



Info Day Horizon Europe Cluster 1 – Health 2027

Practical Session

From Partner Search
to Consortium Participation

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Research Community Status

Based on the interest survey, this session is designed around the needs of the Romanian Health R&I community.

275

Total
survey responses

71.6%

Universities & research
organisations

65.1%

Not yet actively involved in a
proposal

60%

Main challenge:
finding a coordinator or consortium

The session responds to a practical need: moving from interest in Health calls to a clear position in a consortium.

Navigating Horizon Europe

From Horizon Europe to Cluster 1 – Health



Cluster 1 – Health is where today's discussion begins.

Work Programme 2026–2027

Current status

The Work Programme 2026–2027 is under revision.
Existing information can be used for preparation, but must be checked against the final official version.

What to do now

Start mapping destinations and possible topics.
Start preparing your contribution — proposals take several months to develop.
Start the partner search early.

What comes next

TO BE CONFIRMED

National follow-up event (to be confirmed)

- Updated strategic information
- European Commission participation

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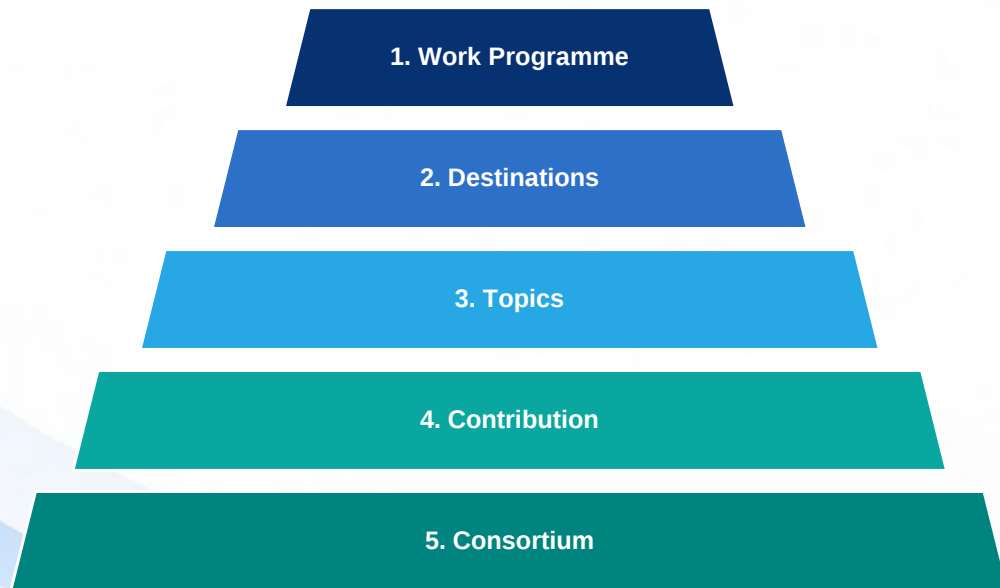
26 November 2026 [European Commission Info Day](#)

- Topic-level presentations
- Recordings and materials will be available

The official topic text and call conditions remain the authoritative reference.

Orienting ourselves

How the Work Programme translates into a concrete partnership need



- 1 Work Programme**
Defines the priorities, destinations, topics, expected outcomes and conditions for participation
- 2 Destinations**
Defined by the impact the Programme seeks to generate
- 3 Topics**
Where the challenge, expected outcomes and scope become concrete
- 4 Contribution**
Define what our organisation can bring to the topic
- 5 Consortium**
Identify the complementary partners needed to deliver it

Why use Destinations first?

They provide a practical shortcut from broad programme logic to the areas where your expertise is most likely to fit.

Partner search is stronger when it starts from a clear topic and contribution.

Cluster 1 - Health destinations

D1 – Staying healthy in a rapidly changing society (STAYHLTH)

People in the EU remain healthy, resilient and independent.

D2 – Living and working in a health-promoting environment (ENVHLTH)

Living and working environments become health-promoting and sustainable.

