

WEBINAR

After VALO: From pilot learnings to a stronger Nordic health data ecosystem

In this webinar, IQVIA will share key findings from VALO and discuss how the Nordics can build a stronger ecosystem for health data, research, and innovation. The webinar is part of a series exploring collaboration in the secondary use of health data across the Nordics and Baltics.

**SCHEDULE**

Tuesday 01.09.2026 at 16.00-17.30

EEST/UTC+3

REGISTRATION

[Register for the webinar](#) →

SEE ALSO

[Safe space principles](#)



VALO

Value from Nordic Health Data

VALO Objectives

- 1** Strengthen Nordic co-operation in the secondary use of health data
- 2** Prepare for the European Health Data Space legislation in the Nordic countries
- 3** Showcase results by piloting a Nordic federated analysis use case



Funded by the
Nordic Council
of Ministers



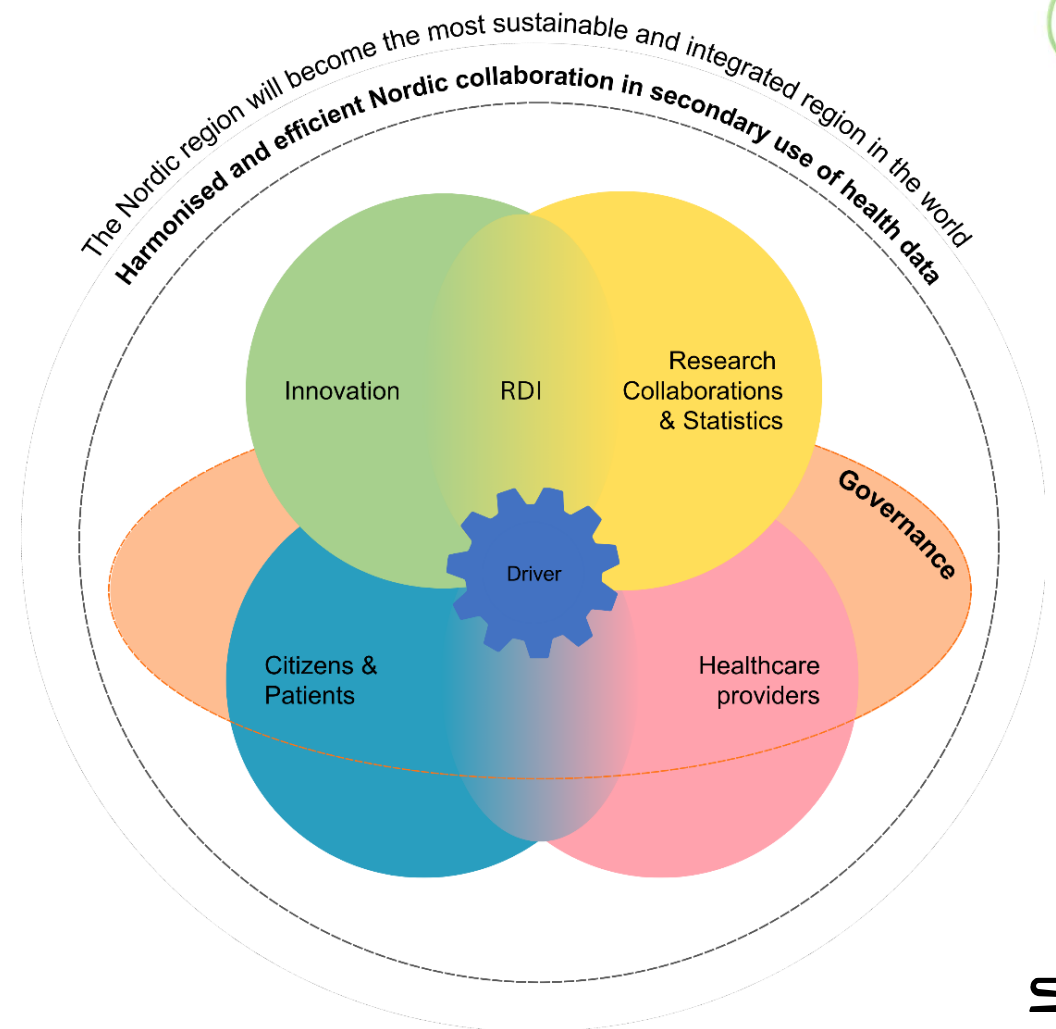
SITRA

Nordic model for collaboration on secondary use of health data



VALO project will not be able to operationalise this model alone.

Where to pass the ball?



