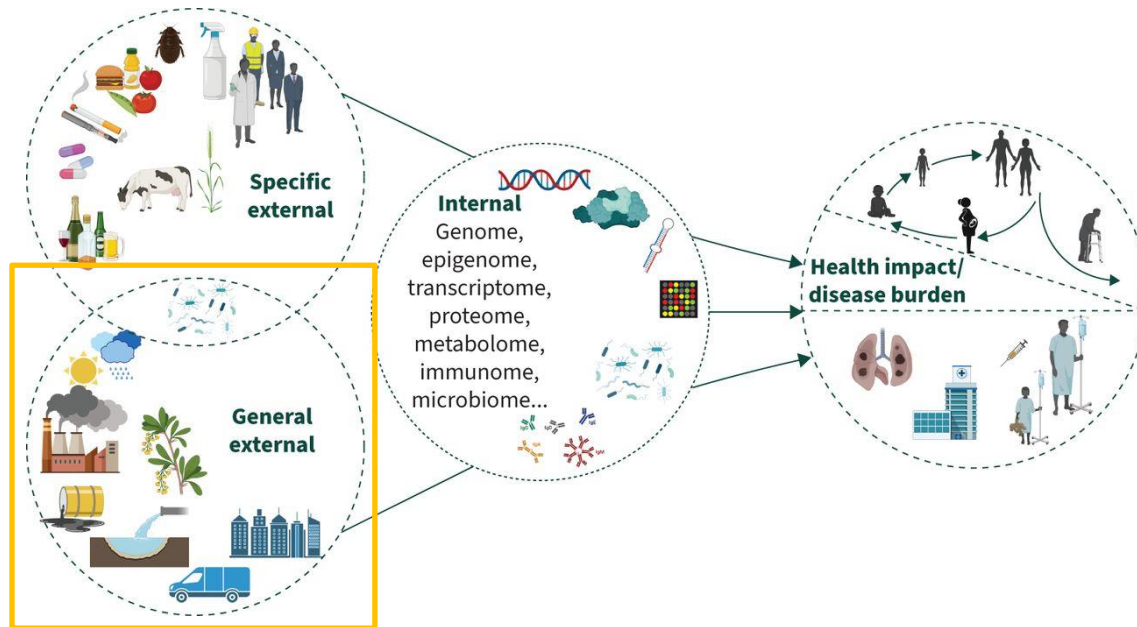
# EXPOSOME

“The **cumulative measure of environmental influences and associated biological responses throughout the lifespan**, including exposures from the environment, diet, behavior, and endogenous processes”, by including a quantifiable “cumulative measure” of the exposome component and the “differential response” in biological processes.





- 1. Specific external:** an individual's immediate local environment, including exposure to chemicals, diet, physical activity, tobacco and infections
2. General external: social, economic factors, the urban environment and climate factors.
3. Internal: internal biological processes such as oxidative stress, inflammation, epigenetic changes, metabolism and the internal microbiome.

