



Rijksinstituut voor Volksgezondheid  
en Milieu  
*Ministerie van Volksgezondheid,  
Welzijn en Sport*

# Gene Therapy Office

–  
**Regulations in a rapidly  
emerging field**

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Gene Therapy Office



## Presentation outline

1. Role Gene Therapy Office
2. Update GMO Office
3. Update CCMO
4. Evaluation Gene Therapy Office



# 1. Role Gene Therapy Office



# Overview of GMO procedures in the EU

## **Market Authorisation**

Central procedure



*Regulation No 726/2004 (EMA)  
Regulation No 1394/2007 (ATMP)*

## **Clinical trials**

- Medical/ethical aspects
- Environmental aspects

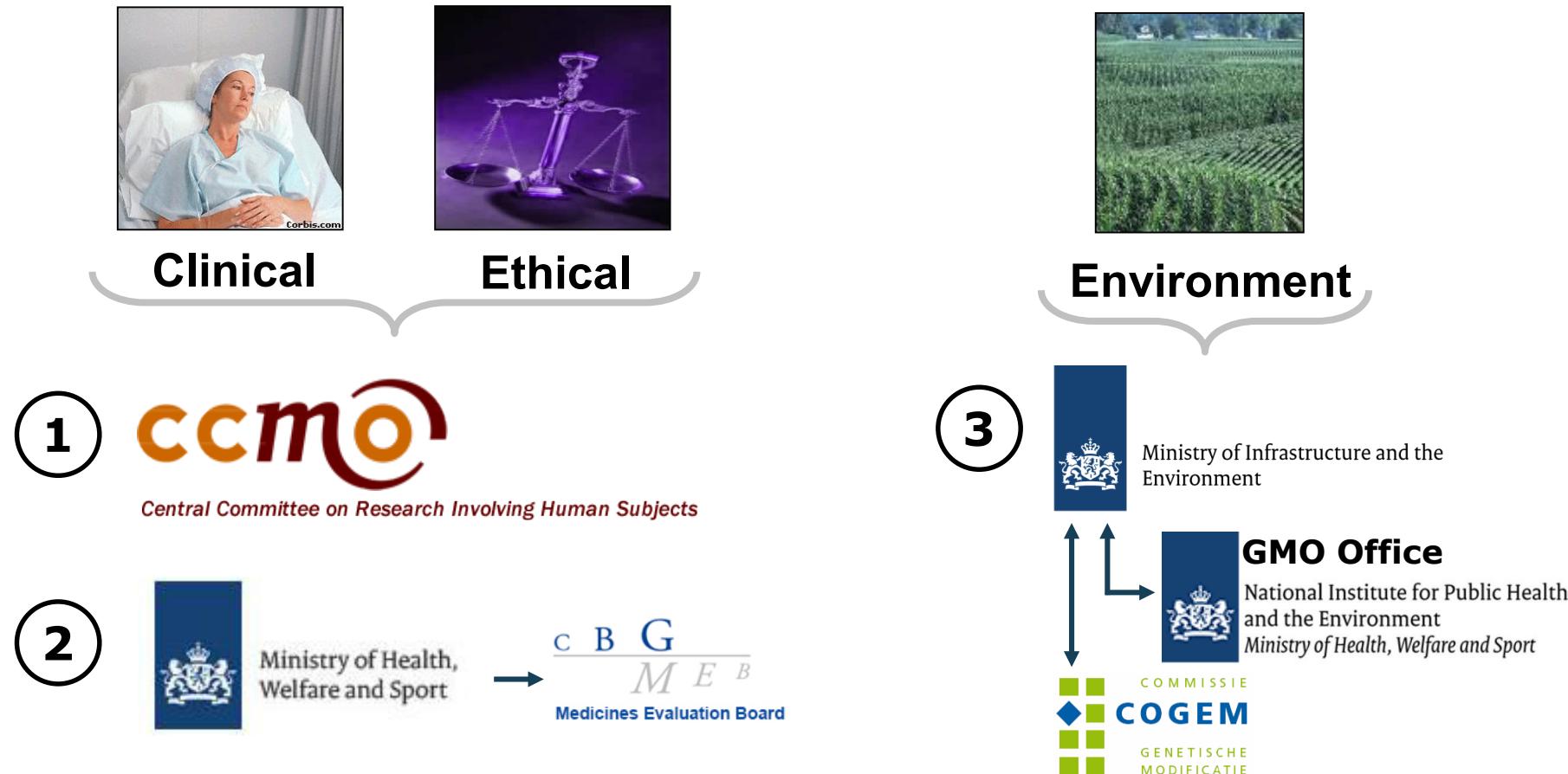
National procedure 2001/20/EC  
→ Central procedure (Jan 2022)  
*EU Clinical Trial Regulation  
(536/2014/EU)*

