



## ERA CHAIR LIFE SCIENCES PROGRAM TO EMPOWER MOLECULAR AND STRUCTURAL BIOLOGY INITIATIVES AT UPAT

The University of Patras Departments of Medicine and Pharmacy, are combining their knowledge in cell biology, biophysics and structural biology and state-of-the-art equipment to coordinate the ESPERANCE project, which aspires to expand and intensify their concerted actions by adding a part-time ERA Chair holder.

The ESPERANCE project will deliver major impact beyond UPAT's current research scope, leveraging existing infrastructure and facilities to drive sustainable innovation based on:



Implementation and exploitation of the new methods portfolio of UPAT for extending the researchers' expertise in new tools



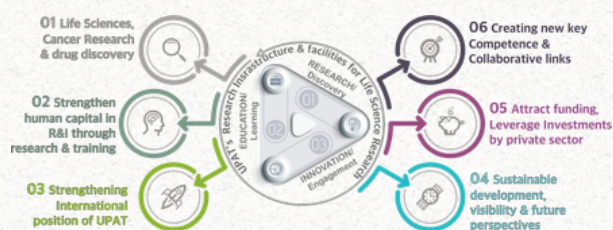
Strengthening of local collaborative efforts at UPAT to achieve high-level standards with integrated research approaches



The establishment of strategic partnerships with EU-wide and national consortia for the sustainable development of the UPAT and Greek life science sectors



The UPAT School of Health Sciences heavily rests on the interaction between the three components of the Triangle of Knowledge. The "Education" component empowers, connects, and engages the existing workforce and new talents from various scientific disciplines. The "Innovation" and "Research" branches enabled UPAT to launch, develop, and grow novel solutions, methods, tools, and products.



Pursuing and progress towards these goals will have major scientific, societal and economic impact at many different levels as will be outlined in the following.



## Kick off Meeting

The ESPERANCE kick-off meeting held on the 24th–26th April, 2023, to bring together the beneficiaries, the scientific and other participants in the organisation of the project, and the External Advisory Board (EAB) members to discuss and streamline all foreseen networking and research activities, to develop coherence and synergy between participants.

The meeting brought together the ERA Chair, UPAT partners, the External Advisory Board (EAB), and the Project Management Team (PMT) to present the main objectives, available tools, achievements, and infrastructure of the ESPERANCE project.



Discussions focused on defining scientific priorities, incorporating EAB feedback, and shaping a recruitment strategy, with particular attention to attracting a promising young local group leader. Additionally, six candidates for the ESPERANCE Group Leader position presented their research activities and outlined how they plan to integrate existing tools and groups into their future projects under the mentorship of the ERA Chair.