

# EIT HEALTH STRATEGIC AGENDA

A synopsis

2021-2027

**The EIT – Making Innovation Happen**

European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)  
[www.eit.europa.eu](http://www.eit.europa.eu)

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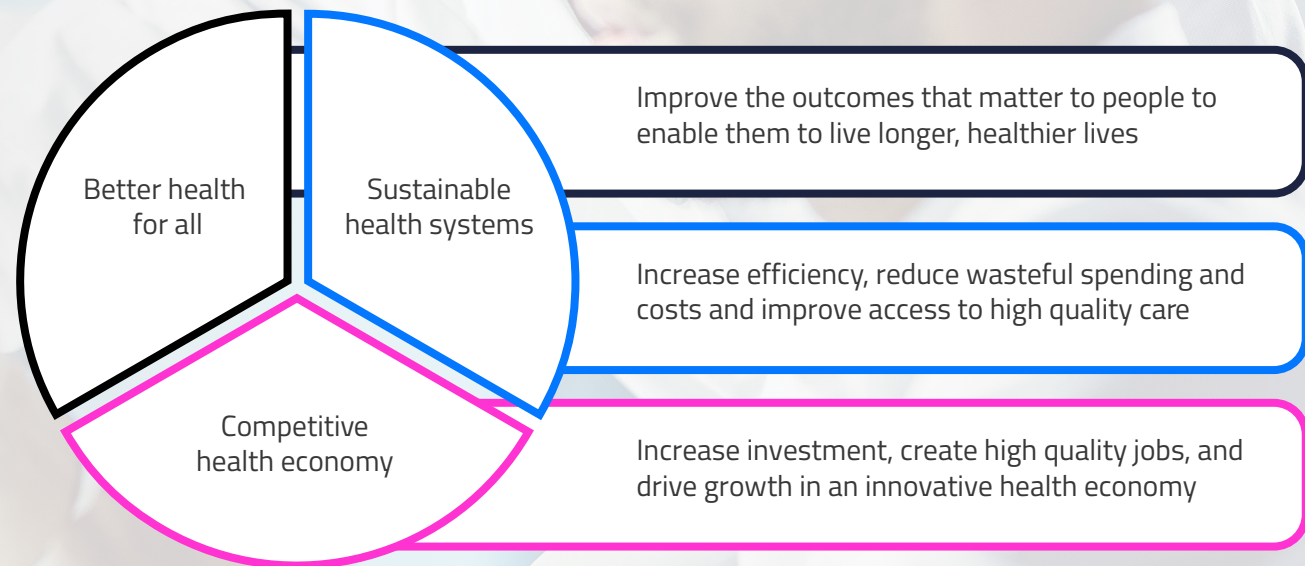


# Introduction to EIT Health

EIT Health is a vast, strong, and diverse European network of best-in-class organisations across education, research, industry, and healthcare delivery. We work across borders with partners, start-ups, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and entrepreneurs to answer the biggest healthcare challenges we face.

In addition to our central office in Munich, Germany, we have seven regional innovation hubs across Europe. This includes InnoStars and the Regional Innovation Scheme (RIS) - concepts for widening participation and outreach across Europe and establishing new ties for innovation and growth. Together, our network can apply transformative forces to remove barriers to innovation that are specific to the health sector and turn challenges into opportunities.

## EIT Health Goals





# The challenge

Over the past 150 years, average life expectancy has increased by approximately 4-5 years per generation. This is a tremendous advance for humankind and has contributed to economic growth and prosperity.<sup>1,2</sup> However, these extra years are not all spent in good health, and this has led to significant societal challenges:

1. An ageing population with growing health issues and a rise in multi-morbid and non-communicable diseases such as cancer.
2. Entrenched social and healthcare systems under strain and therefore with a slow pace of change and adaptation.
3. Increased costs of healthcare delivery.

The gap between supply and demand is ever widening, with an estimated one in three patients not being offered the necessary care.<sup>3,4</sup> The issue is triggered by underuse of effective interventions, overuse of ineffective interventions, variation in implementation and outcomes of interventions, and ineffective application of resources.<sup>5</sup> Unless these challenges are addressed, future generations may live with diminished healthcare delivery at increased costs.

Innovation can play a significant role in addressing these challenges. Imagine, for example, how artificial intelligence can analyse data to help

diagnose, triage, and organise the care that a patient needs, allowing doctors to become better prepared and more efficient with their time. The healthcare sector, however, faces some unique barriers to meeting such challenges with innovation:

- The uptake of innovative solutions is slow (i.e., due to regulation, awareness, confidence levels, culture of change).
- Barriers are multi-faceted (i.e., involving a plethora of public and private stakeholders).
- Healthcare delivery is highly fragmented (i.e., decisions and implementation happen on a regional level).

These barriers have become apparent in Europe's response to COVID-19, which has suffered from a lack of coordination (within the EU and between the EU and member states) and a consequent inequity in access to care.<sup>4</sup> Fragmentation, and barriers at different geographical levels, not only threaten our responsiveness to crises; but also undermine the EU's capacity for health innovation and competitiveness.