National procedure  
2001/18/EC & 2009/41/EC





# Overview of GMO procedures in the Netherlands





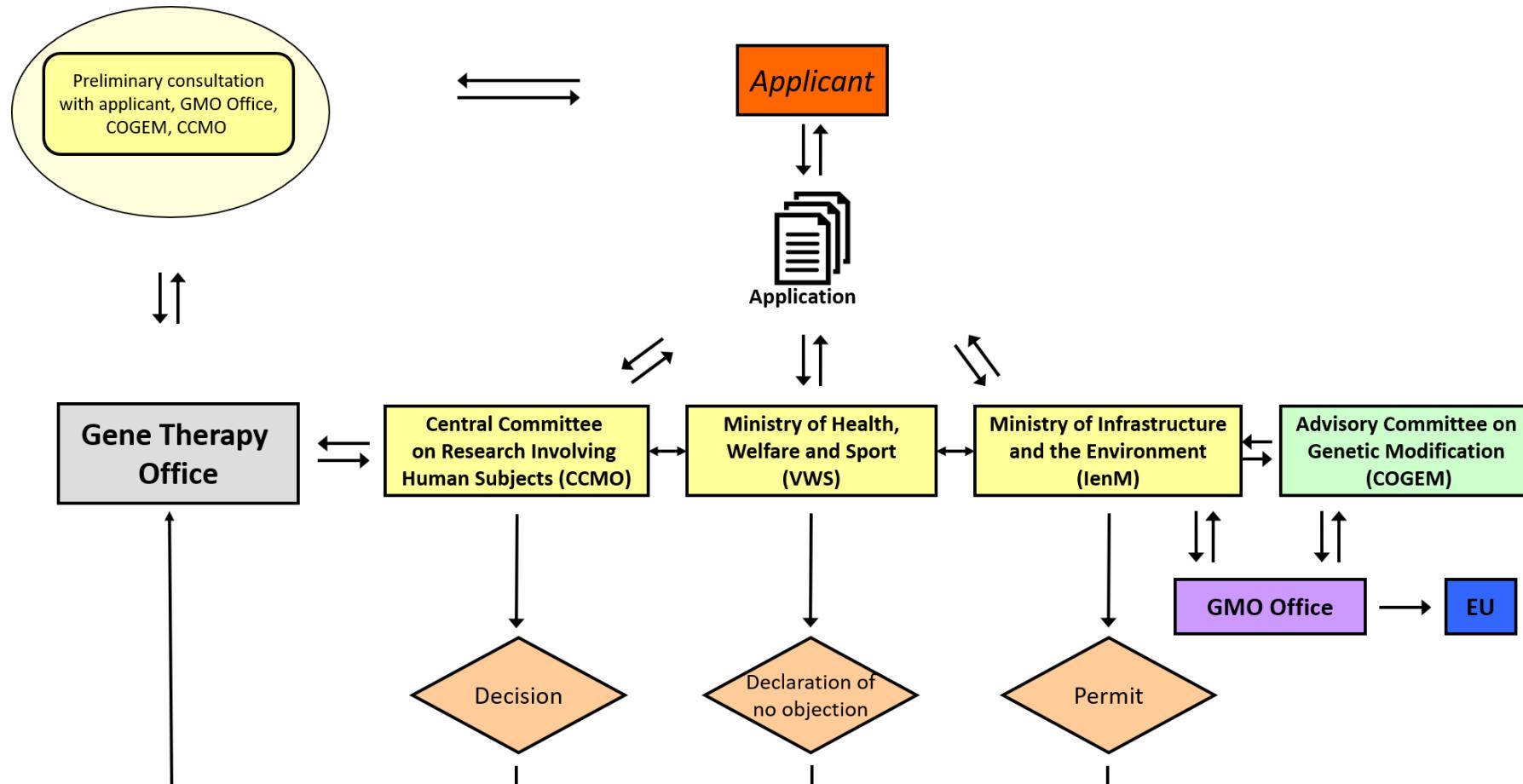
# Gene Therapy Office

Aim:

- Provide information: <https://loketgentherapie.nl/>
- Preliminary consultation (Vooroverleg)
- Contact point for questions
- Streamline assessment procedures



