

EIT Health

Together, for healthy lives in Europe

Who we are

EIT Health is one of Europe's largest and most dynamic health innovation communities, dedicated to improving the lives of citizens and patients across the continent. As a Knowledge and Innovation Community (KIC) of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), we form part of the EU's flagship initiative to boost innovation, competitiveness, and sustainable economic growth.

The wider EIT was founded to replicate the ambition of world-leading innovation ecosystems like the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), and its role is to bring together businesses, universities, research organisations, healthcare providers, and entrepreneurs to solve Europe's most pressing societal challenges. EIT Health is the health-focused KIC within this portfolio. We are funded under the Horizon Europe Framework (FP9) and draw strength from a broad partnership of more than 80 members across the continent.

Our mission is bold and clear: to improve health outcomes, strengthen healthcare systems, and support Europe's competitiveness and sustainability. We do this by convening the actors who can make change happen, industry leaders, academic experts, health professionals, educators, entrepreneurs, and policymakers, and empowering them to co-create meaningful, evidence-based solutions.

Europe is facing significant health challenges: an ageing population, a rapid rise in chronic diseases, profound workforce shortages, increasingly constrained budgets, and healthcare systems under pressure as they seek to shift from treatment to prevention. In this environment, innovation is not optional, it is essential. EIT Health exists to ensure that Europe remains at the forefront of health innovation and that new ideas reach patients faster.

Across our network, we are a catalyst for innovation, enabling creative thinking, cross-border collaboration, and practical solutions that have real-world impact.

What We Do

EIT Health delivers impact through a balanced and integrated portfolio of activities spanning education, innovation, and business creation. These domains reinforce one another, accelerating the development and adoption of health innovations

while creating the skilled workforce and entrepreneurial ecosystem needed to sustain progress.

1. Innovation: turning ideas into impactful solutions

Innovation is at the heart of EIT Health's mission. We initiate, fund, and accelerate multi-stakeholder projects that address unmet health needs. The process typically begins with identifying a system problem or gap, clinical, operational, or patient-centred. We then bring together the right combination of partners to co-create a solution.

Our approach is unique in scale and structure. By convening leading universities, hospitals, research institutes, large companies, SMEs, and patients, we assemble diverse expertise capable of developing solutions that are scientifically sound, clinically relevant, commercially viable, and implementable at scale.

Innovation projects supported by EIT Health span medical technologies, digital health, diagnostics, therapeutics, data-driven care, prevention, and service redesign. Many projects focus on major public health challenges such as cardiovascular disease, cancer, neurodegenerative conditions, mental health, and healthy ageing.

Through our support, solutions move more quickly from concept to prototype, from prototype to validation, and ultimately to patients and markets across Europe.

2. Education: preparing the next generation of health innovators

Europe needs a workforce that is digitally confident, entrepreneurially minded, and prepared to address tomorrow's challenges. EIT Health invests significantly in education because we recognise that innovation depends on people as much as on technology.

Our education portfolio ranges from professional development courses and clinical training to international Master's programmes, digital bootcamps, and online learning. Together, these initiatives bridge the gap between academia and industry, equipping learners with practical, future-focused skills in areas such as digital health, AI, entrepreneurship, value-based healthcare, and system transformation.

The goal is to empower students, clinicians, policymakers, and professionals to understand unmet needs, apply innovative methodologies, and lead change across health systems.

3. Business Creation: supporting entrepreneurs and growing Europe's health economy

Start-ups and SMEs play a crucial role in bringing new health technologies and services to patients. EIT Health nurtures this entrepreneurial pipeline by offering one of Europe's most comprehensive health innovation acceleration portfolios.

Entrepreneurs can access tailored support for every stage of their journey. From validation of early concepts, to navigating regulatory pathways, attracting investment, and scaling across borders. We connect start-ups with experts, investors, test beds, and clinical environments through our pan-European network.

By reducing risk and shortening time-to-market, EIT Health helps high-potential ventures grow and succeed. The impact is tangible: thousands of start-ups supported, billions in investment attracted, and hundreds of products launched that are now benefitting citizens across Europe.

How We Do It

EIT Health activates a unique, Europe-wide ecosystem. Our regional footprint and partnerships across member countries enable us to operate both locally and internationally. This distributed structure ensures that innovation is informed by local insights and needs but backed by the full strength of a pan-European network.

This approach allows innovations to move seamlessly from discovery to real-world impact.

Delivering Measurable Impact

EIT Health's work delivers results. Based on validated 2016 - 2024 data, we have:

- Supported 3,370 start-ups and scale-ups
- Attracted €2.4 billion in investment into EIT Health-supported ventures
- Launched 135 new healthcare products and services to market
- Delivered solutions that have benefitted more than 780,000 patients
- Trained over 70,000 students and professionals.
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These achievements demonstrate the breadth of our impact and our central role in shaping Europe's health innovation landscape.