Horizon Europe

Cluster 1 - Health

From Policy Priorities to Project Impact

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UEFISCDI

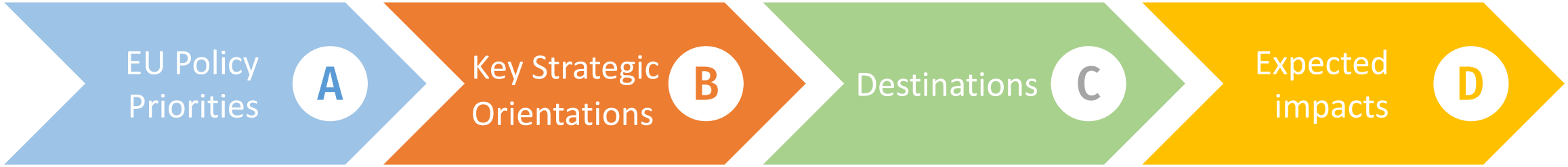
How the European Commission Approaches Funding

From policy objectives to funded projects in Horizon Europe

- ✓ For many applicants, Horizon Europe primarily means **funding opportunities**.
- ✓ For the European Commission, funding is **a policy instrument used to achieve strategic objectives**.
- ✓ The Commission defines the **scientific, societal and economic system changes it wants to achieve.**
- ✓ Calls are therefore designed **top-down**, starting from policy objectives and expected impacts.

Horizon Europe Strategic Plan

Strategic planning level



Implementation level

EU policy priorities

- ✓ Contributing to the goal of making the EU **the most attractive place for life sciences by 2030.**
- ✓ Implementing the **EU Life Sciences Strategy.**
- ✓ Addressing **non-communicable diseases** through prevention, treatment, and management.
- ✓ Understanding and mitigating the **impacts of climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss** on health.
- ✓ Building **pandemic preparedness and response** including antimicrobial resistance.
- ✓ Transforming **European healthcare systems** to make them more effective, accessible, and sustainable.
- ✓ Supporting **digitalization in healthcare and the use of health data and AI** (European Health Data Space Regulation).
- ✓ Developing innovative tools and critical technologies such as AI and biotechnology.

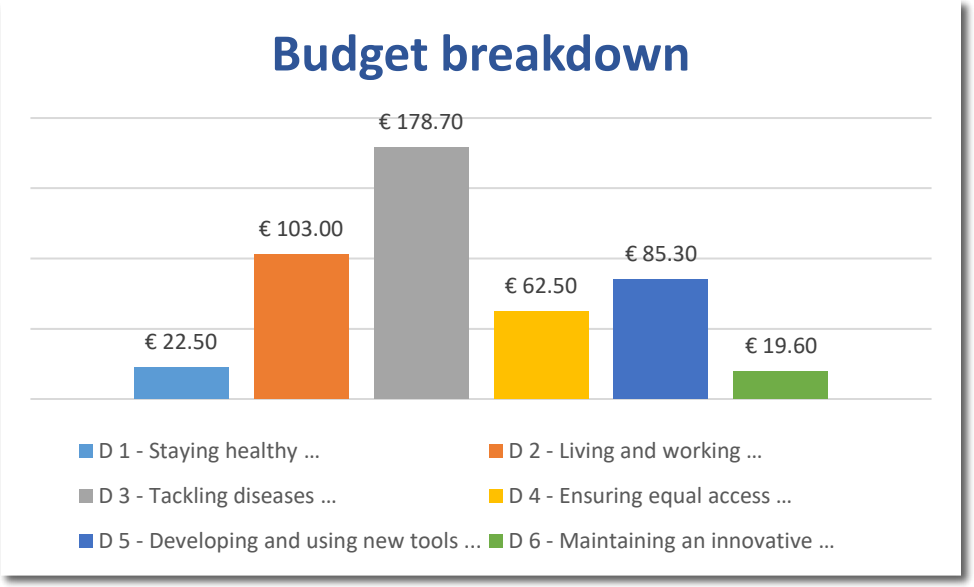
Health Destinations and Strategic Orientations

