

 Project Number <b>874700</b>	Title <a href="#">Project website</a>	Deliverable Number <b>D9.1</b>
		Version <b>1</b>

H2020-SC1-2019-Single-Stage-RTD

**VANGUARD - New Generation Cell Therapy: Bioartificial Pancreas to Cure Type 1 Diabetes**

## Deliverable 9.1

### Project website

WP 9 – Stakeholder engagement, dissemination and exploitation

**Authors:** Julia Goetz (ACCEL)

**Lead participant:** Report

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## Revision History

Author Name, Partner short name	Description	Date
Julia Goetz (ACCEL)	Draft deliverable	12/02/2020
Emily Rose Ciscato (ACCEL)	Revision 1	20/02/2020
Ekaterine Berney (UNIGE)	Quality Check	21/02/2020
Julia Goetz (ACCEL)	Final version	25/02/2020

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## Abbreviations

<b>EC</b>	European Commission
<b>EU</b>	European Union
<b>GDPR</b>	
<b>H2020</b>	Horizon 2020
<b>WP</b>	Work Package

## Project Partners

<b>ACCEL</b>	accelopment AG
<b>CHU-LYON</b>	Lyon Claude Bernard University
<b>EMC</b>	Erasmus University Medical Centre
<b>ESOT-ELPAT</b>	European Society for Organ Transplantation
<b>KGM</b>	Kugelmeiers AG
<b>LMUM</b>	Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München
<b>OSR</b>	IRCCS Ospedale San Raffaele
<b>UNIGE</b>	University of Geneva
<b>UNIUPO</b>	Università degli Studi del Piemonte Orientale "Amedeo Avogadro"

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## Executive Summary

The VANGUARD project needs a flexible communication instrument to provide up-to-date, consistent and complete information to all its stakeholders. A website is the ideal instrument to satisfy this need.

### Need for the Deliverable

This deliverable presents the VANGUARD project website, describing the main structure of the website, how it is set up and how it will be further developed and maintained throughout the project's duration and following its completion. The project website serves as a powerful tool to communicate, inform and raise awareness on the project's progress, enabling the VANGUARD consortium to easily reach out to all its stakeholders. Tailored to the key stakeholders, the website provides up-to-date, consistent and comprehensive information on the project.

### Next steps

The VANGUARD website has been made public under the defined project URL [www.vanguard-project.eu](http://www.vanguard-project.eu). The website URL will be included on all communication, dissemination and exploitation material relevant to the project.

The next steps for the website include regularly posting project related news on the VANGUARD blog as well as creating new areas on the website once initial project results and outcomes as available.

### Objectives of the Deliverable

With the help of this deliverable we aim to:

- Increase awareness of VANGUARD
- Document our progress
- Inform about our planned activities
- Increase the project's impact.

The website is a focal point for consortium members and the various VANGUARD stakeholders alike. Therefore, it will provide appropriate and useful information for different users.

### Outcomes

This deliverable consists of the project website available online at [www.vanguard-project.eu](http://www.vanguard-project.eu). The website serves as the main source of information for stakeholders on objectives, progress and results of the project. The information displayed on the website will be continuously updated and added to in order to complement the given content with new findings and results.

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## 1 Key Facts

The VANGUARD website has the main purpose of raising awareness of the project's endeavours as well as to function as a central platform to disseminate its results to the scientific community and to communicate its outcomes to the general public and wider audience of non-experts.

- The VANGUARD website address is [www.vanguard-project.eu](http://www.vanguard-project.eu).
- The website was first launched at of February 2020.
- ACCEL created and currently maintains the website using WordPress.
- The project website is securely hosted on ACCEL's webserver.
- The website links to the project specific social media channels ([Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)).

## 2 Aims & objectives

The main aims of the project website are to raise awareness of the VANGUARD project and its network, to maintain an open and wide-reaching means of communication with the VANGUARD stakeholder groups and to keep an updated platform informing on the most current project developments, key results and outcomes.

