

Dr. sc. Adriana Planinić is a research management professional with a background in biology and extensive experience in coordinating international research initiatives, particularly in the field of rare diseases.

She holds a Ph.D. in Biology from the University of Zagreb and has built her career at the intersection of science and project management. Her expertise was shaped at the St. Anna Children's Cancer Research Institute (CCRI) in Vienna, where she managed EU-funded projects in the Rare Diseases domain, contributing to major initiatives such as ERICA and EJP RD, and supporting collaboration within the European Reference Networks (ERNs). Through this work, she facilitated coordination between clinical centres, supported knowledge exchange activities, and contributed to the development of educational and capacity-building initiatives aimed at strengthening expertise across the network.

She brings significant leadership experience from her role at STEMwise, where she has led project implementation and scientific coordination, managed multidisciplinary teams, and driven the successful delivery of complex EU-funded projects, alongside developing capacity-building programmes in proposal writing and project implementation.

Adriana now joins the ERN GUARD-Heart network as part of the management team, where she will support collaboration between clinical centers, contribute to communication and dissemination activities, coordinate monitoring processes, and manage the Clinical Patient Management System (CPMS). She will also focus on strengthening knowledge exchange through educational activities such as webinars and summer schools, contributing to the network's capacity to deliver high-quality patient care.

She looks forward to working closely with network members and contributing to the continued development, educational activities, and overall impact of the GUARD-Heart community.