D3 – Tackling diseases and reducing disease burden (DISEASE)

Healthcare systems improve their ability to prevent, diagnose and treat diseases.

D4 – Ensuring access to innovative, sustainable and high-quality healthcare (CARE)

Health systems provide equitable access to innovative and cost-effective healthcare solutions.

D5 – New tools, technologies and digital solutions for a healthy society (TOOL)

Health technologies, data and digital solutions are securely and effectively integrated into healthcare systems and policies.

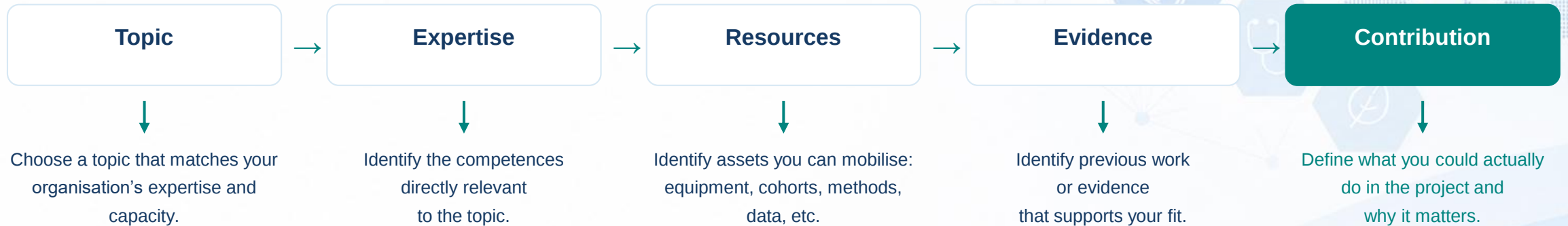
D6 – Maintaining an innovative, sustainable and competitive EU health industry (IND)

The EU health industry becomes more innovative, competitive and resilient.

Your project should show a credible pathway to the expected impact set out under the relevant Destination.

Before looking for partners: know what you bring

A topic-specific self-assessment



Partner search starts with a clear understanding of what you can bring to a specific topic.

Topic assessment – practical example

Example topic: [HORIZON-HLTH-2027-02-IND-02-two-stage – Portable and versatile Point-of-care diagnostics](#)

Example organisation: university research team developing biosensors and portable diagnostic devices, with an existing laboratory-tested prototype.

D6 / IND | Innovation Action (IA) | Lump Sum | Two-stage | WP under revision

Call dates remain indicative until final publication.

Expected outcomes & challenges

(...) To that end, proposals under this topic should aim to deliver results that are directed at, tailored towards and contributing to **all the following expected outcomes:**

- Healthcare professionals **dispose of diagnostic tools** at the point of care **that accelerate therapeutic decision making.**
- **Patients benefit from fast and accurate diagnosis** leading to **improved health outcomes.**
- Thanks to more efficient diagnosis, **health systems will get better evidence** for disease control and prevention strategies.

(...) However, PoC **testing is not always achieving a completely accurate diagnosis** and one of the **major issues** with PoC diagnostics **is the occurrence of false results** during testing, another one **is the often-cumbersome sample preparation.** Hence there is a need for PoC diagnostics that are **more sensitive, selective and easy-to-use allowing for improved clinical practice.**

Decoding the topic:

Expected outcomes

Faster therapeutic decisions, faster and more accurate diagnosis, and better evidence for disease control and prevention.

Challenge

Current PoC diagnostics still face accuracy limitations, false results and cumbersome sample preparation.

What the project must do

Optimise the PoC device, demonstrate its added value against the current state of the art, clinically validate it and undergo subsequent conformity assessment.

What this implies for the consortium

Technology + clinical expertise + comparative testing/validation + regulatory/HTA expertise.

Use precise keywords from the topic.

Topic assessment – practical example

Self-assessment against the topic requirements

Scope:

(...) The selection of the PoC device to be developed or optimised should be based on an **objectively conducted clinical needs assessment**, which includes -next to clinicians' perspectives- the complete care pathway and system-level needs.

