

EIT HEALTH IMPACT HIGHLIGHTS AT GLANCE

The 2026 EIT Impact Study confirms that EIT Health is one of the strongest-performing Knowledge and Innovation Communities within the EIT portfolio, delivering measurable economic growth and societal value in Europe’s most complex and system-critical sector.

CONTRIBUTING TO THE GROWTH AND COMPETITIVENESS OF EUROPE’S HEALTH INNOVATION ECONOMY



2,285

Ventures Supported



€1.993B

in Attracted Investment

THE MOST CITIZEN EMBEDDED KIC IN THE ECOSYSTEM



>60,000

Citizens and Patients

Involvement in ideation and co-creation processes

*Exceeding 2024 & 2027 targets.



139

Innovations to Market



1,373

Direct Jobs Generated



13,500

Indirect Jobs Generated

STRENGTHENING EUROPE’S HEALTH INNOVATION WORKFORCE AND SUPPORTING SYSTEM TRANSFORMATION FROM WITHIN



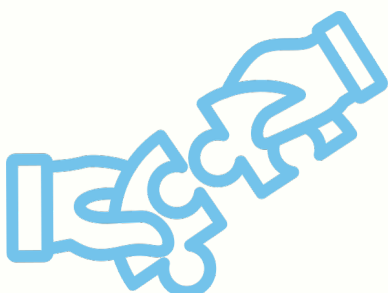
>700

EIT Labelled Graduates



>64,000

Professionals and Learners in Non-Labelled Programmes



EIT HEALTH STANDS AS A MATURE, HIGH IMPACT AND STRATEGICALLY VITAL KIC SHAPING THE FUTURE OF HEALTHCARE INNOVATION IN EUROPE.

INNOVATION TO IMPACT:

How EIT Health is Transforming European Healthcare

The 2026 EIT Impact Study provides the most comprehensive independent assessment to date of the economic and societal impact generated by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) and its Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs). Covering activity from inception to the end of 2024, the study confirms that the EIT model delivers measurable value not only through individual projects, but through the creation of innovation ecosystems that strengthen Europe's competitiveness and resilience.

Within this wider context, EIT Health is a mature, high-performing KIC operating in one of Europe's most complex and strategically important sectors. The findings confirm that EIT Health is not only supporting entrepreneurial growth in life sciences and health technologies, but actively transforming healthcare systems through citizen-centred, digitally enabled and clinically validated innovation.

Driving Investment and Innovation in a Complex Sector

As we know, health innovation is uniquely demanding. Unlike many other sectors, it requires regulatory approval, clinical validation, integration into public systems, and sustained professional adoption. Development cycles are long, risk profiles are high, and capital intensity is significant. It is within this context that EIT Health's economic performance must be understood.

INNOVATION TO IMPACT:

How EIT Health is Transforming European Healthcare

Since its inception in 2016, EIT Health has supported 2,285 ventures which together have attracted €1.993 billion in investment. Within the EIT portfolio, this places EIT Health in the top tier of KICs for investment leverage. Having nearly €2 billion been mobilised into European health ventures demonstrates strong investor confidence in the quality of the pipeline and in the ecosystem built around it. It reflects not only entrepreneurial success but also the credibility and maturity of EIT Health as a platform for scaling innovation.

These ventures have brought 125 innovations to market. In health, bringing a product or service to market is not a marginal achievement. It requires robust evidence generation, regulatory navigation and clinical adoption. The innovations supported by EIT Health address prevention, early detection, diagnosis, treatment, digital integration and healthcare delivery models. They are embedded in real systems, solving real clinical and operational challenges. The study therefore confirms that EIT Health is not simply stimulating start-up activity, but enabling validated, system-ready solutions to reach patients and healthcare providers.

The economic impact extends into employment. EIT Health-supported activity has generated 1,373 direct jobs and 13,500 indirect jobs. In the health sector, the employment multiplier effect is particularly strong. Innovation in medical technologies, digital health tools and care delivery models creates downstream employment in manufacturing, service provision, clinical deployment and professional training. The impact is therefore felt not only in entrepreneurial companies but across the wider health ecosystem.

