

## **Malnutrition in the Elderly Knowledge Hub**

The Joint Action “Malnutrition in the Elderly Knowledge Hub” (**MaNuEL**) is part of the Strategic Research Agenda of the Joint Programming Initiative “A Healthy Diet for a Healthy Life”. MaNuEL is a consortium of 22 research groups from 7 countries (Austria, France, Germany, Ireland, Spain, the Netherlands en New Zealand). MaNuEL started on March 1, 2016 and has obtained funding for two years.

### **General project objectives**

#### *1. Knowledge gain*

MaNuEL intends to summarize presently available and extend scientific knowledge regarding the definition, prevalence, effective screening and aetiology of malnutrition in older persons and regarding effective interventions to prevent and treat malnutrition in older persons in different health care settings across Europe. Thus, MaNuEL will complete the present fragmentary picture on malnutrition and will identify knowledge gaps, which have to be addressed in future projects.

#### *2. Strengthen evidence-based best practice*

MaNuEL will translate scientific knowledge into effective evidence-based strategies and derive recommendations regarding screening and identification of persons who will benefit from nutritional interventions. The project will also contribute to the identification of effective nutritional interventions. Finally, it will suggest validated methods for future assessment of determinants of malnutrition and raise awareness for different needs of specific subgroups of older persons.

#### *3. Capacity building*

MaNuEL will develop a productive and sustainable competence network of researchers from various countries with complementary expertise in the field of malnutrition in older persons. It will support transnational communication, collaboration and coordination between individual researchers, research groups, European research organisations and other stakeholders, and thus contribute to a common understanding as basis for future collaboration and better comparability of work.

#### *4. Harmonisation*

MaNuEL will promote harmonisation of screening and assessment of malnutrition in older persons in current practice as well as future research. It will also stimulate harmonisation of clinical practice, policies and education with regard to malnutrition. Furthermore, harmonisation of data collection, databases and data analyses will already take place within MaNuEL, but will also serve as an important basis for future collaborative projects. These harmonisation efforts will allow better comparability of future research on malnutrition in European countries.

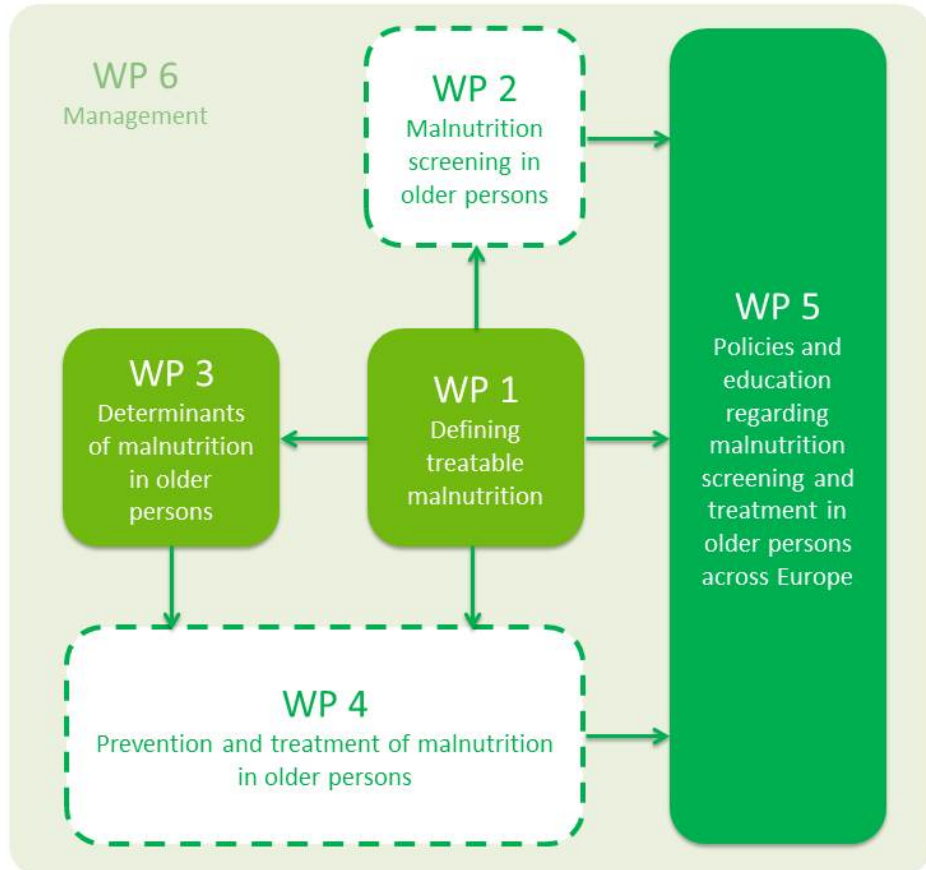
### **Specific objectives**

The specific objectives of MaNuEL to be addressed are to:

1. Develop a definition of treatable malnutrition;
2. Compile data on the prevalence of treatable malnutrition from existing studies;
3. Provide insight into the body composition characteristics of those with treatable malnutrition;
4. Obtain an overview based on published literature on existing screening tools for malnutrition in older adults;
5. Select preferred malnutrition screening tools for older adults in different community and health care setting;
6. Obtain malnutrition prevalence data in older adults across Europe (and beyond) based on these preferred screening tools;
7. Identify key determinants of (treatable) malnutrition;
8. Develop a list of reliable and valid instruments to measure these determinants;
9. Obtain an overview on the effects of non-pharmacological interventions on malnutrition;
10. Obtain an overview on on-going and planned studies on non-pharmacological interventions;
11. Obtain an overview on current policies and practice across Europe regarding screening and treatment of malnutrition in older persons in different health care settings;
12. Obtain an overview on formal education of health care professionals across Europe regarding screening and treatment of malnutrition in older persons.

## Workplan

MaNuEL is built on five interconnected malnutrition work packages (WP 1-5) and one management WP (WP6).



## Coordination

MaNuEL is coordinated by two co-KH coordinators: Dorothee Volkert (Germany) and Marjolein Visser (the Netherlands). In addition, leaders and co-leaders for the different work packages have been appointed. Its stakeholder advisory board includes 5 malnutrition experts and representatives of relevant European Societies.

## Funding

MaNuEL is funded by national funding organisations from Austria, Germany, Ireland and the Netherlands (approximately 1.1 million Euro) and by in kind contributions from the participating research groups (approximately 0.8 million Euro).

## Participating research institutions in MaNuEL

| Country                | City             | Institution  |
|------------------------|------------------|--|
| <b>Austria</b>         |                  |  |
|                        | Vienna           | Medical University Vienna  |
|                        | Graz             | Medical University Graz  |
| <b>France</b>          |                  |  |
|                        | Dijon            | Champmaillot Centre Geriatric Research Unit-Dijon                      |
|                        | Dijon            | French National Institute for Agronomic Research                       |
|                        | Clermont-Ferrand | French National Institute for Agronomic Research                       |
|                        | Angers           | School of Agricultural Studies (ESA) Angers                            |
|                        | Toulouse         | Gerontopole of Toulouse  |
| <b>Germany</b>         |                  |  |
|                        | Potsdam          | German Institute for Nutrition Potsdam-Rehbruecke                      |
|                        | Jena             | Friedrich-Schiller-Universität   |
|                        | Ulm              | Ulm University   |
|                        | Bremen           | Leipniz Institute for Prevention Research and Epidemiology - BIPS GmbH |
|                        | Kiel             | University Kiel  |
|                        | Nürnberg         | Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg                      |
| <b>Ireland</b>         |                  |  |
|                        | Dublin           | University College Dublin  |
|                        | Limerick         | University of Limerick, Department of Life Sciences                    |
|                        | Cork             | Alimentary Pharmabiotic Centre - Microbiome Institute                  |
|                        | Dublin           | UCD Institute of Food and Health                                       |
| <b>Spain</b>           |                  |  |
|                        | Madrid           | Instituto Ramón y Cajal de Investigación Sanitaria, Madrid             |
| <b>The Netherlands</b> |                  |  |
|                        | Amsterdam        | VU University Medical Center Amsterdam                                 |
|                        | Wageningen       | Wageningen University Research centre                                  |
|                        | Nijmegen         | HAN University of Applied Sciences                                     |
|                        | Amsterdam        | Dutch Malnutrition Steering Group                                      |
|                        | Nijmegen         | Radboud University Medical Center Nijmegen                             |
| <b>New Zealand</b>     |                  |  |
|                        | Auckland         | University of Auckland   |

## Contact

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