Moreover, a **value-based concept should be applied** in the choice and development of the PoC device, **taking into account its Health Technology Assessment (HTA)** by the relevant HTA bodies, in order to facilitate their decisions for adoption.

Proposals should be driven by a clear **clinical need, integrate a value-based concept** and include all the following activities:

- The **optimisation of (the) targeted PoC diagnostic device(s)** that take(s) the above-mentioned criteria, challenges and aspects into consideration.

- The **elaboration of a comparative study** clearly demonstrating the **added value and improved performance of the optimised PoC diagnostic device(s)** as **compared to the current state of the art** for the targeted diagnostic application.

- The **conduct of clinical studies** of (the) optimised PoC diagnostic medical device(s) as a preferred information source for their clinical validation;

subsequent conformity assessment in agreement with requisite EU's In-Vitro Medical Device (IVDR) or Medical Device (MDR) regulatory requirements. (...)

Topic requirement	Expertise	Resources	Evidence	Contribution / gap
Objective clinical needs assessment	○ Use case understood; need not yet defined	Preliminary clinician contacts	Initial clinician input	Objective clinical needs assessment still needed, including clinicians' perspectives, complete care pathway and system-level needs.
Value-based concept + Health Technology Assessment	● No in-house HTA expertise	No dedicated HTA resources	No evidence of a value-based concept / HTA consideration	Value-based concept and HTA considerations need to be integrated into the choice and development of the PoC device to support adoption
Optimisation of the targeted PoC diagnostic device	● Experience relevant to optimisation of the targeted PoC diagnostic device	Prototype, testing equipment	Prototype tested in laboratory conditions	Can contribute to the optimisation of the targeted PoC diagnostic device(s)
Comparative evidence vs current state of the art	○ Some technical testing / comparison experience	Testing equipment	Technical testing results	Comparative study still needed to demonstrate added value and improved performance vs the current state of the art for the targeted diagnostic application
Clinical studies for clinical validation	● No in-house clinical-study expertise	No cohort; no clinical-study infrastructure	No clinical validation evidence	Clinical studies needed as an information source for clinical validation of the optimised PoC diagnostic device(s)
Subsequent conformity assessment – IVDR / MDR	● No in-house IVDR / MDR conformity-assessment expertise	No dedicated resources	No conformity-assessment evidence	Subsequent conformity assessment needed in agreement with the requisite EU IVDR / MDR regulatory requirements

Gaps do not disqualify us; they show us what complementary expertise the consortium needs.

From self-assessment to positioning

What can we bring to this topic?

Selected topic requirement	Expertise	Resources	Evidence	Contribution	Added value
Optimisation of the targeted PoC diagnostic device	● Experience relevant to optimisation of the targeted PoC diagnostic device	Prototype, testing equipment	Prototype tested in laboratory conditions	Can contribute to the optimisation of the targeted PoC diagnostic device(s)	Existing technology base that can be rapidly adapted to a defined clinical need

? Guiding questions

- Is our contribution clearly linked to the topic requirement? ✓ Yes
-
- Do we have the expertise, resources and evidence to support it? ✓ Yes
-
- Can we cover all topic requirements ourselves? ✗ No
-
- Do we know what complementary expertise we still need? ✓ Yes: clinical expertise/partner, clinical validation, regulatory and HTA

