

European partnerships for health innovation

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COCIR recommendations for Horizon Europe 2028–2034

Europe's competitiveness depends on its ability to turn research excellence into industrial leadership and innovations that improve people's lives. The health technology industry is central to this ambition, bringing investment, expertise and the capacity to develop and scale solutions for patients and healthcare systems. Future European Partnerships should strengthen this contribution by giving industry a meaningful role in shaping priorities and creating predictable conditions for sustained public-private investment in Europe.

Build on the strengths of the Innovative Health Initiative

Future European Partnerships should build on the experience and strengths of initiatives such as the Innovative Health Initiative, while allowing their structure to evolve. Sustained collaboration across industry, research, healthcare providers and patients is essential to pool expertise, support joint investment and translate innovation into better care.

Focus on technologies that improve the whole care pathway

Priorities include medical imaging and image-guided diagnosis and therapy; radiotherapy; digital health and health ICT; AI-enabled diagnostics; personalised medicine; secure, interoperable health-data exchange; connected care; and sustainable medical technologies. These capabilities can support prevention, earlier diagnosis, treatment, monitoring and more efficient healthcare.

Simplify participation and strengthen collaboration

Clear participation rules, shorter timelines and proportionate applications, reporting and audits should make partnerships accessible to a broad range of contributors. Balanced public-private governance, predictable IP arrangements and practical consortium support should enable effective collaboration. SMEs should have supported routes to participation without being expected to organise or lead calls.

Recognise investment and preserve flexibility

Recognise strategic in-kind contributions, including expertise, technologies and infrastructure, through transparent and proportionate valuation. Funding conditions should reflect participant resources, project risks and sector needs. Larger flagship actions can add value, but uniform minimum budgets, rigid quotas or mandatory cash contributions risk restricting participation and limiting the choice of suitable funding mechanisms.

Connect research to uptake and measurable benefits

Plan for clinical evidence, regulatory readiness, standards, reimbursement and procurement from the outset. Link collaborative research and validation to downstream European, national and regional investment in deployment, infrastructure and skills. Improve reuse of project results and cooperation between partnerships while avoiding unnecessary administrative complexity. Success should be assessed through benefits for patients and health systems, innovation uptake and European competitiveness.