EHDS Competence Forums

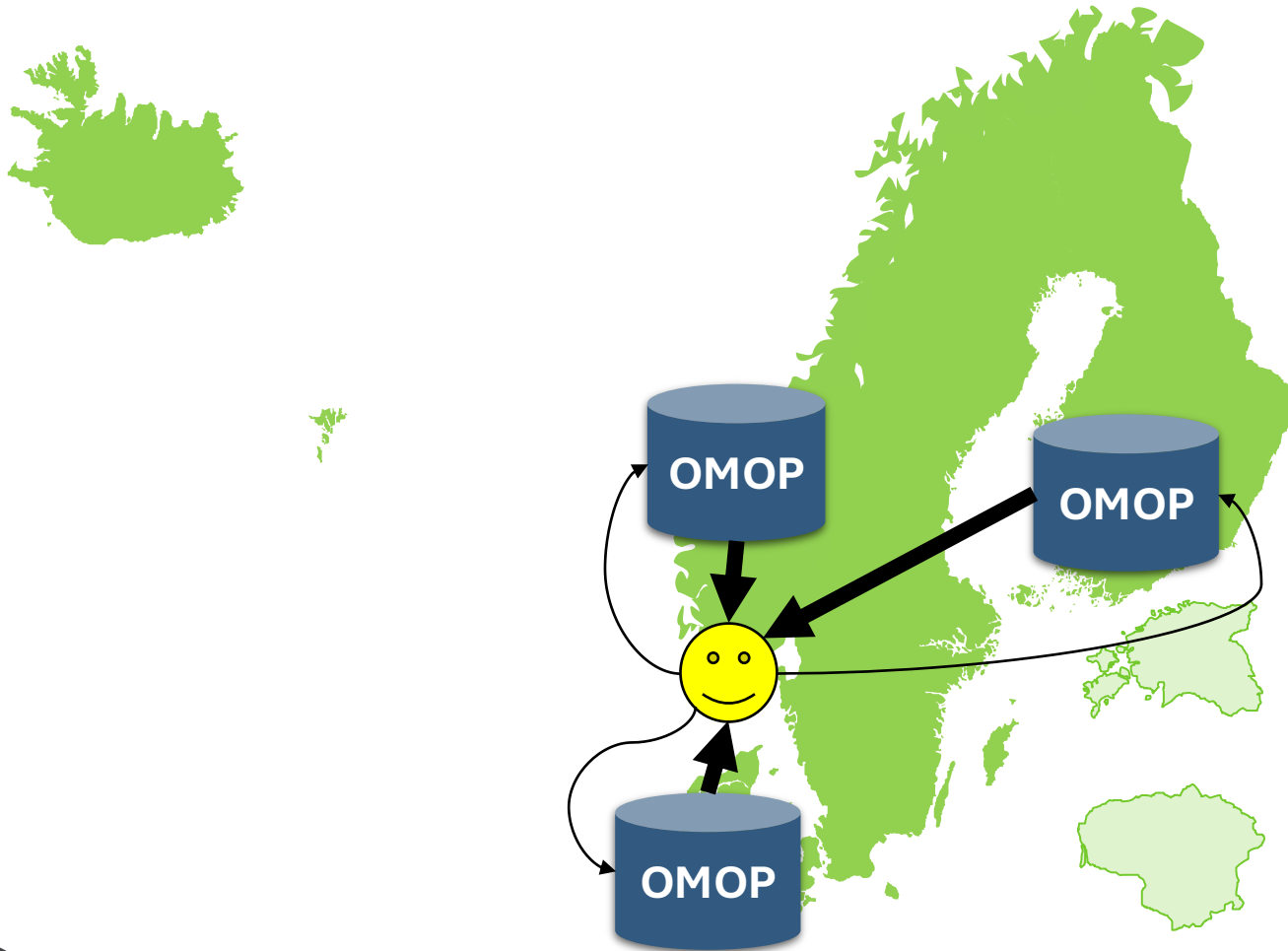


**Many benefits
achieved!**

**Hoping to see
continued
collaboration.**



VALO Pilot Study: Federated Data Analysis



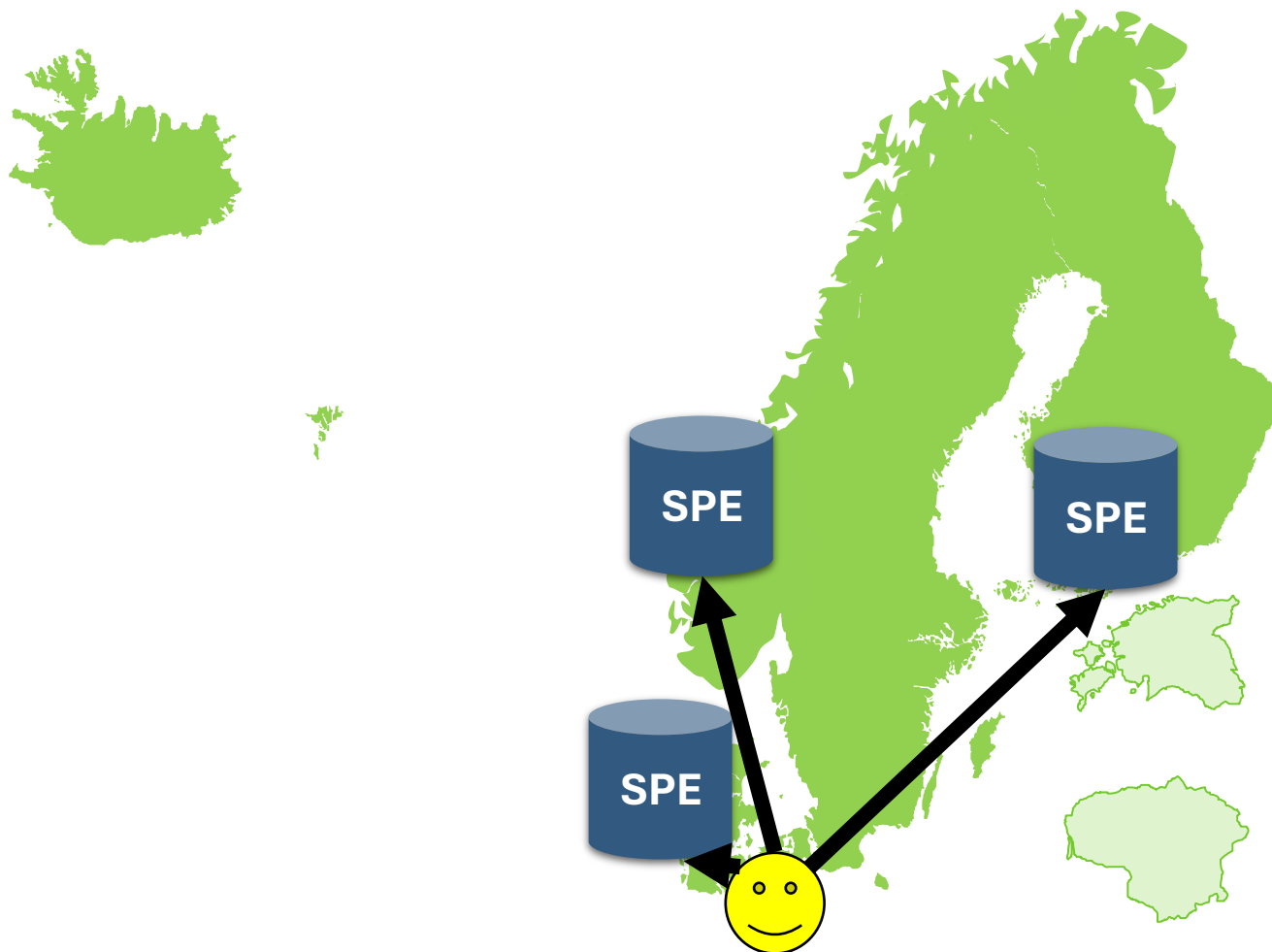
Funded by the
Nordic Council
of Ministers



Pohjoismaiden
ministerineuvoston
rahoittama

SITRA

VALO2 Pilot Study: Remote Access to Secure Processing Environments



Follow Us!



sitra.fi/valo

EVENT

Nordic Health Data Summit 2026

On 23 September, the Nordic Health Data Summit 2026 brings together policymakers, experts, researchers, innovators and stakeholders from across the Nordic region and Europe to explore how health data can be used more effectively for research, innovation and better health outcomes.



LOCATION

Oslo Congress Center, Youngs gate 21, 0181, Oslo, Norway
and online



SCHEDULE

Wednesday 23.09.2026 at 08.30-18.00
CEST / UTC+2

REGISTRATION

[Register here! →](#)

Attendance is free but advance registration is required. Onsite registration closes on 7 September 23:59 (CEST).

SEE ALSO

[Safe space principles](#)



SITRA



What comes next?

The data are there. The infrastructure is there. Want to utilise them?

The data are not perfect. The infrastructure is not perfect. Want to improve them?

Want someone else to do the work for you? What can you commit to?

SITRA

Follow Us!



sitra.fi/valo

@SitraFund



@Sitra **in**



WEBINAR

After VALO: From pilot learnings to a stronger Nordic health data ecosystem

In this webinar, IQVIA will share key findings from VALO and discuss how the Nordics can build a stronger ecosystem for health data, research, and innovation. The webinar is part of a series exploring collaboration in the secondary use of health data across the Nordics and Baltics.

**SCHEDULE**

Tuesday 01.09.2026 at 16.00-17.30

EEST/UTC+3

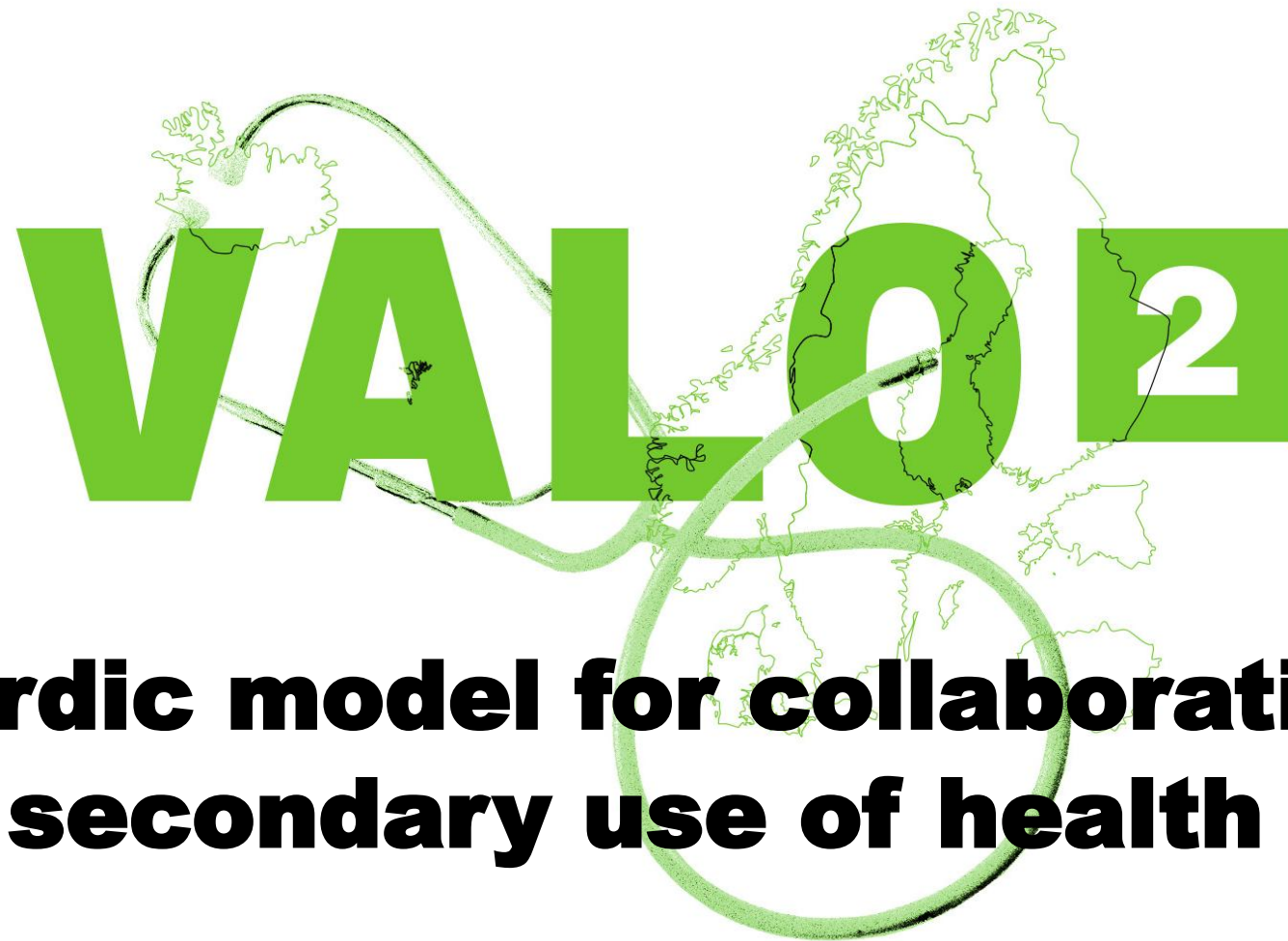
REGISTRATION

[Register for the webinar](#) →

SEE ALSO

[Safe space principles](#)





Nordic model for collaboration on secondary use of health data

Rebekka Bjorg Gudmundsdottir,
Directorate of health, health information, Iceland



Funded by the
Nordic Council
of Ministers

2026

SITRA

A map of Europe with the Nordic countries (Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Finland, and Denmark) highlighted in green. The rest of Europe is shown in light gray.