◎ Positioning conclusion

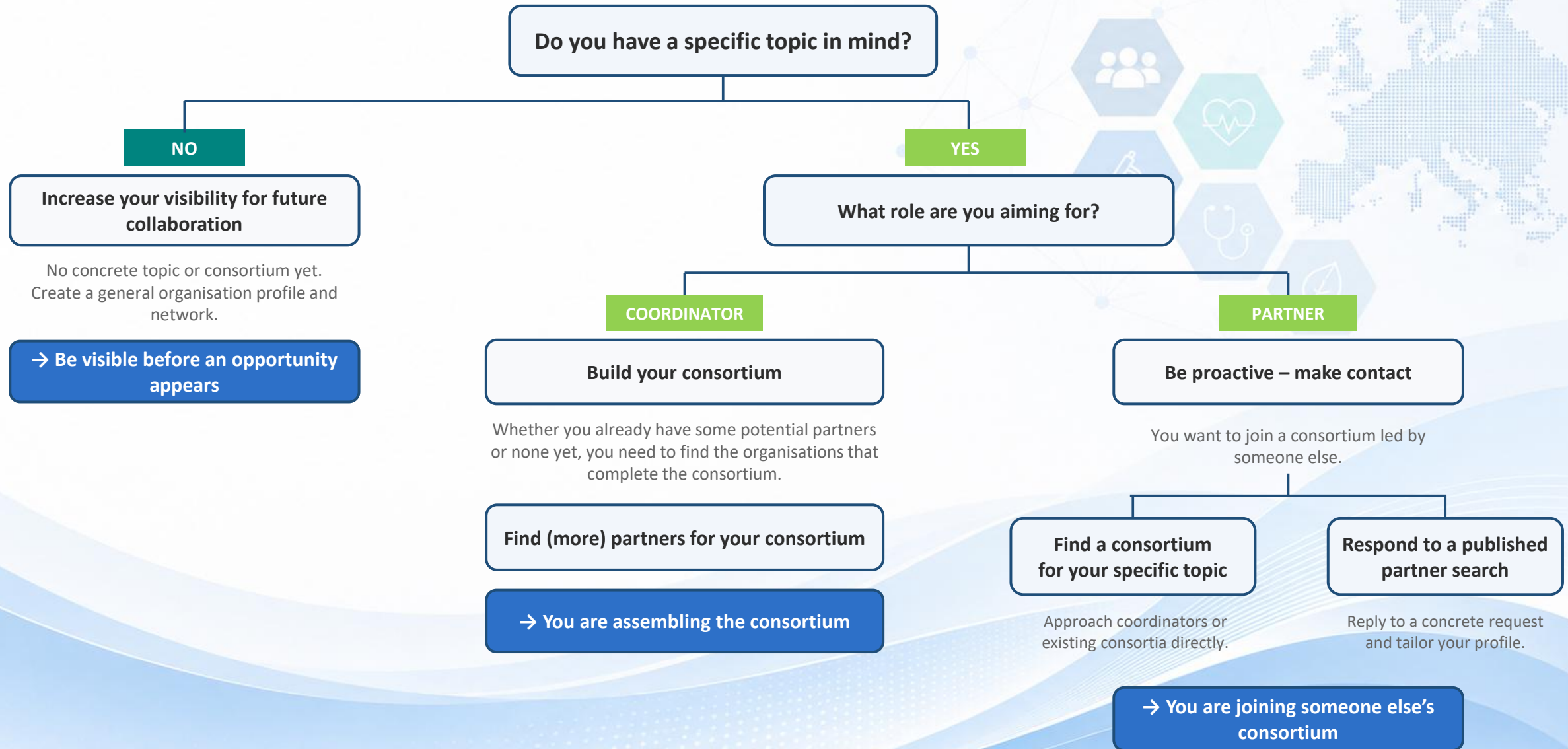
Our position: Technology partner with a clearly defined contribution.
We are not positioning ourselves as a coordinator.

Partner search strategy

- Prepare and circulate our own EOI
- Approach relevant coordinators and consortia
- Respond to partner searches where our contribution fits

We have enough to enter the partner-search process proactively.

Which partner-search route fits your situation?



Core distinction: build a consortium = find partners | join a consortium = find coordinators/consortia or respond to partner searches

Turn your self-assessment into a partner profile / EOI

Purpose & contact details

Clarify the purpose of your EOI:

✓ Find a consortium for a specific topic

Prepare an EOI and use it to approach potential coordinators and consortia

Respond to a published partner search

Contact the organisation directly and tailor the EOI to the request.

Find partners for a consortium you are building

Initiate your own partner search and ask the NCP/network to circulate it.

Increase your visibility for future collaboration

Use a broader profile when you are not targeting a specific consortium or partner search.