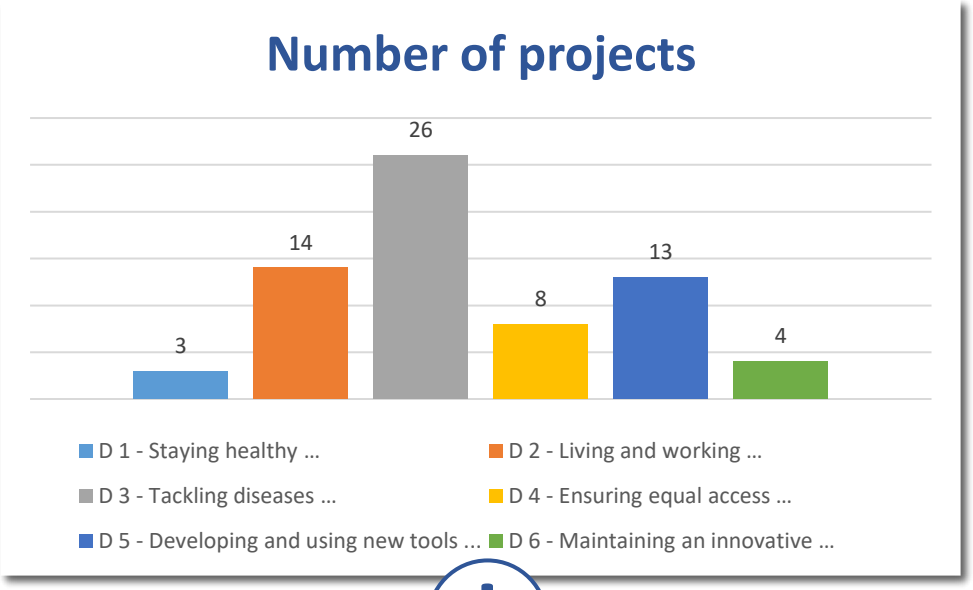
HE Key Strategic Orientations (KSO)	KSO 1 – The Green Transition	KSO 2 - The Digital Transition	KSO 3 - A More Resilient, Competitive, Inclusive, and Democratic Europe
Destination 1 Staying healthy in a rapidly changing society		✓	✓
Destination 2 Living and working in a health-promoting environment	✓		✓
Destination 3 Tackling diseases and reducing disease burden			✓
Destination 4 Ensuring equal access to innovative, sustainable, and high-quality healthcare		✓	✓
Destination 5 Developing and using new tools, technologies and digital solutions for a healthy society		✓	✓
Destination 6 Maintaining an innovative, sustainable, and competitive EU health industry	✓	✓	✓

Expected impacts

D 1	Staying healthy in a rapidly changing society	People in the EU remain healthy, resilient and independent through healthier lifestyles, improved policies and better prevention and rehabilitation.
D 2	Living and working in a health-promoting environment	Living and working environments become health-promoting and sustainable through better understanding of environmental and social determinants of health.
D 3	Tackling diseases and reducing disease burden	Healthcare systems improve their ability to prevent, diagnose and treat diseases, reducing the burden of infectious, non-communicable and rare diseases.
D 4	Ensuring access to innovative, sustainable and high-quality healthcare	Health systems provide equitable access to innovative and cost-effective healthcare solutions, strengthening resilience, equity and patient safety.
D 5	New tools, technologies and digital solutions for a healthy society	Health technologies, data and digital solutions are securely and effectively integrated into healthcare systems and policies.
D 6	Maintaining an innovative, sustainable and competitive EU health industry	The EU health industry becomes more innovative, competitive and resilient, reducing dependency on imports of critical technologies.

2026 call overview: budget and expected projects





Total budget: €471.6 million
Total call topics: 18 topics
Total expected projects: 68 projects
Deadline: 16 April 2026

Partnerships:
Enhancing and enlarging the European Partnership on Personalized Medicine
COFUND – 9.8 million – 1 project – 16 April 2026
European Partnership on Rare Diseases
COFUND - 48.7 million – 1 project – 15 September 2026

Topics by Destination - HORIZON-HLTH-2026-01

D 1 - Staying healthy in a rapidly changing society (2 topics)

Behavioral interventions as primary prevention for **Non-Communicable Diseases** (NCDs) among young people **[RIA]**

Building **public trust** and outreach in the life sciences **[CSA]**

D 2 - Living and working in a health-promoting environment (3 topics)

Towards a better understanding and anticipation of **the impacts of climate change** on health **[RIA]**

Towards **climate resilient**, prepared and carbon neutral populations and healthcare systems **[RIA]**

Support for a multilateral initiative on **climate change** and health research **[CSA]**

D 3- Tackling diseases and reducing disease burden (6 topics)

Innovative interventions to prevent the harmful effects of using **digital technologies on the mental health** of children and young adults **[RIA]**

Advancing research on the prevention, diagnosis, and management of **post-infection long-term conditions** **[RIA]**

Development of **novel vaccines for viral pathogens** with epidemic potential **[RIA]**