A Nordic environment that empowers stakeholders to collaborate in advancing use of health data for research, development, innovation and policymaking – to benefit health and wellbeing, and economic prosperity.



Principles



Support the
grassroot



Coordinate,
not
duplicate



Respect
existing
mandates



Investment
saving
resources



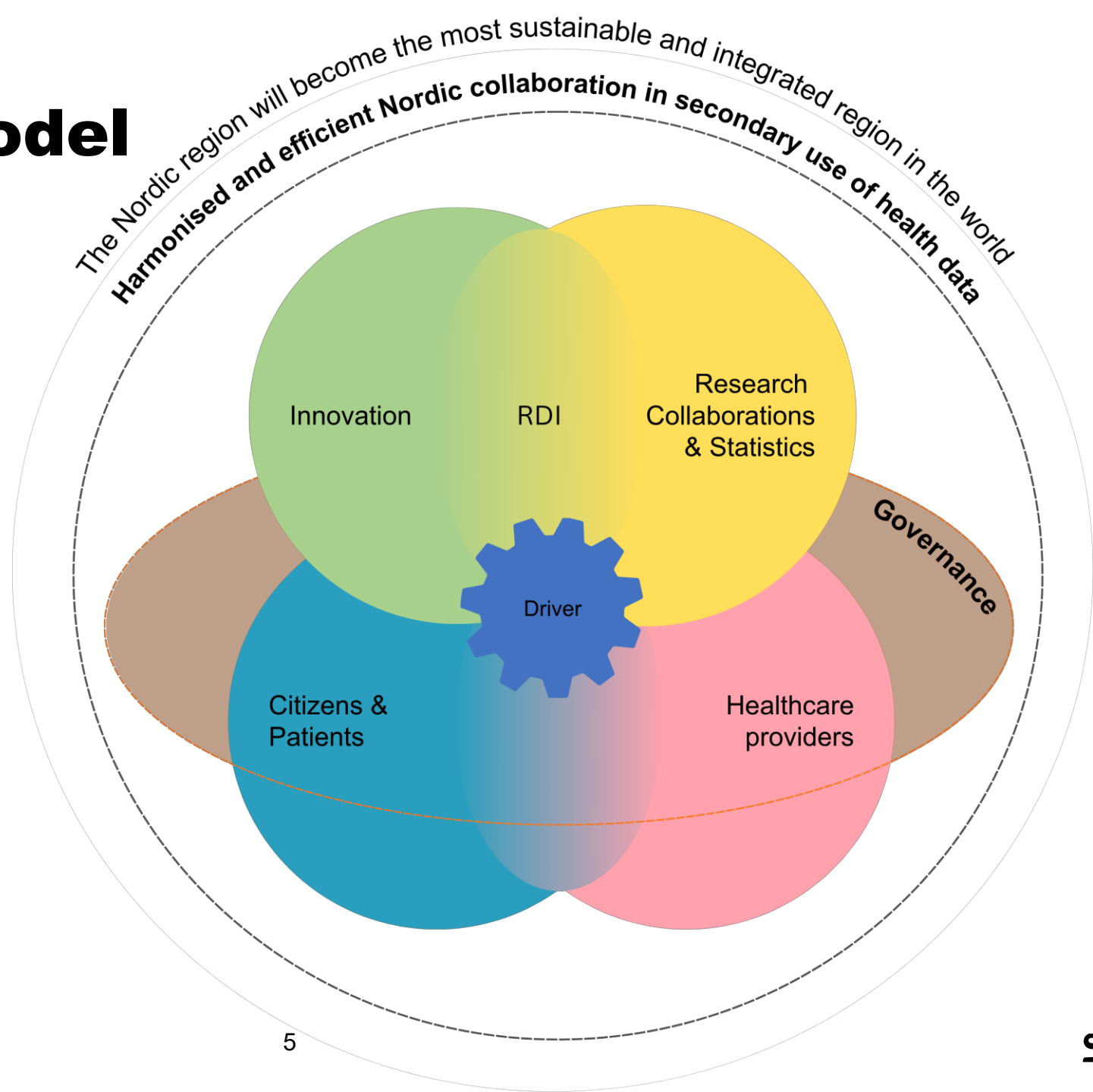
Start
simple with
growing
potential



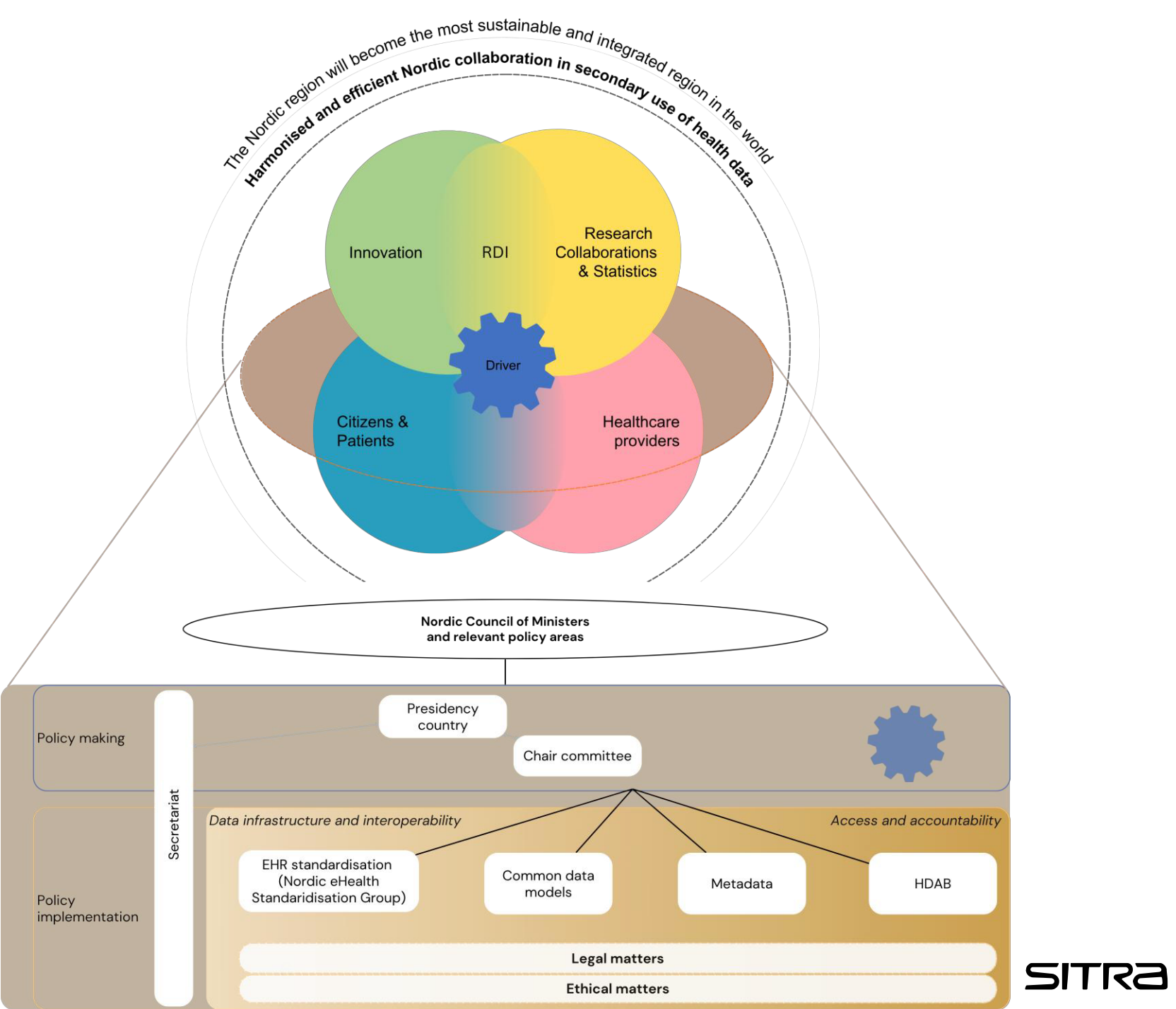
The development of the Nordic model



The Nordic model



Governance



Funded by the
Nordic Council
of Ministers



Building on VALO Success – Advancing the Nordic Health Data Ecosystem

After VALO webinar by Sitra

1.9.2026

Agenda & speakers

1. VALO Pilot Study 1

- Introduction
- VALO Pilot Study Consortium Lessons Learned Survey Results

2. VALO Pilot Study 2

- Study introduction

3. Nordic Hospital Network



Susanna Flaherty

Healthcare Director, Finland
Finland Country Manager

susanna.flaherty@iqvia.com



Carl Jarling

Healthcare Director, Sweden

carl.jarling@iqvia.com

Last week VALO webinar on the Finnish Health Data Space

nature medicine

Comment

<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41591-026-04575-4>

An AI-Health infrastructure for the Nordic region: technical foundations, data assets, and a roadmap for deployment

