



40th EPSO Conference Malta
16-17 June 2026, Valetta

- **15 June 2026**
EPSO TRAINING DAY
(Data and AI for Regulation)
- **18 June 2026 (morning)**
EPSO WG End of Life/AD



EPISO | **40TH EPSO CONFERENCE**
OPSA | **MALTA** | **JUNE 16 - 17 2026**

#EPSOMalta2026

Hosted by



OPSA
Older Persons
Standards Authority

EPISO: European Partnership for Supervisory Organisations in Health Services and Social Care to improve the quality of health care and social care in Europe;
to connect between supervisory organizations and their individual members;
to improve exchange of ideas, outcome of research, information and good practice;
to promote co-operation on topics such as education and dissemination of knowledge.

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If you have questions, please feel free to ask info@epsonet.eu or office@epsonet.eu

Draft Programme of the
40th EPSO Conference
16 & 17 June 2026, Valletta, Malta

15 June EPSO Training Day
18 June EPSO Working group EoL/AD

Hosted by: The Older Persons Standards Authority OPSA
(with participation of the EPSO - APAC (Asia-Pacific) network)

‘Working towards better health in a changing world with a view to high quality of regulation looking forward and adapting to future demands; learning from recent research and from our EPSO colleagues.’

Venue: The Old University of Malta (Valletta Campus)
St Paul Street, Valletta VLT 1216, Malta ([Maps](#))

Conference Presenter: Carry Maria klein Gunnewiek (EPSO)

Opening introduction speech: Georg Fenech (CEO OPSA)

Opening speech: Minister for Health and Active Aging Malta

Keynote Opening speech on Social Isolation – Loneliness: dr. Maria-Aurora Fenech and dr. Roberta Sultana, University of Malta - Social Isolation



‘Evolving Regulation’ for better health and care in a changing world’

This conference will address key challenges for health and social care Regulation and Inspection, emphasizing the importance of learning and looking to the future to adapt to future demands.

Main Conference Themes:

Theme 1 **Social Isolation and Loneliness**

A top priority and important policy issue for public health across all age groups!

- Worldwide recognition by WHO and other international bodies and national authorities
 - New research
 - Findings from regulatory practice

Theme 2 **Regulation of Quality, Safety, and Leadership in Elderly care and Long-term care.**

- Challenges and handling perspectives

Theme 3 **Leadership in Learning from experience (including adverse events)**

- Learning from experience around Regulation and Enforcement of Quality, Safety and Innovation by EPSO Regulatory Network Partners; what methods & instruments are used by our colleagues for regulation and inspection. What are the learnings?

Theme 4 **Data infrastructure and the use of data and AI by Regulators, Inspectorates and Supervisory organisations**

- How to use existing data infrastructure and manage new developments in data analyses and the use of AI

40th EPSO conference in Valletta, Malta About the EPSO Conferences in general

- EPSO sessions will be introduced from the various perspectives around the world by Regulatory Leaders from our EPSO Network and other speakers invited by EPSO. The sessions aim to be interactive and will be followed by one or more break-out sessions; the sessions alternate with group discussions.
- EPSO conference and conference dinner are free of charge for EPSO delegates, (invited) partners from the EPSO-APAC network, speakers and other (invited) guests.
- Participation in-person in the conference is in principle limited to a maximum of 3 participants per EPSO-partner organisation/country and a maximum of about 50 delegates in total.
- In-person participants are requested to complete the online registration form for our 40th EPSO Conference in Valletta, Malta. **To register for this conference (16-17 June 2026 please click on this link <https://forms.gle/FwbwtzPH2mzxdvwP7>** Registration will be closed when the maximum is reached
- **Registration for our End of Life / Assisted Dying peer Working group 18 June - morning is open**; To register for the working group- please send a mail to Office@epsonet.eu and [Click here to register](#)
- **Registration for the pre-conference Training Day on using data and AI in regulation 15th of June is open!** - please send a mail to Office@epsonet.eu or to register [Click here](#) ; Registration will be closed when the maximum is reached.
- Travel and hotel must be organised by yourself; all costs are at your own expense.
- Participation online is limited to EPSO partners and - by EPSO- invited guests; please use the link to our Microsoft Teams meeting that will be sent to you. All online participants -except speakers – are requested to have their cameras on and microphones muted.
- If you want to join us online in the conference or the working group, please let us know in advance at info@epsonet.eu who you are (name/ country/ organisation) and which sessions you want to follow.
- Participation in the conference means that you accept the exclusion of all liability from EPSO and from our hosts for loss or theft of your assets and for possible liability resulting from damage caused by shortcomings of the organization; however, as usual with our EPSO conferences, the organisation does everything it can to ensure that the conference runs smoothly and safely.
- Please note that we take photos at the conference and use these for EPSO purposes only, such as on our website (password protected); please let us know if you do not want your pictures to be recognizable.

