



A borderless European digital health ecosystem

UNITE Joint Interregional Projects

Specific Call 1 Document

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1. Factsheet for Applicants

This factsheet for applicants provides a summary and key details of the UNITE Call 1 for Joint Interregional Projects, enabling potential applicants to quickly evaluate their eligibility and alignment with the call requirements.

UNITE Call 1 – Key Details	
Innovation Challenges	- Digital solutions advancing more personalised and human-centric remote care - Advancing European Health Data Spaces
Call opening	15 October 2025
Submission deadline	15 January 2026
Project duration	1 April 2026 – 30 September 2027 (18 months)
Total call budget	4.000.000 EUR
Maximum funding per project	1.000.000 EUR
Maximum funding per organisation	600.000 EUR, including all UNITE open calls in which the organisation participates
UNITE regions	Applicants must be legally established in the following regions providing funding for the UNITE open calls: - Region Zealand, Denmark; - Region of Northern Netherlands, Netherlands; - Region of Central Macedonia, Greece; - Lombardy Region, Italy; - Extremadura Region, Spain; - Scotland, United Kingdom; - Romania, national scope.
Consortium composition	- Proposals must be submitted by consortia comprising at least 3 organisations from 3 different UNITE regions. - Each consortium must include at least 1 solution provider, 1 research entity, and 1 end-user organisation. - Proposals must include organisations from at least 1 strong innovation region (Zealand, Northern Netherlands, Scotland) and 1 moderate or emerging region (Central Macedonia, Romania, Lombardy, Extremadura).
Regional requirements	Applicants must be aligned with the mandatory requirements applicable in their respective regions, as specified in Annex G of the main UNITE JIP Call Document.

2. UNITE Call 1 for Joint Interregional Projects

This document contains information pertinent to the **UNITE Call 1 for Joint Interregional Projects (JIPs)** launched under the UNITE initiative. For comprehensive programme guidelines, eligibility requirements, and evaluation criteria, please consult the **main UNITE JIP Call Document**.

The deadline for submitting proposals to the UNITE JIP Call 1 is 15 January 2026, 5pm CEST (Brussels time). This is a fixed deadline, and no extensions will be granted. Applicants are strongly advised not to wait until the final moments to submit their proposals, as the submission system may experience a high volume of submission requests near the call deadline, potentially leading to processing delays that cannot be rectified once the specified deadline has passed.

Projects selected through the UNITE JIP Call 1 evaluation process will **start on 1 April 2026** and run for 18 months, **concluding on 30 September 2027**.

The maximum financial support that can be allocated per proposal is **1.000.000 EUR**, and the maximum funding that may be awarded to a single organisation is **600.000 EUR**, including all UNITE JIPs in which the organisation participates. The overall budget available for this UNITE JIP Call 1 is **4.000.000 EUR**. The UNITE General Assembly reserves the right to withhold the full allocation of the available budget for this call.

Consortia are required to provide a clear justification for the proposed budget, comprising both the UNITE financial support and the partners' own co-funding, demonstrating how it will support project implementation and resource utilisation within the specified timeframe.

Based on the current distribution of the overall budget across the UNITE regions and individual UNITE open calls, the table below outlines the maximum funding that may be requested by a single partner in each region under this UNITE JIP Call 1. However, it should be noted that 600.000 EUR is also the maximum total funding that may be granted to a single partner cumulatively across all UNITE JIPs in which that partner is involved. Consortia are advised to request funding that is reasonable and proportionate to the expected impact and resources required, rather than aiming for the maximum available amount.

Region	Maximum funding per partner in each region in this call ¹
Region Zealand (Denmark)	600.000 EUR
Northern Netherlands (Netherlands)	600.000 EUR
Central Macedonia (Greece)	600.000 EUR
Lombardy (Italy)	600.000 EUR
Romania (national scope)	250.000 EUR
Scotland (United Kingdom)	600.000 EUR
Extremadura (Spain)	600.000 EUR

3. Innovation Challenges in Call 1

Through the UNITE JIP Call 1, the UNITE programme is looking for high-impact, innovative projects that address the two Innovation Challenges identified within European healthcare systems, as outlined below:

1. Digital Innovations Advancing More Personalised and Human-Centric Remote Care;
2. Advancing European Health Data Spaces.

