

# Digital Health

Spring 2025

UNIVERSIDAD POLITÉCNICA DE MADRID



# # 12 Health accelerators, think tanks, sand boxes in digital health

## Agenda

- Questions?
- Learning objectives: Discipline literacy, critical analysis skills, applied and integrative learning, ethical reasoning, global or civic engagement
- Icebreaker: Once you finish your degree, what kind of organization do you want to work for?
- Guest lecture
- Definitions and discussion
- Next session: Wellness, nutrition, weight loss, fitness

# Advancing Digital Health

- Globally, government policy makers, investors, academics and entrepreneurs recognize the potential of digital health to improve health and well-being, to save costs and to generate revenues and profit. They want to explore new ideas, invest in start-ups and support innovations.



- Health accelerators, think tanks, sand boxes and other global organizations vary in structure, non-profit status, size, location, mission and strategy but the following examples are all trying to advance the health and well-being of the population, and many through digital technology.

# Health Accelerator (or Incubator)

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- Definition: An accelerator serves as a short-term incubator for startups to build innovative new businesses.
- Accelerators help startups in health and medicine, especially digital technology.



# Health Accelerator: Activities



## Scientific advice

From the launch to the implementation of the project



## Investors

We help find investors and have our own capital for seed phases.



## Partners

We advise on how to deal with with the new partners.



## Management

How to manage the new company efficiently and professionally.



## Operations

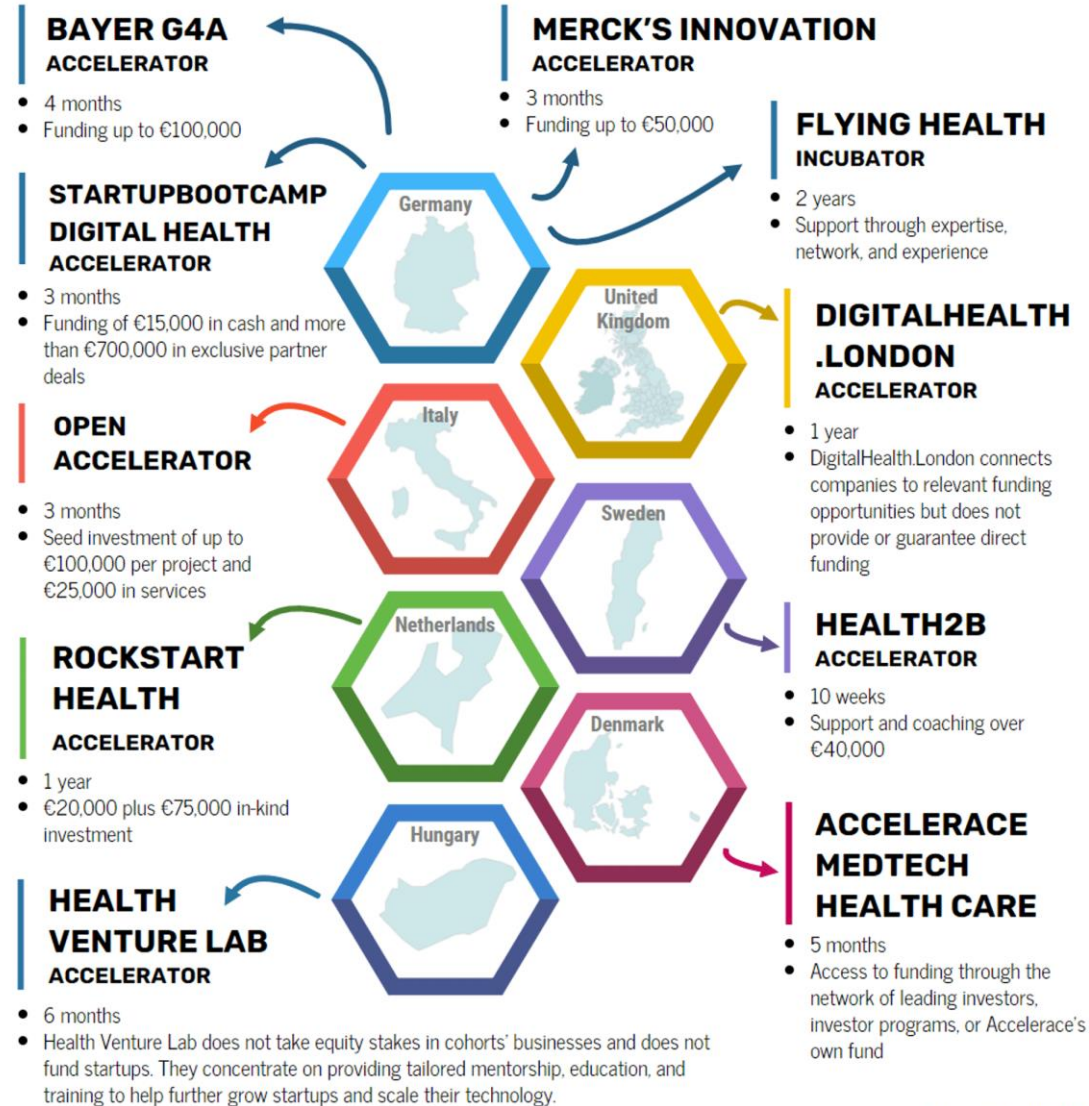
We have specialists in intellectual property, legal and financial advice.