40th EPSO Conference

Draft Programme Day 1

Tuesday 16th June 2026

Conference opening

- Registration & Group Photo session in the conference room Aula Magna, Valletta Campus,
- Housekeeping messages by conference presenter Carry Maria Klein Gunnewiek,
- Roundtable introduction by all in-person delegates
- Opening & welcome speeches by Minister of Health and Active Ageing and Parliamentary secretary for active ageing
- Welcome by EPSO

Theme 1: Social Isolation and Loneliness, a top priority and important policy issue for public health across all age groups!


- Sessions 1.1 **Opening and setting the stage speech** for Social Isolation and Loneliness; New research and findings from regulatory practice to improve wellbeing -University of Malta
- Sessions 1.2 **Keynote speech** by WHO on Social Isolation and Loneliness
- Sessions 1.3 – 1.9: Sessions on Social Isolation and Loneliness from various perspectives and countries
- Session 1.10: Q&A Session

Theme 2: Regulation of Quality, Safety, and Leadership in Elderly care and Long-term care

- Session 2.1: Regulation of Quality, Safety, and Leadership in Elderly care in Norway and in the EU
- Session 2.2: Regulation of Quality, Safety, and Leadership in Elderly Care and Long-term Care in Singapore
- Session 2.3: Regulation of Quality, Safety, and Leadership in elderly care and long-term care; challenges and consequences of working in networks; a practice-oriented study in 6 countries.
- Session 2.4: Regulation of Quality, Safety, and Leadership in elderly care in Malta; challenges and learning around regulation of Quality-of-Life regulation.
- Session 2.5: England- New developments in elderly long term care in England
- Session 2.6: Regulation of Quality, Safety, and Leadership in Wales; challenges and consequences of handling social isolation and loneliness in health and social care Wales
- Session 2.7: Q&A Session with speakers

End of Conference Day 1

- **Guided Tour in old Valletta**
- **Seated Conference Dinner on invitation of our host OPSA at San Giovanni's**

Day 1	Agenda	Presenters
8.30- 9.00	Registration – Aula Magna, Valletta Campus, Old University Building, St Paul Street, Valletta 	All delegates
09.00 – 09.20	Group Photo session in conference room & welcome coffee inside the Aula Magna, Old University of Malta	All delegates together with hosting officials (Ministers of Malta etc.) Photos by OPSA
09.20 - 09.25	Housekeeping messages	Conference presenter Carry Maria Klein Gunnewiek
09.25 – 10.00	Roundtable introduction of all delegates by themselves	All in-person delegates (name, function, country/ region)
10.00 - 10.20	Introduction and welcome by the Chief Executive Officer of OPSA Opening speech by – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minister of Health and Active Ageing • Parliamentary Secretary for Active Ageing 	George Fenech Hon. Jo- Etienne Abela Hon. Malcolm Agius Galea
10.20-10.30	Welcome by EPSO	Chair EPSO Board Joske Vos /or Indra Dreika Member of the Management Board
Theme 1 10.30 –13.30	Social Isolation and Loneliness, A top priority, and important policy issue for public health across all age groups! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worldwide recognition by WHO and other international bodies and national authorities • New research • Findings from regulatory practice 	
Session 1.1 10.30 – 11:00	Opening and setting the stage speech for Social Isolation and Loneliness; New research and findings from regulatory practice to improve wellbeing by University of Malta	Maria Aurora-Fenech ^(in-person) and Roberta Sultana^(in-person) University of Malta

Session 1.2 11.00- 11.20	WHO Social Isolation and loneliness are increasingly being recognised as priority public health problem and policy issue across all age groups. Social isolation and loneliness have serious and still under-recognised impacts on our health and lifespan. New estimates suggest that loneliness accounts for approx. 871000 death a year	Ledia Lazëri ^(online) , WHO regional advisor for Mental Health at WHO, Regional Office Europe, Tirana University, Faculty of Medicine, Copenhagen Denmark and WHO colleague NN ^(in-person)
11.20 – 11.35	Comfort Break	
Session 1.3 11.35- 11.55	Loneliness and Social Isolation Over the last decade, Kieren Egan’s research has explored loneliness and social isolation across informal carer and dementia communities, with a particular focus on digital health solutions and evidence-based intervention development.	Kieren Egan ^(in-person) - University of Strathclyde - Principal Research Fellow Digital Health and Wellness Group/Future Hospital initiative/Strathclyde Living Lab Kieren Egan — University of Strathclyde UK
Session 1.4 11.55 – 12.15	Social Isolation and Loneliness in France and Policy approach IGAS Overview of recent evaluation reports including policy recommendations on social isolation in France: on mental health about psychiatric hospitals, on long term care about older people and on ageing of people in precarious situations.	Louis-Charles Viossat ^(in-person) Inspector general for social affairs IGAS France
Session 1.5 12.15 – 12.35	Ireland MHC- Loneliness and social isolation in Mental Health and other areas of health and care in Ireland – age factors – demographics – risk factors- impact and action. What are the recent findings? Do we see this in all age groups? What are the policy plans of the governmental loneliness taskforce?	John Farrelly ^(in-person) or colleague Director at Mental Health Commission Ireland
Session 1.6 12.35 – 12.55	Ireland TUSLA -Loneliness and Social Isolation in adolescent and youth care in Ireland Ide will talk about the TUSLA approach of Loneliness and Social Isolation; what are learnings; what are best practices? what are challenges and what are priorities for future improvement.	Ide Cronin ^(in-person) Deputy Head of Inspection at Tusla, Child and Family Agency, Ireland (not yet confirmed)
12.55 – 14.00	Lunch Break	
Session 1.7 14.00 – 14.20	Japan - Social Isolation and Loneliness in Japan A policy approach in Japanese social care for the aging society	Shin Ushiro ^(in-person) Deputy Director, Professor and Director of the Division of Patient Safety at Kyushu University Hospital. Executive board member Japan Council for Quality Health Care
Session 1.8 14.20 – 14.40	Netherlands Integrated Care – Social Isolation / Loneliness - Can monitoring and oversight of networks help us detect and address social isolation and loneliness? - Are social isolation and loneliness a priority of the systematic approach of the so-called 'integrated care approach'?	Sander Merkus ^(in-person) Senior Researcher at Vilans and Tilburg University, EISON project co-operation between VU University and Tilburg University, the Netherlands,