Digital Innovations Advancing More Personalised and Human-Centric Remote Care

The objective of this challenge is to define a specific problem area, while allowing for a broad range of potential solutions. This challenge emphasises integrated application of emerging technologies, effective implementation of Predictive, Preventive, Personalised, and Participatory (P4) principles, and envisions consortia consisting of multiple technology providers and end-user organisations, addressing a clearly defined need of a care provider.

This challenge demands a strong **P4 medicine approach**, recognising that developing effective digital health solutions increasingly relies on co-development and close collaboration with healthcare providers and patients to ensure alignment with the real-world needs.

¹ This represents a strict upper limit and should not be considered as a basis for the partners' budgeting.

Remote care represents a common challenge across the UNITE partner regions. The participating regions with populated islands face geographical challenges in delivering healthcare, while rural mainland areas often struggle with limited physical access to hospitals. At the same time, providing cost-effective home care poses a significant challenge also in urban environments. The innovative aspect of this challenge is linked to connecting remote care with human-centric and personalised approaches, for example, smart monitoring of wellbeing status and health data at home can enhance and optimise care processes, offer valuable insights and reassurance to individuals, and enable care professionals to deliver more targeted support based on improved understanding of each person's condition. Widespread use of smart home measurements has the potential to create numerous new opportunities for early diagnostics prior to therapy. However, island and rural communities present additional innovation challenges due to geographic distance and connectivity limitations.

Innovative approaches integrating multimodal imaging and distributed diagnostics, combining point-of-care testing, hospital-based diagnostics, and home measurements, are expected to significantly advance care pathways. There is a need for user-centric integration of technologies into telecare and e-hospital processes and services (e.g., virtual visits, online patient guidance, connected home measurement devices, and smart dispensers). Solutions leveraging Machine Learning and Health Data Spaces are currently advancing to higher technology readiness levels (TRLs), while numerous smart, connected home sensing devices that could contribute to these solutions have become mainstream and cost-effective.

This challenge includes specific additional evaluation criteria focused on the potential of proposed solutions to reduce CO2 emissions.

Policy source

The innovation ecosystems of the UNITE partner regions possess strong commercial and research expertise in imaging, multimodal imaging, sensing technologies, and telecare. Many leading European medical imaging companies and research centres are based in the UNITE regions. Telecare has been identified as a crucial innovation priority in the smart specialisation strategies of many partner regions, with specific emphasis on Patient-at-Home, e-Hospitals, Virtual Wards, and Telecare as key regional and European challenges and opportunities. Common ambitions across the UNITE regions include reducing unnecessary hospital visits and hospital stays, and in many rural and island areas, ensuring the ability to provide care at all.

Indicative proposal ideas and specific needs at the partner regions

The P4 medicine approach may include: seamless patient access and management of personal health data; rapid dermatological diagnosis via smartphone; efficient and timely patient stratification for pharmaceutical treatments; predictive AI-driven diagnoses based on individual consumer health data; and advanced digital nutrition tools that leverage the latest scientific research and artificial intelligence.

- For some regions, developing solutions that integrate with the existing Electronic Health Record (EHR) ecosystems presents a valuable opportunity for SMEs.
- Organising outpatient support in collaboration with various staff groups for non-acute care and prevention in private and elderly homes, digitally supported by clinicians in hospitals, represents another potential idea.
- Digital innovation in cancer care represents a high priority, addressing the urgent need for rapid detection, diagnosis, and treatment, as well as effective management and improvement of care for cancer patients.
- Digital solutions and technologies (e.g., cloud computing, AI, IoT, wearables) can be leveraged to advance Decentralised Clinical Trials (DCT) and P4 approaches.
- Digital solutions aimed at assessing and monitoring the impact of dietary habits, stress, lifestyle, and both indoor and outdoor environments on human health and wellbeing may be considered.
- Usage of genomic data in practice.

- Immersive neurorehabilitation exercises using virtual reality and telemedicine.
- Virtual wards, virtual consultations with nurses and doctors, smart home sensing, and health data spaces offer the solution seeds that have the potential to enhance care from both the patient's and the healthcare system's perspectives.