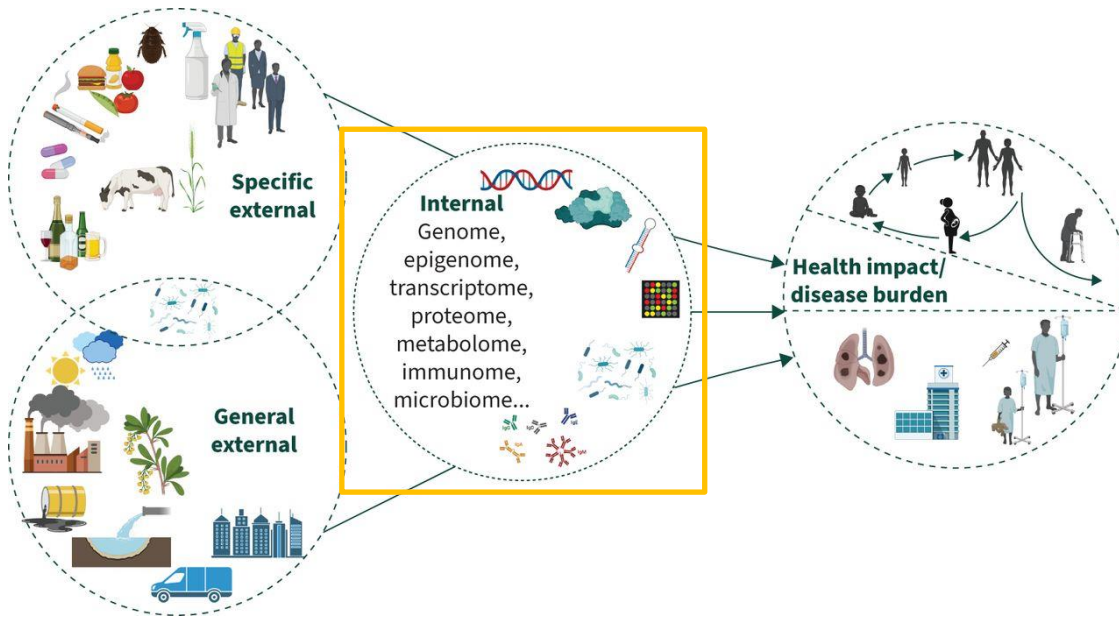


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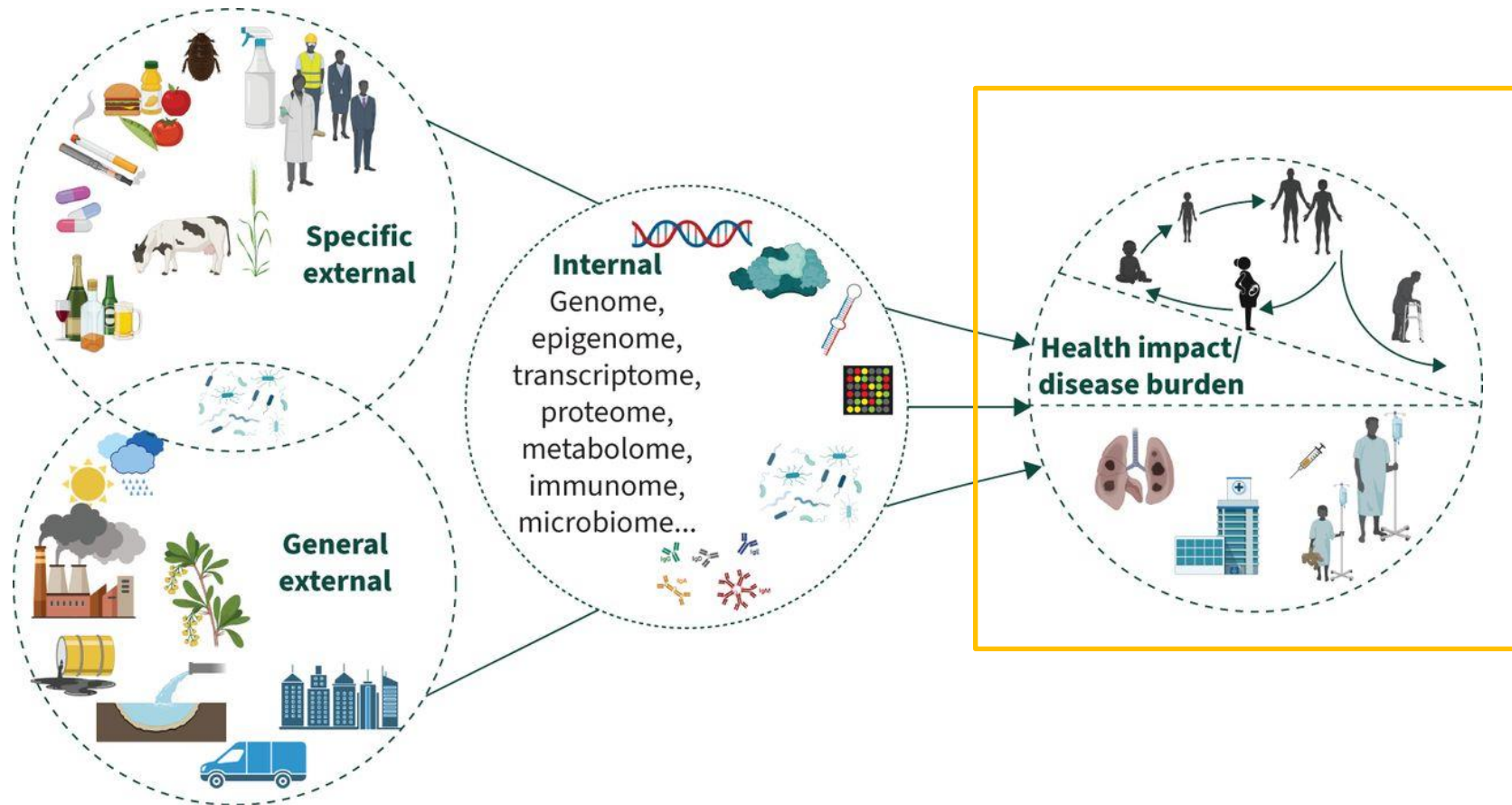


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# EXPOSOME





Human biomonitoring can be defined as the **method for assessing human exposure to chemicals or their effects by measuring these chemicals, their metabolites or reaction products in human specimens.** Biomonitoring involves measurements of biomarkers in bodily fluids, such as blood, urine, saliva, breast milk, sweat, and other specimens, such as faeces, hair, teeth, and nails <sup>[2][3]</sup>. In the area of occupational medicine or occupational hygiene, biomonitoring is to be understood **as the examination of biological materials of employees for the quantitative determination of hazardous substances, their metabolites or their biochemical and/or biological parameters.**

**An exposomic approach differs from traditional biomonitoring in that it can theoretically include all exposures of potential health significance, whether they are derived from exogenous sources (e.g., pollutants, diet, drugs) or endogenous sources (e.g., hormones, human and microbial metabolites)**

# What is EXIMIOUS about?

## ‘meet in the middle’

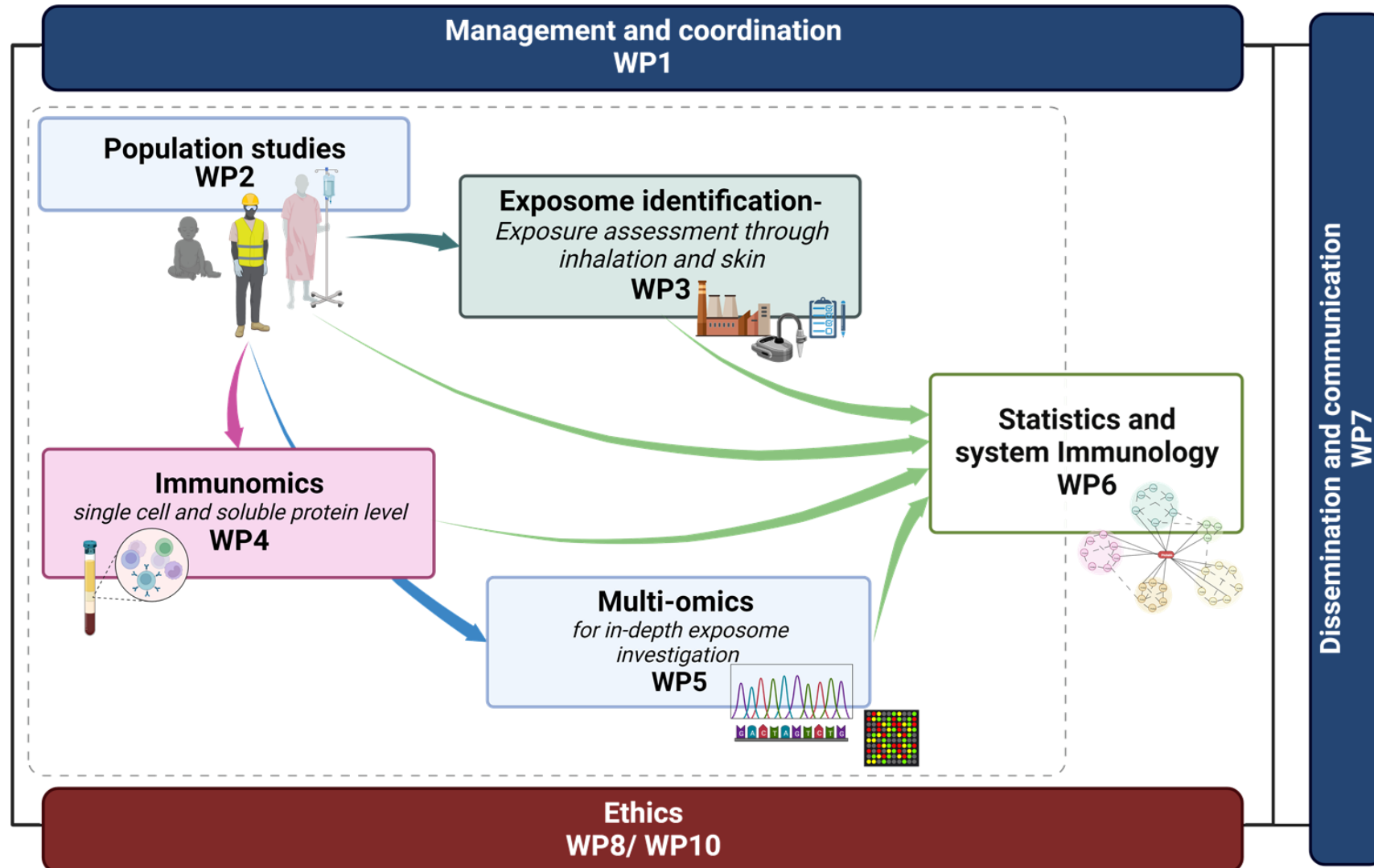
### FIRST APPROACH: STARTING FROM THE EXPOSOME

We will begin with cohorts that cover the entire lifespan: general and birth cohorts (LifeLines, DOC\*X and DOC\*X Generation, ENVIRONAGE) and occupational cohorts (park workers, paint factory workers, miners, metallurgy workers, waste handlers and administrative workers).

