

## COCIR Feedback

### Roadmap for a European Partnership for Innovative Health (Horizon Europe)

COCIR is glad to provide our feedback to the European Commission's roadmap towards a Partnership for Innovative Health under Horizon Europe<sup>1</sup>. The European Commission has clearly identified the challenges that Europe is facing in the healthcare arena.

The future Partnership could be a unique model for radical collaboration with extensive impact and benefits for all parties involved in the healthcare system. Patients will receive better, more personalised care. Integrated pathways will ease the burden on carers. Healthcare professionals will be able to deliver streamlined care that addresses their patients' real issues. Companies will get access to new innovative solutions from cross-sector collaboration; they will get appropriate rewards for innovation that creates value; and technology will be de-risked. Payers will get better outcomes and better value. The society will benefit from healthier citizens and more effective healthcare systems. Finally, the whole ecosystem – on which all these players depend – will be more effective and sustainable.

This novel Institutional cross-sectorial partnership for health research and innovation should bring together industry players from the entire value chain (large, mid-caps and small companies, including SMEs), the relevant academics, research organisations, regulators, payers, healthcare authorities, healthcare professionals, carers – and patients and citizens at large.

Industry's contribution will be a combination of expertise (spanning the fields of regulation, technology, science, cybersecurity and quality assurance), clinical development programmes, structured high-quality data and data platforms, equipment and prototypes. We applaud especially the increased focus on digitisation of the new partnership as the area where our members can make their strongest contribution. The role of our industry is in providing digital technologies to connect and integrate data sources to turn data into patient centric information.

The combination of different knowhow will enable us to focus on learning healthcare systems predicting real needs; optimising the health journey for patients and de-risking innovation by providing solutions enhancing predictability. Our aim is to break down the silos between the different players, workflows and to accelerate the development of people-centred health care innovations for unmet public health needs.

Delivering on this promise depends on a number of key enabling factors that should be explored during the impact assessment process:

1. **An institutionalized partnership based on Article 187:** the success of this partnership will largely depend on the degree of integration achieved between the different sectors. An institutionalised partnership allows deeper integration and engagement by creating a long-term vision and structure.
2. **A model that encourages diverse in-kind contributions:** In-kind contribution is the condition for collaborative projects where participants provide unique assets and expertise. This contribution is critical to enable a full translation and implementation of a scientific idea into industrial standards and product development cycles. It also ensures that projects are a true collaboration between public and private partners and align well with the real-life issues and needs that will

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<sup>1</sup> [https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/initiatives/ares-2019-4972474\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/initiatives/ares-2019-4972474_en)

ultimately benefit the patients. Specific methodologies should incentivise companies to contribute with assets that are critical to the success and impact of the partnership.

3. **A flexible funding model:** the diversity of sectors involved requires a robust and flexible model where industry can be eligible for funding, including large companies and mid-caps (lower funding rates than for SMEs and academic partners and only if desired by the sector).
4. **Clear synergies with national and regional initiatives:** a European agenda should contribute to alignment with existing initiatives but also drive future prioritisation at national and regional level.

We hope that all EU institutions will fully support this unique opportunity. COCIR has gladly contributed to the on-going discussions and is looking forward to further collaboration with other industry sectors, European Commission, member states and relevant stakeholders.