Advancing European Health Data Spaces

The objective of this challenge is to support the **advancement of the European Health Data Space (EHDS) and enhance data interoperability** among the UNITE partner regions. Limited access to and poor interoperability of health data have been identified by both the European Commission and industry stakeholders as major obstacles to achieving the goals of the Europe's Digital Decade. The EHDS regulation is expected to be adopted within the UNITE's implementation timeframe. This challenge aims to rapidly leverage the opportunities arising from the implementation of the regulation following its adoption.

Valuable health data are generated across multiple modalities, both through routine healthcare processes and other related activities. While presenting various challenges, such as privacy and regulatory concerns, these health data remain a critical resource for supporting research and development efforts.

As the EHDS initiative is shaped across Europe, it is essential to support its development with a dynamic innovation ecosystem and compelling success stories. The proposing consortia are expected to include both **health data users** (e.g., startups developing data-driven health solutions) and **data providers from multiple regions**, including hospitals and municipalities.

This challenge focuses on **harmonisation and utilisation of the real-world data** (e.g., hospital data, personal health records) to drive health-related innovation, in alignment with the two core pillars of the EHDS, i.e., the primary use of patient data across Europe and the secondary use of health data for research and development.

Policy source

- European Health Data Space Regulation, proposed by the European Commission and currently undergoing the legislative process
- Industry association Digital Europe's call for improved use of health data
- UNITE regions' smart specialisation strategies emphasise the need for improved use and interoperability of health data
- European MyData initiative and various open data initiatives

Indicative proposal ideas and specific needs at the partner regions

- Interregional Health Data Clearinghouse, offering real-world, anonymised, and synthetic health data to support research, development, and innovation stakeholders.
- Open Health Data Challenge projects focused on collecting, curating, harmonising, and distributing datasets to support hackathons, developer camps, academic courses, research units, and other engagement activities.
- Application-specific health data projects, such as solutions targeting cardiovascular disease and mental health prevention across regions.
- Application-specific health data projects, such as solutions addressing particular care pathways in an interregional context (e.g., individuals living, working, traveling).
- Harmonisation and utilisation of hospital data to enable federated use for industrial applications and policymaking.
- Development of machine learning prototypes to drive innovation in health-related applications.
- Leveraging real-world data to continuously enhance clinical decision support tools.
- Usage of personal health records emphasising complete data ownership and management by individuals.

4. Key Eligibility Criteria

The following provides a summary of the key eligibility criteria essential for participation in the UNITE JIP Call 1. Applicants are strongly advised to consult the main UNITE JIP Call Document for a comprehensive description of all eligibility requirements. The submitted project proposals must fully comply with these requirements to be considered admissible for the evaluation process.

Key Eligibility Conditions
Project proposals must be submitted by consortia comprising at least three (3) organisations from three (3) different UNITE partner regions.
Project proposals must include at least one (1) solution provider, one (1) research entity, and one (1) end-user organisation, collectively representing the full digital health value chain.
The UNITE regional coverage must include partners from at least one (1) Innovation Leader or Strong Innovator region (Zealand, Northern Netherlands, Scotland) and one (1) Moderate or Emerging Innovator region (Central Macedonia, Romania, Lombardy, Extremadura).
Applicants legally based outside the UNITE partner regions are not eligible for funding.
The maximum financial support available per proposal is 1.000.000 EUR.
The maximum total funding allocated to a single organisation is 600.000 EUR, including all UNITE JIPs in which the organisation participates.
Project proposals must be submitted online via the designated proposal submission system by the specified deadline, as outlined in the call documentation.
Project proposals must be written and submitted in English only.
Project proposals must comply with the gender balance requirements set in the call documentation.
Applications must not contain any sensitive personal data or trade secrets.
All proposal partners must be aligned with the mandatory requirements applicable in their respective regions, as specified in Annex G of the main UNITE JIP Call Document.

5. Evaluation Scoring

Each eligible project proposal will undergo a multi-stage evaluation process to be considered for the UNITE financial support. For detailed information on the evaluation process, please refer to Annex B of the main UNITE JIP Call Document.

The following outlines the evaluation scoring principles for two key assessment stages in the UNITE JIP Call 1. During the Review Gate, independent external experts will assess the submitted proposals based on the questions listed in Table 1 below, while during the Strategic Gate, the UNITE Team will evaluate each proposal's strategic regional alignment using the questions provided in Table 2.

