Life-changing ideas become reality right here
We are EIT Health

And we are a vast, vibrant community of some of the world’s leading health innovators, backed by the European Union.

Working across borders and disciplines with approximately 150 EIT Health partner organisations, we harness the brightest minds in healthcare from the worlds of business, research and education to answer some of the biggest health challenges facing Europe.

Through this unique collaborative approach, we’re empowering a network of innovators to overcome barriers, challenge convention and take action.

Why? To put life-changing products and services into citizens’ hands.

We believe best innovation happens in the ‘knowledge triangle’ – where these three worlds connect.
Our mission

Europe faces a turning point in health.

We’re fortunate to have seen average life expectancy increase by around four to five years for every generation over the last 150 years. But this comes with its own challenges; chronic disease and growing multi-morbidity are causing an estimated economic loss of €115 billion per year¹, while the cost of healthcare delivery increases.

What’s more, entrenched social and healthcare systems are slow to change and adapt. We believe a focus on prevention and innovative new approaches in condition management and healthcare delivery will help us live healthier and longer lives.

We have a vision that improvements in European healthcare systems will facilitate citizens’ equal and timely access to high-quality and affordable care across Europe.

We’ve identified six of the most urgent healthcare challenges facing society, and we’re dedicated to finding solutions that will strengthen healthcare systems, promote better health of citizens, and contribute to a sustainable health economy in Europe.

**Care pathways** are essential to support patients from diagnosis to treatment. Yet current strategies focus heavily on the treatment phase. We are extending care pathways to provide end-to-end care before the onset of disease through to end-of-life support. And we are optimising long-term care to enable people with chronic conditions to live as well as possible.

**Healthcare delivery** is changing, shifting from the hospital and into the home. We are enhancing the integration of health and social care which is vital in ensuring European citizens receive optimal treatment while releasing pressure on hospital services.

**Work-related stress** affects one in four European employees, leading to significant levels of absence – this is just one of the many work related conditions we need to address. We want to improve workplace health at every level through better education, improved personal awareness and access to healthy choices.

**Data** promises extraordinary possibilities for healthcare. It provides rich insight into diseases and can deliver prediction models for early diagnosis and enhance treatment. We want to unlock the wealth of healthcare data available across Europe to improve the lives of patients and citizens.

**Patients and citizens in Europe** are at the heart of what we do. We want to support them in their own lifestyle changes with tools and incentives that help protect their health – by preventing early ageing and reducing disease and disability.
Our network

We are a living, breathing network of approximately 150 world-class organisations and institutions. We draw on this vast, combined knowledge to nurture the brightest ideas, solutions, companies and people.

This network – which spans pharmaceuticals, medtech, payers, hospitals, research institutions and universities – includes every piece of the innovation jigsaw. This means we can help overcome the barriers to innovation at every step, from concept to life-changing product or service.

Our Alumni
Anyone who participates in an EIT Health programme, course, or has received EIT Health funding can join our Alumni network. Membership provides a multitude of benefits, including job opportunities and training.

Our presence
EIT Health has pan-EU representation via our headquarters in Munich and six regional innovation hubs, which operate as strong innovation clusters to drive our thriving ecosystem.

The InnoStars cluster brings together organisations from more progressive regions where the overall pace of innovation is more moderate.

EIT Health has expanded the community’s presence with an EIT Health Regional Innovation Scheme in 13 countries across Central, Eastern and Southern Europe. EIT Health also leads the development of the EIT Hub in Israel, which connects innovators across Europe to other key thriving ecosystems beyond the EU.
Our partners

EIT Health is the largest healthcare network in Europe, connecting approximately 150 partners exceptional in the worlds of business, education, research and health service delivery.

Our partners are vital to the work we deliver. They include leading universities, business hubs, innovation clusters and cutting edge start-ups that are driven to develop innovative healthcare solutions in collaboration. Our network comprises core and associate partners that contribute to the operation of the organisation, as well as its output.