### SECOND APPROACH: STARTING FROM THE DISEASE

In this approach, we start from cohorts of people that have potentially exposure-related, immune-mediated diseases, like systemic sclerosis (SSc), systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), rheumatoid arthritis (RA), sarcoidosis and hypersensitivity pneumonitis (HP).

# How is the project organized...



# The origin of the data.....

## OCCUPATIONAL COHORTS

- Waste workers – Denmark
- Park workers – Spain
- Workers exposed to mineral dust and organic solvents – Romania



## GENERAL POPULATION & BIRTH COHORTS

- The LifeLines Cohort Study – The Netherlands
- ENVIRonAGE birth cohort – Belgium
- DOC\*X cohort – Denmark
- DOC\*X generation – Denmark



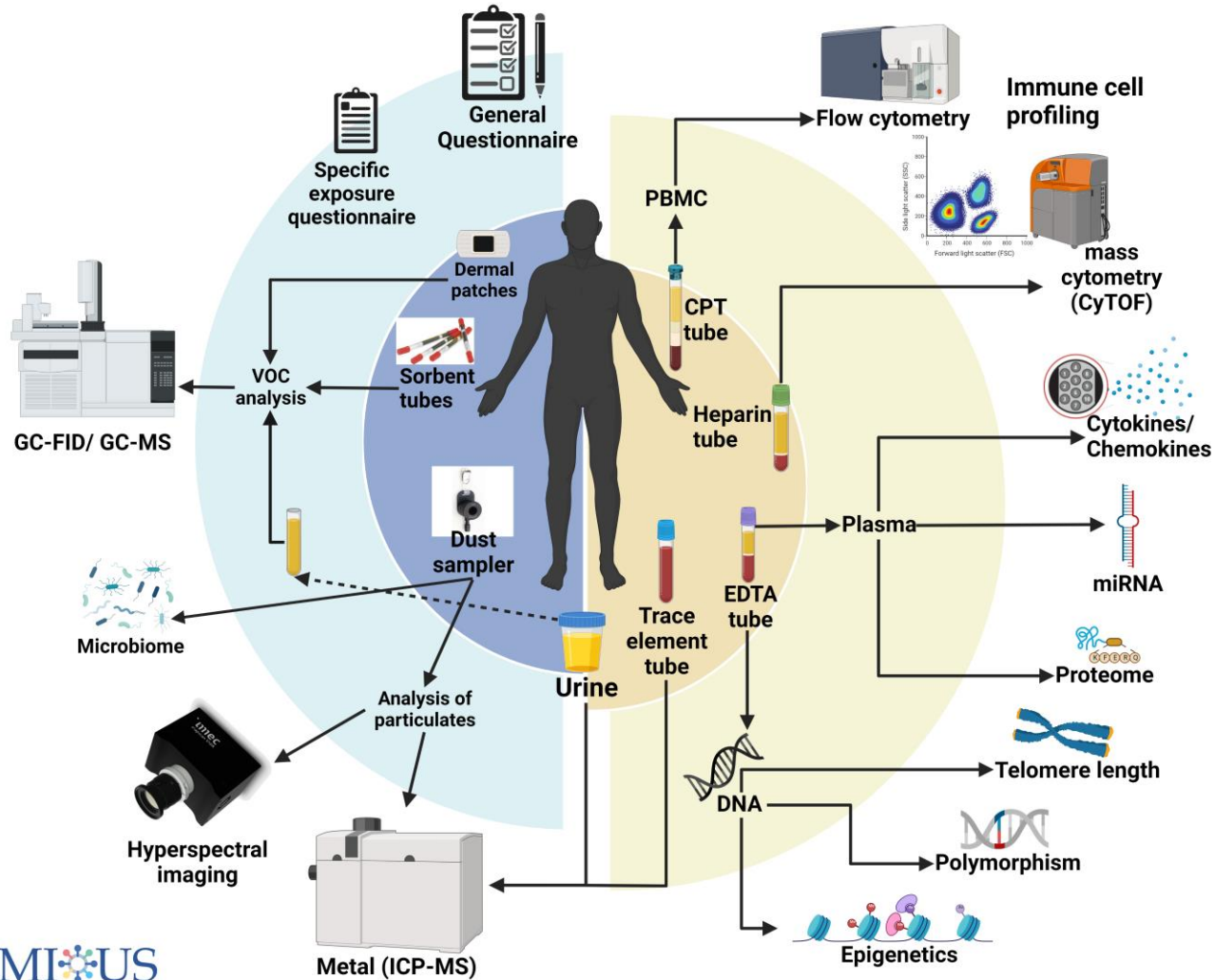
## DISEASE COHORTS

- Systemic Sclerosis (SS) – Belgium
- Rheumatoid Arthritis (RA) – Belgium
- Sarcoidosis – Belgium
- Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE) – Belgium
- Hypersensitivity Pneumonitis (HP) – Spain



Study Population	Time course			
	Prenatal	0–18 years	18–65 years	> 65 years
The LifeLines Cohort				
ENVIRonAGE				
DOC*X				
DOC*X Generation				
Waste workers				
Park workers				
Workers exposed to mineral dust and organic solvents				
Sarcoidosis				
Hypersensitivity pneumonitis				
Systemic Sclerosis				
Systemic Lupus Erythematosus				
Rheumatoid Arthritis				

# What data does EXIMIOUS collect?



*“adequate, relevant and limited to what is necessary in relation to the purposes for which they are processed”*