Session 1.9 14.40 - 15.00	Regulation of Quality, Safety, and Leadership in Wales - Challenges and consequences of handling social isolation and loneliness in health and social care in Wales	Wales NN (Not yet confirmed)
Session 1.10 15.00 – 15.30 Discussion in groups 15.00– 15.20 Feedback and plenary discussion 15.20 – 15 .30	Q&A panel with speakers Discussion in response to questions raised in the presentations of session 1.1 -1.9.	Moderators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prof Siri Wigg^(in-person) • Catherine Calderwood ^(in-person) • John Farrelly ^(in-person) • Louis-Charles Viossat^(in-Person) • Prof. Alvaro Moreira da Silva^(in-person) • Kieren Egan^(in-person)
15.30 – 15.45	Comfort Break	
Theme 2 15.45 – 18.00	Regulation of Quality, Safety, and Leadership in Elderly care and Long-term care. - Challenges and handling perspectives	
Session 2.1 and setting the stage for the topic. 15.45 - 16.05	Regulation of Quality, Safety, and Leadership in Elderly care in the EU-challenges and consequences of handling this at a local level. Siri has a lot of attention for her scientific work in this field and will talk about regulation as a key factor for handling elderly care. Handling elderly care at a local level is very challenging. In Norway municipalities are responsible for elderly care in nursing homes and homecare and the regulation is the same all over the country The rules and standards are the same no matter size of the local level managers' area. However, the resources and competences to deal with it are very different.	Prof. Siri Wiig ^(in-person) University Stavanger - Faculty of Health Sciences, Quality and Safety in Healthcare Systems- University of Stavanger, Norway; SHARE, Centre for Resilience in Healthcare
Session 2.2 16.05 - 16.25	Regulation of Quality, Safety, and Leadership in Elderly Care and Long-term Care in Singapore Min and Tzyy will talk about their learnings in long term and elderly care; what can we learn from their approach? what are best practices? what are challenges? and what plans are on their priority list for future improvement in this sector of regulation in Singapore?	Min ZHI and Tzyy YUIN ^(in-person) , Home and Long-Term Care, MOH's Regulatory Compliance Division, Department of Social Affairs, Ministry of Health (MOH), Singapore Jahara IBRAHIM ^(in-person) , Director of the Regulatory Compliance Division, Ministry of Health (MOH), Singapore
Session 2.3 16.25 - 16.45	Regulation of Quality, Safety, and Leadership in elderly and long-term care; challenges and consequences of working in networks. A practice-oriented comparative country study on the supervision of social issues/networks/partnerships. Involving approximately six countries: the Netherlands, Norway, Canada, Wales, the UK, and Scotland.	Sander Merkus ^(in-person) Senior Researcher at Vilans, VU-University, Tilburg University, The Netherlands