# Gene Therapy Office

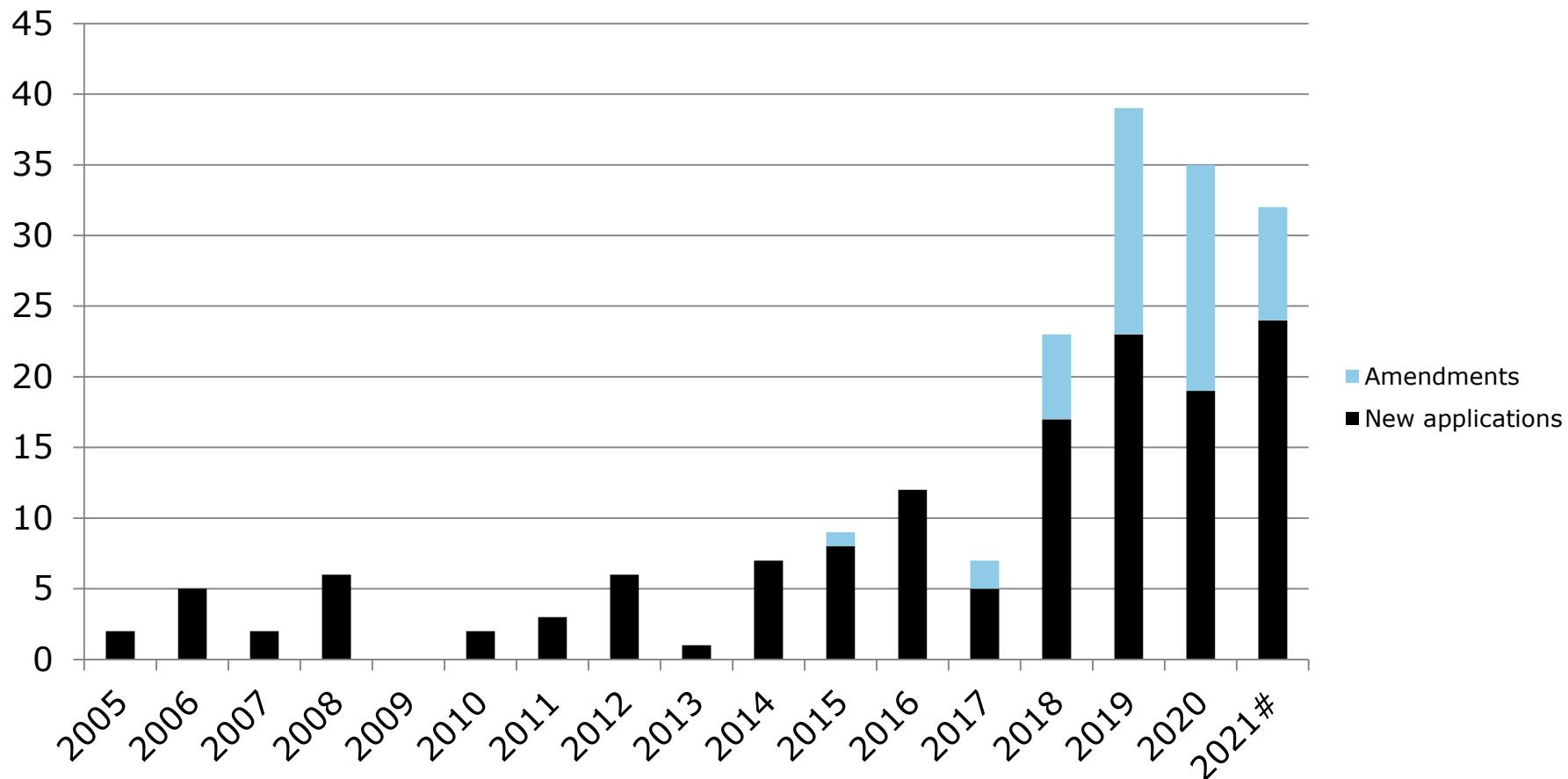




## 2. Update GMO Office



## Applications for gene therapy permits at GMO Office 2005 – 2021\*



\*excluding  
retracted  
applications



## Applications for gene therapy permits at GMO Office 2015 – 2021:

- **AAV**
- **CAR T cells/*ex vivo* transduced cells (Lenti, Retro)**
- GM bacteria
- GM parasites
- GM viruses

2015-2021: AAV + *ex vivo* transduced cells=   
 >70% of all applications



## New options to implement streamlined GMO licensing practice

- Interplay between the GMO legislation and the legislation on medicinal products
- National simplified procedures for
  - special categories (e.g. AAV & gm-cells)
  - identical (copy) applications
- Permits with broad scope



## Interplay between the GMO legislation and the legislation on medicinal products

-DG SANTE, EMA, EFSA, 25 Member States