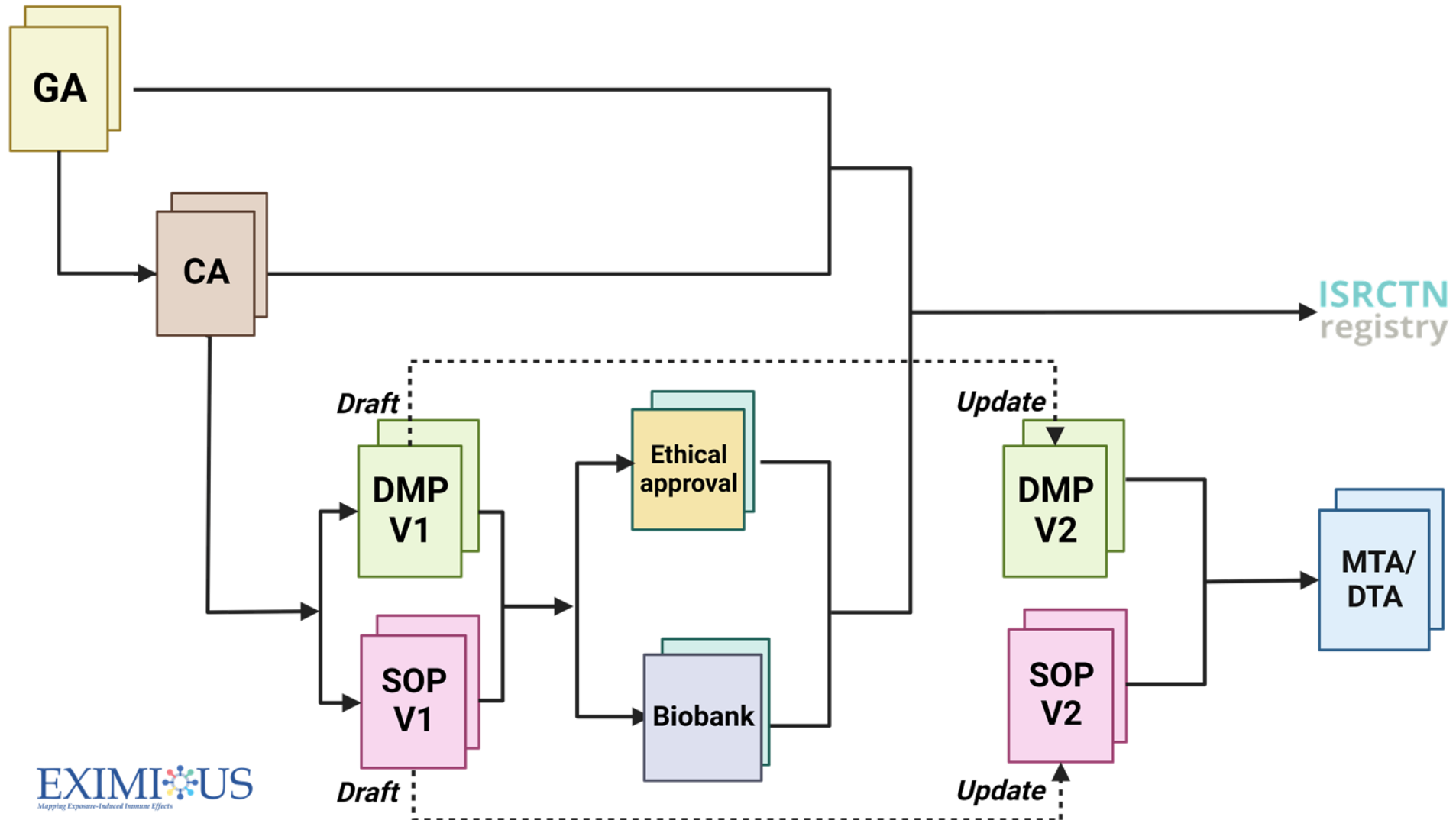


		TYPE OF DATA														
		Primary Biological Samples			Questionnaire Data				Clinical Data		Environmental Samples and Exposure Data					
SOURCE OF DATA (PRIMARY / SECONDARY)		Blood	Urine	Other: BAL, ..	Health & medication	Sociodemographics	Lifestyle habits	Current and past exposures	Electronic patient files	Clinical assessment workers	Air	Mineral dust	Dermal patches	Risk assessment	Safety data sheets	Exposure profile
	DISEASE COHORTS															
	Sarcoidosis and systemic sclerosis (KU Leuven)	X (PB)	X	(x)	X	X	X	X	X						(x)	X
	Systemic sclerosis, SLE and RA (UCL)	X (PB)	X	(x)	X	X	X	X	X						(x)	X
	Hypersensitivity Pneumonitis (VHIR)	X (PB)	X	(x)	X	X	X	X	X						(x)	X
	GENERAL AND BIRTH COHORTS															
	LifeLines (Uhasselt)	X (PB)	X		X	X	X	X								
	ENVIRONAGE (Uhasselt)	X (PB+CB)	X		X	X	X	X								
	DOC*X(Generation) (NRCWE/RegionH)				X	X	X	X								
	OCCUPATIONAL COHORTS															
Waste workers (NRCWE)	X (PB)	X		X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	
Park workers (VHIR)	X (PB)	X		X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	
Workers exposed to dust and solvents (UMFST)	X (PB)	X	(x)	X	X	X	X		(x)	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Objective 1: Delineating the exposome	EXPOSOME															
Objective 2A: Immunomics	IMMUNOME		IMMUNOME					IMMUNOME								
Objective 2B: Multi-omics	OMICS		OMICS													
Objective 3: Statistics and systems immunology	COMBINED ANALYSIS															