Multisectoral approach to tackle **chronic non-communicable diseases**: implementation research maximizing collaboration and coordination with sectors and in settings beyond the healthcare system (GACD) **[RIA]**

Understanding of sex and/or **gender-specific mechanisms of cardiovascular diseases:** determinants, risk factors and pathways **[RIA]**

Scaling up innovation in **cardiovascular health** **[CSA]**

Topics by Destination - HORIZON-HLTH-2026-01

D 4 - Ensuring equal access to innovative, sustainable, and high-quality healthcare (2 topics)

Public procurement of innovative solutions for improving citizens' access to healthcare through integrated or personalised approaches **[PPI]**

Identifying and **addressing low-value care** in health and care systems **[RIA]**

D 6 - Maintaining an innovative, sustainable, and competitive EU health industry (1 topic)

Regulatory science to support **translational development** of patient-centred health technologies **[RIA]**

D 5 - Destination - Developing and using new tools, technologies and digital solutions for a healthy society (4 topics)

Integrating **New Approach Methodologies** (NAMs) to advance biomedical research and regulatory testing **[RIA]**

Pilot actions for follow-on funding: **Leveraging EU-funded collaborative research in regenerative medicine** **[IA]**

Support to European Research Area (ERA) action on accelerating New Approach Methodologies (NAMs) to advance biomedical research and testing of medicinal products and medical devices **[CSA]**

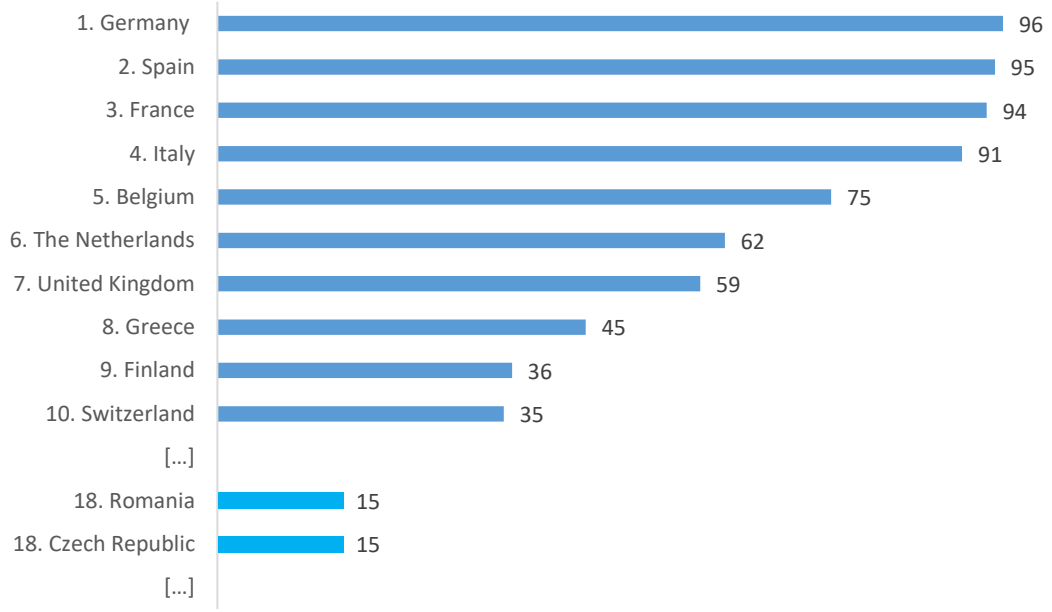
Establishing a **European network of Centres of Excellence** (CoEs) for Advanced Therapies Medicinal Products (ATMPs) **[CSA]**