Ole A. Andreassen, Hakon Heimer, Dag Aarsland, Anders M. Dale, Daniel Gudbjartsson, Bo Jacobsson, Ingrid Kockum, Tuuli Lappalainen, Andres Metspalu, Lili Milani, Pål R. Njølstad, Aarno Palotie, Samuli Ripatti, Anders Sandvik, Olav B. Smeland, Hreinn Stefánsson, Kári Stefánsson, Marc Vaude, Jaak Vilo, Thomas Werge, Søren Brunak & Olli Kallioniemi

Check for updates

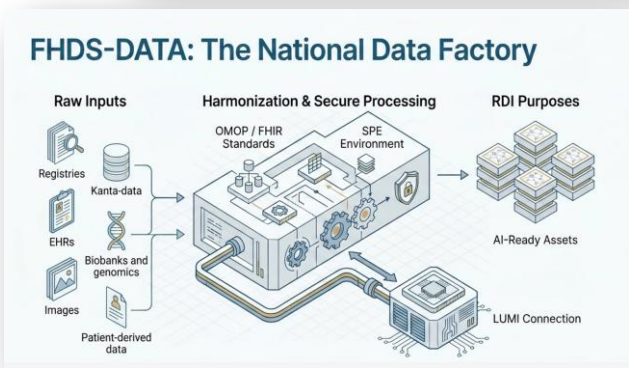
In this Comment, we outline the Nordic AI-Health Initiative platform, built on unique large-scale longitudinal and multimodal health data sets from across the region. The platform is designed to enable secure, regulation-compliant access and to deliver generalizable models for responsible AI-driven discovery in medicine.

FHDS = a national health data layer for secure, scalable secondary use and AI-enabled R&D&I

The Future of Health Data in the Age of AI

A Proposal for the Finnish Health Data Space (FHDS)

Based on the report by Olli Kallioniemi & Kimmo Porkka (Sitra/STM)
Feb 10, 2026 (61 pages)



How do we move forward to a more connected Nordic health data ecosystem?

Pilot projects

- VALO 1 and 2
- EHDS2 Pilot / HealthData@EU
- TEHDAS2 and Xt-HER
- Nordic EHDS2 Competence Forum

EHDS implementation

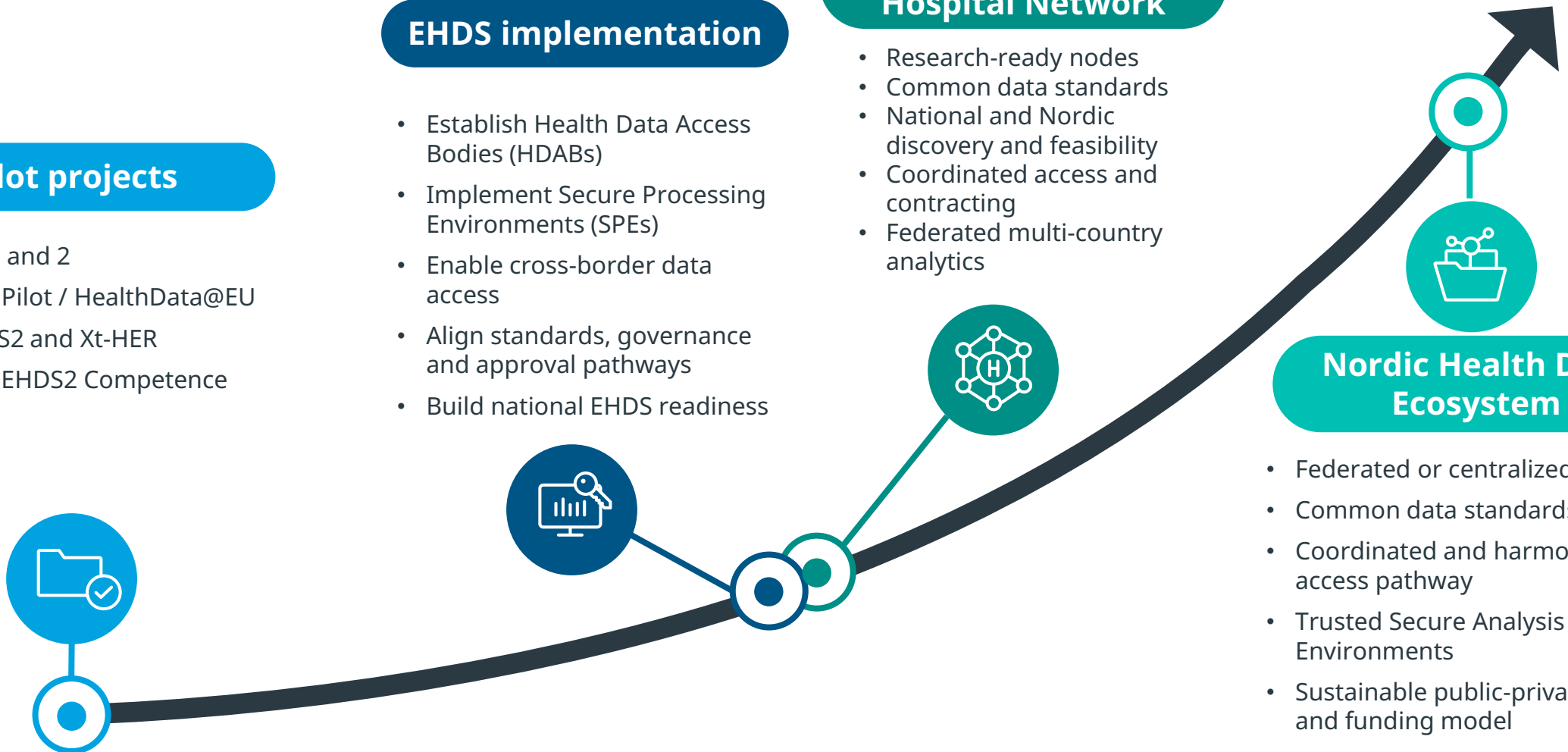
- Establish Health Data Access Bodies (HDABs)
- Implement Secure Processing Environments (SPEs)
- Enable cross-border data access
- Align standards, governance and approval pathways
- Build national EHDS readiness

Nordic University Hospital Network

- Research-ready nodes
- Common data standards
- National and Nordic discovery and feasibility
- Coordinated access and contracting
- Federated multi-country analytics

Nordic Health Data Ecosystem

- Federated or centralized
- Common data standards
- Coordinated and harmonised Nordic access pathway
- Trusted Secure Analysis Environments
- Sustainable public-private operating and funding model



VALO Pilot Study 1



VALO Pilot Study

Aim:

To explore opportunities to increase the Nordic Health Data Collaboration



Nordic region

Experiment in practice with cross-border Nordic co-operation in health data reuse



Pilot Study with OMOP CDM

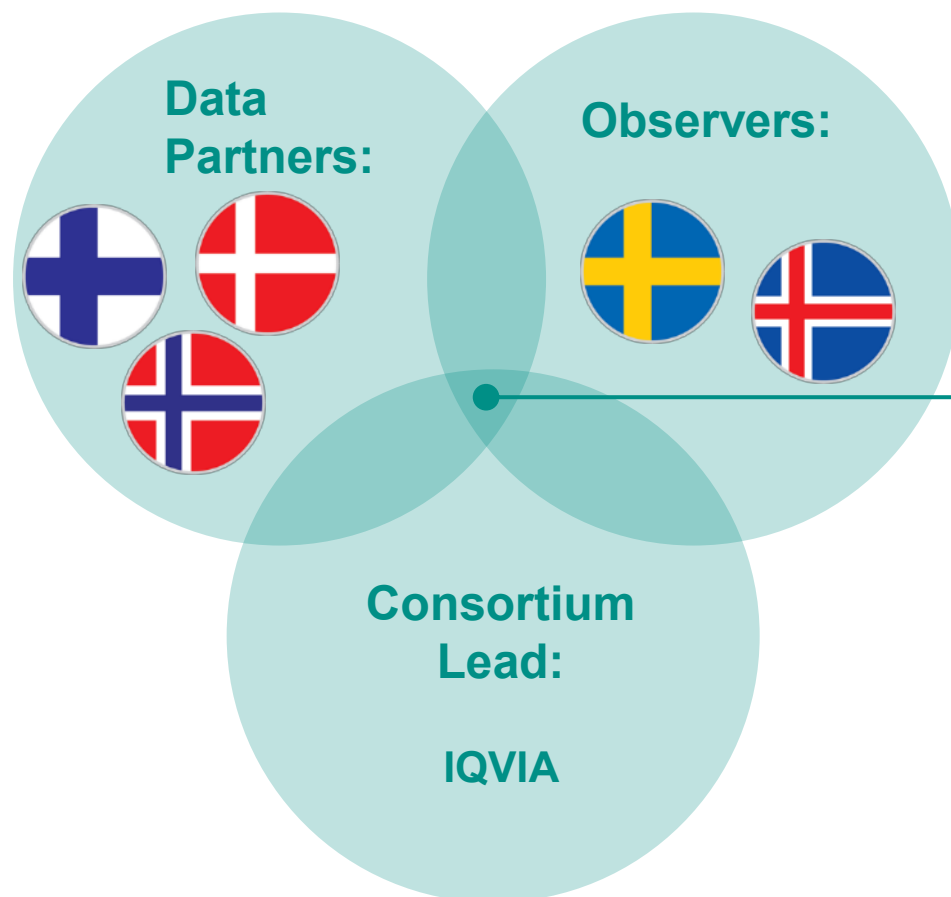
Piloting a Nordic federated data analysis example