## Facilities

We offer our own facilities: offices and access to laboratory.

# Top 10 Health Tech Incubators and Accelerators in Europe





# Spain's Top 12 Startup Accelerators You Should Know [2025]



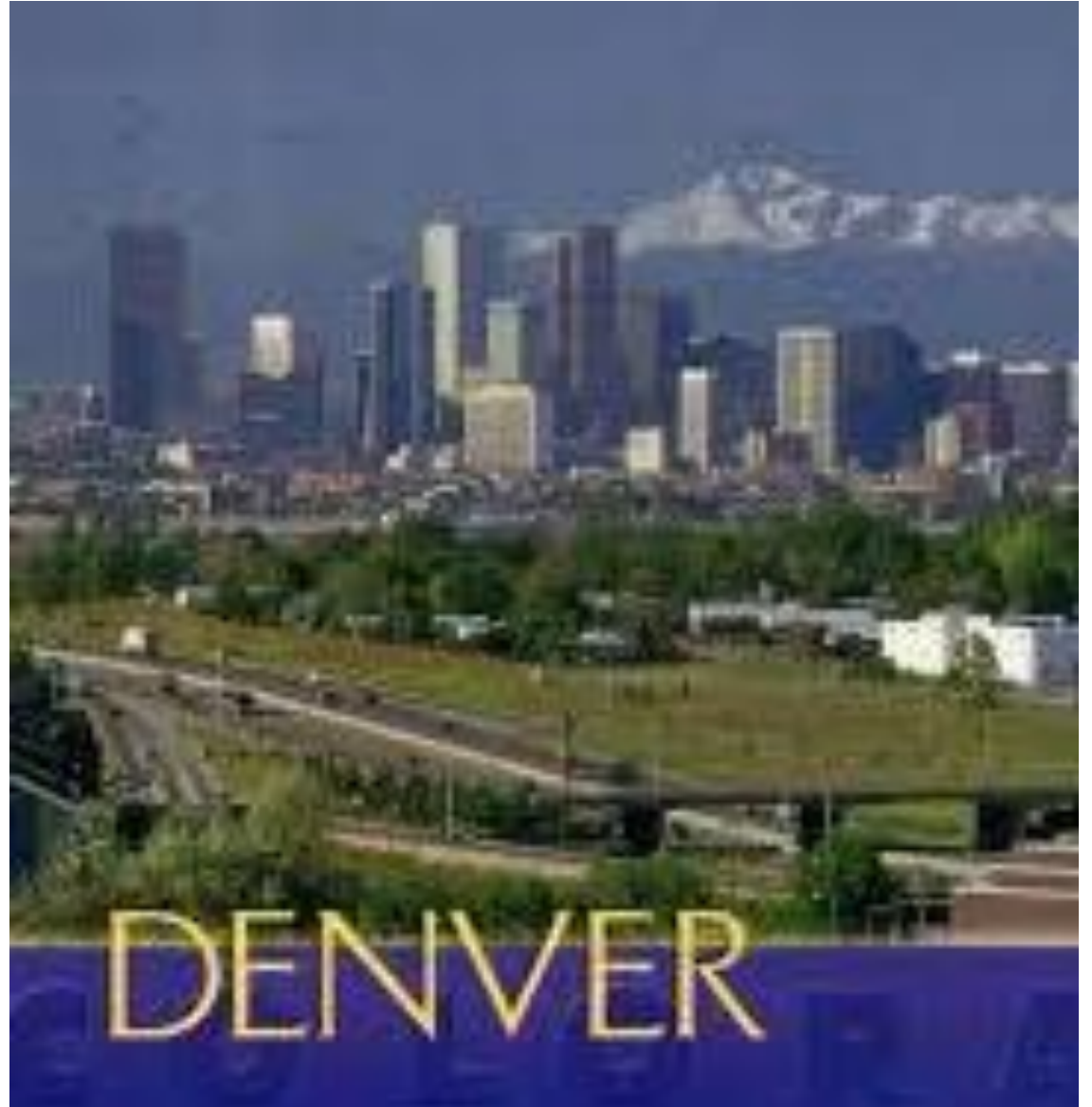
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# Health Accelerator