Experts will score each question on a scale from 0 to 5 according to the following definitions:

5: Excellent	The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion in question. Any shortcomings are considered minor.
4: Good	The proposal addresses the criterion well, although certain improvements are possible.
3: Fair	While the proposal broadly addresses the criterion, there are significant weaknesses that would need correcting.
2: Poor	There are serious inherent weaknesses regarding the criterion in question.
1: Very poor	The criterion is addressed in a cursory and unsatisfactory manner.
0: Not addressed	The criterion is not addressed at all in the proposal.

The score for each section, including Impact, Excellence, and Quality and Efficiency of Implementation, each having the implicit weight of 33.33%, will be calculated as the average of the individual question scores within that section. In the Review Gate, the final score will be determined by summing the three average scores for Excellence, Impact, and Quality and Efficiency of Implementation, resulting in a maximum possible score of 15. To advance to the Strategic Gate, proposals must achieve a minimum average score of 3 in each section during the Review Gate evaluation. In the Strategic Gate, a minimum average score of 3.5 for the Strategic Alignment is required to progress to the next evaluation stage.

Table 1: Review Gate questions and minimum threshold.

Questions		Score Range	Threshold ²
Excellence	Question 1: Does the proposal offer a novel and innovative solution with clear and demonstrable potential for economic and societal impact within the European health ecosystem?	0-5	3
	Question 2: To what extent is the proposal aligned with the specific challenges outlined in this UNITE open call?	0-5	
	Question 3: Is the proposed technology sufficiently mature to address the identified business needs? Is the timing appropriate given market dynamics, user needs, societal relevance, and technological trends?	0-5	
Impact	Question 4: How well is the proposed solution positioned within the current competitive landscape? Are the underlying assumptions and estimations realistic, evidence-based, and well-substantiated?	0-5	3
	Question 5: Does the proposed solution demonstrate high potential for success and scalability? What level of commitment is there to its commercial continuation?	0-5	
	Question 6: Will the consortium develop strategic assets (e.g. IP ownership, freedom to operate, technological resources) that enable sustainable growth? How attractive is the solution for securing additional funding or resources after the project completion?	0-5	
Quality and Efficiency of Implementation	Question 7: Are the proposed budget and resource allocations appropriately assessed, sufficiently justified, and realistic?	0-5	3
	Question 8: How robust and coherent is the proposed work plan, including milestones, deliverables, and working methodology? Does the plan include intermediate milestones that are both ambitious and achievable?	0-5	
	Question 9: Does the team demonstrate a strong track record? Are the team's seniority, expertise, and background well suited to the objectives and complexity of the proposal?	0-5	
	Question 10: Is the consortium well-structured, with partners bringing complementary expertise and clearly defined roles? Are the partners appropriately positioned to create synergies and add value throughout the project?	0-5	

² The threshold is compared with the average of all scores for questions in the section.

Table 2. Strategic Gate questions and minimum threshold.

Questions		Score Range	Threshold ³
Strategic Alignment	Question 1: Is the proposal aligned with the strategic requirements of each participating region?	0-5	3,5
	Question 2: Does the proposal ensure a balanced regional representation that contributes meaningful value to all involved regions?	0-5	
	Question 3: Does the proposal align with the budget availability in each region?	0-5	
	Question 4: Does the proposal have a clear pathway to scale within the regions and expand to the national and European levels?	0-5	

Upon completion of all evaluation stages, the UNITE General Assembly convenes a final Consensus Meeting to review and determine which of the highest-scoring proposals that meet the required thresholds will be selected for funding, subject to the available budget.

To resolve any potential scoring ties during the Consensus Meeting, priority will be determined according to the following order:

1. Highest overall score at the Review Gate;
2. Highest average score in the Impact section;
3. Lead partner from Emerging or Moderate Innovator region;
4. Gender balance dimension in the proposal team.

In the unlikely event that proposals remain tied after applying the above assessment, the UNITE General Assembly will resolve the tie based on additional merits at its discretion.

³ The threshold is compared with the average of all scores for questions in the section.

