How can medical research ethics committees further contribute to maintaining the EU as an attractive and competitive region for conducting scientific and ethically sound clinical trials?

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- Ethics committees help ensure the high quality of trials conducted within Member States
- Ethics committees help maintain public trust in research, help ensure that trial participation from a patient perspective is attractive, and help ensure that researchers and sponsors will be able to recruit relevant trial populations
- There are some ethical challenges associated with the continued advances in scientific approaches, study design and technologies, as well as exceptional circumstances such as public health emergencies. Ethics committees have an important role in ensuring that these challenges are addressed, so that ambitious trials can be run and are found to be welcome, even under difficult circumstances
- Under the Clinical Trials Regulation have increased opportunities to ensure harmonisation, wherever this is possible, as well as opportunities for collaboration and cooperation between Member State ethics committees. The Commission can help facilitate this process, through shared platforms and by making sure ethics committees have an active role in forums where Regulation procedures and best practice are discussed
- For all trials, the rights, safety, dignity and well-being of subjects must be protected and prevail over all other interests, and they must be designed to generate reliable and robust data (CTR Article 3)

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