

# INNOthyROGEN NEWSLETTER #2

New insights, new connections, new steps towards personalized medicine

Dear reader,

We are pleased to share the second edition of the **InnoThyroGen newsletter**, bringing you the latest highlights from our project activities.

In this issue, you'll find updates from our work packages, upcoming events, and recent outreach efforts across the consortium.

Let's take a look at what's been happening — and what's ahead!

## PATIENT RECRUITMENT IS UNDERWAY IN SPLIT AND ZAGREB

Back in July, InnoThyroGen officially launched the recruitment of participants for its biobank - marking a pivotal transition from preparation to clinical implementation.

Two key clinical partners: **KBC Split** and **Poliklinika Leptir**, have played a leading role in this process, enrolling patients and initiating sample collection, ultrasound assessments, and detailed clinical evaluations. Their teams have shown outstanding commitment and coordination on the ground.

Participants provide blood samples, give informed consent, and complete in-depth questionnaires. **Poliklinika LabPlus** in Zagreb and Split is managing blood sample processing, ensuring high-quality laboratory procedures across the board.



The clinical teams are collecting data on a comprehensive panel of biomarkers (TSH, FT3, FT4, TT3, TT4, Tg, anti-TPO, anti-Tg), lipid levels, and thyroid-specific ultrasound findings - forming a rich foundation for future analyses.

**RECRUITED PARTICIPANTS TO THIS DAY**

**181/500**

## INNOthyROGEN SUMMER SCHOOL 2025

**36 young researchers** participated in a five-day summer school in Split, dedicated to bioinformatics, genomics, and pharmacogenomics.

From September 1-5, 2025, the city of Split hosted the first **InnoThyroGen Summer School of Bioinformatics** - a dynamic training program that blended theory and practice in biomedicine, with a focus on bioinformatics tools, coding, genomics workflows, and the use of large language models (LLMs) in thyroid research.

Through hands-on lectures and exercises, participants learned how to apply advanced digital tools for genetic data analysis, medical literature processing, and pharmacogenomics - all in the context of personalized medicine.

Topics covered included:

- Python programming and AI in coding
- Genomics workflows (NextFlow)
- NLP and large language models in biomedical research
- Linux, variant calling, and HLA typing
- Stargazer and PharmCAT tools

Thanks to the strong team spirit and expert mentorship of lecturers from the Institute of Molecular Genetics and Genetic Engineering (IMGGE), the Center for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (C4IR), the company Persida, the University of Split School of Medicine (MEFST), and Labena, the school laid the groundwork for two additional editions planned within the project.



## EUROPEAN RESEARCHER'S NIGHT IN BELGRADE

In Belgrade, researchers from the Molecular Biomedicine Group of the Institute of Molecular Genetics and Genetic Engineering (IMGGE), University of Belgrade, took part in this year's European Researchers' Night to bring the project closer to people of all ages. Kids learned about personalised medicine through fun games, while their parents and teachers explored the project's goals and real-world impact.

Adult visitors were especially interested in how InnoThyroGen is working to **personalize thyroid treatments**, addressing a major gap in the current "one-size-fits-all" approach. Many asked how this could benefit patients in Serbia and wanted to stay updated through the project's social media. An Instagram quiz on thyroid health added an interactive twist and encouraged broader engagement.



## IN SPLIT

At the same time in Split, **Dr. Nikolina Pleić** introduced InnoThyroGen to a diverse audience - including students, healthcare professionals, and curious citizens. Her talk highlighted why **personalised medicine matters**, how the project works, and how people can get involved.

Visitors discovered more about the project's progress, summer school, and future plans. The Q&A session opened up great discussions on how EU projects are built, and how both students and patients can actively participate - whether by joining activities or contributing to the biobank. The event successfully raised awareness and showed just how relevant InnoThyroGen is to the local community.



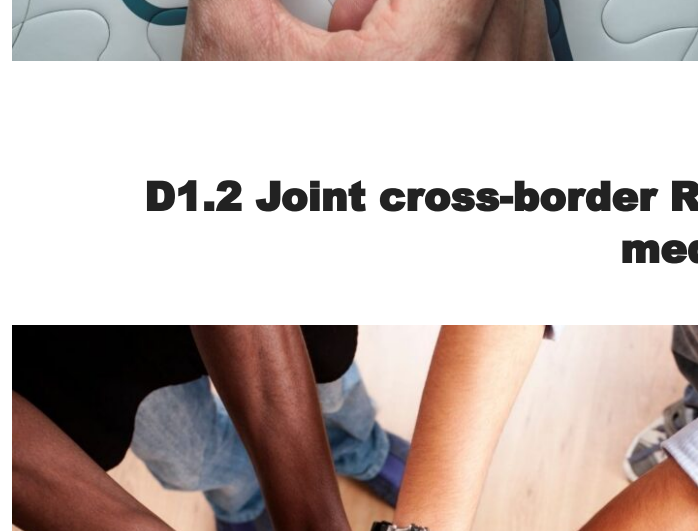
Want to see where else InnoThyroGen has been active in recent months? Click the link to explore our events, activities, and public outreach.