Learnings

Increase knowledge on how to work technically and semantically with distributed health data in the Nordics

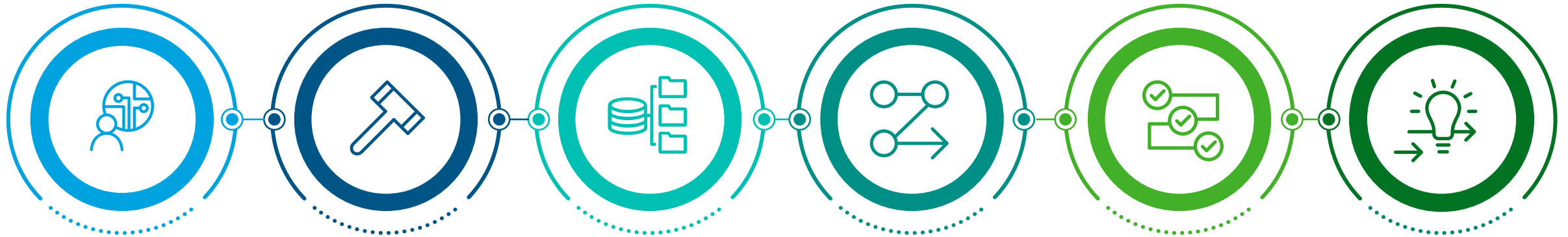
VALO Pilot Study – Consortium Members





VALO Consortium Lessons Learned Survey Results

NSCLC Pilot Study - Survey categories



Background and maturity

1. Respondent identification
2. Country and role
3. OMOP/RWE experience
4. Previous network participation

Data Governance

1. Contracting processes
2. Ethical committee requirements
3. Data permits
4. OMOP governance frameworks

Data Life Cycle & availability

1. Data source types
2. Linkage capabilities
3. Coding systems
4. Data availability status

Data Processing

1. Data infrastructure
2. Variables captured
3. Script execution success
4. Implementation challenges

VALO Study execution

1. ETL specification feedback
2. QA/QC processes
3. Package execution

Future Investments

1. Infrastructure needs
2. Capability assessments
3. Recommendations



Strategic Findings - Federated OMOP Network Development



Maturity & readiness

- Sites vary widely in OMOP and federated research maturity despite similar healthcare systems.
- Experience is concentrated in small teams rather than institutionalized capability.
- Observer sites gained insight into requirements.



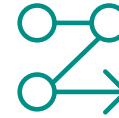
Data governance

- Knowledge of ethics approvals and data-permit requirements was often fragmented.
- Governance responsibilities varied by role rather than being institutionally defined.
- OMOP-specific governance frameworks were inconsistently established across sites.



Data life cycle & availability

- Core clinical data is broadly available
- Data linkage capabilities existed but varied in maturity and implementation.
- Advanced oncology data elements showed systematic availability gaps.



Data processing

- Tech infrastructure compatibility was a larger challenge than OMOP conceptual understanding.
- ETL specification design required the greatest effort among processing steps.
- QA/QC processes became largely routine once environments were established.



VALO Study Execution

- Final analytical cohorts represented a small fraction of initial population estimates.
- Multi-site coordination added material time beyond technical execution.
- Execution efficiency improved with structured communication and coordination.



Future investments

- Infrastructure and environment limits OMOP execution and needs to be addressed.
- OMOP maturity takes years, not months, to establish.
- Respondents called for better coordination across sites, not only local improvements.



Suggestion: Establish a Nordic University hospital health data Network

Infrastructure and data holder readiness

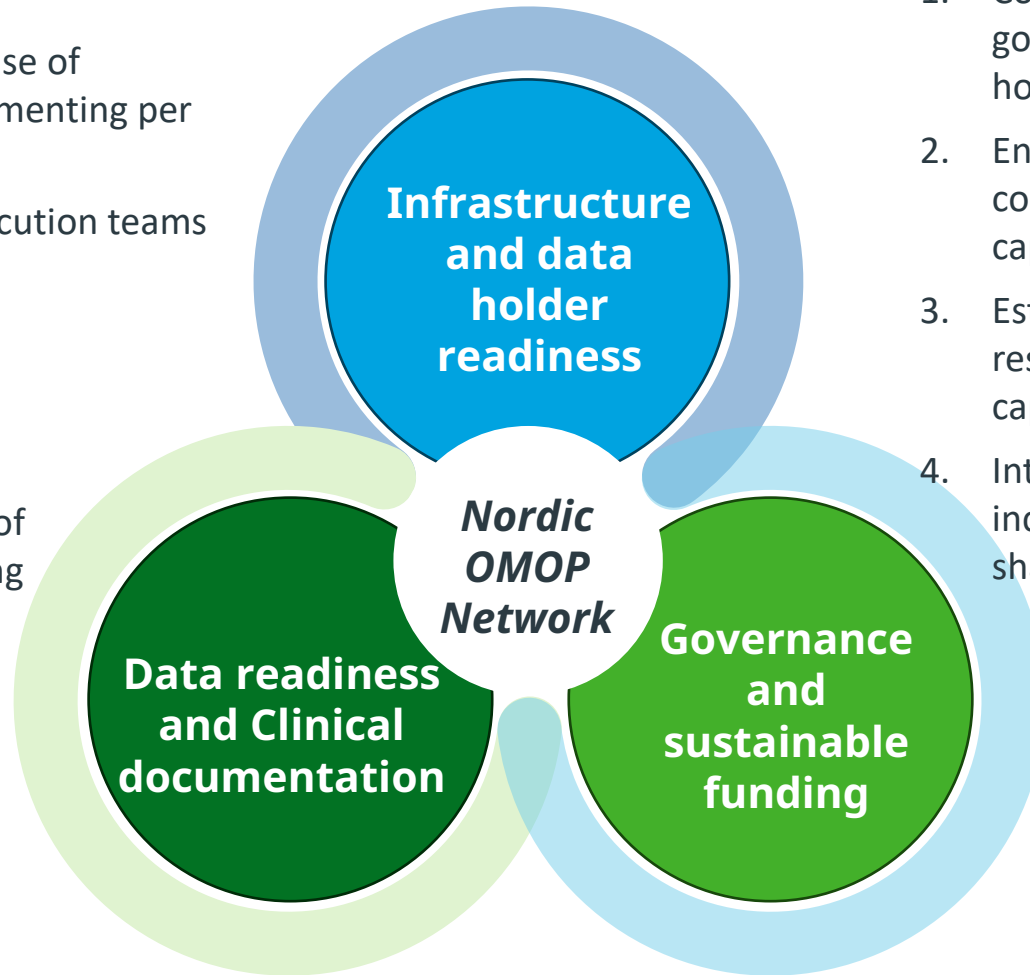
1. Ensure baseline infrastructure and analytical environment readiness.
2. Fund collaborative ETL design and reuse of technical assets, rather than re-implementing per project.
3. Support small, stable local OMOP execution teams at each university hospital.

Data readiness and clinical documentation enhancement

1. Mandate or incentivize structured capture of key prognostic variables (e.g. ECOG, smoking status, biomarkers).
2. Align EHR documentation practices with research-grade data needs
3. Adopt a data-tier approach to set realistic expectations for which research questions are feasible across sites.

Governance and sustainable funding

1. Core infrastructure support from government or foundation sources to data holders
2. Ensure long-term, predictable funding for coordination, maintenance, and shared capabilities (OHDSI node)
3. Establish business model for commercial research studies leveraging network capabilities
4. Intellectual property frameworks that incentivize contribution while enabling sharing



Key takeaways



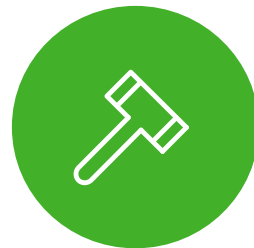
OMOP-based federated analytics is a long-term capability and investment

Successful adoption requires multi-year investment. Building reusable ETL assets, stable infrastructure, and skills over time enables scalable Nordic collaboration and investment under EHDS.



What data is routinely captured determines what research is possible

Improving structured capture of biomarkers, performance status, and outcomes aligned among Nordic countries is key to advancing precision and policy-relevant research.



