

## EULAR: POTENTIAL EU HEALTH RESEARCH AND INNOVATION FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The following provides an overview of EU health research and innovation funding opportunities relevant to EULAR activities, including information on the main funding instruments, sources of funding information, links to open calls and some project examples. Please follow the links below to access more info on:

- [Policy and legislative context](#)
- [Horizon Europe](#)
- [EU4Health](#)
- [Digital Europe Programme](#)

### Policy and legislative context

The prioritisation and allocation of EU Funding through particular funding instruments (e.g. Horizon Europe, EU4Health & Digital Europe Programme) is undertaken in-line with EU policy and legislation. These include:

**European Health Union:** The aim is to build a strong European Health Union, in which all EU countries prepare and respond together to health crises, medical supplies are available, affordable and innovative, and countries work together to improve prevention, treatment and aftercare for diseases such as cancer. Key European Health Union initiatives include:

- [European Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority \(HERA\)](#) aims to:
  - improve EU health security coordination before and during crises
  - bring together the EU Member States, industry and relevant stakeholders
  - develop, produce, procure, stockpile and equitably distribute medical countermeasures
  - reinforce the global health emergency response architecture
- [European Health Data Space](#) aims to:
  - improve healthcare delivery across the EU, by empowering people to control their health data in their home country or in other EU countries
  - offer a consistent, secure, trustworthy and efficient framework for the use of health data. Under strict conditions, researchers, innovators, public institutions or industry will have access to large amounts of high-quality health data, crucial to developing life-saving treatments, vaccines or medical devices
  - foster a genuine single market for digital health services and products
- [The pharmaceutical strategy](#) aims to modernise the regulatory framework and support research and technologies that reach patients. It rests on four pillars:
  - fulfilling unmet medical needs
  - supporting a competitive and innovative European pharmaceutical industry
  - enhancing resilience through diversified supply chains, environmental sustainability, and crisis preparedness
  - promoting high standards for medical products globally

- **Europe's Beating Cancer Plan** includes actions and flagship initiatives covering the entire disease pathway:
  - prevention
  - early detection
  - diagnosis and treatment
  - quality of life for cancer patients and survivors

**Additional policy initiatives of relevance include:**

- **Healthier together – non-communicable diseases initiative:** The initiative promotes a holistic and coordinated approach to prevention and care. It also supports better knowledge and data, screening and early detection, diagnosis and treatment management, and the improvement of quality of life for patients. It aims to support EU countries in identifying and implementing effective policies and actions to reduce the burden of major NCDs and improve citizens' health and well-being. It includes 5 strands:
  - health determinants
  - cardiovascular diseases
  - diabetes
  - chronic respiratory diseases
  - mental health and neurological disordersAll strands include a health equity dimension, thus supporting the reduction of health inequalities.
- **EU strategic framework on health and safety at work 2021-2027:** It addresses the changing needs in worker's protection brought by the digital and green transitions, new forms of work and the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as traditional occupational safety and health risks, such as risks of accidents at work or exposure to hazardous chemicals.

## Horizon Europe

### About the instrument

Horizon Europe is the European Union's flagship Research and Innovation programme **with a budget of €95,5bn** (including €75,9bn from the Multiannual Financial Framework and €5bn from Next Generation Europe) to spend over a seven-year period (2021-2027).

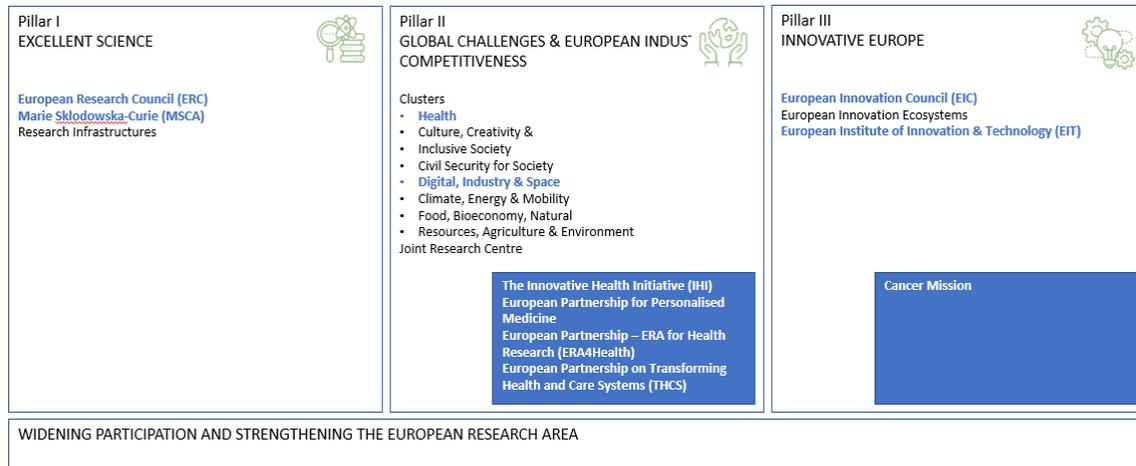
The funding programme facilitates collaboration and strengthens the impact of research and innovation in developing, supporting, and implementing EU policies while tackling global challenges. It boosts creating and better dispersing of excellent knowledge and technologies.