The specific objectives are to not only provide a source of information but to also create an interactive platform for exchange with the various stakeholder groups including the scientific community, healthcare payers, diabetic patients and patient advocacy groups, policymakers and the general public as well as within the project's network. This will be achieved by including information, engaging audio-visual material and resources that clearly and effectively communicate the project's objectives, activities and outcomes to a wide audience and by providing educational material, news, and continuously updated content.

## 3 Strategy

The website functions as a focal point for all stakeholder groups to find information on the partners involved in the project, on the technological and scientific details behind the development of a bioartificial pancreas and all updates concerning the project progress as well as events and key achievements.

The VANGUARD website aims to keep all its stakeholder groups involved and interested in the project throughout its entire duration, with special focus towards the international research community, which is one of the main target groups of the project. This will be achieved by prompt communication of the project's newest results, regular and timely updates on news and events and the enhancement of engagement opportunities through event registration functions. Contact details are provided to request further information and audio-visual material introducing the VANGUARD consortium makes the project more accessible and tangible to experts and the general public alike. Feedback received both via the website contact function and through direct input from the partners will help shape the website structure, how its content is presented and will be a means to help guide project communication strategies and the project itself towards achieving maximum impact among all its stakeholders.

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All of the website functionality is provided in an intuitive and user-friendly manner. Moreover, it has a responsive design, i.e. an adapted interface when viewed on mobile devices or tablets, which makes it easy to navigate on a small screen and guarantees convenient access to the website from any device.

## 4 Technical implementation

The VANGUARD website created with WordPress is implemented in a way that allows easy maintenance and provides an appealing experience to its users.

### 4.1 WordPress

The website was created with the online website design tool [WordPress](#). This tool offers flexible and professional layouts, a user-friendly interface for ease of editing and numerous additional plugins to integrate interactive features and adjust the website to the project's needs. As a default feature, WordPress offers responsive designs, i.e. website layouts that adapt to different screen sizes. For the news section, the WordPress blog module is used. Posts are displayed in reverse chronological order, so that the most recent news entry is shown at the top of the page and on the VANGUARD website's homepage. As the number of posts grows, tags, such as the month of publication or the topic, will be added to each post so that the users can filter them according to their needs and interest.