Governance, coordination and operational readiness are decisive for cross-border scientific validity

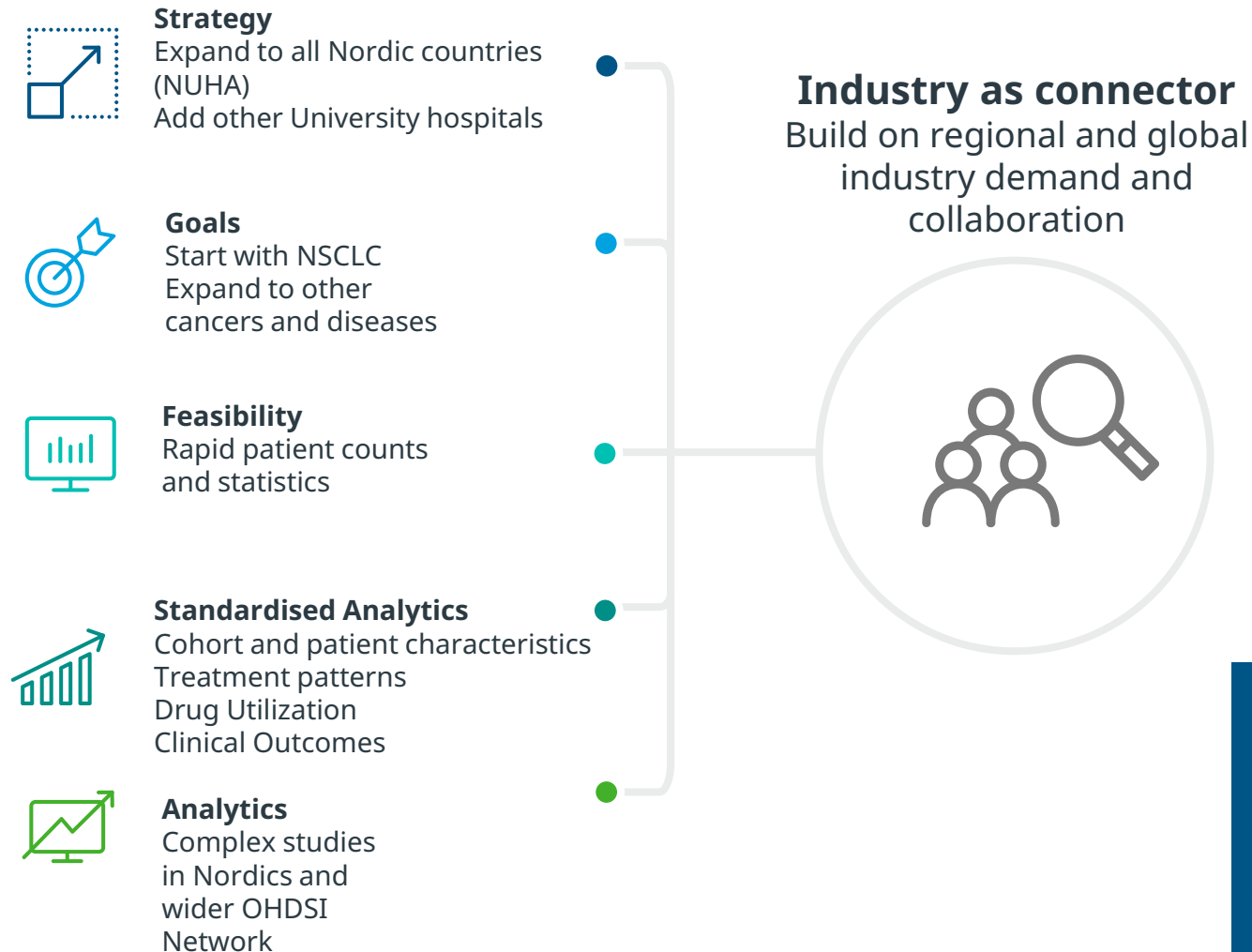
Aligned governance, shared vocabularies, and clear coordination will enable faster, compliant, and trustworthy federated analyses.



Funded by the
Nordic Council
of Ministers

A Nordic University Hospital RWE Network built on VALO

Pharma and Medtech message : "Access and speed to data"



OSLO UNIVERSITETSSYKEHUS



KAROLINSKA
UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

HUS
Helsinki University Hospital



Rigshospitalet

Nordic Collaboration

- Position Nordics as leader in RWE generation
- Attract more research collaboration and funding
- Infrastructure for rapid responses to data request in EHDS
- Framework agreements - established contracts and processes for rapid study execution

VALO Pilot Study 2



Nordic Health Data Summit 2026

Wednesday 23.09.2026 at 08.30-18.00 in Oslo, Norway

On-site and online

The Nordic Health Data Summit 2026 brings together policymakers, experts, researchers, innovators and stakeholders from across the Nordic region and Europe to explore how health data can be used more effectively for research, innovation and better health outcomes.

The event is organised by Sitra on behalf of the VALO2 project, in cooperation with the Norwegian Institute of Public Health. Participation is possible onsite in Oslo, with parts of the programme streamed online.

Session 3: Unlocking cross-border use of health data – lessons from a Nordic SPE pilot

This session presents key outcomes, lessons learned, and recommendations from the VALO2 pilot on real-world use of cancer immunotherapies in Denmark, Finland, and Norway.

Serving as a hands-on rehearsal for the upcoming European Health Data Space (EHDS), the pilot demonstrates how researchers can securely access and analyse sensitive health data across borders via remote access in secure processing environments without data leaving its home country. The session highlights feasibility, practical challenges, and what is needed to scale this approach.

SPEAKERS



Mads Albrecht Andersen

MD, PhD student,
Department of Oncology
at Rigshospitalet, Capital
Region of Denmark



Susanna Flaherty

Healthcare Director
Finland, Payers, Providers
and Governance Nordics,
IQVIA



Donna Franklin

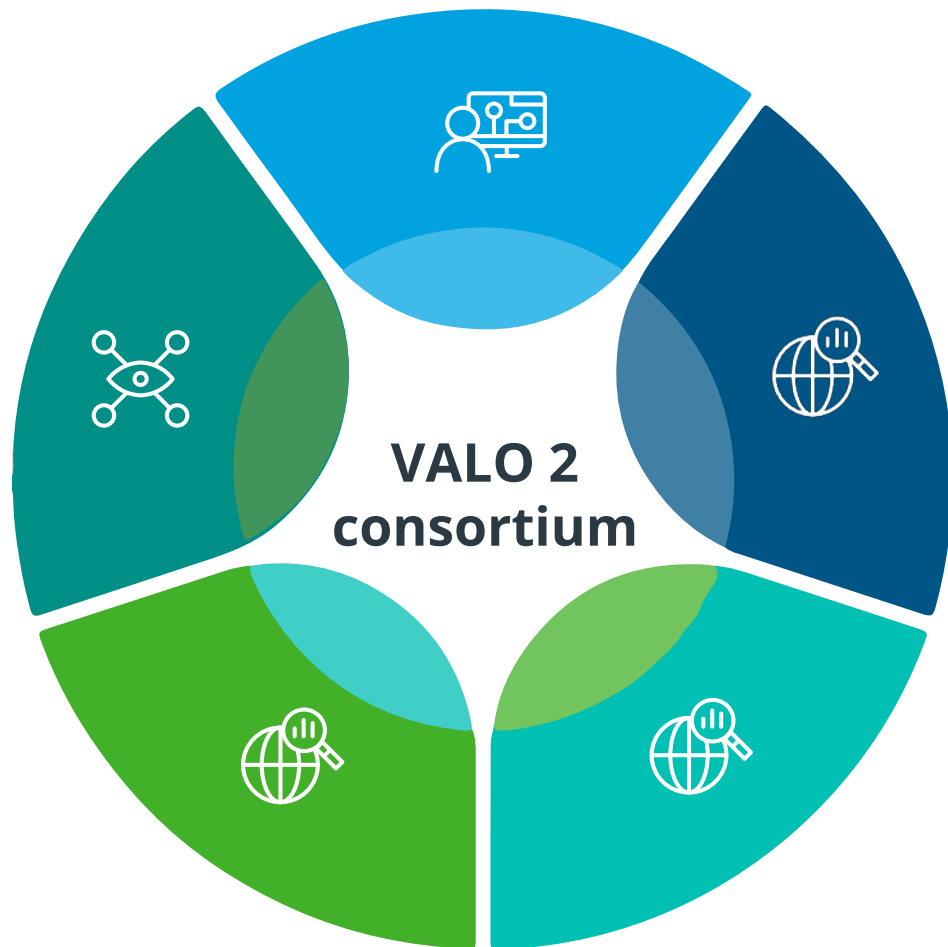
Program Manager, Privacy
Analytics, Europe, IQVIA



Jonathan Green

Director, Privacy
Analytics, Europe, IQVIA

VALO 2 Study Consortium members



**Iceland is not part of VALO 2*

IQVIA Consortium Leadership

- PM leads Consortium and coordinates VALO 2 activities

Rigshospitalet, DK

- PI Andreas Bjerrum accesses SPE in NO, FI (and DK)
- SPE: DataBricks platform TRE