The Horizon Europe programme structure is divided into three Pillars. Each Horizon Europe Pillar defines the different types of missions, topics and projects that will be funded.

- **Pillar I:** Excellent Science focuses on encouraging and funding frontier research, and includes the European Research Council (ERC) and Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)
- **Pillar II:** Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness develop a shared vision and support the uptake of innovative solutions in industry and

society, and includes the Health and Digital, Industry and Space Clusters, as well as the Joint Research Centre (JRC).

- **Pillar III:** Innovative Europe aims at funding research to produce European innovations, and includes the European Innovation Council (EIC) and European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT))



## More information

[How to participate \(europa.eu\)](https://eular.europa.eu)

Outlines the process and key steps for participation.

[Search for Horizon Europe Funding opportunities](#)

You can filter the list by forthcoming, open for submission and closed programme calls.

[Search for Partners](#)

You can search for partners by criteria including programme / topic, location, organisation and person profile.

[Search for funded projects](#)

Eg. If you filter Horizon Europe, you will find an interactive knowledge platform where you can access statistics and data, but also see results and R&I success stories.

[Subscribe](#) to the Research and Innovation Newsletter

[Subscribe](#) to the news alerts RSS feed [note: this requires you to download an RSS reader]

## Funding opportunities per pillar

### *Pillar I: Excellent Science*

**European Research Council (ERC):** The ERC's mission is to encourage the highest quality research in Europe through competitive funding and to support investigator-driven frontier research across all fields, based on scientific excellence. With an overall ERC budget from 2021 to 2027 of more than **€16 billion**, the ERC offers 4 main grant schemes: [Starting Grants](#), [Consolidator Grants](#), [Advanced Grants](#) and [Synergy Grants](#).

## More information

ERC grant applications can only be submitted in response to a [Call for Proposals](#). The ERC has yearly calls for proposals covering all scientific fields.

[Search for funded projects](#)

[Consult the 2022 Work Programme](#)

[Consult the 2023 Work Programme](#)

[Stay up to date with ERC's news](#)

**Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA):** With a budget of **€6.6 billion**, MSCA provide grants for all stages of researchers' careers and encourage transnational, intersectoral and interdisciplinary mobility.

#### **More information**

[Search for MSCA funding opportunities](#)

[How to apply as an organisation](#)

[Consult the 2021-2022 MSCA Work Programme](#)

[Subscribe to the MSC newsletter](#)

### ***Pillar II: Global Challenges and Industrial Competitiveness***

**Health Cluster:** With a budget of **€7.7 billion** for the period 2021-2027, the Health Cluster aims to promote health, healthy lifestyle and well-being of all ages, prevent, diagnose, treat and cure disease, and develop health technologies, mitigating health risks and make public health systems more cost-effective, equitable and sustainable. The calls of each work programme are assigned to the six thematic priorities (destinations) defined in the Strategic Plan:

- Staying healthy in a rapidly changing society
- Living and working in a health-promoting environment
- Tackling diseases and reducing disease burden
- Ensuring access to innovative, sustainable and high-quality health care
- Unlocking the full potential of new tools, technologies and digital solutions for a healthy society
- Maintaining an innovative, sustainable and globally competitive health-related industry

#### **More information**

[Search for Funding and Tender opportunities](#)

[Search for funded projects](#)

[Consult the 2021-2022 Work Programme](#)

[Consult the draft 2023 – 2024 Work Programme](#)

[Search for events and other news](#)

**The Innovative Health Initiative (IHI):** With a budget of **€2.4 billion** for the period 2022-2027, the IHI aims to create EU-wide health research and innovation ecosystem, foster the development of safe, effective, people-centred and cost-effective innovations, drive cross-sectoral health innovation for a globally competitive European health industry.