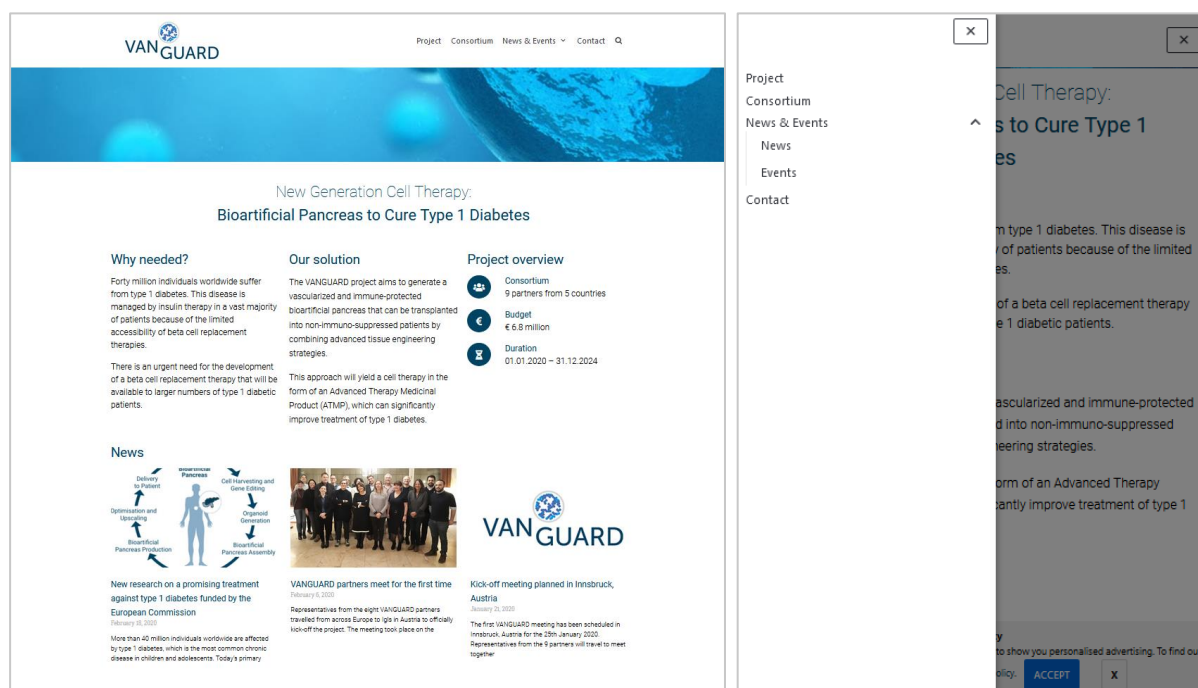


Figure 1: Responsive design – (left) website displayed on a larger (computer) screen. (right) website displayed on a small screen (tablet or smartphone) with an adapted navigation.

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## 4.2 Theme

The theme used for VANGUARD is ‘Neve’. The theme has been adjusted by ACCEL to integrate the project design guidelines and to increase readability. Links are displayed in the VANGUARD dark blue colour (R0, G62, B98) and text colour was set to black for improved readability.

## 4.3 Images and graphics

To increase the visual appeal of the website, images and graphics are used to help illustrate given information. This includes using partner logos, profile photos of team members involved from each partner and explanatory charts (e.g., to illustrate the research areas within the project). The logos and profile pictures used on the website were provided by the respective partners, while other illustrations and graphics were created explicitly for the use within the VANGUARD project.

# 5 Website structure

The website is currently structured as described in the following sub-sections, in line with the strategy, aims and objectives described above. However, this structure and the individual sub pages are subject to evolve over time and will be adapted as the project develops (see Section 8). The main navigation menu allows the viewer to easily reach the key pages of the website, currently including ‘Project’, ‘Consortium’, ‘News & Events’ and ‘Contact’. The EU flag and acknowledgement are displayed at the bottom of the homepage and a footer displayed on all pages includes the copyright and links to ‘Members Area’, ‘Privacy Policy’ and ‘Contact’.

## 5.1 Homepage

The [Homepage](#) is the landing page for first time access to the website through entering the URL ([www.vanguard-project.eu](http://www.vanguard-project.eu)) in an internet browser (e.g., Firefox), a search engine (e.g., Google) or through a link on a different website (e.g., partner websites). When browsing through the VANGUARD website, users can easily return to the homepage by clicking on the VANGUARD logo in the header, as is common practice for many modern websites.

The homepage enables the viewer to immediately gather an overview of the project, through an opening summary of why the project is needed and our solution as well as some key numbers on the project. The latest news featured on the homepage with just an image and a teaser text is linked to the full article. When new pages will be added as sub-pages these will be visible within the main navigation menu.

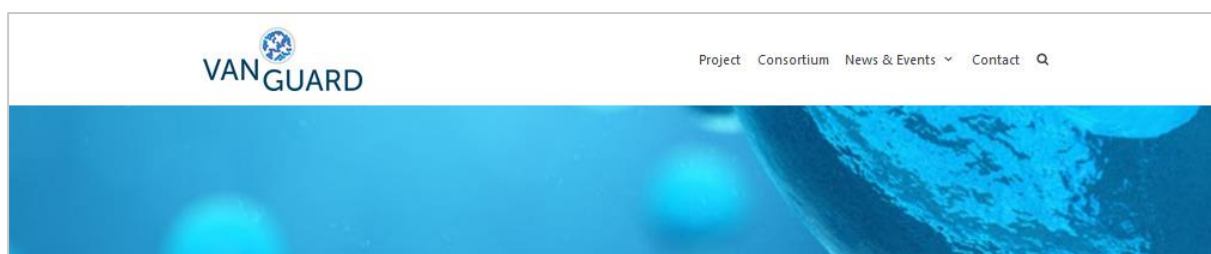


Figure 2: Header area of the VANGUARD website available on each page



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## 5.2 Project

The [Project](#) page currently provides a brief explanation on diabetes type 1 and what islets transplantation is to give non experts a short introduction into the research areas of VANGUARD. The project page also includes an overview of the main project objectives and our planned strategy including a visualisation of the planned steps and processes required to develop the bioartificial pancreas.

