



NEWSLETTER #1

SEPTEMBER 2025

ABOUT US

STEP4NAMs is a European project funded by Interreg North-West Europe that supports the uptake of New Approach Methodologies (NAMs) in the (Bio)Pharma and MedTech sectors. The project will deliver two sector-specific action plans, conduct four pilot studies to validate NAM technologies and develop a comprehensive NAM Validation Manual. In addition, a training and support programme will provide opportunities for stakeholders to gain hands-on experience and practical guidance in the application of NAMs.

Boosting the use of New
Approach Methodologies
to replace Animal Testing



STAY WITH US AS WE
BUILD THE TOOLS,
EVIDENCE AND
STRATEGIES NEEDED TO
SUPPORT THE BROADER
IMPLEMENTATION OF
NAMs IN NORTH-WEST
EUROPE.



STEP4NAMs KICK-OFF: SETTING THE COURSE FOR 4 YEARS OF TRANSNATIONAL COLLABORATION

The official STEP4NAMs kick-off meeting took place on **25-26 February 2025** in Stuttgart, hosted by the project's Lead Partner BioRegio STERN Management GmbH. It brought together representatives from all ten partner organisations across Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, France, Ireland and Luxembourg. Partners aligned on objectives, work packages and collaboration structures.

The kick-off marked a strong start with partners sharing their expertise and committing to the shared goal of accelerating the uptake of NAMs in the (Bio)Pharma and MedTech sectors across North-West Europe.





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STEP4NAMs AT THE INTERREG NWE SEMINAR IN LILLE

In **March 2025**, STEP4NAMs participated in the Interreg NWE Seminar for Approved Projects in Lille, France. Four team members joined the event on site, supported by additional partners online, to gain in-depth guidance on programme rules, reporting and communication. This seminar marked an important early milestone, strengthening our foundation for the coming years of transnational collaboration.



GET READY TO JOIN OUR PILOT STUDIES!

If you are a developer, user or evaluator of NAM technologies, this is your chance to get involved in practical validation efforts and contribute to shaping the future of testing in the (Bio)Pharma and MedTech sectors. Stay tuned and don't miss the upcoming call for participation!

- Lung-on-Chip/Digital Twin Systems
- Organ-on-chip
- Bench-top Simulation
- Organoids



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FROM KICK-OFF TO COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: STEP4NAMs ENTERS THE SCIENTIFIC DIALOGUE

Following the official project launch, STEP4NAMs has taken its first steps into broader scientific exchange. Two partners involved in the project's pilot studies contributed to the #Talking3RScience webinar series, organised by the 3R Network Baden-Württemberg. On **April 24**, Prof. Jens Schwamborn from the University of Luxembourg presented his research on midbrain organoids for Parkinson's disease. His talk highlighted the potential of these models for studying disease mechanisms and advancing personalised drug discovery, closely aligned with one of STEP4NAMs' four pilot topics.

On **May 22**, experts from Atlantic Technological University (ATU Galway) shared insights into the development of custom in vitro test systems for endovascular devices. These models replicate human anatomy and physiology and are designed to improve preclinical evaluation, an approach that will also play a role in the project's validation efforts. These contributions reflect the scientific foundations behind the STEP4NAMs pilot topics.



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STEP4NAMs PARTNER MEETING IN 'S-HERTOGENBOSCH – EXCHANGE, STRATEGY, AND JOINT ADVANCEMENT OF INNOVATIVE TESTING METHODS

On **September 2025**, the project partner meeting of the Interreg NWE project STEP4NAMs took place at the Golden Tulip Hotel Central in 's-Hertogenbosch. Representatives of the ten participating partner organizations came together to align on the next steps and next major events.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Open Call launch**
End of October
- **INSERM Event**,
Paris, 29. October 2025
- **BioFit Workshop**,
Strasbourg,
2. December 2025
- **3R Länd Conference**,
Tübingen,
24.-26. March 2026



www.linkedin.com/company/STEP4NAMs



step4nams.nweurope.eu



GOT CURIOUS?

Head over to our website to discover everything about STEP4NAMs – or join us on LinkedIn, where we regularly share exciting insights and updates on NAMs.

STEP4NAMs is co-funded by the Interreg North-West Europe Programme under the priority "Innovation and Resilience". Led by BioRegio STERN Management GmbH (Germany), the project brings together 10 partners from six countries to strengthen the uptake of NAMs in the (Bio)Pharma and MedTech sectors. STEP4NAMs aims to develop two sector-specific action plans, implement four pilot studies to validate selected NAM technologies and deliver a comprehensive training and support programme for at least 186 stakeholders across North-West Europe.

The consortium includes:

3R-Center Tübingen (Germany), University of Luxembourg (Luxembourg), University of Galway and Atlantic Technological University (Ireland), InnovationQuarter and Brabant Development Agency (Netherlands), Medicen Paris Region and Eurasanté (France), and Biovia (Belgium).