6. Payment Principles

All partners in projects selected for funding under the UNITE initiative will be required to sign a **Financial Support to Third Parties (FSTP) Agreement**. This includes the **UNITE FSTP Agreement**, which outlines the provisions related to the joint interregional project, its objectives, and general conditions, and the **Regional FSTP Agreement**, which specifies region-specific funding provisions and particular requirements based on the partner's geography. Please refer to Annex D of the main UNITE JIP Call Document for more details.

The financial payments to the project partners will be governed by the respective Regional FSTP Agreements and will generally consist of the pre-financing, interim, and final payments. To receive the **pre-financing payments**, partners must first fulfil the necessary administrative requirements (FSTP agreements signed, financial information verified, etc.). The **interim payments** will be released following the submission and positive evaluation of the intermediate performance reporting conducted to ensure effective project progress towards the defined milestones, deliverables, and KPIs. The **final payments** will be processed after the project completion, upon the successful assessment of the final project results and outcomes, including all required deliverables and defined KPIs.

While the project monitoring is carried out at the project level, payments are administered at the regional level. As a result, the payment process involves two steps. First, the UNITE Team verifies that the conditions for releasing the respective payment tranche are fulfilled. This is followed by the regional administration's review of any additional region-specific requirements for the participating partners.

If the project delivery is incomplete, the committed KPIs are not met, or the quality of the deliverables is unsatisfactory, penalties may be applied to the final payments, potentially reducing the total amount of the awarded funding.

To ensure the costs eligibility, the following core principles must be applied:

- Costs must be actually incurred and directly related to the implementation of the project within the agreed timeframe.
- Costs must comply with the terms and conditions set out in the FSTP Agreement at both the overall project and regional levels.
- Costs must be necessary for the project's implementation and proportionate to the work performed and results achieved.
- Costs must be identifiable, verifiable, and supported by adequate documentation.
- Payments and eligibility of costs are contingent on the satisfactory completion of project deliverables and achievement of KPIs.

To ensure a thorough understanding of the financial aspects of the UNITE JIP Call 1 and its payment mechanisms, applicants are strongly encouraged to consult with representatives from the UNITE partner regions, as indicated in Annex G of the main UNITE JIP Call Document, during the proposal design and preparation phase and well before the specified call deadline.

7. Timeline for Call 1

The timeline below presents an overview of the key stages, actions, and indicative deadlines in the proposal submission and evaluation process for Call 1, aimed at supporting applicants in planning their submissions and subsequent follow-ups.

Action	Date
UNITE JIP Call 1 - proposal submission system opens	15 October 2025
Online general information session	21 October 2025
UNITE JIP Call 1 - proposal submission deadline	15 January 2026
Communication to ineligible proposals that did not pass the eligibility criteria check	19 January 2026
Appeal window for proposals rejected during the eligibility check	20-22 January 2026
Resolution for appeals due to the eligibility criteria	23 January 2026
Communication to proposals that passed both the Review Gate and Strategic Gate and advancing to the Due Diligence Interviews	6 February 2026
Due Diligence Interviews	10 - 13 February 2026
UNITE General Assembly Consensus Meeting	18 February 2026
Feedback to selected/rejected proposals	20 February, 2026
Proposal adjustments window for selected proposals	23 - 27 February 2026
Appeal window for proposals rejected in the Review Gate or Strategic Gate	23 - 27 February 2026

Action	Date
Resolution for proposal adjustments and appeals due to the Review Gate or Strategic Gate	2 March 2026
Signature of FSTP agreements by selected beneficiaries	3 - 31 March 2026
Selected projects start	1 April 2026

8. Contact Details

For region-specific inquiries, applicants are advised to contact their designated regional representatives, as listed in Annex G of the main UNITE JIP Call Document. For general questions, requests, or assistance with the registration on the UNITE Cloud portal, please contact unitecloud@eitdigital.eu.

In addition to the general information sessions on the UNITE open calls, dedicated matchmaking events will be organised through the [UNITE Matchmaking Platform](#) as well as various regional events to facilitate more targeted collaboration opportunities.

To stay informed about the latest developments, opportunities, and updates related to the UNITE initiative, please visit the [UNITE website](#) or subscribe to the [UNITE newsletter](#).