As the project progresses, further relevant content, such as research highlights, publications and other relevant material will be included under the project menu as best suited.



**VANGUARD**

Project Consortium News & Events Contact Q

### Diabetes

Type 1 diabetes results from the autoimmune destruction of insulin-producing beta-cells. These cells are located in mini-organs, called islets of Langerhans, which are distributed within the pancreas. The disease usually starts in childhood or young adulthood. It is the most common chronic disease in children and adolescents. Type 1 diabetes can be cured by transplantation, either of the whole pancreas or of isolated islets. Europe is the region with the highest reported number of children and adolescents affected by Type 1 diabetes.

### Islets transplantation

Pancreas transplantation is an efficient procedure for restoring blood sugar control. However, this is a major surgical procedure, plagued by a high complication rate. It is only performed in a minority of patients with type 1 diabetes because of the marked imbalance between organ donors and individuals suffering from the disease.

Cell therapy for type 1 diabetes is currently performed in a small number of selected patients by transplantation of allogeneic islets of Langerhans, with good functional outcomes. Islet transplantation is a valuable first step toward offering a cure for all patients with type 1 diabetes but this therapeutic approach is hampered by several issues:

- A poor engraftment due to inflammatory phenomena at the time of transplantation, which leads to the need of multiple donors (multiple transplants) for a single recipient
- An attrition rate of  $\geq 50\%$  at 5 years for full islet graft function (insulin-independence)
- The imbalance between the number of patients with type 1 diabetes and the number of organ donors
- The need for lifelong immunosuppression to avoid graft rejection.

### Our strategy

The VANGUARD project aims to generate a vascularized and immune-protected bioartificial pancreas that can be transplanted into non-immunosuppressed patients; it combines advanced tissue engineering strategies, such as 3D organoid generation, hydrogel design, bioartificial organ assembly and CRISPR-Cas9 gene editing. The bioengineering of insulin-producing 3D organoids and their assembly into a bioartificial endocrine pancreas will be based on these components:

- Hydrogel: an extra-cellular matrix nearly identical to that of native islets, which provides mechanical protection, anti-inflammatory properties, and anti-apoptotic properties, as well as modulates insulin secretion.
- Gene-edited amniotic epithelial cells: immune protection and anti-inflammatory properties.
- Islet cells: regulated insulin secretion.
- Blood outgrowth endothelial cells (BOECs): angiogenesis for construct revascularization.

Organoid manufacturing will be performed using the Sphericalplate 5D, a patented cell culturing platform, which is medically approved as a medical device under class IIb.