Helsinki University Hospital, FI

- PI Sami Pakarinen
- SPE: HUS Academic

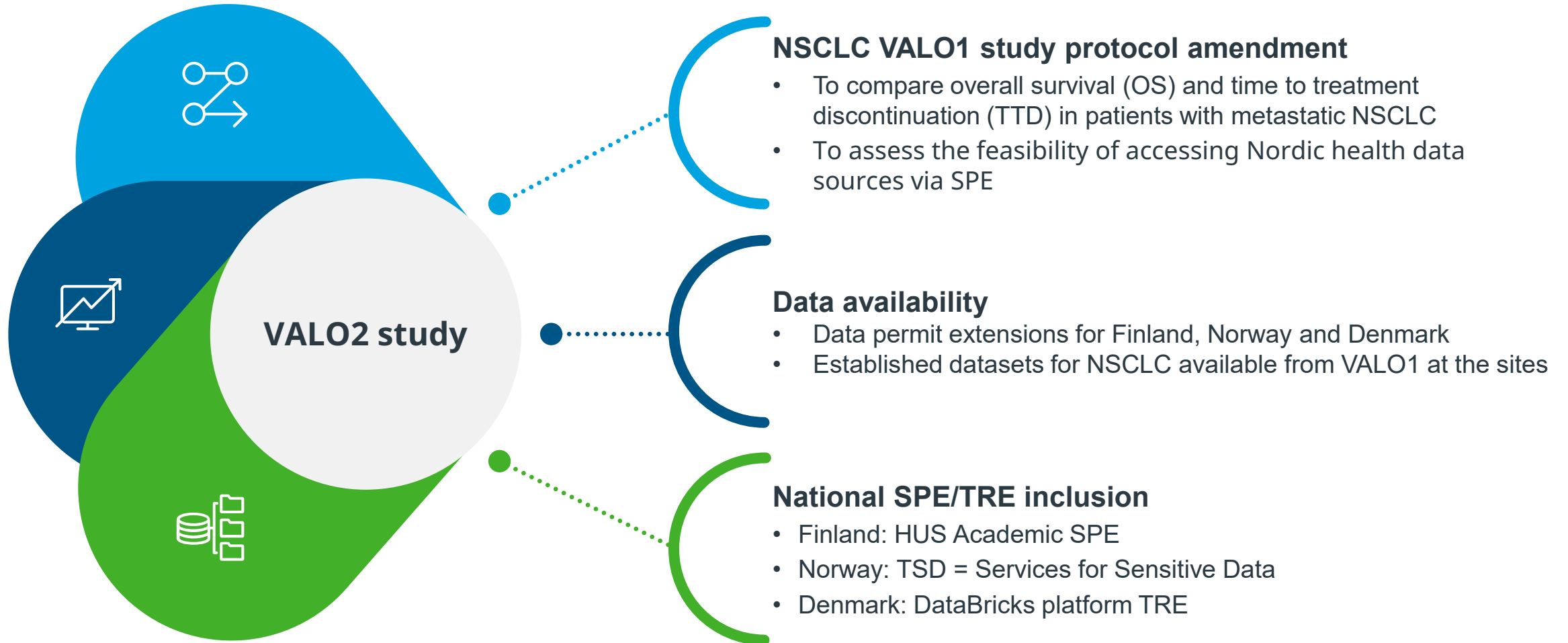
Oslo University Hospital, NO

- PI Åslaug Helland
- SPE: TSD

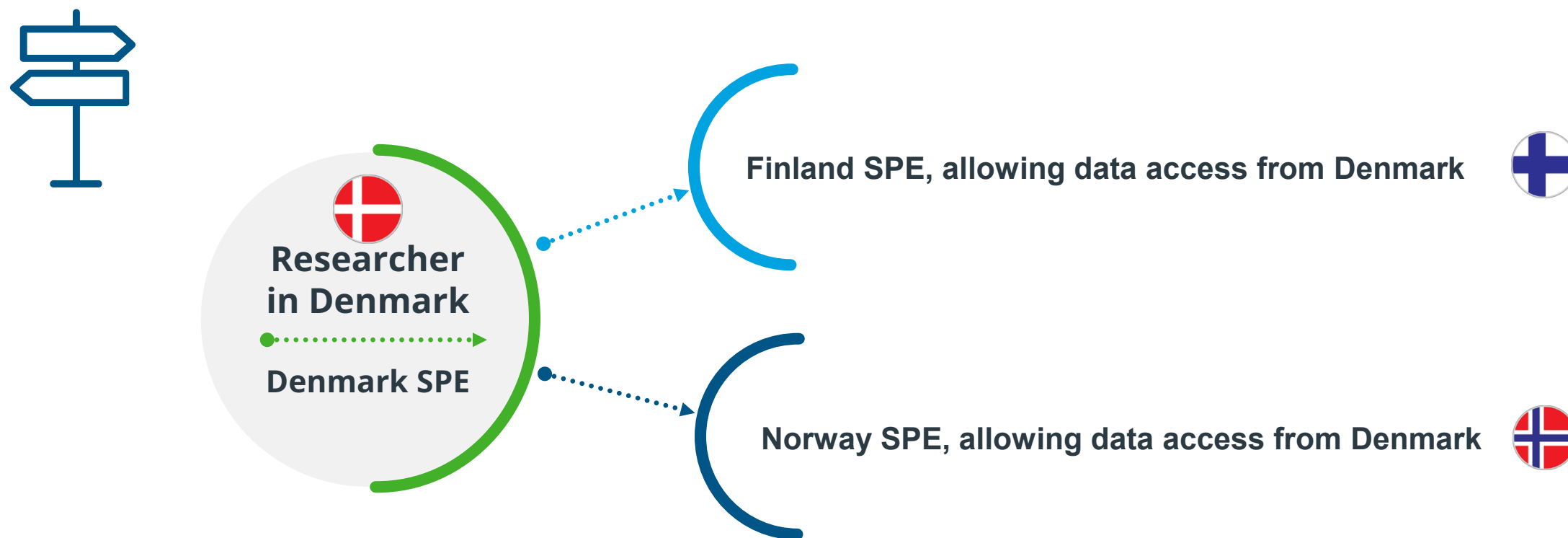
Observer: Sweden

- Karolinska University Hospital and Karolinska Institutet
- No participation in VALO 2 data –related activities

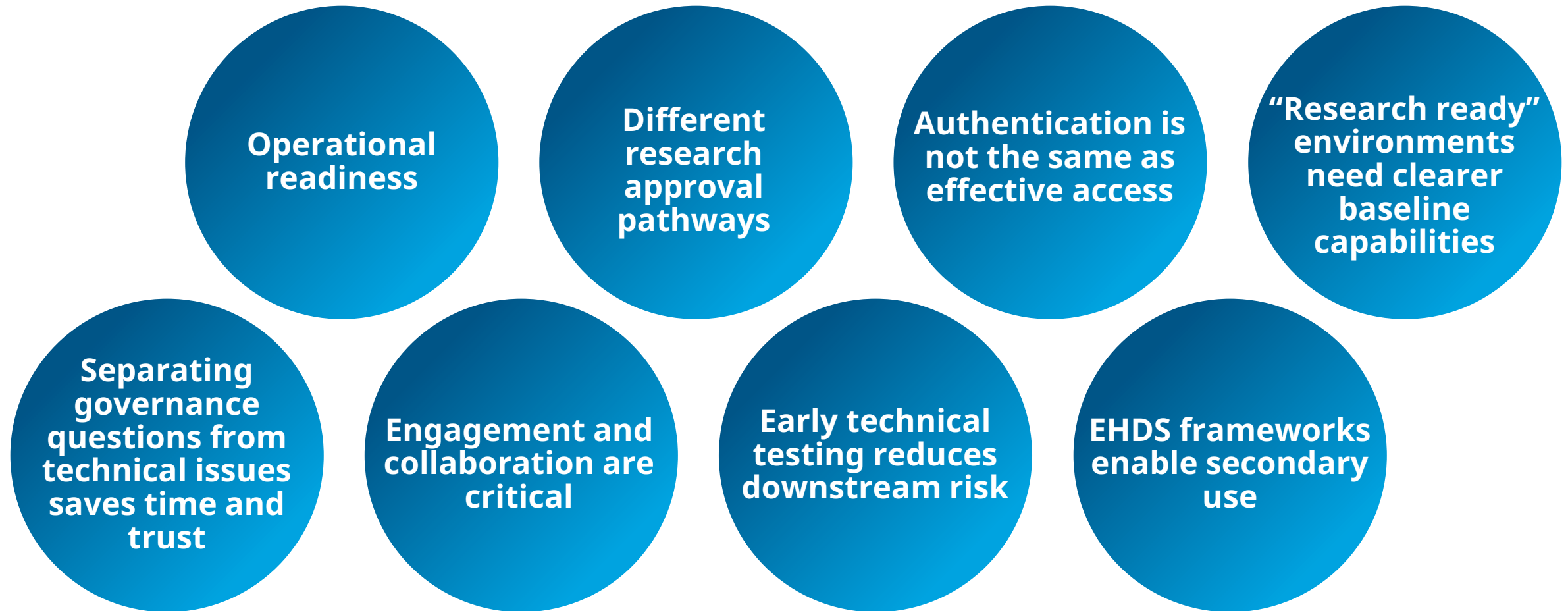
VALO 1 NSCLC study scope extension to VALO2



VALO 2 data access model: A Nordic cross-border research environment using controlled data access infrastructures



VALO 2 – Insights / EHDS readiness is as much about operational maturity, collaboration, and clarity of research approval pathways as it is about legislation and policy.