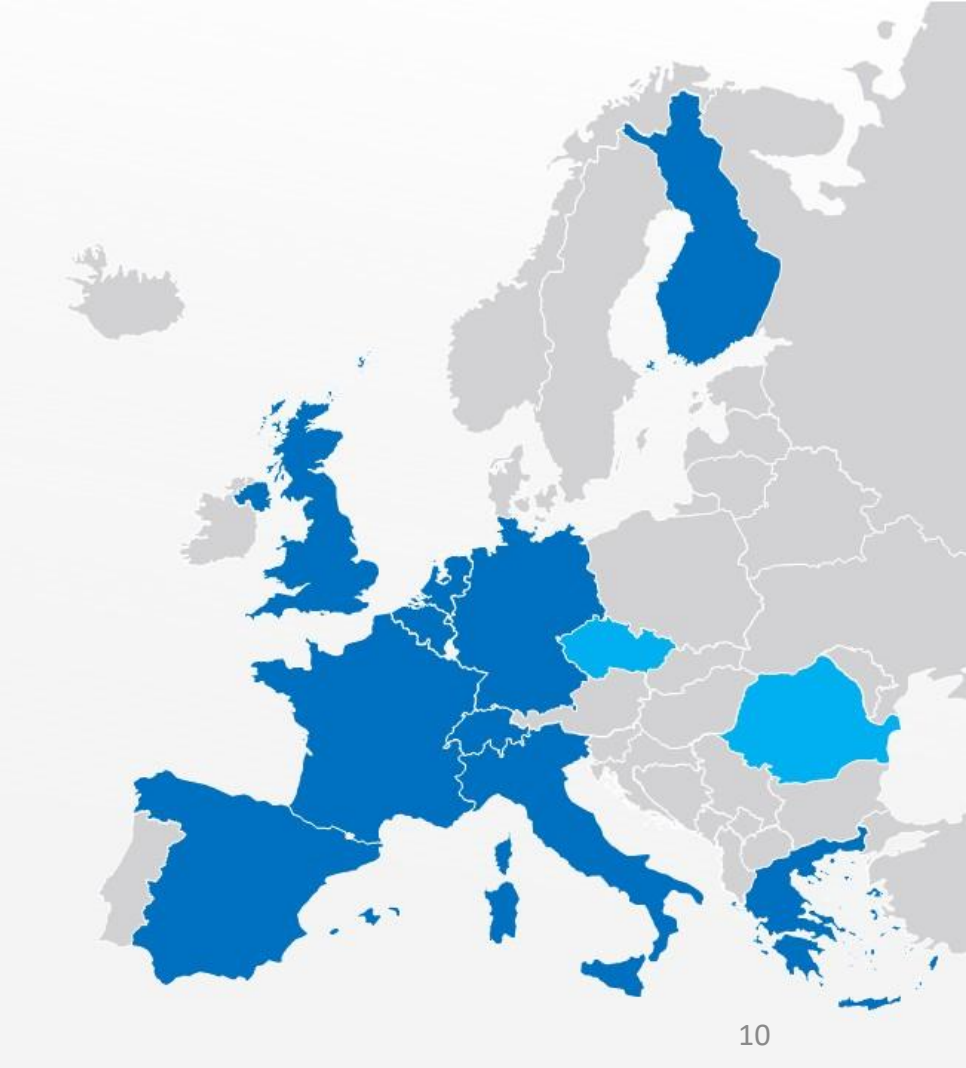
Partnerships (2 topics)

Enhancing and enlarging the **European Partnership on Personalised Medicine** (EP PerMEd) (Top-up) **[COFUND]**

European Partnership on Rare Diseases (ERDERA) (Phase 2) **[COFUND]**

Top participations – Cluster 1 Health (2024)





Total participations: 1.041

Disclaimer

Figures are indicative and based on publicly available data from the Funding & Tenders Portal (2024 funded projects). Participation includes EU Member States and associated countries. Counts reflect participations rather than unique organizations.

Impact of Horizon Europe Projects – Cluster 1 Health

Scientific impact

- ✓ Creating high-quality new knowledge
- ✓ Strengthening human capital in R&I
- ✓ Fostering diffusion of knowledge and Open Science

Societal Impact

- ✓ Addressing EU policy priorities & global challenges through R&I
- ✓ Delivering benefits & impact via R&I missions
- ✓ Strengthening the uptake of R&I in society

Economic Impact

- ✓ Generating innovation-based growth
- ✓ Creating more and better jobs
- ✓ Leveraging investments in R&I

Expected long-term impact

Improved population health, stronger healthcare systems and increased competitiveness of European health research.

Key message for Horizon Europe applicants

- ✓ The starting point of a Horizon Europe proposal is **not the idea itself**
- ✓ The starting point is the **expected impact defined at the destination level**
- ✓ Successful proposals demonstrate **clear alignment with this impact**

NCP@UEFISCDI Support

Information, dissemination

- ✓ R&I funding opportunities in Horizon Europe
- ✓ Conditions for participation in Horizon Europe

R&I proposal assistance

- ✓ Support R&I design proposals for Horizon Europe
- ✓ Pre-check R&I proposals

Training

- ✓ Events (physical, online, hybrid format) for training for R&I proposals for Horizon Europe

Partner search

- ✓ Support for Romanian organisations in finding European partners for R&I proposals for Horizon Europe

Horizon Europe

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