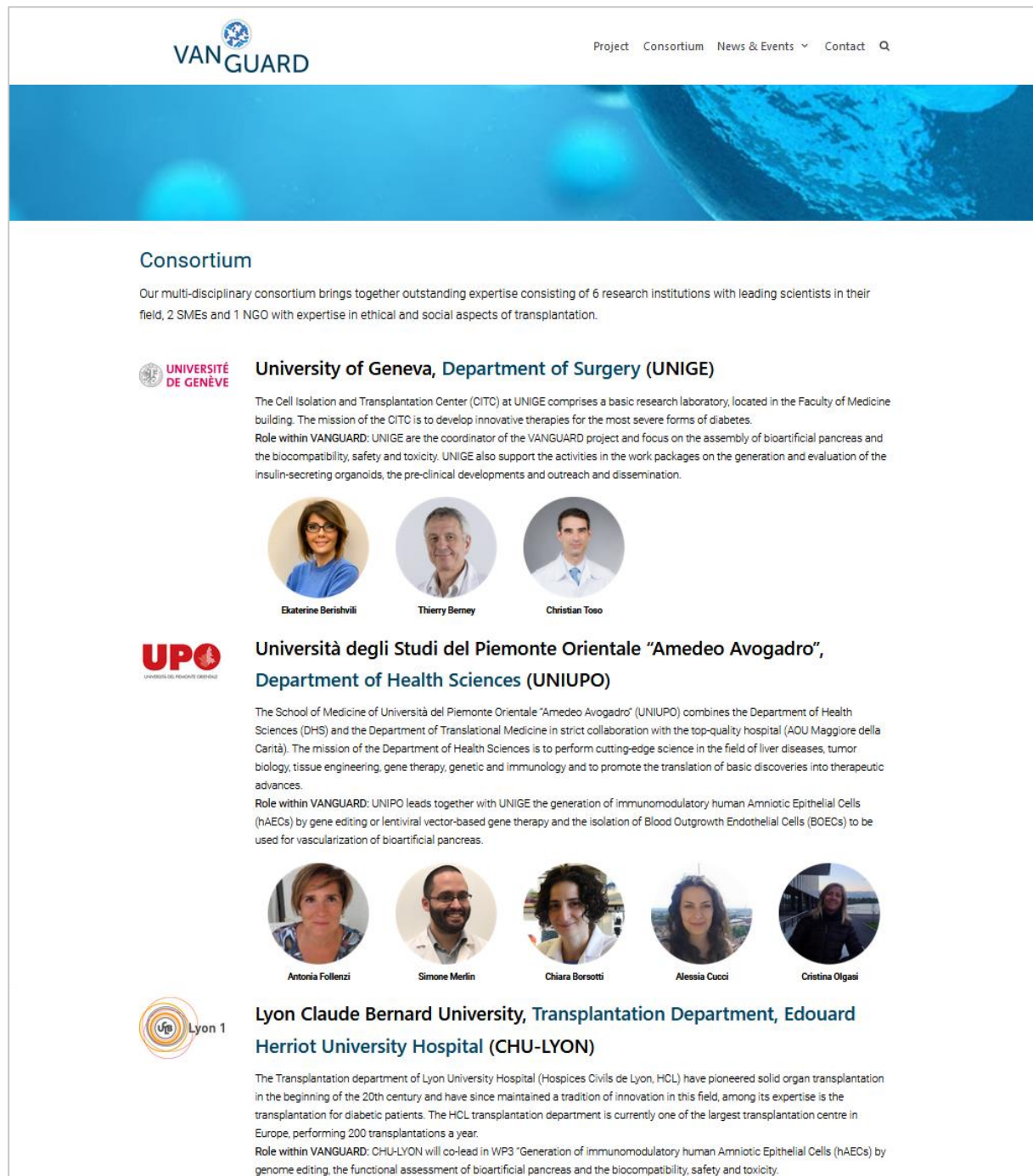


Figure 3: The project page of the VANGUARD website

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### 5.3 Consortium

The [Consortium](#) page provides details of all partners forming the VANGUARD consortium, with links to their respective websites, brief descriptions of each partner highlighting their expertise and role in the project as well as profile pictures and names of the team members involved in VANGUARD. Should any team members change during the course of the project, these will be promptly updated.



The screenshot shows the 'Consortium' page of the VANGUARD website. The page features a blue header with the VANGUARD logo and navigation links: Project, Consortium, News & Events, Contact, and a search icon. Below the header is a large blue banner image. The main content area is titled 'Consortium' and includes a brief description of the multi-disciplinary consortium. It then lists three partner institutions, each with a logo, name, description, role within VANGUARD, and a row of team member profile pictures with names.

**Consortium**

Our multi-disciplinary consortium brings together outstanding expertise consisting of 6 research institutions with leading scientists in their field, 2 SMEs and 1 NGO with expertise in ethical and social aspects of transplantation.