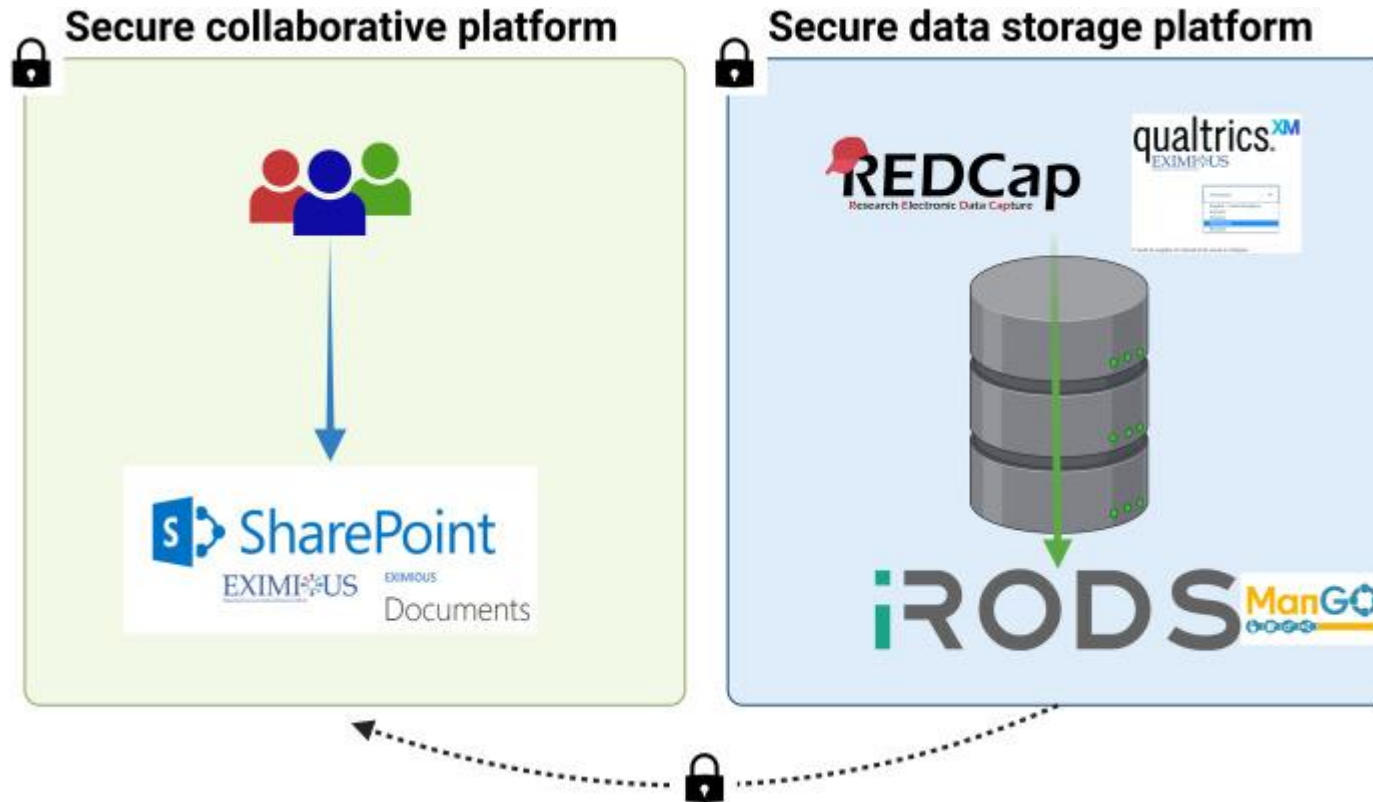


# The data management, legal and ethical workflow of the EXIMIOUS project

In accordance with *Article 5 EU GDPR* principles relating to the processing of personal data, i.e. the "**Data protection by design and by default**"



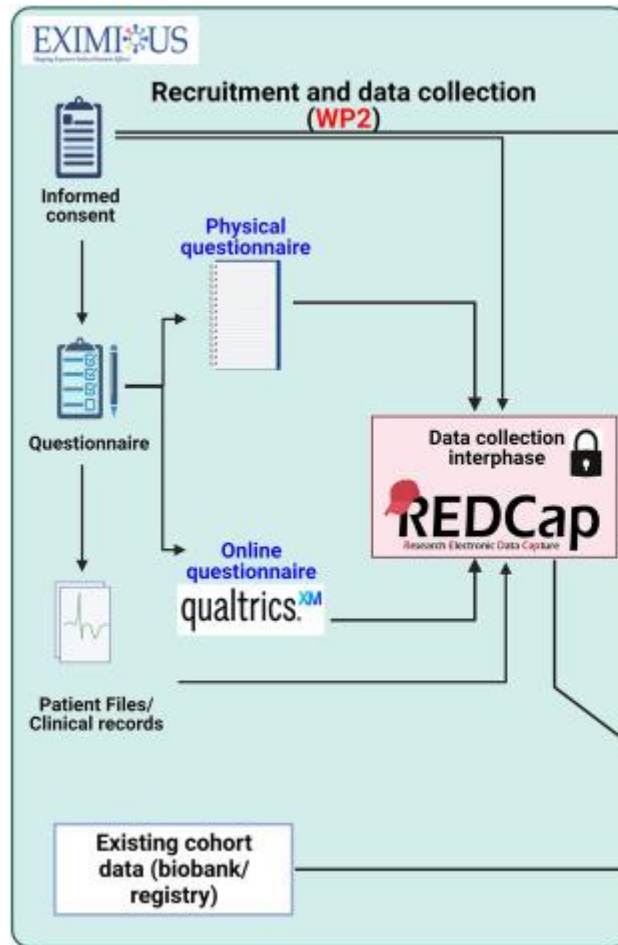
# Separation of secure workspace in the EXIMIOUS project



## Technical and organizational measures to safeguard data

- *EXIMIOUS data managers*
- *Data access groups*
- *Data governance*
- *Version control of data*