- Pragmatic Approach
- Harmonization
- Within the existing legal EU frameworks



## Interplay between the GMO legislation and the legislation on medicinal products

Topics include:

- streamlining environmental risk assessments
  - AAV
  - ex vivo transduced cells (LV/RV/AAV/Gene edited)
- streamlining application form(s)
  - AAV
  - ex vivo transduced cells (LV/RV/AAV/Gene edited)
  - viral vectors



# Changes in national GMO regulatory framework

New situation:



- New and/or complex applications (max. 120 days)  
(existing procedure)



- Applications for permits with fixed conditions – VoV (new):
  - max. 56 days
  - ambition: max. 28 days when limited to administrative processing only



- Identical copy applications: max. 28 days (new)



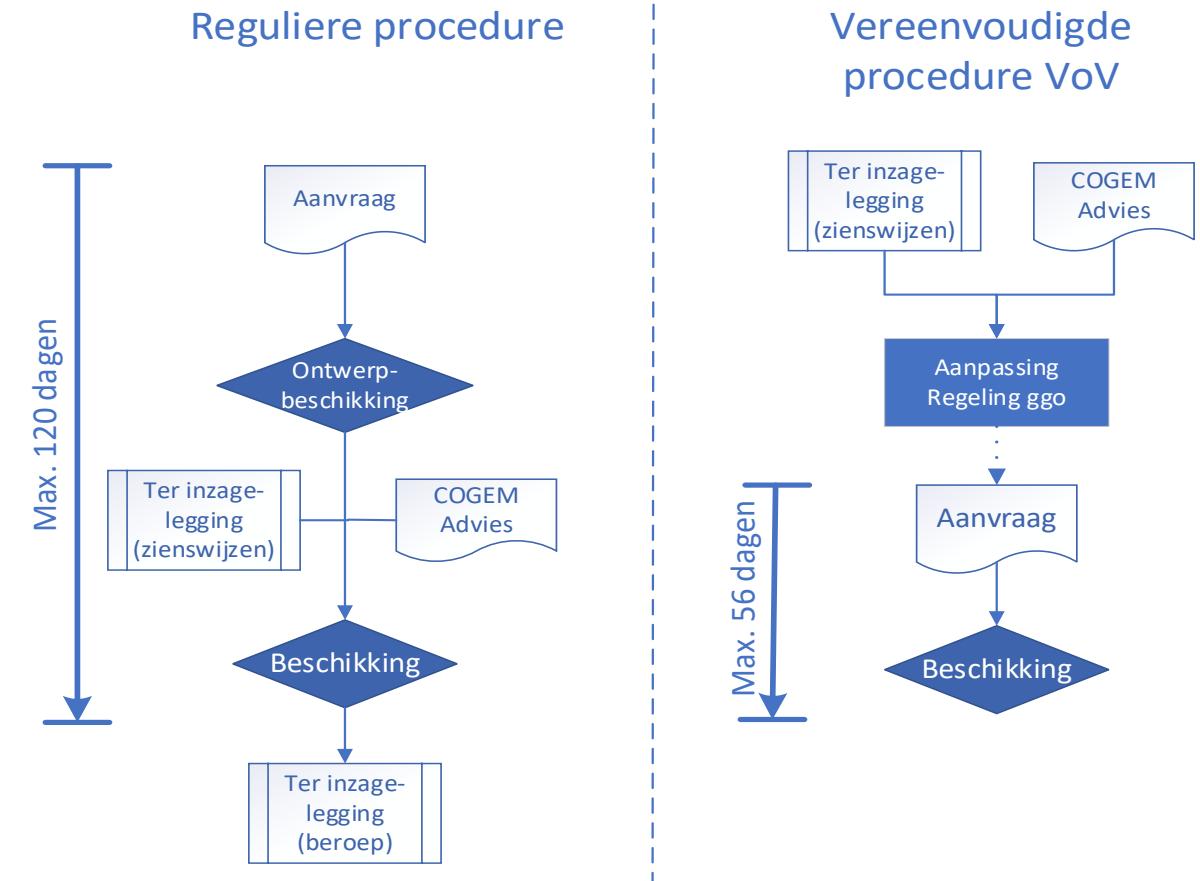
## Rationale for VoV (1)