Interested in becoming a partner? Contact your local Innovation Hub.

Please see back page for details.
“Partners are essential as nobody has the skills to face all the challenges of building innovative products and entering the market on their own. The EIT Health community has helped us foster cross-border cooperation in a major way.”

MARC JULIEN, DIABELOOP, EIT INNOVATOR AWARD WINNER 2019
We have launched more than 55 products and services, including solutions for diagnosing prostate cancer, managing diabetes and tackling antimicrobial resistance.¹

Our Innovation projects connect bold ideas to the people who can make them a commercial reality.

For each innovation project, we build a task force of world-class experts from the worlds of business, research and education to create new possibilities. Ideas don't have to be fully formed – our Wild Card initiative is open to anyone whose thinking could help transform healthcare.

¹ 2016–2019 data.
We have educated thousands of professionals and graduates, and developed 19 Massive Open Online Courses for citizens. CARE Campus, our unique online vocational training course for carers, has helped more than 3,500 families.¹

Campus is our portfolio of education programmes. Within the portfolio are many different initiatives, engaging learners from across society, from citizens to established healthcare professionals to enable continuous innovation in European healthcare. We bridge the gap between academia and enterprise to upskill professionals on innovative techniques providing the practical knowledge and inspiration learners need to deliver future innovation.

¹ 2016–2019 data.
Since its launch in 2016, EIT Health has already supported more than 740 start-ups across Europe and raised more than €205m investment in early stage enterprises.¹

The Accelerator is a catalyst for new business growth to deliver transformative products and services. We work with entrepreneurs, start-ups and SMEs to shorten the time-to-market for life-changing products and services, while creating new jobs and contributing to a thriving European health economy. Through our unique network we link entrepreneurial businesses to the knowledge and resources they need to scale up and scale out as quickly as possible.

¹ 2016–2019 data.
World-class ideas are wasted if the world isn’t ready for them.

The EIT Health Think Tank – our thought leadership forum – brings healthcare leaders together to prepare the ground for life-changing innovation and identify the next opportunity for a step-change in how healthcare is delivered.

We collaborate across disciplines and borders to explore and assess the most pressing topics impacting healthcare innovation today.
How are we already impacting innovation?

Every day we spark, shape and mould cutting-edge innovations, taking them from idea to reality.

We have supported hundreds of start-ups, trained thousands of professionals and graduates and launched many pioneering products onto the market that address previously unmet needs.

The next four examples are some of our most successful projects, which could truly help to revolutionise healthcare across Europe.
Abtrace

AIDING ANTIBIOTIC PRESCRIPTION DECISIONS

The challenge

Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) is one of the biggest threats to global health. AMR is caused when certain bacteria become resistant to even the most powerful antibiotics available today as result of overuse and misuse. A growing list of infections are becoming harder and sometimes, impossible to treat, as antibiotics become less effective. This leads to longer hospital stays, higher medical costs and increased mortality.

The solution

Every use of an antibiotic comes with a risk that resistance might develop. Abtrace is helping to inform decision-making when it comes to clinicians prescribing the most appropriate antibiotic for each individual. Abtrace uses artificial intelligence (AI), which can analyse and aggregate vast sets of global antibiotic prescription data quickly in a simple software tool. It provides a recommendation for which, if any, antibiotic should be used.

The team

The founders of Abtrace feel passionately about contributing to the fight against AMR, having seen the human cost of drug resistant organisms first hand in both their working and personal lives.

As an EIT Health Wild Card project, Abtrace received €2m funding, and access to the network. Plus it was immersed into an incubator to develop the business and bring it to market.

By helping clinicians to prescribe the most appropriate antibiotic for each individual based on their healthcare needs and condition, Abtrace are tackling antibiotic overuse and misuse head-on.

Antibiotic resistance causes 25,000 deaths per year in Europe and 2.5m extra hospital days.