# Data collection workflow

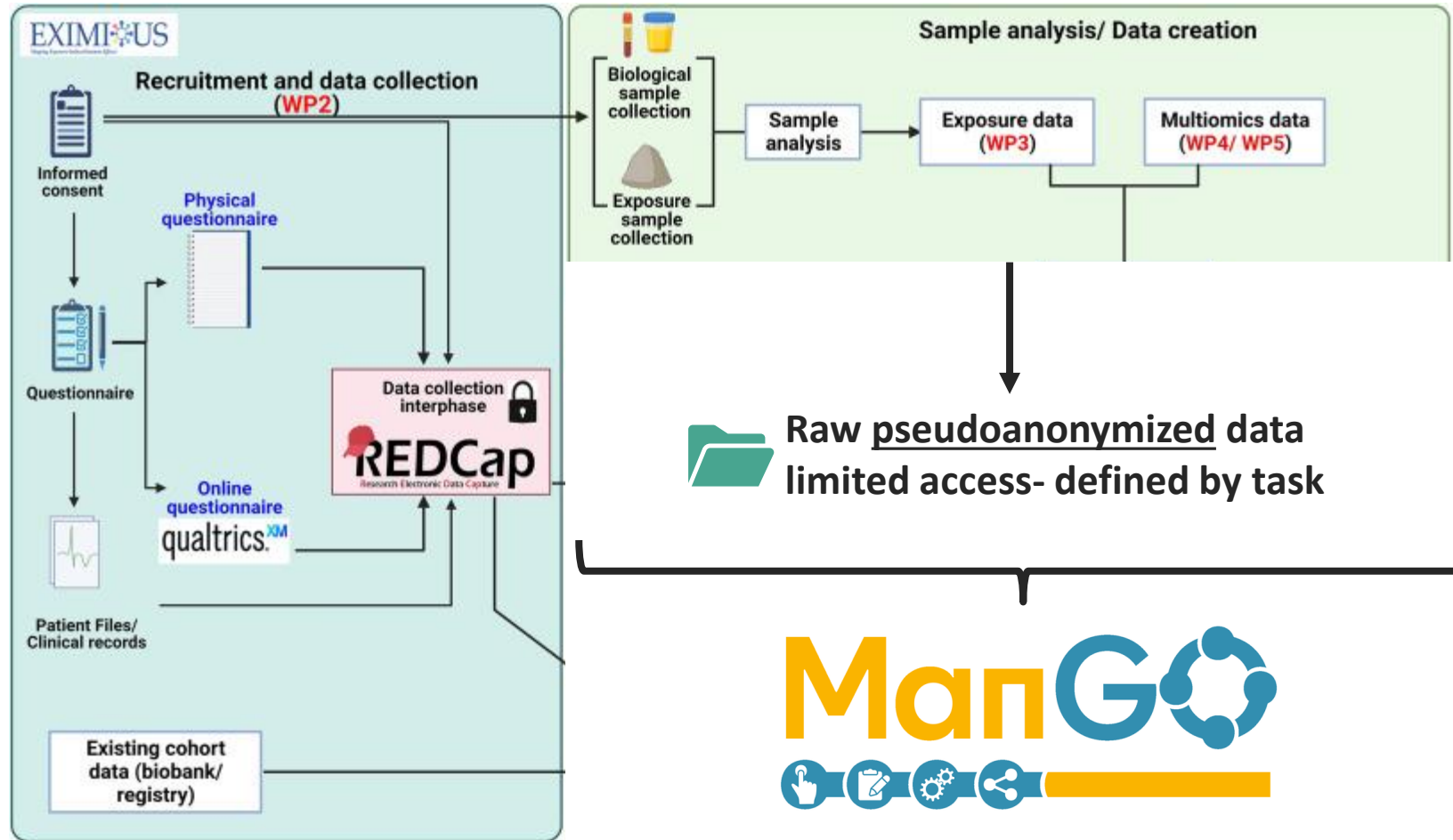


Raw data- no general access  
Only Cohort owners have access

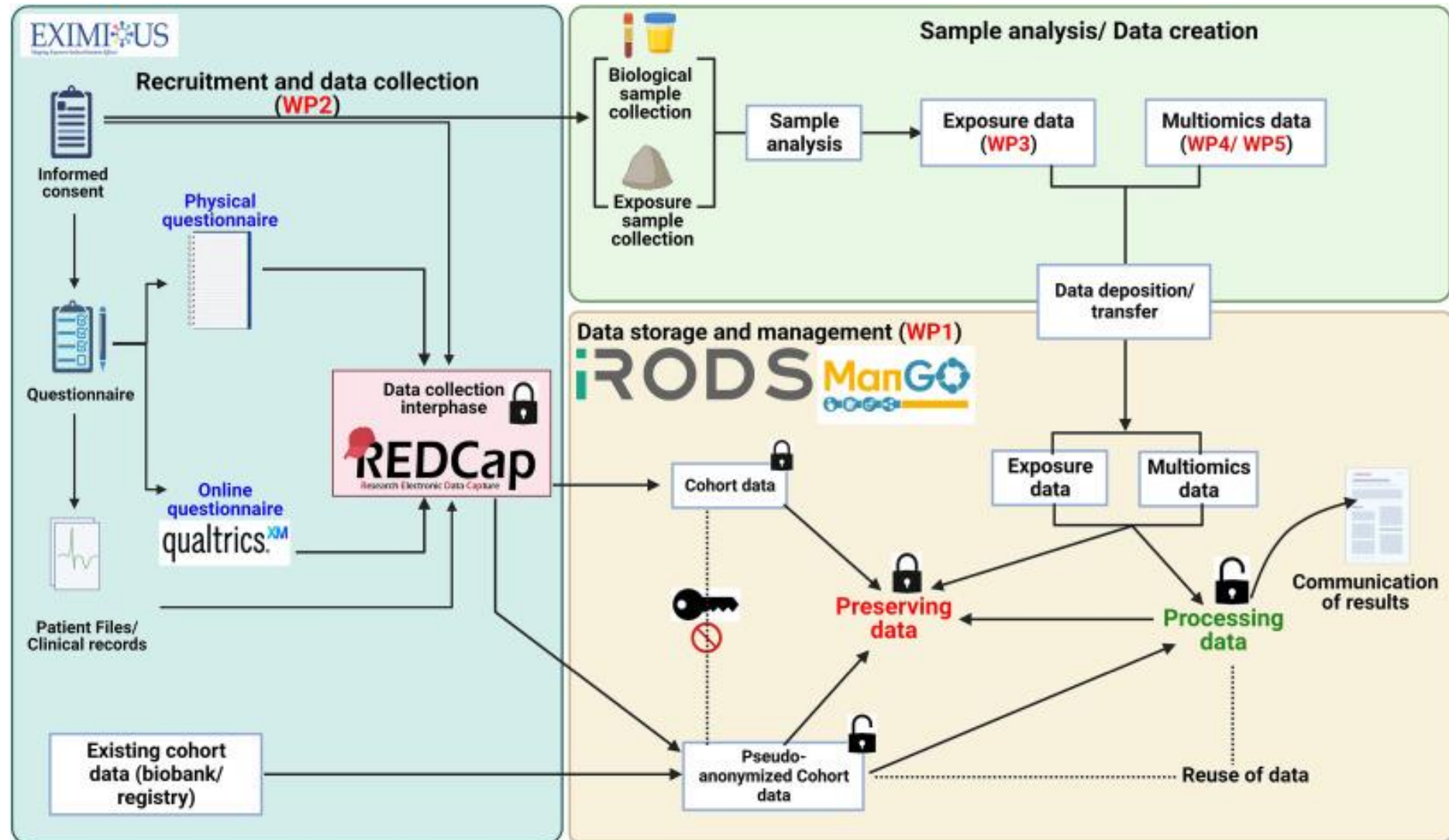
Raw pseudoanonymized data  
limited access- defined by task



