In 2006, the Portuguese Society of Rheumatology Board, decided to establish a national registry of rheumatic diseases.

The main goals were to identify and increase the knowledge about patients, diseases and therapies, to standardize the follow-up of rheumatic patients, to assess cost-effectiveness of biologics therapies, to stimulate national collaborations, to foster research and increase participation in international research projects, to improve the quality of care of rheumatic patients.

The platform development was started in 2006 and the registry launch in 2008.

After 9 years, the register includes 16,808 patients, 129,228 appointments, from 79 public and private rheumatology (and pediatrics) centers.

In this talk we will discuss the challenges and opportunities of building a register from scratch, develop it, keep it sustainable, the human, technical and financial resources needed, the association to a biobank and the promotion of research and collaborations.