Session 2.4 16.45- 17.05	Regulation of Quality, Safety, and Leadership in Elderly care in Malta - Challenges and Learning around regulation of Quality-of-Life Regulation Malta has done quite some interesting research around Wellness and Quality of Life in Elderly care Letizia will talk about her ideas and findings in this field	Letizia Marmara ^(in-person) Director Quality assurance at OPSA, Older Persons Standards Authority (OPSA), Malta,
Session 2.5 17.05 - 17.25	England- New developments in elderly long term care in England – CQC’s vision on future elderly long term social care	Rowenna Marshall ^(in-person) Care Quality Commission England (CQC) Long-term adult and social care department, UK
Session 2.6 17.25 – 18.00 Discussion in groups 17.25– 17.50 Feedback and plenary discussion 17.50 – 18.00	Q&A panel with speakers and discussion in groups Discussion in groups in response to questions raised in the presentations of session 2.1 -2.5	Moderators: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Letizia Marmara ^(in-person) • Siri Wigg ^(in-person) • Sander Merkus ^(in-person) • Rowenna Marshall ^(in-person) • Jahara Ibrahim
18.00	End of Conference Day 1	
Guided Tour in old Valetta 18.30-19.30	The guided tour kindly offered by our host will show you the rich history of Valletta and Malta.	Please note that the guided tour in Valletta will take approximately one hour.
Seated Dinner 20:00 - 21:30	Official Conference Dinner at San Giovanni, Valletta (seated) Situated in the heart of Malta's Capital, Valletta. San Giovanni is the ideal place to enjoy Mediterranean cuisine in a unique environment that oozes character, charm & history. The menu highlights the colourful flavours that distinguish Mediterranean recipes, offering clients a vast selection of traditional and contemporary dishes. The restaurant is in the open air, with all the tables and chairs beneath sunshades. San Giovanni is indeed the place to be.	All delegates, speakers and guests are invited by our host OPSA to join us for a seated dinner. The seated dinner is to be scheduled from 20:00 to 21:30. Dress code: ‘smart casual’ or ‘conference dress’ (no need to change after the conference).



40th EPSO Conference

Draft Programme Day 2

Wednesday 17th June 2026

Day 2

- Gathering of delegates & Welcome coffee in the conference room Aula Magna, Valletta Campus
- Opening of day 2- Introduction and housekeeping

Theme 3 Data- infrastructure and the use of data and AI by Regulators, Inspectorates and Supervisory organisations

How to use existing data infrastructure and manage new developments in data analyses and the use of AI?

- Session 3.1: Setting the stage for conference session 3; Outcomes of the pre-conference EPSO training day (15-6) on AI and Regulation.
- Session 3.2: keynote speech: Data Infrastructure for Health – an ongoing worldwide challenge for many countries; overview from the perspective of OECD and EU.
- Session 3.3: New developments on data information management - a Singapore perspective on the interoperative use of health data- new legislation in place.
- Comfort break
- Session 3.4: AI and regulation - Recent article on the application of generative AI to healthcare regulation by John Farrelly et al. (Int. Journal of Health Care Quality Assurance).
- Session 3.5: Data and the use of AI - How does France (IGAS) view the coming AI era?
- Session 3.6: What is the impact of AI on digital health?
- Session 3.7: How are Medicines Agencies looking forward at the upcoming AI era?
- Session 3.8: Does AI and the use of data have a leading role in preparedness for the future of Terviseamet?
- Session 3.9 Discussion in Groups in response to questions raised in the presentations of session 3.1 -3.8.

Theme 4 Leadership in Learning from experience (including adverse events)

- Session 4.1: Challenges & Learning from Adverse Events in Norway
- Session 4.2: A Learning supervisory context
- Session 4.3: Learning incentives in Supervisory systems
- Session 4.4: Discussion in Groups - How to look at systems of regulation and enforcement from a learning perspective.

Wrap up - Closing session and preparing for next conferences.

- End of Day 2

Excursion to Vittoriosa (by ferry) and dinner at the marina

Day 2	Agenda	Speakers
08.45 – 8.55	Gathering delegates in the Conference room Welcome coffee in the conference room Aula Magna, Valletta Campus	All delegates
08.55 – 9.00	Opening of day 2- Introduction and housekeeping	Conference speaker Carry Maria Klein Gunnewiek
Theme 3 9.00 – 13.00	Data infrastructure and the use of data and AI by Regulators, Inspectorates and Supervisory organisations - How to use existing data infrastructure and manage new developments in data analyses and the use of AI?	
Session 3.1 Opening speech and wrap up of EPSO Training Day on regulation and AI. 9.00 – 9.30	Setting the stage for conference session 3 Outcomes of the EPSO training day on AI and Regulation – wrap up and looking forward.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prof. Misja Mikkers ^(in-person) EPSO Advisory Board member; Health Systems Engineering, University of Twente. The Netherlands - asst. Prof. Kavitha Palaniappan ^(in-person) Duke NUS Singapore), - Alex van Vorstenbosch- NZA & University of Tilburg, Netherlands & EPSO
Session 3.2 Interactive Keynote session 9.30 – 10.15 Including discussion with the group	Data Infrastructure for Health – an ongoing worldwide challenge for many countries A situation overview from the perspective of OECD and EU - How to assess and measure performance of the health systems? How to use the existing data and infrastructure for policy issues. Niek has advised many countries on these topics including Estonia Czech Republic Ireland, Luxembourg Slovakia	Prof. Niek Klazinga University of Amsterdam-Academic Medical centre Amsterdam, OECD Paris ^(in-person)
Session 3.3 10.15– 10.35	New developments on data information management. Sree will talk about data infrastructure and the use of data and AI by regulators - a Singapore perspective on the interoperative use of health data- new legislation in place. What is the role of AI in the new system?	Sreemane DORAJOO ^(in-person) Head of the Regulatory Analytics team at the Health Sciences Authority (HAS), Ministry of Health– MOH, Singapore
10.35 – 10.50	Comfort break	
Session 3.4 10.35 – 10.55	AI and regulation - Recent article on the application of generative AI to healthcare regulation by John Farrelly et al. (Int. Journal of Health Care Quality Assurance).	John Farrelly ^(in-person) Director at Mental Health Commission Ireland
Session 3.5 10.55– 11.15	Data and the use of AI How does France (IGAS) view the coming AI era; what challenges do you foresee? What policies are already in place that you can share with our regulatory partners?	Louis Charles Viossat ^(in-person) and Juliette Berthe ^(online) IGAS/INSPECTANTS, France