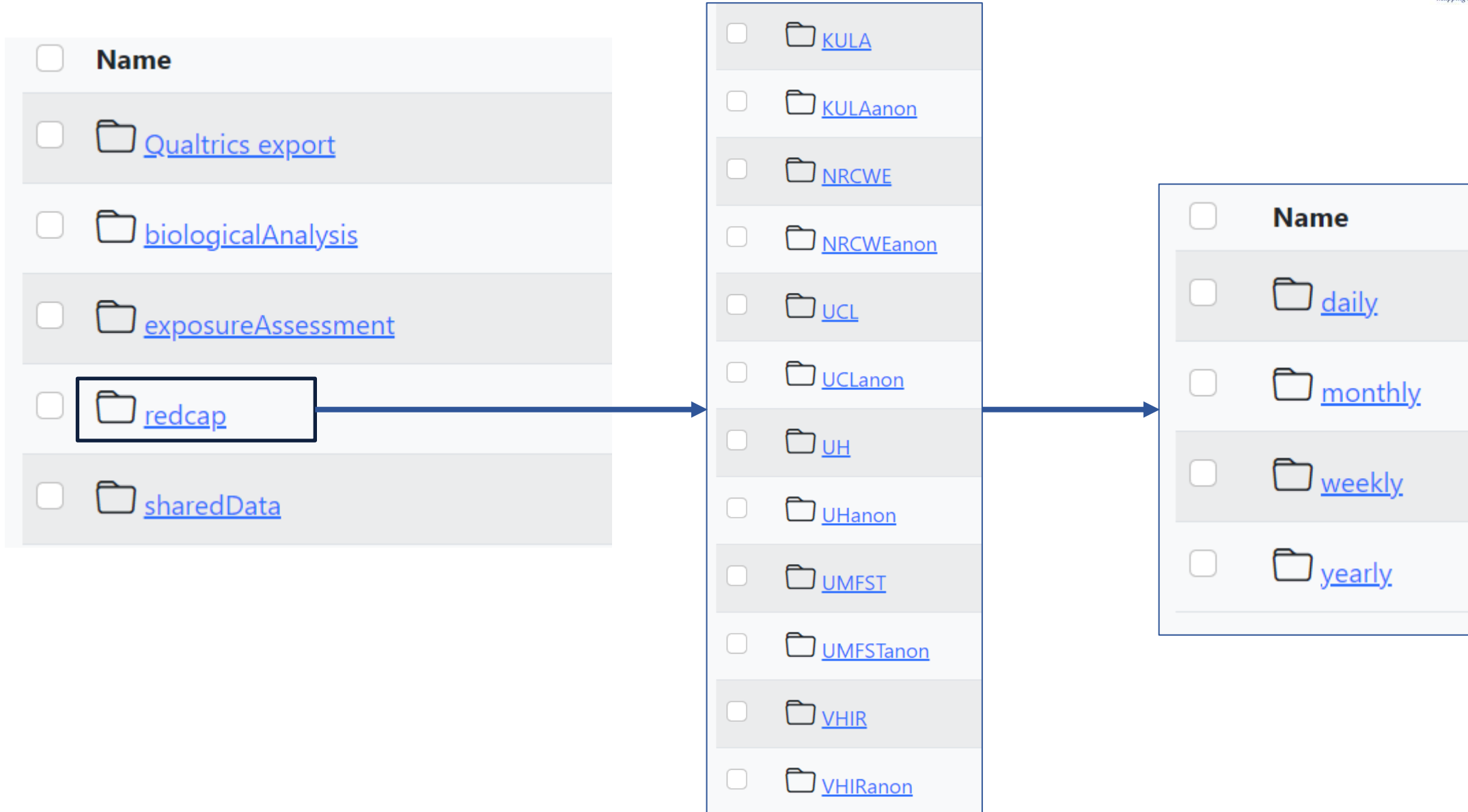
# Data collection workflow








# Data collection workflow







# How does it look in ManGO?



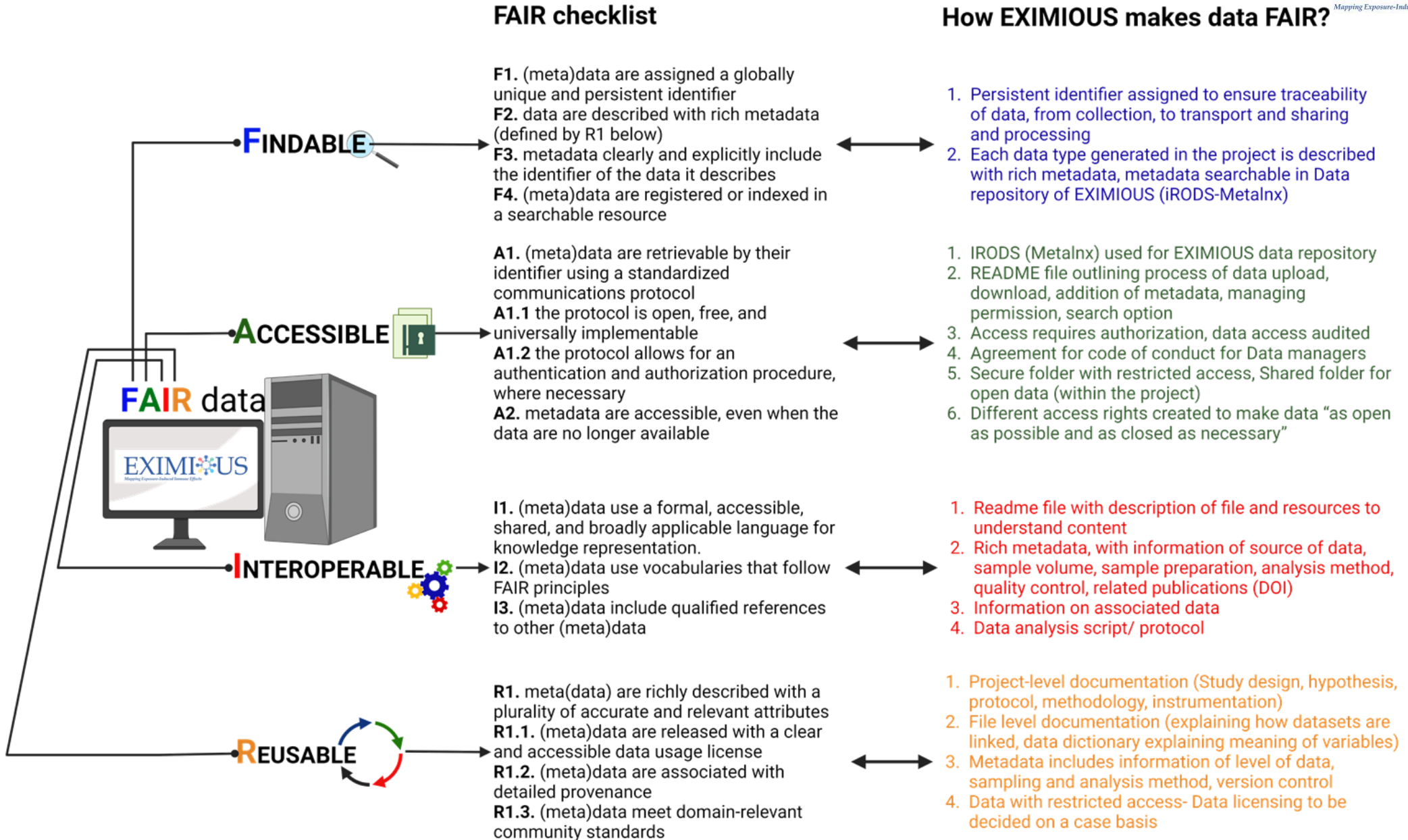






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<input type="checkbox"/>	 <a href="#">Qualtrics export</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	 <a href="#">biologicalAnalysis</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	 <a href="#">exposureAssessment</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	 <a href="#">redcap</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	 <a href="#">sharedData</a>



<input type="checkbox"/>	Name
<input type="checkbox"/>	 <a href="#">KULA</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	 <a href="#">KULC</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	 <a href="#">NIPH</a>
<input type="checkbox"/>	 <a href="#">UH</a>