IHI builds on the Innovative Medicine Initiative (IMI) Programme, but extends its focus to support cross-sectoral projects involving the biopharmaceutical, biotechnology and medical technology sectors, including companies active in the digital area. The industry members are COCIR, EFPIA (including Vaccines Europe), EuropaBio and MedTech Europe. In addition, organisations that want to support specific areas of research without becoming full members of IHI can apply to become 'contributing partners' (similar to the Associated Partners in IMI). The EU will provide 50 % of the funding for IHI, and the industry members will contribute the other 50%, primarily through 'in-kind' contributions.

**More information**[IHI Website](#)[IHI current opportunities](#)[IHI future opportunities](#)[Consult the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda](#)[Search for IHI news and other events](#)[Subscribe to the IHI newsletter](#)

**European Partnership for Personalised Medicine:** The partnership aims to coordinate and promote research in the area of personalised medicine between the EU, EU countries and regions. The main objectives will be:

- to ensure a faster uptake of research and innovation results into clinical practice, secure Europe's position in state-of-the-art healthcare provision
- to facilitate a shift from a 'one size fits all' approach towards taking into account individual differences and better utilising the accumulating data to manage health, disease and its predisposition
- to contribute towards more sustainable healthcare systems and independence in data intensive healthcare
- Results will translate into delivery of better prevention and healthcare services, improved health outcomes for patients and citizens, and increased satisfaction with health systems.

**More information / TBC in 2023**

The partnership's Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) is under development. The partnership will start in 2023-2024 and will run till 2030. The SRIA will determine the main priorities of the call for proposals that this partnership will launch.

**European Partnership – ERA for Health Research (ERA4Health):** The aim of the Partnership is to tackle the following challenges:

- the increasing demand for a better quality of life of citizens and a better care of patients which lies in having access to and use evidences of the benefit and drawback of health interventions,
- the need to transform public health care systems in order to make them more effective, efficient, equitable, accessible, and resilient and
- the need to strengthen disease prevention and health promotion.

The Partnership will cover 2022-28 and will integrate research and innovation areas covered by previous ERANET and Joint Programming Initiatives (JPIs), as well as investigator-initiated clinical studies (IICSs). The total indicative budget for the duration of this co-funded European Partnership is **EUR 110 million, of which EUR 30 million will be allocated through the 2022 budget.**

**More information**[Consult the draft SRIA](#)

**European Partnership on Transforming Health and Care Systems (THCS):** The common vision of a Partnership on Transforming Health and Care Systems (THCS) is to maintain and improve health in Europe and participating countries by supporting improvement in and transformation of the health and care systems and by that

delivering high quality, fairly accessible, sustainable, efficient, health promoting resilient health and care systems for all.

The overarching priority action areas of the Partnership are:

- Integrate research and innovation findings in evidence based decisions in health and care systems
- Generate and translate research and innovation findings for innovative health and care practices
- Advance the co-creation and the uptake of user-friendly innovative solutions in health and care
- Strengthen the health and care community for a sustainable dialogue among different actors

### **More information / TBC in 2023**

The partnership's Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) is under development (see here for a [draft version of the THCS Candidate Partnership Draft Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda](#)). The partnership will start in 2023-2024 and will run till 2030. The SRIA will determine the main priorities of the call for proposals that this partnership will launch.

**Digital, Industry and Space Cluster:** With a budget of **€15.35 billion** Cluster 4 of Horizon Europe will support innovative technologies in various sectors, including health, with the aim of creating a healthier living and offer holistic solutions to people with health issues.

### **More information**

[Search for Funding and Tender opportunities](#)

[Search for funded projects](#)

[Consult the Work Programme 2021-2022](#)

[Consult the draft Work Programme 2023-2024](#)

[Stay up to date with news about the cluster](#)

## ***Pillar III – Innovative Europe***

**EIT Health:** The aim of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) Health is to promote entrepreneurship and innovation in the areas of "Healthy Living and Active Aging" in order to improve the quality of life, medical care and healthcare across Europe. It will draw from the almost €3 billion dedicated to the EIT, in order to reform care pathways, bring health and social care together, improve workplace health, foster healthier lives and create sustainable healthcare systems, among others.