**UNIVERSITÉ DE GENÈVE**

**University of Geneva, Department of Surgery (UNIGE)**

The Cell Isolation and Transplantation Center (CITC) at UNIGE comprises a basic research laboratory, located in the Faculty of Medicine building. The mission of the CITC is to develop innovative therapies for the most severe forms of diabetes.

**Role within VANGUARD:** UNIGE are the coordinator of the VANGUARD project and focus on the assembly of bioartificial pancreas and the biocompatibility, safety and toxicity. UNIGE also support the activities in the work packages on the generation and evaluation of the insulin-secreting organoids, the pre-clinical developments and outreach and dissemination.

**UNIPO**

**Università degli Studi del Piemonte Orientale "Amedeo Avogadro", Department of Health Sciences (UNIPO)**

The School of Medicine of Università del Piemonte Orientale "Amedeo Avogadro" (UNIPO) combines the Department of Health Sciences (DHS) and the Department of Translational Medicine in strict collaboration with the top-quality hospital (AOU Maggiore della Carità). The mission of the Department of Health Sciences is to perform cutting-edge science in the field of liver diseases, tumor biology, tissue engineering, gene therapy, genetic and immunology and to promote the translation of basic discoveries into therapeutic advances.

**Role within VANGUARD:** UNIPO leads together with UNIGE the generation of immunomodulatory human Amniotic Epithelial Cells (hAECs) by gene editing or lentiviral vector-based gene therapy and the isolation of Blood Outgrowth Endothelial Cells (BOECs) to be used for vascularization of bioartificial pancreas.

**CHU-LYON**

**Lyon Claude Bernard University, Transplantation Department, Edouard Herriot University Hospital (CHU-LYON)**

The Transplantation department of Lyon University Hospital (Hospices Civils de Lyon, HCL) have pioneered solid organ transplantation in the beginning of the 20th century and have since maintained a tradition of innovation in this field, among its expertise is the transplantation for diabetic patients. The HCL transplantation department is currently one of the largest transplantation centre in Europe, performing 200 transplantations a year.

**Role within VANGUARD:** CHU-LYON will co-lead in WP3 "Generation of immunomodulatory human Amniotic Epithelial Cells (hAECs) by genome editing, the functional assessment of bioartificial pancreas and the biocompatibility, safety and toxicity.

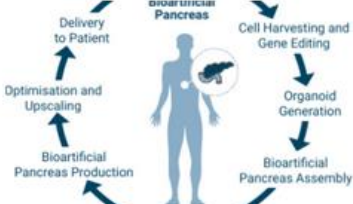
Figure 4: The upper portion of the consortium page on the VANGUARD website

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## 5.4 News & Events

The [News](#) & [Events](#) are divided in two sub-pages. The news page features short blog posts published whenever there is a relevant update regarding the VANGUARD project, or when news articles and any other related communication item of interest for the project and its stakeholder groups is released. A minimum of one blog post per month will be published on the website. Once the number of news items start to grow, these will be tagged based on their topic so the viewers can easily sort through them based on their specific interest. Events organised by VANGUARD or to which VANGUARD partners contribute to such as conferences or workshops will be featured on the events page.


Each news and event post is linked to its own individual page, meaning that each post has an individual URL that can be shared via social media for instance.



**News**


**New research on a promising treatment against type 1 diabetes funded by the European Commission**  
February 18, 2020

More than 40 million individuals worldwide are affected by type 1 diabetes, which is the most common chronic disease in children and adolescents. Today's primary



**VANGUARD partners meet for the first time**  
February 6, 2020

Representatives from the eight VANGUARD partners travelled from across Europe to Igls in Austria to officially kick-off the project. The meeting took place on the




**Kick-off meeting planned in Innsbruck, Austria**  
January 21, 2020

The first VANGUARD meeting has been scheduled in Innsbruck, Austria for the 25th January 2020. Representatives from the 9 partners will travel to meet together

Figure 5: VANGUARD news area

**Upcoming events**



**VANGUARD Consortium Meeting**

The second meeting of the full VANGUARD consortium will take ...


