In a context of growing incidence of chronic diseases and aging populations, there is the need to research and find new solutions to shift resources into the community in an effort to deal more effectively with chronic conditions. In that direction, patient empowerment plays an important role. Approaches to increase patient empowerment vary from patient self-management programs to promoting patient involvement in treatment shared decision-making, to facilitating the clinician-patient cooperation.

According to a co-design approach with clinicians of the 4 sites in the project (i.e., Barcelona, Lleida, Ashdod, and Groningen), clinical studies have been designed for field-testing the CONNECARE system in real clinical practice. Those studies will be carried out during 18 months starting now in May 2018 and will focus on 3 use cases:
1. community-based management of chronic complex patients;
2. integrated management of patients undergoing surgical procedures;
3. pre-habilitation of high risk candidates for complex abdominal surgical procedures (only in Barcelona).

Each microservice is in charge of performing a simple task; whereas a complex task is achieved by the collaboration, interaction, and coordination of one or more simple microservices. In so doing, the proposed solution allows a better maintenance and bugs fixing. Seemly, scalability is obtained by dividing each task into less complex ones. Thus, when changes are needed in a microservice, they do not affect the rest of the system. Moreover, when a new functionality is required, a new microservice (or set of microservices collaborating together) may be defined and simply added to the system. In so doing, the proposed solution is robust to changes and improvements.

CONCLUSION
The first release of the presented system is under testing to be ready to be evaluated and refined in 4 sites throughout clinical studies that are ready to start. CONNECARE will consequently help to improve real practice deployment of integrated care in those sites and will be able to bring practical insight to the potential of transferability of new methods and technologies to other regions in Europe and beyond.