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- In my city of Denver, Colorado, USA
- PrimeHealth: Fostering health to improve the health of those in underserved communities
- <https://www.primehealthco.com/>
- Annual innovation challenge where winners receive funding and establish partners





# Health Accelerator in Denver, Colorado, USA

- Catalyst: Healthcare-focused innovative space
- <http://www.catalysthealthtech.com/>



# Health Accelerator: Baselaunch, Basel, Switzerland



Up to \$500,000  
in financing



Access to our partners,  
global biopharma &  
investors



Company & team  
build out



Access to labs &  
related infrastructure  
where needed

# Health Accelerator



- Since 2018, this Swiss group, operated by BaselArea.swiss, incubates and accelerates therapeutics
- Supported and launched **24** biotech ventures to date
- <https://baselaunch.ch/>

# Think Tank Definition (Public Policy Institute)

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- Organization which performs research and advocacy concerning topics, for example, health care, economics or social concerns.
- Goal is to influence local, national or global policy.
- Funded by individual donations or government grants.





# Think Tank (Research Institute)



- Instituto de Salud Global
- ISGlobal – Barcelona Institute for Global Health
- Sign up for their newsletter.
- Watch: <https://www.isglobal.org/en/quienes-somos> (scroll down the page)
- [Who We Are - ISGLOBAL](#)
- Career opportunities - <https://www.isglobal.org/en/job-opportunities>



What We Do Think Tank

# Think Tank



# EIT Health Think Tank

## **Optimising Innovation Pathways:** Future Proofing for Success



Spain Round Table Meeting

# Think Tank



- This New York City fund supports health care practices and was founded by a female philanthropist.
- Their goal is to improve access, quality and efficiency of health care practices, particularly for women, uninsured and people of color.
- Commonwealth Fund
- <https://www.commonwealthfund.org/about-us>

# Commonwealth Fund

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- Reports:
- International Health
- Delivery System, Health Equity
- Coverage and Access
- Costs and Spending



# Sand Box Definition

- An environment that isolates new ideas, untested programming code or experimentation separate from the operating or production environment.
- This allows “creating and playing” with new concepts without interfering with day-to-day operations.