Session 3.6 11.15 – 11.35	Regulation in Digital Healthcare: A Provider Perspective -a practical perspective on how regulatory approaches can evolve to support safe, high-quality digital care at scale. This session will explore how digital healthcare is changing care delivery, and what this means for regulation in practice.	Kieran Seyan ^(in-person) DICE UK- Lloyds online doctor.com
Session 3.7 11.35– 11.55	How are Medicines Agencies looking forward at the upcoming AI era? How to prepare for better use of data and challenges of fraud, and what are challenges in medicine distribution and regulation of medicine? Indra and Jēkabs will on behalf of The Latvian State Agency of Medicines (ZVA) present on the data analytics, business intelligence (BI), and artificial intelligence (AI) tools that are currently being used and further developed to support the fulfilment of their regulatory functions. They will share practical experience, including both implemented solutions and strategic development outlook. Jēkabs Balodis will provide more in-depth insights into the technical and practical aspects of these solutions.	Indra Dreika Director State Agency of Medicines of the Republic of Latvia and Jēkabs Balodis , data analytics expert, at the State Agency of Medicines of the Republic of Latvia
Session 3.8 11.55 – 12.15	Does AI and the use of data play a leading role in preparedness for the future and support of Defence preparedness by Terviseamet? What policies are at the forefront.	NN Estonia (not yet confirmed)
Session 3.9 12.15– 12.35	Does CQC have a plan for better use of data and AI in Regulation in the years to come? What are the most interesting developments to share with our EPSO network partners?	NN CQC (not yet confirmed)
Session 3.10 12.35-13.00 Discussion in groups 12.35-12.55 Plenary feedback 12.55 - 13.00	All in-person delegates in six groups Discussion in response to questions raised in the presentations of session 3.1 -3.9.	Moderated by: - prof Niek Klazinga ^(in-person) - John Farrelly ^(in-person) - Prof. Misja Mikkers ^(in-person) - ass prof. Kavitha Palaniappan , Duke NUS Singapore ^(in-person) , - Alex van Vorstenbosch ^(in-person) NZA & University of Tilburg, Netherlands & EPSO
13.00 – 14.00	Lunch Break	
Theme 4 14. – 16.30	Leadership in Learning from experience (including adverse events) Learning from experience around Regulation and Enforcement of Quality, Safety, and Innovation by EPSO Regulatory Network Partners; what methods & instruments are used by our colleagues for regulation and inspection. What are the learnings?	
Session 4.1 14.00 – 14.20	Challenges & Learning from Adverse Events – reimagining healthcare regulation.	Einar Hovlid ^(in-person) Director of knowledge and analysis at the

	The perspective of the Helsetilsynet – What are the issues Helsetilsynet is facing with learning from adverse events. Einar will base his presentation on a recent article in the BMJ journal, that he co-authored: <i>Reimagining healthcare regulation to enable improvement, learning, and safety</i> BMJ 2026; 392 doi: https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj-2025-088489 (Published 31 March 2026) BMJ 2026;392: e088489	Norwegian Board of Health supervision (Helsetilsynet)
Follow up Session 4.1 14.20 - 14.40	Challenges & Learning from Adverse Events New research on its way.	Siri Bækkevold ^(in-person) Helsetilsynet Norway (Norwegian Board of Health supervision)
Session 4.2 14.40-15.00	Learning from adverse events- What is needed to successfully learn from adverse events? The perspective of an experienced healthcare professional on what is and isn't useful! –Some down-to-earth lessons from the practical experience of an experienced healthcare professional.	Catherine Calderwood ^(in-person) University of Strathclyde, former CMO Scotland, UK
Session 4.3 15.00 -15.20	Learning incentives in Supervisory systems How to look at systems of regulation and enforcement from a learning perspective	Richard Hamblin ^(online) Director of Health Quality Intelligence Kaitohu Kounga Hauora/ Health Quality Intelligence, Health Quality and Safety Commission New Zealand (not yet confirmed)
Session 4.4 Discussion in groups 15.20 – 15.45 Feedback and plenary discussion 15.45–16 .00	Discussion in groups With all in-person delegates, in 6 groups	Moderators: • Prof Siri Wigg ^(in-person) • Catherine Calderwood ^(in-person) • Prof. Alvaro Moreira da Silva ^(in-person) • Einar Hovlid ^(in-person) • Siri Bækkevold ^(in-person)
16.00 – 16.30	Wrap up Conference. Thank you and - Closing session and preparing for next conferences	
17.00- 20.00	Excursion to the peninsula Vittoriosa by ferry (those who must leave earlier you can take a taxi or public transport for instance to the airport from Vittoriosa)	All are invited to join
20.00	Dinner at D Centre, Main Gate, Vittoriosa All are invited to join.	All are invited to join at own cost Set dinner costs around 25 euro