Select a contact person who can respond quickly and follow the discussion throughout the partner-search process.

1. Purpose of this EOI

What are you looking for?

- ☒ Find a consortium for a specific topic
- ☐ Respond to a published partner search
- ☐ Find partners for a consortium you are building
- ☐ Increase your visibility for future collaboration

Intended role in the consortium

- ☐ Coordinator
- ☒ Partner
- ☐ Open to either role
- ☐ To be discussed

2. Contact details

Organisation	Example: University/ Hospital / Research Institute / SME / NGO name
Department / team	Example: Thoracic Oncology Unit / Digital Health Team / Innovation Department
Contact person	Example: Name and role of the person coordinating the contact process
Country / city	Example: Romania / Bucharest
E-mail	Example: contact.person@organisation.eu
Website / profile link	Example: Organisation website or Funding & Tenders Portal profile

Make your contribution visible

Your general collaboration profile

Use this section especially if you:

- have not selected a specific topic;
- want to increase your general visibility.

Keep it:

- concise;
- relevant to the collaboration area;
- easy to find through clear expertise and keywords.

3. Organisation profile

Use this section for a concise general presentation of the organisation or team.

Organisation type

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☒ University | ☐ NGO / patient organisation |
| ☐ Research organisation | ☐ Public authority / public body |
| ☐ Hospital / clinical organisation | ☐ Other |
| ☐ SME / company | |

Short profile

University research team developing biosensors, microfluidic systems and portable diagnostic devices.

Main expertise / capabilities

University research team developing biosensors and portable diagnostic devices, with an existing laboratory-tested prototype.

Relevant experience / evidence

Laboratory-tested prototype; publications; technical validation work.

Keywords

Point-of-care diagnostics; PoC diagnostic devices; portable diagnostics; optimisation of PoC diagnostic devices

Keep the general profile broad enough to be reusable, but specific enough to show what defines your organisation.

Make your topic-specific contribution visible

If a specific topic is identified, fill in this section with relevant information for the topic

1. Identify the topic

Use the full topic code and title.

2. Link expertise to the topic

Highlight only the knowledge and competences **directly** relevant to the topic.

Use the specific keywords from the topic.

Assets = what you have.

Contribution = what you can do with them in the project.

4. Topic / area of interest

Specific topic(s)	HORIZON-HLTH-2027-02-IND-02-two-stage – Portable and versatile Point-of-care diagnostics.
Broader area(s) of interest	Cluster 1 – Health / medical technologies / point-of-care diagnostics

5. Topic-specific contribution

Relevant expertise	PoC diagnostic device optimisation; microfluidics; miniaturisation; data processing techniques.
Assets / resources	Existing PoC prototype; biosensor platform; laboratory; testing equipment; technical team.
Proposed contribution	Contribute to the optimisation of the existing prototype into a portable, sample-to-answer PoC diagnostic device.
Relevant evidence	Laboratory-tested functional prototype; previous technical validation work.
Added value / relevance	Existing technology base that can be rapidly adapted to a defined clinical need.

What you are looking for in a potential partnership

What are you looking for?

Identify the expertise, capability or organisation that is still missing.

6. What are you looking for in a potential partnership?

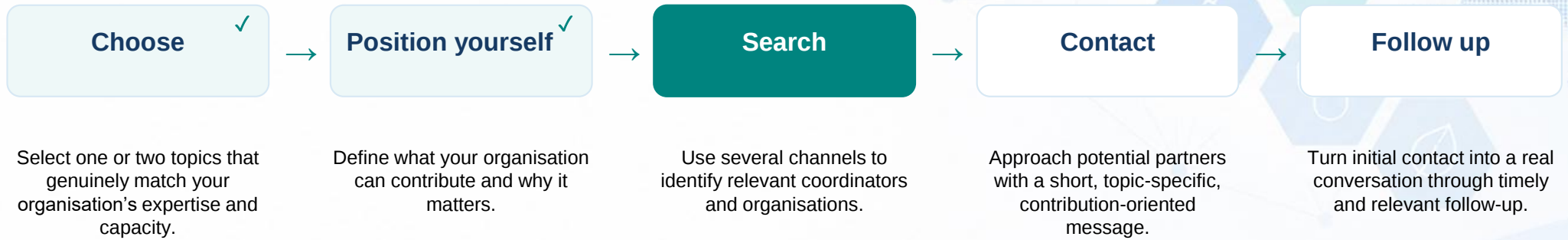
Complete this section if you are actively looking for partners or a consortium. (Optional)