[Discover more](#)

## KEY MILESTONES AND DELIVERABLES FROM YEAR ONE

During the first year of the project, several key deliverables were prepared and submitted, establishing the foundation for effective implementation, communication, and long-term strategic development of InnoThyroGen.

### D1.1 Knowledge Base, engagement methodology and identified barriers and requirements



D1.1 provides an overview of the initial knowledge base for the InnoThyroGen project, outlining key insights into thyroid disease management and personalised medicine. It also presents the methodology for engaging stakeholders and identifies early barriers and requirements that could influence project implementation and future adoption. These findings serve as a critical starting point for shaping the project's research direction and outreach strategy.

[Read more...](#)

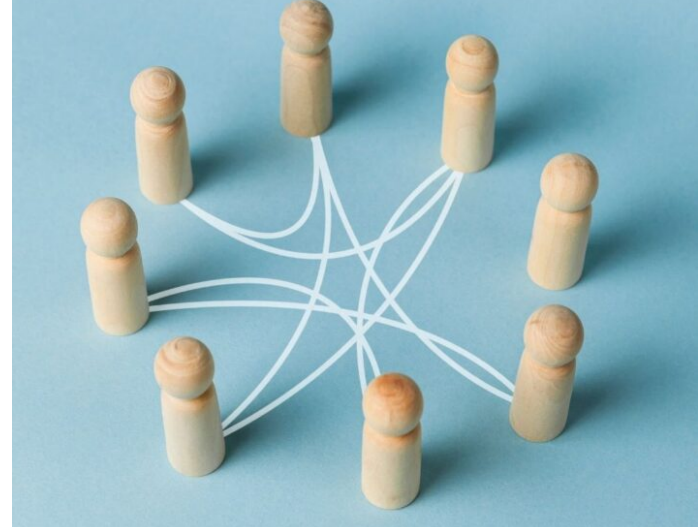
### D1.2 Joint cross-border R&I strategy in personalised medicine



Deliverable D1.2 analyzes the research capacities relevant to personalised medicine in Croatia and Serbia, including infrastructure, expert teams, and technological resources. Based on this analysis, the document proposes a plan for joint research activities between project partners to strengthen regional collaboration and the translational application of knowledge. It highlights genomics, bioinformatics, and biobanking as key areas for advancing innovative approaches to thyroid disease treatment.

[Read more...](#)

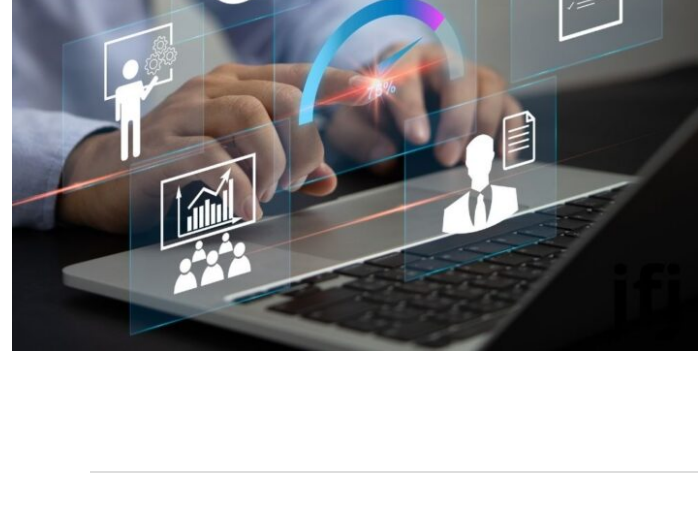
### D2.1 Report on the current state of the ecosystems



D2.1 reports on the current state of the ecosystems. This report maps the existing biobanking, data governance, and digital health infrastructure in Croatia and Serbia, identifying key gaps and opportunities for implementing personalised thyroid medicine. It provides a foundation for tailoring project activities to local contexts and needs. Special attention is given to regulatory environments and stakeholder readiness, which are critical for long-term success.