# Making the data FAIR



EXIMIOUS DMP-CHECK	Task	Means to achieve task (EXIMIOUS examples)	EXIMIOUS timeline (months)	Resources (Uploaded version of the documents might be available in course of time)	Check list
<b>Project pre-award</b>					
Defining data collection objective	Defining how all of the data is relevant and limited to the purposes of the project ('data minimization' principle)	Define clearly the research objectives, objectives of data collection, collection of personal information and defining how it is directly relevant and necessary to accomplish a specified task/ objective. <i>(Additional data minimization steps in EXIMIOUS are described in the manuscript)</i>	Pre-application	<a href="https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32018R1725">https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32018R1725</a>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Identify ethical considerations	Consult the EC self-assessment and the local ethics office of the applicant's institute	Pre-application		<input type="checkbox"/>
	Complete the ethics self-assessment	Consult the EC self-assessment and the local ethics office of the applicant's institute	Pre-application	 <a href="https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/how-to-complete-your-ethics-self-assessment_en.pdf">https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/how-to-complete-your-ethics-self-assessment_en.pdf</a>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Describe the clinical study <i>(For calls that involve clinical studies, participants might be required to add additional document to the application as annex to the proposal)</i>	Consult the EC self-assessment and the local ethics office of the applicant's institute	Pre-application	 <a href="https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/temp-form/af/information-on-clinical-studies_he_en.docx">https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/temp-form/af/information-on-clinical-studies_he_en.docx</a>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ethics and Integrity	Prepare a brief outline describing data management and personal data protection as requested by the funding agency	Consult the Research Data Management Helpdesk at applicants host institute	Pre-application	 <a href="https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/guidance/programme-guide_horizon_en.pdf">https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/guidance/programme-guide_horizon_en.pdf</a>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Project Post-Award</b>					
Contracts and agreements	Ethics review, Grant signature	Reviewed by ethics officer (funding agency) multiple 'ethics requirements' become contractual obligations and are implemented in the grant agreement before the agreement could be signed. Ethics requirements due after project start are included in the grant agreement in the form of 'ethics deliverables' and are submitted to the EC.	0	 <a href="https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/guidance/programme-guide_horizon_en.pdf">https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/guidance/programme-guide_horizon_en.pdf</a>	<input type="checkbox"/>




	SOP		processing and storage; the order of sample collection; instructions for sample handling; time allowed from collection to processing and storage among others. At every step of the process, feedback was collected from cohort owners, lab technicians about ease and practicality of sampling and the protocol was updated for clarity.			
	Ethics	Submit application(s) for ethical approval or amendments (as might be applicable) for each included study population	Based on the DMP V1 and SOP V1, cohort owners submitted their application to their respective institutional ethical committee for ethical approval keeping both National and EU regulations in mind.	8	<a href="https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/docs/h2020-funding-guide/cross-cutting-issues/ethics_en.htm">https://ec.europa.eu/research/participants/docs/h2020-funding-guide/cross-cutting-issues/ethics_en.htm</a>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Data management platforms	Select suitable data management platforms and define security measures	Consult the data management helpdesk at the coordinating institute and reach consensus among partners. Some of the selected platforms include: SharePoint- web-based collaborative platform; REDCap- Research Electronic Data Capture; Qualtrics- web-based survey tool; Metalnx - web application designed to work alongside iRODS	Continuous		<input type="checkbox"/>
FINDABLE data provisions	F1. (Meta)data are assigned a globally unique and persistent identifier	F2. Data are described with rich metadata (defined by R1 below) F3. Metadata clearly and explicitly include the identifier of the data it describes F4. (Meta)data are registered or indexed in a searchable resource	1. Persistent identifier assigned to ensure traceability of data, from collection, to transport and sharing and processing 2. Each data type generated in the project is described with rich metadata, metadata searchable in data repository of EXIMIOUS (iRODS-Metalnx) <i>(Additional provisions are described in the manuscript)</i>	Continuous	 <a href="https://doi.org/10.1038/sdata.2016.18">https://doi.org/10.1038/sdata.2016.18</a> <a href="https://force11.org/info/the-fair-data-principles/">https://force11.org/info/the-fair-data-principles/</a> <a href="https://force11.org/info/guiding-principles-for-findable-accessible-interoperable-and-re-usable-data-publishing-version-b1-0/">https://force11.org/info/guiding-principles-for-findable-accessible-interoperable-and-re-usable-data-publishing-version-b1-0/</a>	<input type="checkbox"/>
						<input type="checkbox"/>
						<input type="checkbox"/>
						<input type="checkbox"/>
ACCESSIBLE data provisions	A1. (Meta)data are retrievable by their identifier using a standardized communications protocol A1.1 The protocol is open, free, and universally implementable		1. iRODS (Metalnx) used for EXIMIOUS data repository 2. README file outlining process of data upload, download, addition of metadata, managing permission, search option	Continuous		<input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>



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# Data management and protection in occupational and environmental exposome research - A case study from the EU-funded EXIMIOUS project

Manosij Ghosh <sup>a</sup>  , Katrijn Broothaerts <sup>a</sup>, Steven Ronsmans <sup>a</sup>, Ingrid Barcena Roig <sup>b</sup>,  
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the EXIMIOUS consortium



# It is not scientific enough... but it is important!

EXIMIOUS  
Mapping Exposure-Induced Immune Effects



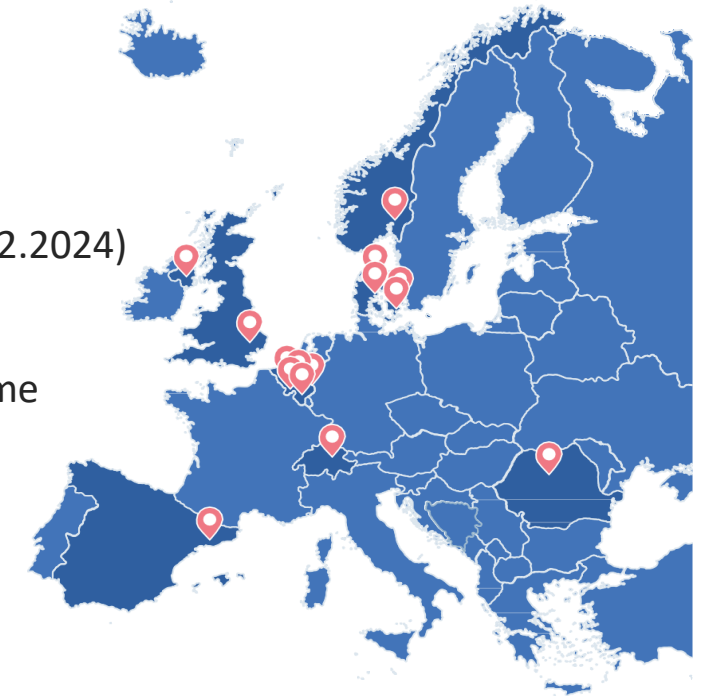
15 partners

7 countries across Europe

5 years (01.01.2020 - 31.12.2024)

1 of 9 projects within the  
European Human Exposome  
Network (EHEN)

MEMBER OF THE  
European Human Exposome **NETWORK**



EXIMIOUS\_H2020

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KU LEUVEN

UHASSELT

NIPH

Det Nationale Forskningscenter  
for Arbejdsmiljø

BeCOH  
Belgian Center for  
Occupational Hygiene

Babraham  
Institute

UCLouvain

QUEEN'S  
UNIVERSITY  
BELFAST

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Region  
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Biogenity

Vall d'Hebron  
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GEORGE EMIL PALADE  
UNIVERSITY OF MEDICINE,  
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TECHNOLOGY OF TARGU MURES

accelopment  
takes you further



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