REGISTRATION 40th EPSO Conference

IN-PERSON delegates

(please use online registration link)

Online participation on request via

info@epsonet.eu

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FOR IN - PERSON DELEGATES

Please register online for our Malta conference by using this registration form:

<https://epso-net.eu/upcoming-conferences/registration/>

Kindly note that registration is open exclusively to EPSO partners (maximum 3 per EPSO-partner), invited guests and speakers

Online participation via Teams is available on request only. If you want to join online, please contact us at info@epsonet.eu.



Thursday, June 18th, 2026

EPSO Working Group End of Life/ Assisted Dying

Thursday 18th June 2026 9.00- 12.15

Venue: Valletta Design Cluster, 25 Bull Street, Valletta (TBC)

Chaired by Dr Kristin Good, Registrar (assisted dying) and Chief Clinical Advisor, Regulatory Assurance Regulation and Monitoring, Ministry of Health, New Zealand.

Registration: [Click here to register](#)

The final Agenda for the Regulation of care for End of Life/Assisted Dying working group will be shared on request with those interested to participate (please ask at info@epsonet.eu or office @epsonet.eu).

For a preliminary agenda see below.

Dear EPSO friends and (online and in-person) participants in this working group,

This EPSO End-of-Life/Assisted Dying Working Group will focus on regulation of care in the areas of End-of-life and Assisted dying. New developments, such as new legislation and related discussions in various countries, including France, England, Scotland, Jersey, the Netherlands, Japan, New Zealand and Australia provide EPSO with opportunities for knowledge exchange and sharing experiences in these sensitive healthcare areas. **Final aim:** Creating a policy document based on the findings of our working group meetings. **The goal is to share our knowledge with governments to provide them with practical guidance** in the field of regulation and supervision of End of Life and Assisted Dying.

EPSO suggests a potential leading role for France—given their expertise—in drafting this document, with the aim of finalizing it by Spring 2027 for the EPSO meeting in Paris.

Preliminary Agenda

09.00 – 09.05	Short Intro by the chair of the working group	Kristin Good (chair wg)
09.05 – 09.25	Presentation of new research	Ass. Prof Jeanne Snelling ^(online) University of Otago (Health Law and Medical Ethics), New Zealand
09.25 – 09.45	International Observatory on End-of-Life Care (IOELC) – aiming at high-quality cutting-edge research and innovative educational Programmes to improve palliative and end of life care for patients and family carers.	Claudia Gamondi ^(online or in-person) – Lausanne University Hospital – Head of Service des soins palliatifs et de support CHUV- Swiss (not yet confirmed)
09.45 – 10.05	Update on Regulation	Prof. Ben White ^(online) QUT Queensland University of Technology, Australia; University of Oxford) and Prof. Agnes van der Heide (Erasmus University Rotterdam, Netherlands) (not yet confirmed)
10.05 – 10.20	Comfort break	
10.20-10.40	Update on the legislative process in France (new National Assembly and Senate debates on the draft bill on assisted suicide and euthanasia) A follow-up on the information shared in Jersey and Dublin.	Louis-Charles Viossat ^(in-person) IGAS – Inspector General for Social Affairs, France
10.40 -11.00	Update on Developments in Scotland and UK around Assisted Dying -Liam McArthur's private member's bill not passed in the Scottish Parliament/ UK bill suspended in House of Lords	Prof. Catherine Calderwood ^(in-person) University of Strathclyde, former CMO Scotland
11.00 – 10.20	Update on Developments in Portugal around Assisted Dying -Alvaro will focus on obstacles for health professionals where legislation is unclear	Prof Alvaro Moreira da Silva ^(in-person)
10.20 – 11.40	Updates from Japan	Prof. Shin Ushiro ^(in-person) Deputy Director, Professor and Director of the Division of Patient Safety at Kyushu University Hospital. Executive board member Japan Council for Quality Health Care