Expertise / capability sought	Clinical validation; regulatory expertise; HTA; access to relevant clinical settings.
Expected contribution from partners	Define and validate the clinical need; support the comparative study; conduct clinical validation; support conformity assessment and HTA.
Current consortium status	Early partner-search stage; technology contribution defined; no consortium or coordinator identified yet.

A good partner search is specific about both what you offer and what you still need.

From Partner Search to Consortium Participation

A practical path from topic fit to partner engagement



Partner search is stronger when it starts from a clear topic, contribution and profile.

Where can I find partners?

There is no single route: use several channels in parallel.

Official platforms

- [Funding & Tenders Portal](#): official topic pages, organisation profiles, visible actors
- [BrainMap](#): visibility in the national research community
- [EEN](#): The world's largest support network for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) with international ambitions.

Networking opportunities

- Brokerage events
- Conferences
- Scientific and innovation communities
- Previous projects and networks

SAVE THE DATE

24-25 November 2026
Cluster Health Horizon Europe
[Brokerage Event 2027](#)

- Possible access before the official opening date

NCP network

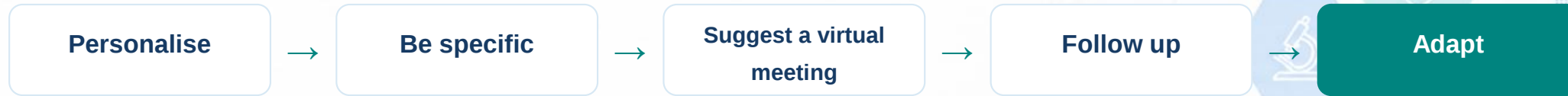
- Circulate a clear, topic-specific EOI through the [NCP network](#)
- Respond directly to relevant incoming EOIs received through NCP newsletter
- Check [Partner Search](#) opportunities on the ncp.uefiscdi.ro website

Direct outreach

- Previous collaborators
- COST, Erasmus, [European Universities alliances](#)
- Organisations identified through previous projects' websites
- Conference contacts and co-authors
- Alumni and institutional networks

The same topic-specific partner profile / EOI can be adapted and reused across channels.

From first contact to conversation



Initial message

Mention the topic, explain the call fit, state your contribution and suggest a short discussion.

After first contact

Respond quickly, share relevant material, adapt your profile and decide whether the opportunity is worth pursuing.

The objective is not to send information. The objective is to open a relevant conversation.

NCP Cluster 1 – Health support

How the NCP can support your participation journey



Information & dissemination

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



Proposal support

- Support for R&I proposal development
- General pre-check of R&I proposals



Training

- In-person, online and hybrid events
- Practical support for preparing Horizon Europe proposals



Partner search

- Support for Romanian organisations in identifying European partners for Horizon Europe proposals

Post-event resources

Resources to continue from topic selection to partner search

Session resources

Event presentation
EOI / Partner Search Profile Template
Partner Search – Practical Guide

Partner Search

[Partner Search](#) opportunities on the ncp.uefiscdi.ro
[BrainMap](#): visibility in the national research community
[EEN](#): The world's largest support network for SMEs with international ambitions.
[European Universities alliances](#)

Useful links

[Work Programme 2026–2027](#)
[Funding & Tenders Portal](#): official topic page, organisation profile, visible actors
[Brokerage Event](#) – 24–25 November 2026
[European Commission Info Day](#) – Cluster 1 Health – 26 November 2026

LLM-assisted tools were used to support drafting, language refinement and source organisation. All information was reviewed, selected and interpreted by the author, who remains responsible for the final content.



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