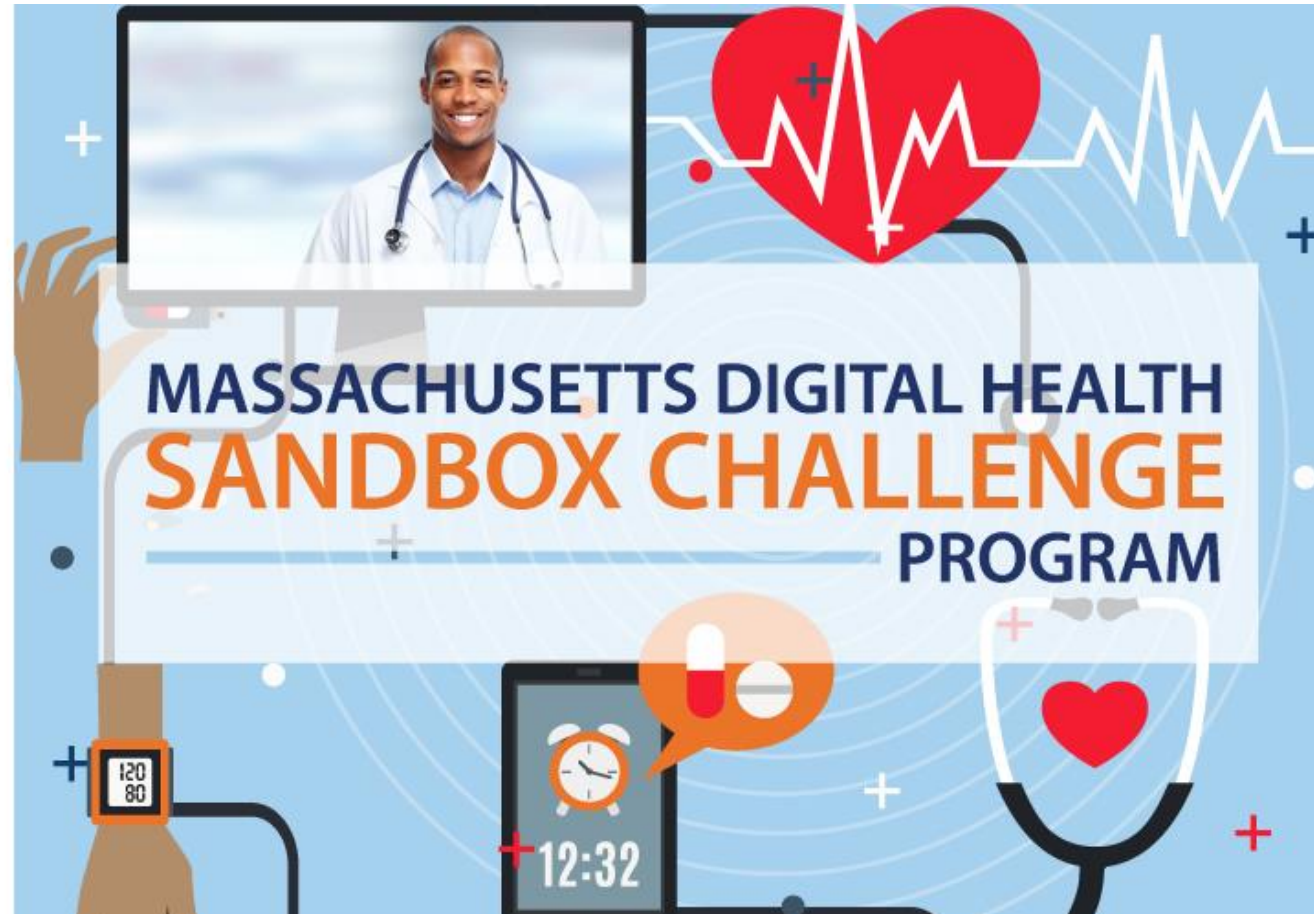
# Sand Box



- MD Clone
  - Headquartered in BeerSheba, Israel with offices in the USA, Canada, and Europe
  - Self-service data analytics environment powering healthcare data exploration, discovery and collaboration
- 
- <https://www.prnewswire.com/il/news-releases/mdclone-to-showcase-worlds-first-healthcare-data-sandbox-powered-by-groundbreaking-synthetic-data-engine-at-himss19-300789835.html>



# MassDigitalHealth Sandbox





# Sand Box



- Sandbox sponsored by the state of Massachusetts, U.S.A.
  - Testing ground for product development and validation
  - Connects based startups to cutting-edge research and development (R&D) facilities
- <https://massdigitalhealth.org/>
- Check out their jobs board <https://jobs.massdigitalhealth.org/>

# Why Massachusetts



## Digital Health leverages industries and capabilities in which Massachusetts excels

- Leaders in US health reform
- Top healthcare delivery hub
- Dominant Talent Pool and University Networks
- Strong startup climate
- #1 global life sciences and medical device ecosystem
- Competitive investment/VC landscape
- Growing tech clusters in software, big data, robotics, cybersecurity, and other areas



# Global digital health organizations

Individuals, companies, universities, governments, and corporations trying to advance the use of digital technology in health and wellness for the good of society.

Work on shared issues, for example, patient engagement, interoperability

# World Health Organization

The Global Initiative on Digital Health (GIDH) is a WHO Managed Network of organizations, institutions and government technical agencies actively engaged in supporting national digital health transformation.



