



ATHLOS Meeting, 21 December 2015 in Barcelona, Spain

## **Collaboration between Maelstrom Research and ATHLOS to Create a Harmonised Data Set**

**One of the main objectives of the EU-funded ATHLOS Project is to create a harmonised data set including the longitudinal studies considered in the project. The ATHLOS partners involved in the first work package, "Creation of a Harmonised Data Set", participated in a meeting held in Barcelona organised by PSSJD. Among the attendees was Dr Isabel Fortier, who leads Maelstrom Research.**

**Barcelona, Spain, 21 January 2016.** The ATHLOS (Ageing Trajectories of Health: Longitudinal Opportunities and Synergies) Project will merge large sets of variables from longitudinal databases derived from several European and international studies. The ATHLOS Consortium will create and analyse a harmonised data set including the longitudinal studies identified, comprising more than 341,000 subjects. A meeting was held on 21 December 2015 in Sant Boi de Llobregat (Barcelona) to discuss advances in the creation of the harmonised data set, as well as a possible collaboration between Maelstrom Research and ATHLOS.

The meeting was organised by the coordinator and leader of Work Package 1 (WP1) "Creation of a Harmonised Data Set" (Parc Sanitari Sant Joan de Déu - PSSJD). Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (UAM) and SPRING Techno (SPRING) participated in the meeting as leaders of some of the WP1 tasks, and among the other attendees was Dr Isabel Fortier from the Research Institute of the McGill University Health Centre, where she leads the Maelstrom Research and DataSHaPER programs. Maelstrom Research is an initiative which develops open-source methods and software, facilitating data harmonisation and co-analysis across collaborating epidemiological studies.

The harmonisation approach used in ATHLOS will be retrospective, making use of existing data. Two open-source software applications—Opal and Mica—developed by Maelstrom Research will be employed to store the original data sets, guide the harmonisation process, and create a web portal for the studies from the Consortium and the final harmonised database. Dr Fortier proposed different ways to collaborate with ATHLOS, although whatever agreements are reached with Maelstrom Research must be discussed and approved by all ATHLOS partners.

**For more information:**

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