[Read more...](#)

### D6.1 Dissemination, Communication and Exploitation Plan (DCEP)



D6.1 outlines the strategic plan for promoting InnoThyroGen results and ensuring stakeholder engagement. It defines key messages, communication channels, visual identity elements, and exploitation paths tailored to different audiences - including researchers, clinicians, and patients. The plan also introduces KPIs to track impact and reach over the course of the project. It provides the foundation for building visibility and fostering collaboration throughout the InnoThyroGen journey.

[Read more...](#)

### D7.2 Data and Ethics Management Plan (DEMP)



D7.2 outlines how InnoThyroGen manages the data collected, processed, and generated throughout the project. It details the types of data involved, standards used, data sharing procedures, and measures for ensuring data protection and compliance with FAIR principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable). This plan ensures that research data is handled responsibly, transparently, and securely across all partners. This plan helps ensure ethical, secure, and transparent data handling across all project activities.

[Read more...](#)

## PARTNER FOCUS

### The University Hospital of Split

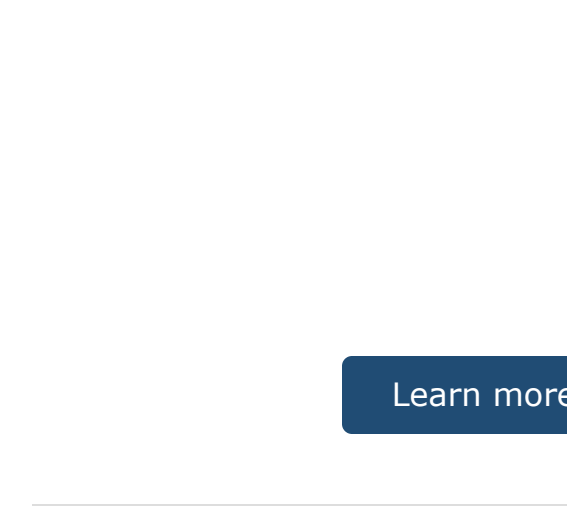
The University Hospital of Split (KBC Split) is the largest hospital centre in Dalmatia and a public institution providing hospital care, specialist services, and medical education support. With strong experience in clinical research and collaboration with industry, KBC Split offers direct patient insights that help improve diagnosis, treatment, and recovery. It actively fosters innovation by supporting research that leads to transformative healthcare solutions.

[Learn more...](#)

### Polyclinic Leptir

Polyclinic Leptir is the first private centre in Croatia dedicated to thyroid disorders. Combining medical, nutritional, and psychological expertise, the clinic provides a comprehensive approach to diagnosis and treatment. It also houses a nutritional counselling centre with biopharmacy, supporting a holistic view of patient care. As a key clinical partner in InnoThyroGen, the Polyclinic brings valuable experience in individualized thyroid care and patient engagement.

[Learn more...](#)



[Learn more about the consortium](#)

## WP1 COMPLETED

Work Package 1 marked the foundation phase of InnoThyroGen, focused on enabling future development of personalised medicine for thyroid diseases. The consortium identified key stakeholder groups and defined a formal engagement methodology through surveys, interviews, focus groups and workshops held in Croatia and Serbia. WP1 also analysed existing barriers and opportunities in both national ecosystems to support future implementation.

This work resulted in two deliverables: **D1.1 Knowledge Base, engagement methodology and identified barriers and requirements**, outlining stakeholder involvement and early ecosystem insights, and **D1.2 Joint cross-border R&I strategy in personalised medicine**, providing a strategic framework for research collaboration. Together, these outputs form the basis for ecosystem development, capacity building and pilot implementation in upcoming work packages.

[Learn more about WP1](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### CO-DESIGN WORKSHOP

January 30, 2026 | 16:30 - 18:00  
Tribina Grada Zagreb, Kaptol 27, Zagreb, Croatia