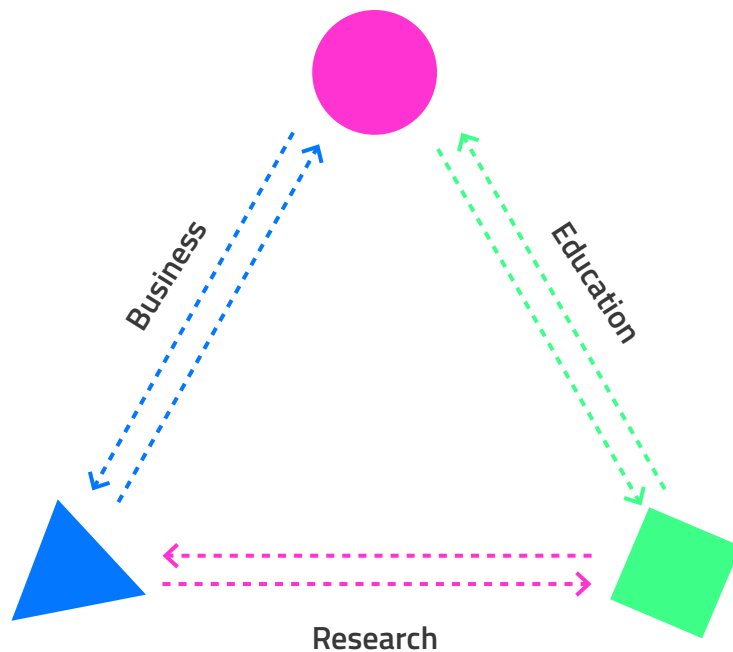
Consequently, new EU policies should embrace an approach that involves all stakeholders for structured priority-setting on complex and diverse healthcare challenges. It is crucial that

such policies remove barriers to innovation and allow Europe's industry leaders, entrepreneurs, and SMEs, in collaboration with healthcare providers and citizens, to effectively turn knowledge and ideas into new products and services that improve health and quality of life and drive economic growth.



# The road ahead

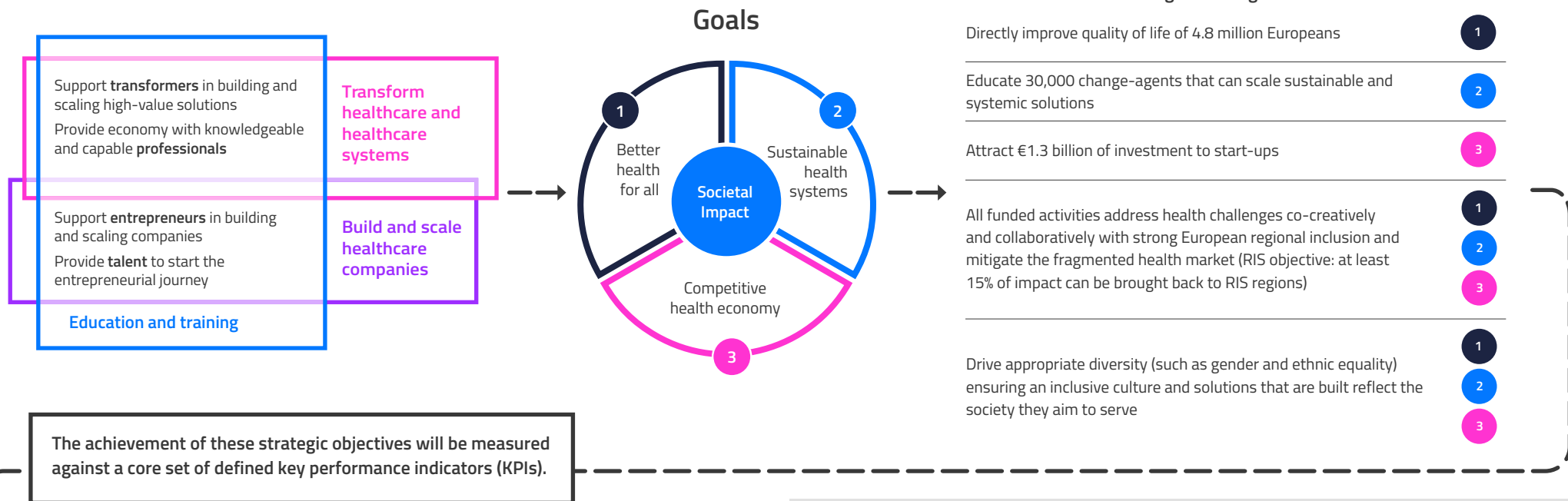
To deliver on our goals, EIT Health must break down the silos that have traditionally existed preventing innovation in the health sector, bringing all necessary stakeholders to the table. We do this by joining all corners of the 'knowledge triangle', which is the principle that when experts from business, research and education work together as one, an optimal environment for innovation is created. By working together across organisations, disciplines, and expertise, EIT Health can act as a bridge that can connect the various activities conducted by our network towards well defined common goals that can achieve impact.