INNOVATION TO IMPACT:

How EIT Health is Transforming European Healthcare

Strengthening Europe's Health Innovation Workforce

Economic growth alone does not capture the full impact of EIT Health. The study also highlights the contribution made through education and training, which remains central to the Knowledge Triangle model. EIT Health has produced more than 700 EIT-labelled graduates and engaged over 64,000 participants in non-labelled education and training programmes.

In healthcare, education impact is not measured solely by degree volumes. Many participants are clinicians, hospital managers, researchers and industry professionals seeking to acquire entrepreneurial, digital or translational skills. By integrating innovation capability into clinical and managerial practice, EIT Health strengthens Europe's capacity to adopt and scale new solutions. The result is not only new companies, but more innovative health systems.

This approach directly addresses the structural challenges facing European healthcare, including demographic pressures, chronic disease burden and workforce shortages. By embedding innovation and leadership capability within the health workforce, EIT Health contributes to long-term system resilience.

Citizen-Centred Innovation at Scale

Perhaps one of the most significant findings in the Impact Study is EIT Health's performance in citizen and patient engagement. More than 60,000 citizens and patients have been involved in ideation and co-creation processes, significantly exceeding both the 2024 and 2027 targets set within the EIT framework.

INNOVATION TO IMPACT:

How EIT Health is Transforming European Healthcare

This level of engagement reflects a deliberate commitment to participatory innovation and responsible design. In healthcare, solutions succeed only when they are trusted, usable and aligned with real-world needs. By embedding patients and citizens directly into the innovation process, EIT Health ensures that new products and services are shaped by those who ultimately use them.

This achievement is particularly relevant in the context of EU priorities such as the European Health Data Space and broader efforts to strengthen public trust in digital health transformation. EIT Health's citizen-centred model demonstrates how innovation can be both technologically advanced and socially grounded.

Enabling Digital and System Transformation

The study also confirms EIT Health's contribution to digitised and more agile healthcare systems. 45 upscaled projects between 2021 and 2024 have made healthcare delivery more structured and digitally enabled, meeting the 2024 milestone and positioning the KIC strongly toward its 2027 target.

These projects reflect more than incremental improvement. They represent system-level change: redesigned care pathways, integrated digital tools, enhanced data use and improved operational efficiency. In a sector where transformation is often slow and fragmented, the ability to scale structured innovation across Member States is a notable achievement.

INNOVATION TO IMPACT:

How EIT Health is Transforming European Healthcare

EIT Health therefore contributes directly to Europe's digital transition, but within a domain where digitalisation must be aligned with clinical safety, data protection and public accountability. The balance between technological ambition and system responsibility is a defining feature of its impact.

A Distinctive Role Within the EIT Ecosystem

The EIT Impact Study makes clear that each KIC contributes to European competitiveness through its thematic domain. EIT Health occupies a uniquely complex position at the intersection of public health, clinical systems, research excellence, entrepreneurship and digital innovation.

Unlike sectors where innovation can scale rapidly through market dynamics alone, health innovation must operate within regulated, publicly funded and politically sensitive environments. Success therefore requires deep collaboration between universities, industry, healthcare providers and policymakers. The study confirms that EIT Health has built and sustained such collaboration effectively.

By mobilising nearly €2 billion in investment, launching 125 market-ready innovations, engaging tens of thousands of citizens and strengthening workforce capability, EIT Health demonstrates that the Knowledge Triangle model works even in a very system-dependent sector.

INNOVATION TO IMPACT:

How EIT Health is Transforming European Healthcare

Conclusion

The 2026 EIT Impact Study confirms that EIT Health is a successful and strategically significant KIC. It delivers strong economic outcomes in a capital-intensive and highly regulated sector. It strengthens Europe's health innovation workforce. It embeds citizens and patients at the heart of innovation design, and it enables digital and system transformation in healthcare delivery.

In doing so, EIT Health contributes not only to economic growth but to the resilience, sustainability and competitiveness of European healthcare systems. Its performance reflects maturity, credibility and long-term strategic relevance within the EIT portfolio. As Europe continues to confront demographic change, rising health expenditure and the need for strategic autonomy in life sciences and digital health, the ecosystem built through EIT Health represents a critical asset. The Impact Study confirms that EIT Health is not merely participating in Europe's innovation agenda but is shaping the future of healthcare innovation across the continent.