### Confirmed speakers and topics:

**Barbara Raguž Pečur, mag. psych.**  
*Thyroid and mental health*

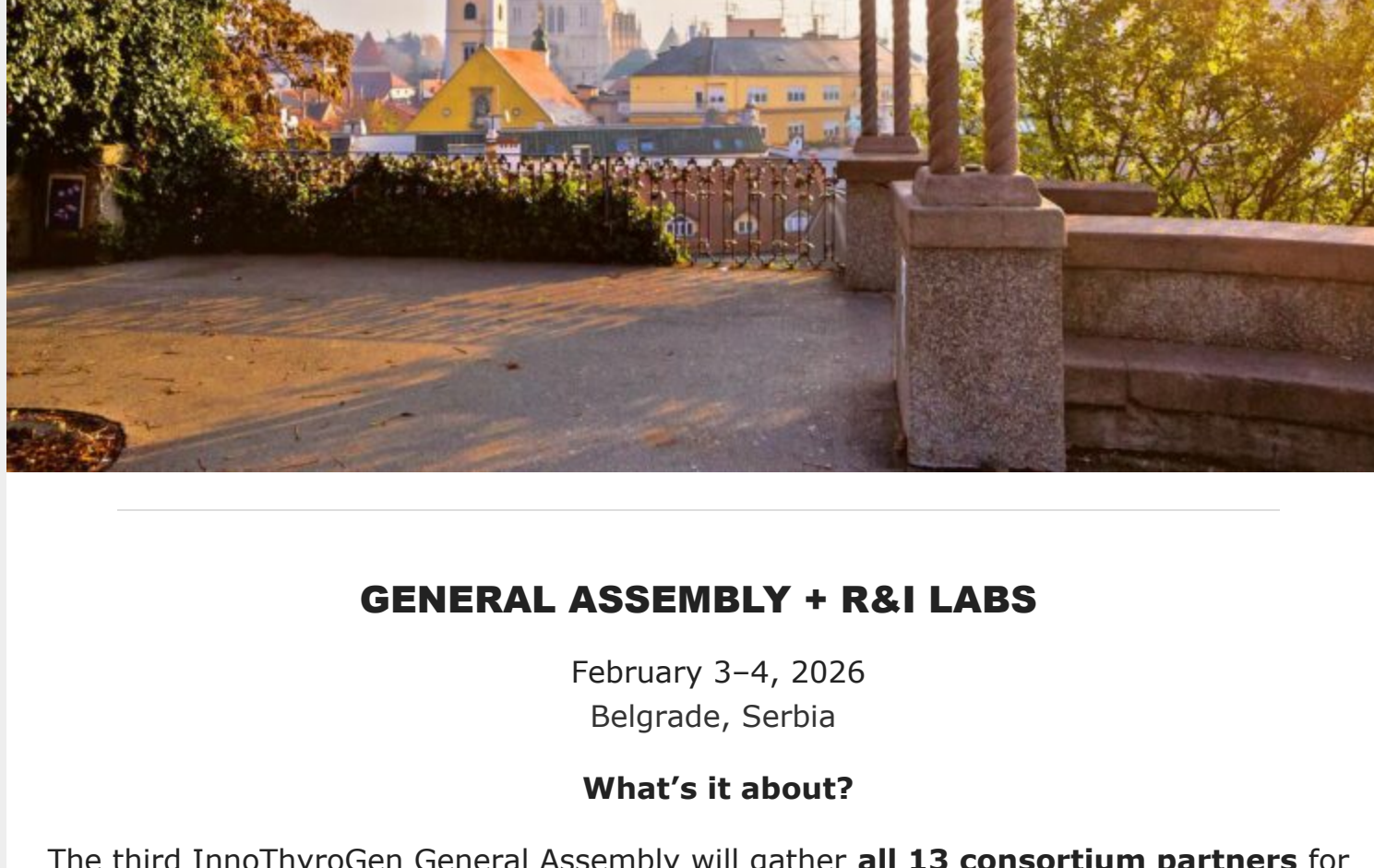
**Jelena Pukić Haubrih, MD, Family Medicine Specialist**  
*Supporting patients with thyroid disease*

**Roko Granić, MD, Nuclear Medicine Specialist**  
*How thyroid diseases are treated*

**Dr. sc. Nikolina Pleić, mag. math.**  
*President of the Horizon Europe InnoThyroGen project*

**Open to patients, their families, and everyone interested in thyroid health and personalised medicine.**

[Join us!](#)