EIT Health has developed measures of societal and socioeconomic impact that are relevant to the health sector and are closely aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), specifically targets SDG 3 ("good health and well-being") and SDG 8 ("decent work and economic growth") as well as our own organisational goals. These measures are:

- Europe's health economy is positively impacted, and we become more globally competitive.
- Europe's healthcare systems are positively impacted and become more sustainable.
- Our citizens enjoy better health and care as a result.





KPI	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	TOTAL
<b>Designed/tested innovations</b> (the products and/or services that have been developed and tested)	18	23	19	18	19	16	16	<b>129</b>
<b>#Supported start-ups/scale-ups</b> (start-ups or SMEs that have benefitted from EIT Health programmes)	103	154	154	139	126	109	109	<b>894</b>
<b>Investment attracted by EIT Health supported start-ups/scale-ups (million €)</b> (funding raised by the start-ups or SMEs supported by EIT Health coming from external investor)	151	166	199	211	191	206	186	<b>1,307</b>
<b>#Participants in (non-degree) education and training</b> (learners participating in EIT Health's education programmes not related to degree level)	2,890	3,240	3,640	4,240	4,840	5,540	6,340	<b>30,730</b>
<b>#Graduates from EIT labelled MSc/PhD programmes</b> (students graduating from education programmes)	60	90	50	160	190	220	240	<b>1,010</b>
<b>#Active partners</b> (partners collaborating in EIT Health activity)	555	565	575	585	595	605	615	-
<b>Financial sustainability revenues (million €)</b> (revenue generated by EIT Health activities)	11.9	13.1	16.3	18.6	22.6	33.4	30.4	<b>146.3</b>



# Leveraging the power of the network to meet our goals

The EIT Health network is made up of complementary partners who proactively apply their strengths and resources to achieve our collective goals. Together, we identify and close competency gaps, connect major innovation hubs (both within Europe and the rest of the world), share best practice, and scale up proven concepts across Europe.

The COVID-19 pandemic has underlined the value of European cooperation and has displayed the unique value and relevance of the EIT Health network. This has been demonstrated by the speed and agility the network has shown in supporting the response to the crisis, which included the identification of need and gaps created by the pandemic, and the swift implementation of new products and services in response. In short, the strength of our network can be defined as follows:

- The operating model of EIT Health (geographically distributed and regionally anchored) fosters collaboration and alignment of all relevant players.
- The partnership network approach allows us to draw on the relevant competence and knowledge to build solutions and affords us the required critical mass to scale them across Europe.
- Our education portfolio equips people with the skills and competencies to respond to current and future needs (for example, digital transformation).



# How we're funded

EIT Health is a non-profit organisation – we are funded by the EU as part of the EIT, our partners, and other contributors. EIT Health also conducts some commercial activities to support the long-term sustainability of the organisation, for example by charging fees for some services. Any income earned by EIT Health as a result of commercial activity is re-invested into the organisation to support our work. Our funds go towards helping develop new and innovative products and services, support start-ups and entrepreneurs to build companies, educate people about health and innovation, and support our operating costs.

As with all EU funded organisations, the financial contributions decrease over time with the aim of the organisation becoming 'financially sustainable', which means that the organisation can continue in the long-term without the need for public funding via the EIT. As a result, EIT Health operates a number of models to support financial sustainability by 2027, which is the point in time that the EIT will cease funding the organisation:

1. EIT Health will gain revenue through the financial contribution of its network members via fees, as well as sourcing external grants (for example, regional government grants).
2. EIT Health portfolio of services will be delivered in exchange for fees.
3. EIT Health will receive return on investments from start-ups that have been supported or other revenues from projects (such as a product or service developed as part of EIT Health that is then sold on the market).





# A vital cog in the healthcare ecosystem

**The diversity of the EIT Health network (with stakeholders on the ground) as well as its modus operandi through geographically distributed and regionally anchored innovation hubs offers unique opportunities for collaboration and alignment for example with public health policies and strategies. Such a 'hub and spoke' model will support our ambitions by ensuring that EIT Health activities complement national and regional priorities and frameworks, while allowing 'grass roots' innovation to be extended and scaled out beyond its local territory to have impact across Europe.**

By sustaining an ongoing dialogue with all relevant stakeholders, EIT Health synergises its priorities with wider public health priorities (for example the European Commission's Horizon Europe) to underscore EIT Health's role in the ecosystem and secure ongoing support such as additional sources of funding.

EIT Health actively supports European Commission bodies in identifying needs, gaps, and opportunities for Europe to develop and scale healthcare solutions, including through early and close engagement with patients and citizens, healthcare providers, health authorities and regulators. EIT Health works in tandem with the health priorities set out by the European Commission to realise the goals of the Union through innovation. Also, by ensuring European competitiveness, for example through job creation and economic growth, and by mitigation of the economic shock linked with the spread of COVID-19, EIT Health supports realisation of the objectives of NextGenerationEU (i.e. the COVID-19 recovery fund), Horizon Europe and the EIT.



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