The challenge
As the European population ages, the burden of stroke is expected to increase significantly, posing huge challenges to limited healthcare resources. Physical, psychological and economic burdens associated with stroke all require significant care, consideration and rehabilitation. Rehabilitation has been shown to improve functional outcomes, decrease mortality and reduce the length of hospital stays. But stroke survivors often require long-term rehabilitation once they have been discharged from hospital and are back at home.

The solution
Vigo uses digital technology to provide personalised rehabilitation programmes to stroke patients, providing long-term support for their physical and emotional recovery. Vigo gives patients easy online access to different types of therapy that can guide them through their rehabilitation and overcome their anxieties. Vigo is now undergoing a pilot trial in a large hospital stroke unit, with plans for it to be readily available on mobile devices.

The team
Vigo founder, Kristaps Krafte, developed his idea after completing the EIT Health IHC Master’s programme. He has since added to his team and benefited from our Accelerator programme, gaining support and mentorship to speed up Vigo’s time to market.

Stroke is the second most common cause of death and a leading cause of adult disability.
Peptomyc

**DISCOVERING NEW CANCER TREATMENT**

**The challenge**
Cancer is the cause of every fourth death in Europe¹ and is one of the greatest challenges we face. It refers to hundreds of distinct diseases and requires hundreds of treatment strategies. Meanwhile cancer is a disease that mutates, making treatment very challenging.

**The solution**
Based on the notion that the protein Myc plays an important role in cancer cells’ survival and proliferation, Dr Soucek, a research scientist, found that attacking it could lead to a potential therapy for multiple types of cancer.² Dr Soucek and her team were the first researchers to show that inhibiting Myc was feasible and has a therapeutic impact against cancer without damaging normal tissues.² This has led to the development of her company Peptomyc, focused on her pioneering Myc-inhibiting treatment.

Peptomyc is now completing industrial production and will proceed to patient clinical trials in 2020, paving the way for many more Myc inhibitors.³

**The team**
The journey from idea to reality has required determination. Initially, Dr Soucek was advised by many not to progress beyond the proof of concept. In addition to the high² costs involved, as a scientist with no experience of entrepreneurship, Dr Soucek faced difficulties securing the support she needed to start a business. Dr Soucek’s passion for fighting cancer led her to EIT Health. She attended a series of programmes that helped her gain the vital financial and business support she needed for her new start-up, Peptomyc.

**“I don’t feel alone anymore. I have support from EIT Health and we have investors in the company that believe in the project.”**

Dr Laura Soucek

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EIT Health has enabled us to take the test to patients faster. Without the support from EIT Health we would not be where we are today.

OLA STEINBERG, CO-FOUNDER

Stockholm3
TRANSFORMING PROSTATE CANCER DETECTION

The challenge
In the EU, prostate cancer is the most frequently diagnosed cancer among men and kills approximately 100,000 people each year. Currently, a blood test is used to detect an increased level of PSA, which can indicate prostate cancer. But results can be unreliable, meaning aggressive forms of prostate cancer can go undetected.

The solution
Stockholm3 is a new test that offers a more accurate indicator of prostate cancer in men. It analyses five protein markers and over 100 genetic markers and when mapped alongside clinical data, clinicians can better predict the risk of aggressive prostate cancer and whether a biopsy is needed.

Stockholm3 has been evaluated in trials amongst almost 60,000 men – creating one of the largest prostate cancer diagnosis datasets.

The team
Stockholm3 was co-founded by Professor Henrik Grönberg, a scientist who has worked with cancer patients for 30 years. During this time, he saw many patients misdiagnosed using the PSA test.

EIT Health worked with Stockholm3 to validate the test and introduce it to the European market. Stockholm3 is currently working with two of the largest labs in Europe, as well as labs in the US and Canada, to launch the test in more countries across the world.

Launching Stockholm3 globally provides the opportunity to potentially reduce the number of men unnecessarily undergoing biopsy and treatment and identify aggressive cancers earlier, boosting survival rates and significantly reducing healthcare costs.


Work with us

Further information about EIT Health, our projects and programmes, impact and regional offices can be found on our website.

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