Countries are investing heavily in health data research infrastructure




Why Vital Matters

- World-Class Innovation
- Responsible Data Governance
- Canadian Sovereignty and Economic Opportunity
- Healthcare Benefits and Geographic Equity
- Indigenous Governance and Research
- National Infrastructure, Multi-Provincial Collaboration

160
Hospitals connected Initially

20 Million
Canadians represented

3
Initial provinces collaborating, with more to join in the coming years

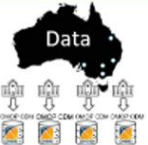
\$210M
Federal, provincial, and institutional investments

<24hr lag
Near real-time data



AHDEN

The Australia Health Data Evidence Network









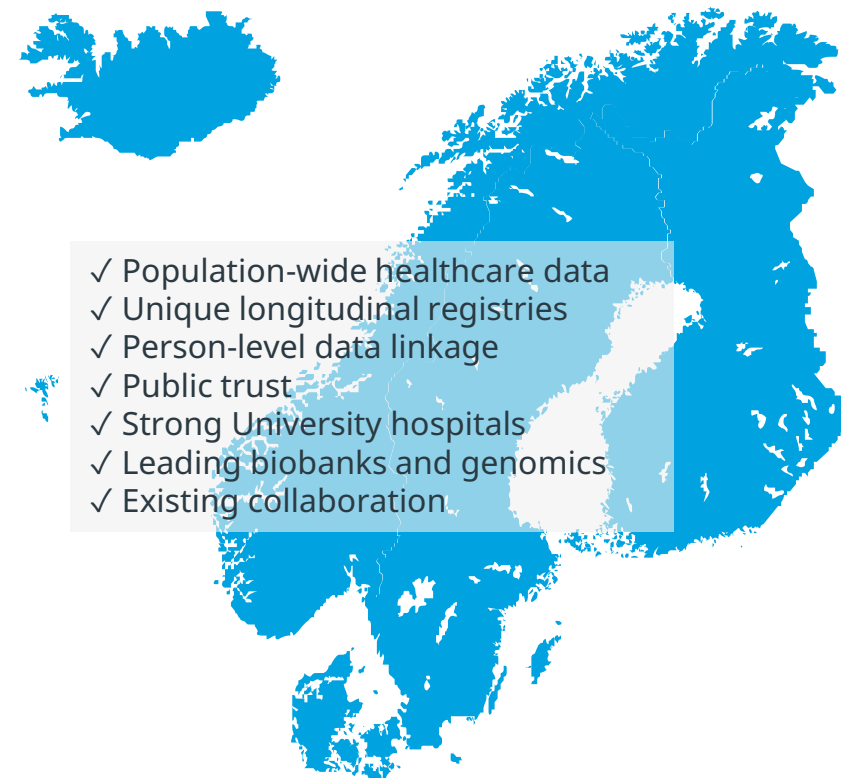

Initiative: Health Data Research Service (HDRS)

Drivers: UK Government & Wellcome Trust (Public-Philanthropic Partnership)

Funding: £600M total (£500M Gov + £100M Wellcome)

Timeline: Initial launch end of **2026**

Core Mandate: One-stop entry for precision medicine and accelerating clinical trials.



- ✓ Population-wide healthcare data
- ✓ Unique longitudinal registries
- ✓ Person-level data linkage
- ✓ Public trust
- ✓ Strong University hospitals
- ✓ Leading biobanks and genomics
- ✓ Existing collaboration

How can the Nordic compete?

UK HDRS	Canada Vital	Australia AHDEN	DARWIN EU
£600M+	\$210M	A\$9.5M	250M patients
National gateway	160 hospitals	OMOP harmonisation	Regulatory RWE network

How do we move forward to a more connected Nordic health data ecosystem?

Pilot projects

- VALO 1 and 2
- EHDS2 Pilot / HealthData@EU
- TEHDAS2 and Xt-HER
- Nordic EHDS2 Competence Forum

EHDS implementation

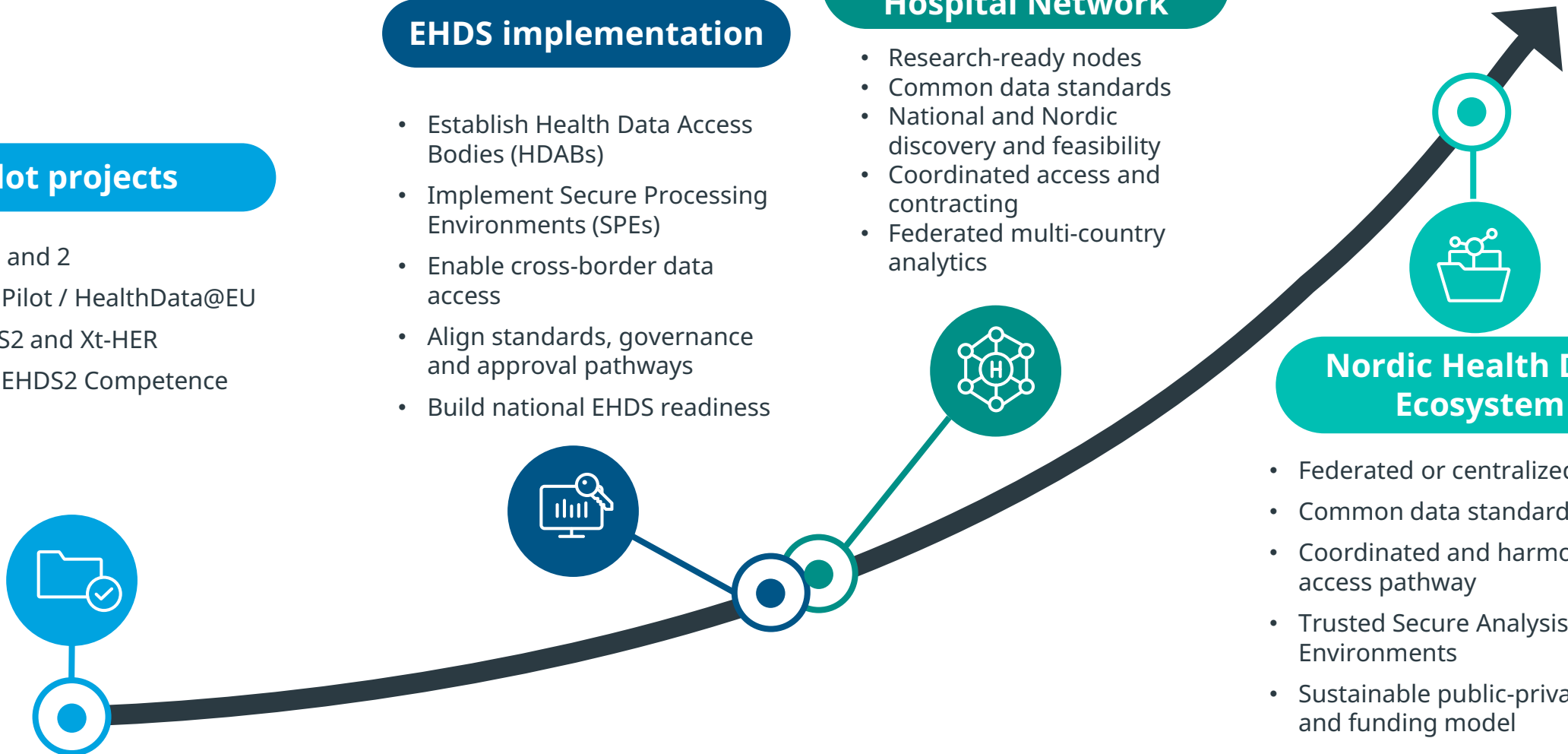
- Establish Health Data Access Bodies (HDABs)
- Implement Secure Processing Environments (SPEs)
- Enable cross-border data access
- Align standards, governance and approval pathways
- Build national EHDS readiness

Nordic University Hospital Network

- Research-ready nodes
- Common data standards
- National and Nordic discovery and feasibility
- Coordinated access and contracting
- Federated multi-country analytics

Nordic Health Data Ecosystem

- Federated or centralized
- Common data standards
- Coordinated and harmonised Nordic access pathway
- Trusted Secure Analysis Environments
- Sustainable public-private operating and funding model



After VALO webinar series

- August 26: Finnish Health Data Space
 - September 1: From Pilots to an Ecosystem
 - September 8: New Ideas
 - September 15: Novo Nordisk Foundation
-
- Tuesdays, 15.00 CET

Follow Us!



sitra.fi/valo

@SitraFund



@Sitra **in**