## GENERAL ASSEMBLY + R&I LABS

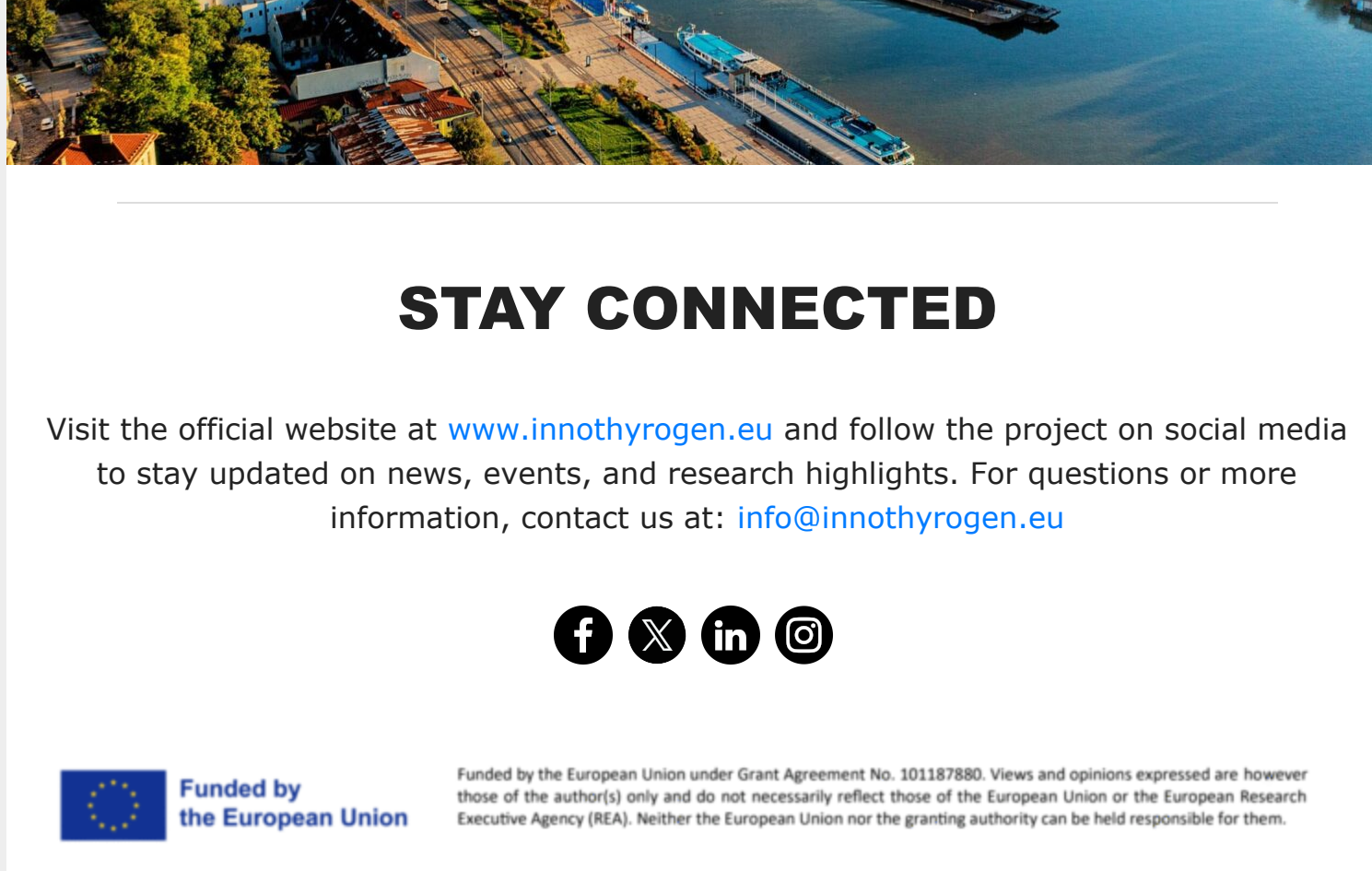
February 3-4, 2026  
Belgrade, Serbia

### What's it about?

The third InnoThyroGen General Assembly will gather all **13 consortium partners** for an in-person review of project progress and achievements during the first year, as well as to define priorities for the next phase.

### What will happen?

Overview of results by work package  
Planning for activities in 2026  
Hands-on work through in-person R&I Labs  
Joint brainstorming on upcoming challenges and opportunities  
Strengthening collaboration across the consortium



## STAY CONNECTED

Visit the official website at [www.innothyrogen.eu](http://www.innothyrogen.eu) and follow the project on social media to stay updated on news, events, and research highlights. For questions or more information, contact us at: [info@innothyrogen.eu](mailto:info@innothyrogen.eu)

[f](#) [x](#) [in](#) [@](#)

Funded by the European Union

Financed by the European Union under Grant Agreement No. 101019760. Views and opinions expressed are those of the author(s) only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or the European Research Executive Agency (REA). Neither the European Union nor the granting authority can be held responsible for them.

InnoThyroGen

Innovating Thyroid Health with Genomics and Predictive Algorithms through Collaborative Excellence

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Manage your subscription](#)