- GMO regulations are based on case-by-case assessment, unless sufficient knowledge and experience has been gained.
- When sufficient knowledge has been gained:
  - the (outcome of the) environmental risk assessment is known in advance
  - it is known within which preconditions that outcome is valid
  - it is known which regulations must (still) be imposed.



## Rationale for VoV (2)

- If everything is known in advance concerning an application, standardization is possible:
  - standardized environmental RA
  - fixed application requirements
  - fixed licensing requirements
- Repeated public consultation no longer required
- So called 'learning system': new gmo categories can be added in future





## Simplified GMO procedure for AAV and ex vivo transduced cells

- Special categories (for now AAV & certain transduced cells)
- Legal procedure period max 56 days (28 days when administrative)
- 'Permits under special regulation' in Dutch Regeling ggo:
  - Art. 39: Definition of special category
    - > E.g. GM AAV without harmful sequences
  - Art. 40: Information requirements
    - > E.g. the purpose of the application
    - > E.g. a description of the GM AAV and the modifications made therein
    - > E.g. data on the absence of infectious helper virus
  - Art. 41: Binding provisions
    - > E.g. Measures to prevent admixture and spread of GM AAV
    - > E.g. Measures concerning storage, transport and waste processing
  - Standardized environmental risk assessment (published separately)



## Fast track procedure for identical copy applications

- New fast procedure for copy requests (art. 3.10a):
  - administrative processing in a maximum of 28 days
  - no public consultation
- Conditions:
  - Only applies to identical copy requests!
  - Permit on original application formally issued
  - Limited data requirements:
    - > Only enter data related to your own organization (name + address)
    - > Content data of original application copy&paste in own form
    - > SNIF



## Broadly defined GMO applications

- GMO applications for broadly defined categories of GMOs
  - E.g. AAV clinical vectors with a non-harmful insert to treat and/or prevent disease using the generic ERA on AAV
- After permit is issued:
  - Effectively 0 waiting days for studies within scope of permit
  - Notifications in advance on specific GMO clinical study no longer required
  - Reporting on GMO activities only in legally required annual reports