Forum to share best practices and innovations....

117 countries, 3900 members



# Resources: Global Digital Health Monitor

## State of Digital Health around the world today

The Global Digital Health Monitor (GDHM) is an interactive web-based resource that aims to track, monitor, and assess the enabling environment for digital health throughout the world.

Search Country

Search by country name



Indicator

Overall



Phase

All



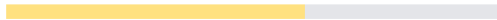
OVERALL

Phase 3



LEGISLATION, POLICY, & COMPLIANCE

Phase 3



INFRASTRUCTURE

Phase 4



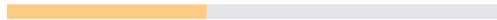
LEADERSHIP & GOVERNANCE

Phase 4



WORKFORCE

Phase 2



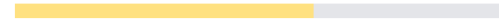
SERVICES & APPLICATIONS

Phase 3



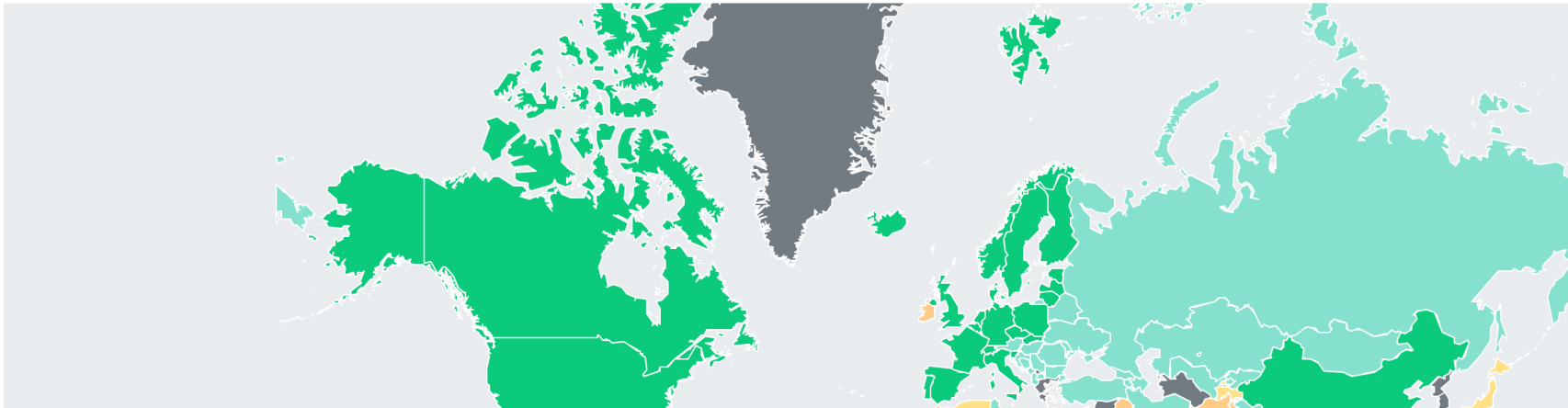
STRATEGY & INVESTMENT

Phase 3



STANDARDS & INTEROPERABILITY

Phase 3





# European Health and Digital Executive Agency

[https://health.ec.europa.eu/funding/eu4health-programme-2021-2027-vision-healthier-european-union\\_en](https://health.ec.europa.eu/funding/eu4health-programme-2021-2027-vision-healthier-european-union_en)

- Formed in April 2021, based in Brussels
- Check out all their programs and funding on their home page, especially EU4Health – a vision for a healthier European Union



## European Commission

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## Public Health

[Home](#) > [eHealth : Digital health and care](#) > Digital health and care

# Digital health and care

### PAGE CONTENTS

What is digital health (eHealth)?

Current state of digital health in  
the EU

## What is digital health (eHealth)?

Digital health is a set of tools and services that use information and communication technologies (ICTs) to support and improve all stages of healthcare, from prevention and diagnosis to treatment, monitoring, and

# Advancing Digital Health Discussion Questions

- What is the importance of these organizations and associations?
- How can these organizations advance the health and well-being of global populations using digital technologies?
- Ideas for other groups?

## Next session

- Wellness, nutrition, weight loss, fitness
- Reminder:
- May 12 : Activity, surveys, discuss final exam, pizza celebration.
- May 19: Final exam on Moodle