11.40 – 12.00	Updates from Latvia	Latvia Sergejs Akulics ^(online) Deputy Director in Pharmaceuticals, State Agency of Medicines of Latvia, Katrina Luksa , ^(online) Head of Medicines Distribution Information Division, State Agency of Medicines of Latvia
12.00 – 12.10	Research Project- update on relevant questions from the research for our group Strathclyde University, Glasgow	Becky Sherrington Jersey ^(in-person) Care Commission / Strathclyde University, Glasgow
11.10 – 13.00	Discussion & Policy Document Preparing for a final report to be presented in our Paris conference Spring 2027	All participants division of work work agreements
13.00	Drinks or lunch together	Networking and socializing for those who want to join

Monday, June 15th, 2026

EPSO TRAINING DAY

AI in Regulation (Pilot)

Using Data and AI in Health Supervision: From Insight to Strategy – One-Day Training

Date: June 15th, 2026,

Location: Malta (Pre-conference day) **The Old University of Malta (Valletta Campus)**
St Paul Street, Valletta VLT 1216, Malta ([Maps](#))

Facilitators: Misja Mikkers (University of Twente), Kavitha Palaniappan (Duke NUS Singapore), Alex van Vorstenbosch (NZA & University of Tilburg, Netherlands & EPSO)

Registration: [Click here](#)

AI Strategy & Policy for Regulators

Focus: Leadership, Governance, and Strategic Oversight

Data Utilization & Technical Application

Focus: Technical Experts, AI Specialists, and Practical Innovation

Overview:

This one-day interactive training equips supervisory authorities with practical and strategic tools to use data and AI responsibly and effectively.

The programme balances:

- Foundational understanding of AI
- Mapping and unlocking existing datasets.
- Hands-on exploration using Studio LLM (with simulated and publicly available data)
- Ethical and strategic governance considerations

Participants will:

- Understand what AI is (and is not)
- Identify hidden potential in their organisation's datasets.
- Explore how AI can support risk profiling and supervision.
- Reflect on governance, ethics, human-in-the-loop design, and cost considerations.
- Develop medium-to-long term strategies for AI use within their organisations.

This training combines theory, discussion and guided practical exploration.

Expectations from Participants:

1. **Please prepare a short-written overview** covering:
 - a. The health regulation context in your country: what is being regulated, by whom, and under what legal or institutional framework.
 - b. The role and mandate of your organisation specifically: what powers does it have, what decisions does it make, and to whom does it report.
 - c. An honest estimate of AI literacy within your organisation: are there dedicated data or digital teams? Has AI been discussed at a strategic level? Are staff generally comfortable with data-driven approaches or is this relatively new territory?

These short overviews will be shared with all participants in advance of the training day, so please write them with that peer audience in mind. Reading them beforehand will help everyone arrive with a sense of the diversity of contexts in the room and make the group discussions significantly more productive.

2. Bring a laptop with Studio LLM installed

An installation manual and step-by-step guide will be sent to all participants by email in advance of the training day. Please ensure Studio LLM is installed and working on your laptop before you arrive. If you encounter any difficulties during installation, please reach out to us so we can resolve this beforehand rather than on the day itself.

3. Prepare a 2-page dataset description

Each participant must prepare a 2-page description of one dataset from their organisation that they believe has the potential for extended use or AI application. Please note that a "dataset" should be interpreted broadly. It does not need to be a structured database of quantitative data. Relevant examples include quality reports submitted by healthcare providers, inspection findings compiled over time, complaint logs, audit narratives, or accreditation documentation. If your organisation systematically collects any form of information, even partially in narrative or paper-based form, that is worth describing.

The dataset description can include the following information:

a. Basic information:

- a. Dataset name
- b. Who collects it?
- c. Why was it originally collected?
- d. Frequency of collection
- e. Format (structured, unstructured, mixed)
- f. Digital or partially paper-based?

b. Content description:

- g. Main variables (or types of information)
- h. Level of granularity (individual/entity/system level)
- i. Time coverage
- j. Estimated size.

c. Data quality and constraints:

- k. Known limitations.
- l. Missing data issues?
- m. Potential biases
- n. Legal/privacy constraints
- o. Access restrictions

d. Current use:

- p. How is it currently used?
- q. Who uses it?
- r. For what decisions?

	Preliminary¹ Programme	
Time	Session Topics	Presenter
09.45 – 10.00	Opening Speech and introduction to the training day	Indra Dreika Director of the State Agency of Medicines of the Republic of Latvia - EPSO Board member
10.00 - 10.10	Welcome and Overview of the Day Structure	Jooske Vos
10.00 - 12.00	Foundations: What is AI and What is Data in Supervision?	
10.10 - 10.40	What is AI? (Demystified) Lay explanation of what is AI, types of AI (rule-based systems, machine learning, generative AI), prediction versus	Asst. Prof. Kavitha Palaniappan