### 3. Update CCMO



## EU Clinical Trial Regulation (CTR) - 31 January 2022

- ECTR will replace the existing Clinical Trials Directive 2001/20/EC (and **not** Dir. 2001/18/EC)
- Purpose of the ECTR:
  - To simplify and accelerate clinical trials within the EU in order to make new treatment options available sooner
  - To keep the EU attractive for sponsors of clinical trials
- ECTR will harmonise the registration, assessment and supervision processes for clinical trials throughout the EU via CTIS.
  - Clinical Trials Information System (CTIS) will be the centralised (single) EU portal and database for clinical trial applications.
- Transition period of three years: During the 1<sup>st</sup> year sponsors may choose to submit a clinical trial application according to current legislation, or according to the CTR via CTIS



## How? What's new?

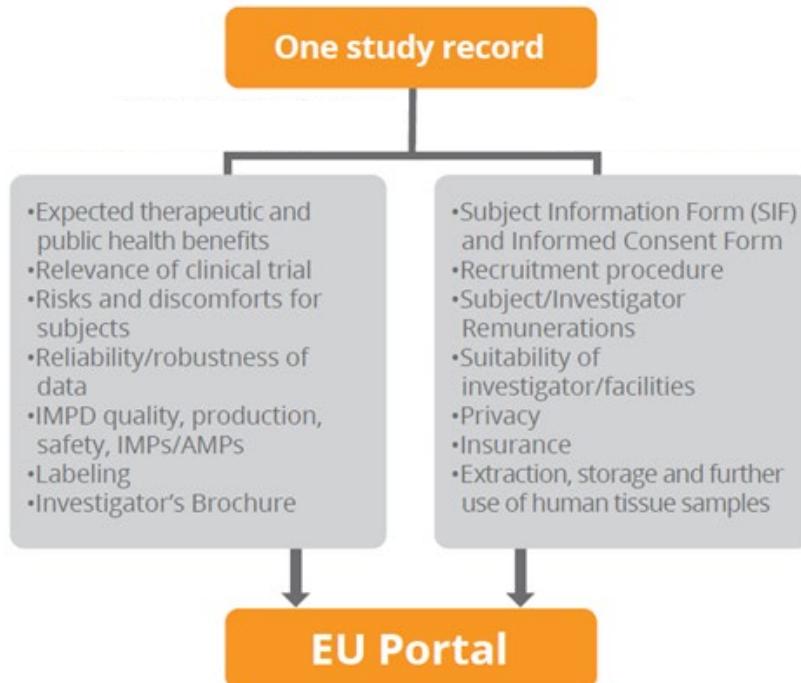
- Central (single) EU portal for submissions and notifications (Clinical Trials Information System – CTIS)
- One application dossier (central part I and national part II)
- Maximum (mostly fatal) timelines for member states (MS) and sponsors
- Central coordinated assessment by reporting MS for multinational trials
- Less stringent rules for low-intervention clinical trials
- Public disclosure clinical trial information CTIS (except personal and commercial confidential information, confidential information between MSs)



# EU-portal CTIS

## Part I - Central

Joint assessment by concerned member states (MSC) and one reporting member state (RMS)



## Maximum timelines for member states (MS)\* and sponsors

\*in case of an CT with an ATMP the RMS may extend the assessment period by 50 days for the purpose of consulting with experts



## Part II - National

Separate assessment by each member state

## Afbeelding uit DCRF brochure



## More information CTR

- EMA:
  - [CTIS sponsor handbook](#)
  - [Online modular training program CTIS](#)
  - [Information events on CTIS](#)
  - Newsletter [CTIS highlights](#) with news on development CTIS
- European Commission: [Q&A document](#) with FAQ's about CTR
- CCMO: will soon publish specific information for investigators on the procedures for a clinical trial application under the CTR on CCMO website
- DCRF:
  - Brochure: [The CTR in a nutshell](#)
  - DCRF Academie: [ECTR e-learning](#)





## 4. Evaluation Gene Therapy Office



## Update Gene Therapy Office

- Survey on Gene Therapy Office





## Survey Gene Therapy Office

Goal of survey:

- Retrospective over last 5 years
- How to deal best with new developments (regulatory changes)

Main findings:

- Approachable, thoughtful, friendly and proactive
- Appreciation as information and contact point
- Organizer and access point for informal preliminary consultations

But also:

- Need for more and better pro-active communication on (regulatory) changes
- Website needs improvements