### **More information**

[EIT Health website](#)

[Search for Funding opportunities](#)

[Stay up-to-date with EIT Health news](#)

[Subscribe to the EIT newsletter](#)

**European Innovation Council (EIC):** EIC has a budget of **€10.1 over the period 2021-2027**. It aims to support game changing innovations throughout the lifecycle from early-stage research, to proof of concept, technology transfer, and the financing and scale up of start-ups and SMEs. Financial support is provided through three main funding schemes:

- the 'EIC Pathfinder' for advanced research on breakthrough/game-changing technologies
- 'EIC Transition' for transforming research results into innovation opportunities
- and the 'EIC Accelerator' for individual companies to develop and scale up breakthrough innovations with high risk and high impact.

### More information

[Search for EIC funding opportunities](#)

[Search for EIC funded projects](#)

[Consult the EIC 2022 work programme](#)

[Consult the draft EIC 2023 work programme](#)

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[Subscribe to the EIC newsletter](#)

**Cancer Mission:** EU Missions are an additional part of the Horizon Europe research and innovation programme for 2021-2027 aiming to address some of the greatest challenges facing our society. The EU Mission on cancer aims at uniting countries to reduce the EU cancer burden and improve the quality of life of patients. The Mission has four objectives:

- understanding of cancer
- prevention and early detection
- diagnosis and treatment
- quality of life for patients and their families.

In 2022, around **€129,5 million will be dedicated to projects under this theme.**

### More information

[Search for Funding and Tender opportunities](#)

[Consult the Cancer Mission 2022 Work Programme](#)

[Consult the Cancer Mission draft 2023-2024 Work Programme](#)

[Consult the Cancer Mission Implementation Plan](#)

## EU4Health

### About the instrument

EU4Health is one of the European Union's responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. With a total funding of **€5.3 billion** over the next seven years, EU4Health represents an unprecedented level of financial commitment to improve and foster health in Europe. EU4Health will go beyond the COVID-19 crisis, supporting actions on disease prevention, reducing inequalities, the digital transformation of health systems, the reinforcement of the health system and the healthcare workforce. It will pave the way to a strong European Health Union that will improve and safeguard the health of all EU citizens. The four general goals of the EU4Health are:

- To improve and foster health in the Union
- To tackle cross-border health threats
- To improve medicinal products, medical devices and crisis-relevant products
- To strengthen health systems, their resilience and resource efficiency

In terms of key priorities for funding, the 2021 and 2022 work programmes are based around five key strands that focus on:

1. Crisis preparedness and preventing shortages of medicines.

2. Disease prevention, early detection and health promotion.
3. Research that supports the fight against cancer and Europe's Beating Cancer Plan.
4. Reforming and strengthening health systems and the healthcare workforce.
5. Health digitalisation and preparing for a European Health Data Space.

The EU4Health programme co-funds the eligible costs of the selected actions at the level of 60% (normal co-funding rate) or 80%, in case of exceptional utility. Please note that the budget **for 2022 is €835 million euros**.

### More information

[Search for Funding opportunities](#)

[Search for open tenders](#)

[Consult the 2022 Work Programme](#)

[Search for funded projects](#) (Previous health programmes)

[Stay up to date with EU4Health News](#)

## Digital Europe Programme

### About the instrument

The Digital Europe Programme (DIGITAL), worth **€7.6 billion**, is a new EU funding programme focused on bringing digital technology to businesses, citizens and public administrations. DIGITAL focuses on the wide deployment of digital technologies both for the public and the private sector. It provides strategic funding to projects in five key capacity areas:

- supercomputing
- artificial intelligence
- cybersecurity
- advanced digital skills
- and ensuring a wide use of digital technologies across the economy and society

The programme is designed to bridge the gap between digital technology research and market deployment. The health dimension is focused on creating the digital infrastructure needed for digital health tools.

The budget for **2021-2022 is €1,383 billion**. Topics of interest to EULAR members include: health data space, testing and experimentation facility for health, digital twins in healthcare, uptake of digital solutions in health and care.

### More information

[Search for Funding and Tender Opportunities](#)

[Search for funded projects](#)

[Consult the 2021-2022 Work Programme](#)

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