¹ The final Programme will be shared with participants

	causal inference, strengths and blind spots of generative AI, common traps in regulatory settings.	
10.40 - 11.10	What is Data in a Supervisory Context? Types of regulatory data, structured versus unstructured data, missing data, and bias, why and how data was collected matters.	Asst. Prof. Kavitha Palaniappan Some Examples from students of Prof. Misja Mikkers
11.10 - 12.00	Analytics for Supervisors Descriptive versus predictive versus prescriptive, risk profiling concepts, signal detection, and compliance targeting (Irish example of inspectorate use?)	Prof. Misja Mikkers
12.00 - 13.00	Lunch	12.00 - 13.00
13.00 - 14.45	Mapping your Data Landscape	
13.00 - 13.30	Participants sharing on their datasets	Prof. Misja Mikkers & Asst. Prof. Kavitha
13.30 - 14.15	Probing for hidden potential – facilitated discussion	Prof. Misja & Asst. Prof. Kavitha
14.15 - 14.45	Group reflection on what collective tools could benefit the network	Prof. Misja & Asst. Prof. Kavitha
14.45 - 15.00	Tea Break	
15.00 - 16.30	Practice Session: Using AI safely (Studio LLM Demonstration)	
15.00 - 15.20	Introduction to Studio LLM- Prompt engineering basics, what good prompts look like, limitations.	Prof. Misja Mikkers
15.20 - 16.00	Simulated Exercises Highlight prediction versus explanation, missing data distortions, bias emergence.	Prof. Misja Mikkers
16.00 - 16.30	Limitations and Controls Where can AI go wrong? How to audit AI systems?	Prof. Misja Mikkers
16.30 - 17.30	Strategy, Ethics and Organisational Design	
16.30 - 16.50	Core Ethical Principles for Regulators- Accountability, transparency, fairness, proportionality, human-in-the-loop, defining boundaries without stifling innovation.	Asst. Prof. Kavitha
16.50 - 17.10	Organisational Strategy The topics can revolve around separate AI team versus integrated model; AI policy in partially paper-based systems, cost considerations, and medium-to-long term roadmap	Asst. Prof. Kavitha & Prof. Misja Mikkers
17.10 - 17.30	Final Reflection and Action Points Each participant identifies one short-term step, one medium-term structural change and one ethical safeguard to implement	Asst. Prof. Kavitha & Prof. Misja Mikkers

Conference venue for the 40th EPSO Conference in Malta

[Look here at Google Maps](#)

16th & 17th June 2026

The Old University Building – Valletta
St Paul Street, Valletta VLT 1216, Malta

Venue Address: Aula Magna, Valletta Campus, Old University Building, St Paul Street, Valletta



Directions from Malta Airport to the Conference venue:

The Old University Building in Valletta can be easily reached by Bus (direction Valletta), Taxi, Bolt or Uber. Malta Airport is at Luqa limits of Gudja.

By Taxi

Taxis are available outside the Airport. However, Bolt and Uber Apps are available.

By Public transport (bus)

Public Transport is available from Malta International Airport. More information available on

<https://maltairport.com/transport/>

Hotel and Booking information for the 40th EPSO Conference in Malta Conference Hotels 16th -17th June 2026

Due to the availability of hotels in various sizes and price range we do not offer one specific hotel. We have not booked a conference hotel in advance. Therefore, we recommend choosing for instance one of the following hotels, depending on availability and preferences (as consulted on trip.com).

3 stars: Tritoni mini studios Valletta- 7.3 rating – 108 euro- 1.4 km walk to conference venue

3-star: King Charles Hotel -8.0 rating- 117 euro - 390 meters from conference venue including breakfast

3 stars: Osborne Hotel - 8.6 rating - 127 euro – 880 meters from conference venue

3 stars: Hpm Pjazza Merkanti – Boutique Living – rating 8.9- 176 euro 170 meters from conference venue - including breakfast

3 stars: Melior Boutique hotel – 8.6 rating – 185 euro - 620 meters from conference venue

4-stars: Tritoni Harbour Suites- 7.8 rating – 151 euro - 290 meter from conference venue

4 stars: Battery House – 9.4 rating –200 euro - 470 meters from conference venue

4 stars: Palazzo Rosaria Boutique Hotel – rating 9.4 – 205 euro – 410 meters from conference venue

4 stars: La Falconeria Hotel 8.6 rating- 214 euro -710 meters from conference venue- including breakfast

4 stars: The Embassy Valletta Hotel 7.9 rating - 319 euro- 400 meters walk to conference venue

5 stars: Grand Hotel Excelsior – 8.6 rating – 283 euro – 950 meters from conference venue

Distances are approximate to the conference venue. This is in the city center of old Valletta (University of Malta, Valletta Campus in Valletta); the prices of the hotels may vary depending on the booking site used.

We recommend checking your hotel reservation as soon as possible. Valetta is very busy during this early summer period and we notice that prices go up quickly

Travel to Malta

Getting to Malta International airport in is easy and directly from many airports in Europe and worldwide

Positioning Malta in the Mediterranean Sea

Positioning Malta in the Mediterranean Sea

Positioning of Conference venue :

Old University of Malta (Valletta Campus) and Malta International Airport