19 JUN

ALL DAY

UNIGE  
Geneva, Switzerland

VIEW DETAIL

**Past events**



**VANGUARD kick-off meeting**

The first VANGUARD meeting has been scheduled in Innsbruck Austria ...

25 JAN 2020

ALL DAY

VIEW DETAIL

FEBRUARY 2020

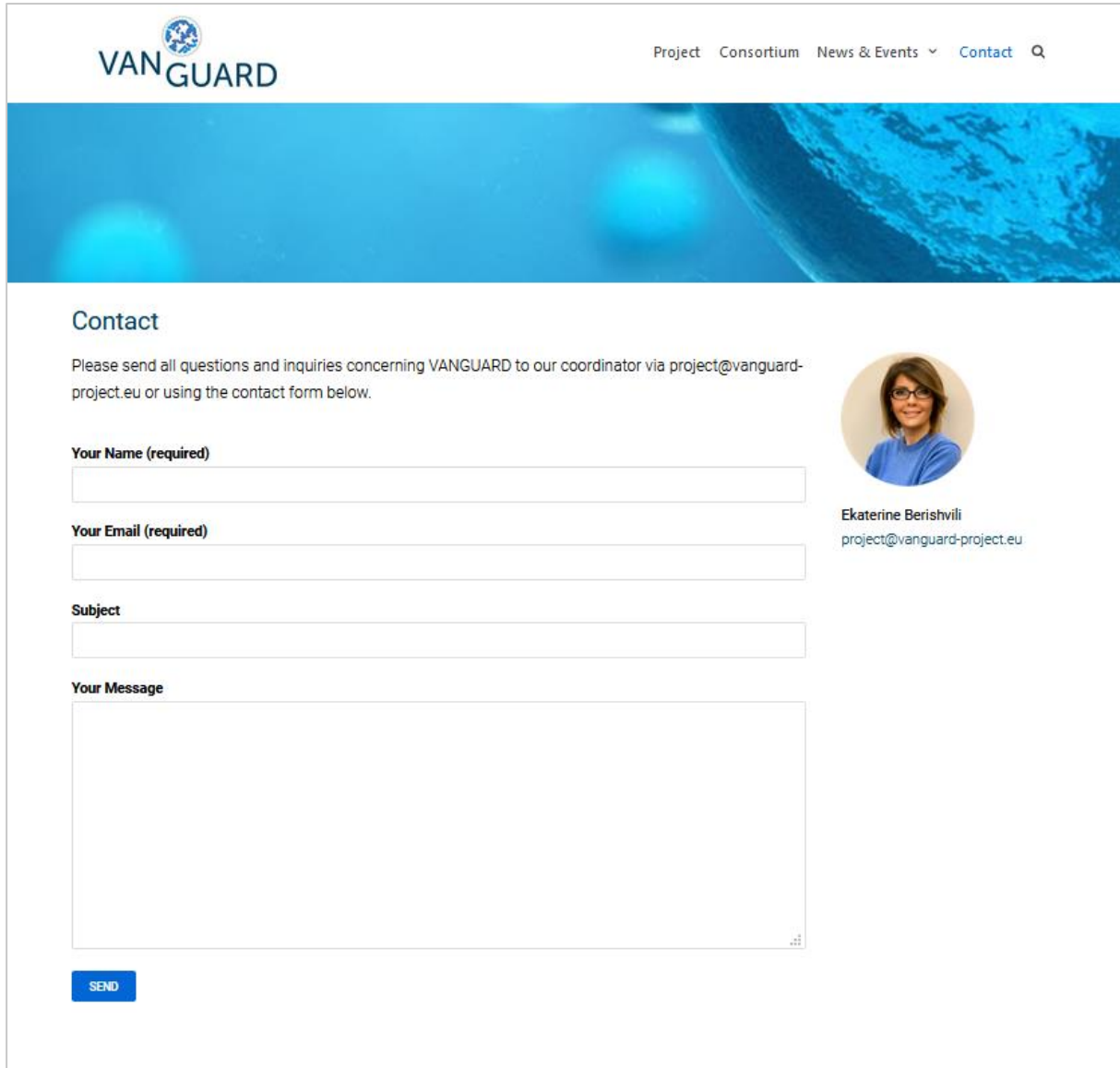
MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA	SU
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	1

