EIT Health – the European health and innovation initiative that lets you grow
Who we are

A European health initiative for personal opportunities and economic growth

EIT Health is one of the largest healthcare initiatives worldwide. Its goal is to improve the sustainability of healthcare systems, promote healthy living and active ageing and enhance the overall wellbeing of people across Europe. EIT Health is leveraging the expertise of more than 140 leading organisations spanning key areas of healthcare including pharma, med tech, ICT, imaging and diagnostics, and consumer products. EIT Health benefits from some of the world’s leading academic and research organisations, as well as healthcare providers, public authorities and municipalities.

EIT health will purposefully invest in Europe’s brightest entrepreneurial and creative minds to foster the development and commercialisation of smart products and service solutions in the health sector, addressing the challenges resulting from demographic change and ageing societies.
EIT Health promotes better, longer lives

EIT Health will promote entrepreneurship and develop innovations in healthy living and active ageing, providing Europe with new opportunities and resources. We are guided by the understanding that societal challenges can only be addressed if people and their knowledge are fully leveraged across all health related sectors and new ideas are rapidly turned into solutions and services. The three societal challenges identified cover the whole life course and each focuses on two high priority areas for the promotion of health and wellbeing for European citizens.

A cross-sector, pan-European approach to improve European citizens’ lifes:

**Promote Healthy Living**
- Self-management of health
- Lifestyle interventions

**Support Active Ageing**
- Workplace interventions
- Overcoming functional loss

**Improve Healthcare**
- Improving healthcare systems
- Treating and managing chronic diseases
An integrated innovation pathway for results-driven projects

EIT Health employs an integrated innovation pathway with three tools that catalyse innovation and implementation, and will systematically eliminate innovation barriers. The “Projects” promoted by EIT Health are based on multidisciplinary collaboration; the Accelerator programme endeavours to transform the innovation process by offering support and services to access relevant markets and to increase the commercialisation of European research outcomes. Knowledge transfer will be ensured through the EIT Health Campus, which offers entrepreneurial, business- and application-oriented short and intensive courses as well as MSc and PhD programmes.

EIT Health has defined three types of projects:

- “Innovation by ideas” are collaborative projects selected in annual competitive bids. They are “solution-driven”, meaning a potential solution has been identified that either capitalises on an opportunity or addresses a specific problem presented by demographic ageing of the population.
- “Innovation by design” are collaborative projects that are “needs-driven”. They start from a recognised market need or societal problem.
- “Head starts” offer fast-track project opportunities with a focus on small and medium-size enterprises (SMEs) and start-ups. They are funded to rapidly initiate activities with the goal of shortening time-to-market for innovative products and services.
What’s in it for you?

EIT Health offers a wealth of opportunities to benefit from technological or business expertise as well as from a multi-faceted infrastructure of test environments in world leading organisations. The initiative moreover provides financial support to fast-track the development and commercialisation of innovative product and service solutions targeted at the challenges associated with demographic change and ageing societies.

For students
An important objective of EIT Health is to strengthen entrepreneurial know-how in training courses at universities and to promote application-oriented education. With the EIT Health Campus, we will provide a range of short intensive courses, full MSc and PhD programmes, executive education and outreach.

For businesses
EIT Health has a lot to offer to businesses of all sizes. The EIT Health Accelerator programme offers a wide range of support and services for companies to accelerate their innovation process, obtain access to research capacities and significant resources such as living labs and test beds, and facilitate new market entry. The EIT Health Accelerator also provides the opportunity, especially for SMEs and start-ups, of obtaining funding for promising projects to fast-track innovation.

For researchers
EIT Health will offer, through worldwide leading research organisations and universities, state-of-the-art research which will be the foundation of tomorrow’s innovation. Partners will have the opportunity to extend their field of expertise by creating multidisciplinary and inter-sector partnerships to develop their ideas into products or services. Innovation built from this research will be transformed, thanks to EIT Health, into benefits for the whole European population.

For public authorities and policymakers
The living environment is a crucial factor for a healthy life. To create a better living environment that positively impacts upon people’s health, integrated interventions are needed. Municipalities, local and regional authorities play an important role in enhancing quality of life through the services they provide. EIT Health engages these stakeholders to influence people’s lives by sharing and scaling up good practice, exchanging ideas with European health professionals across sectors, and helping to implement state-of-the-art research for informed decisions and evidence-based policies. EIT Health also aims to nurture economic environments and create jobs which impact upon the population’s wellbeing.
A truly European network

The regional structure of EIT Health extends across Europe. With its headquarters in Munich (Germany) EIT Health will establish six co-location centres in London (UK/Ireland), Stockholm (Scandinavia), Barcelona (Spain), Paris (France), Heidelberg (Germany) and Rotterdam (Benelux) which are expected to become operational by October 2015. All six co-location centres are defined by the EU Innovation Scorecard as high innovation performers and all locations provide shared physical space, with access to laboratories, test beds, offices and seminar rooms that will promote close cooperation.

With the twin goals of leveraging diversity and the potential of emerging innovation clusters, EIT Health has added the EIT Health InnoStars to its network. These regional clusters consist of industry partners, academia, and health providers linked to eight regions in six countries – Croatia, Hungary, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia, and Wales.
As part of its commitment to education, EIT Health has hosted its first Summer School, where students transform creative ideas stemming from their research into products, services and policies for advancing health and for economic, social and cultural benefit. The programme combines theoretical and practice-based learning, using real industry projects from the medical, health and technology sectors.

Participants work in an inspiring and transformative learning environment that is designed around the practical and transferable skills necessary for successful innovation. Students learn about active and healthy ageing, industry challenges and opportunities, the art of idea creation, the language of business and the basis of entrepreneurship, as well as business plan development, including project management and entrepreneurial financing.

Successful entrepreneurs and venture capitalists participate as guest speakers, sharing their experiences, while a coach works with participants on pitching their innovative ideas. A selected set of participants’ business plans are presented to and reviewed by an expert audience.

Entrepreneurial scientists, researchers, PhD students, postdoctoral fellows, and innovators are invited to the EIT Health Summer School. In 2015, selected students participated in two sessions: the first at Trinity College Dublin (6-10 July 2015) and the second at IESE Business School Barcelona (27 – 31 July 2015).

www.eithealth.eu/summerschool
How to engage

Ideas are welcome for success

EIT Health offers all partners a network with an exceptional breadth and coverage to bring ideas to life and turn them into economic success. We encourage you to reflect on how to best use the unique platform of EIT Health for your needs, projects and ideas.

For further information on EIT Health please contact your local EIT Health co-location center on our website: www.eithealth.eu/contact-us

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