Figure 6: VANGUARD events page

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## 5.5 Contact

The [Contact](#) page allows interested stakeholders to engage with the project partners. The emails and contact forms are sent to one representative of the project who distributes the enquires to the relevant project partners. Stakeholders can either send direct emails to the project email address [project@vanguard-project.eu](mailto:project@vanguard-project.eu) or through the contact form available.



The screenshot shows the VANGUARD website's contact page. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the VANGUARD logo and links for Project, Consortium, News & Events, and Contact. Below the navigation bar is a large blue header image. The main content area is titled 'Contact' and includes a message: 'Please send all questions and inquiries concerning VANGUARD to our coordinator via [project@vanguard-project.eu](mailto:project@vanguard-project.eu) or using the contact form below.' To the right of the message is a circular profile picture of Ekaterine Berishvili, with her name and email address listed below it. The contact form consists of four fields: 'Your Name (required)', 'Your Email (required)', 'Subject', and 'Your Message'. A blue 'SEND' button is located at the bottom left of the form.

## 5.6 Footer items

The footer area is available on each page of the VANGUARD website. It includes the acknowledgement of EU funding and links to the password protected members area, the project's privacy policy complemented with General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) specific information and the contact page. The footer also includes the links to the project's social media channels [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

Figure 7: Footer area visible on each page



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To comply with the new GDPR, the website also includes a cookie banner with an opt-in option for the usage of cookies, which visitors are presented with on first access of the VANGUARD website.

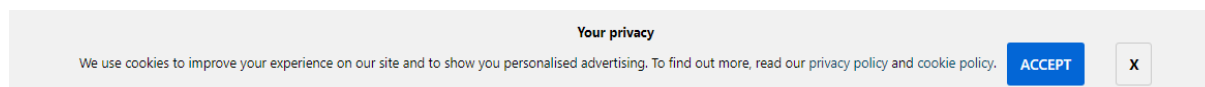


Figure 8: Cookie banner on first access of the VANGUARD website

## 6 Development and maintenance

ACCEL reviews the website regularly and will launch quarterly requests to the partners within the VANGUARD consortium to collect ideas and suggestions in order to update the website. New results as well as project related news and events updates will be added to the website as soon as they become available. All VANGUARD partners can send information to ACCEL to be published on the website. The project coordinator and ACCEL decide on the publication of new input for the website (IP issues might arise).

## 7 Outreach and evaluation

ACCEL will measure the website's outreach with Google Analytics, which offers not only the possibility to track website traffic (e.g. page views, unique visitors), but can also detect immediate impact of dissemination activities that lead to more page views. The outreach will then be evaluated in order to see if targets have been reached and, if necessary, to identify new measures required to increase outreach.

## 8 Outlook

The website will be complemented with embedded videos, event photos, slideshows or other multimedia features, to create a visually appealing and dynamic platform for its viewers. As the project progresses and yields first results, these will be incrementally added to the website, to maximise their communication and dissemination to the project's stakeholder groups.

As the project progresses, the structure of the VANGUARD website will be adapted by ACCEL to include relevant information and new pages when needed. The consortium has already agreed on additional menu items and pages, which will be implemented when first results and outcomes are available. More specifically, an outcomes page will be added to the main navigation at a later stage in the project when project results will start to be documented in the form of journal articles, posters, conference presentations, infographics and similar material. These will all be linked to their respective source websites and a search function will be included within the page so the viewer can easily find the documents of interest based on author names, topic or date of publication. Another area that will also be created is on educational resources developed over the course of the project to inform and train relevant stakeholders on key processes and technologies from the VANGUARD project. Overall, all pages will be updated with additional visual content as the project progresses, to ensure a visually pleasing, clear and engaging experience for the website viewer.