



# A BORDERLESS EUROPEAN DIGITAL HEALTH ECOSYSTEM

## THE UNITE PROJECT

The UNITE project is a transformative 4-year initiative under the European Commission's Regional Innovation Valleys, part of the New European Innovation Agenda. It focuses on advancing digital health technologies to address pressing challenges in European healthcare systems.

At its core, UNITE aims to tackle the dual issues of an aging population and a shortage of healthcare workers. By fostering collaboration among private, public, academic, and civic stakeholders, the project envisions a dynamic and interconnected ecosystem that drives entrepreneurship and supports the growth of local startups.

Innovation is central to UNITE's mission. The program prioritizes solutions to manage demographic shifts, promote the "silver economy," and ease the burden on healthcare systems. These efforts are designed to eliminate barriers, build interregional value chains, and position Europe as a global leader in digital health innovation.

The significance of the UNITE program is reinforced by substantial financial backing. With a budget of nearly €20 million—half provided by the European Commission—the project is well-equipped to deliver meaningful change across the continent.

## THE UNITE CONSORTIUM

The UNITE consortium unites a diverse group of regional and national partners to address Europe's healthcare challenges collaboratively.

Partners Include:

- EIT Digital, Belgium.
- Region Sjælland, Denmark.
- Thüringer Ministerium für Wirtschaft, Wissenschaft und Digitale Gesellschaft, Germany.
- Region of Central Macedonia, Greece.
- Regione Lombardia, Italy.
- Malopolska Voivodeship, Poland.
- Unitatea Executiva Pentru Finantarea Invatamantului Superior, a Cercetarii, Dezvoltarii si Inovarii (UEFISCDI), Romania.
- Scottish Enterprise, United Kingdom.



## CHALLENGES

### Deep-Tech Innovation for Equal Health

Healthcare solutions must address mobility challenges, fragmented services, and technological disparities, particularly for disadvantaged populations. Tailored, efficient, and effective innovations are essential to close these gaps.

### Personalised and Human-Centric Remote Care

A shift towards personalised, accessible care is vital to empower patients and improve their health management. By reducing in-person visits and increasing continuity of care, digital tools can enhance access for remote and underserved populations.

### Advancing the European Health Data Space

Improving data accessibility and understanding is critical for better patient outcomes and streamlined healthcare services. Harmonised frameworks will simplify regulations, support research and innovation, and enable better access to data for patients, professionals, and researchers alike.

### Addressing the Health Workforce Crisis

To combat workforce shortages, digital innovation must enhance workflow efficiency, reduce administrative burdens, and free up time for patient care. Upskilling healthcare professionals through training and education will be key to bridging skill gaps.

## ACTIONS

### Funding Innovation

UNITE will fund startups, scale-ups, and SMEs to develop cutting-edge digital health solutions, bridging regional gaps and boosting Europe's competitiveness.

### Integrating Healthcare

By optimizing procurement and data sharing, UNITE will ensure seamless adoption of new technologies into regional healthcare systems.

### Building Value Chains

UNITE will create new interregional commercial and technology value chains to promote cross-regional collaboration and tackle market fragmentation.

### Unifying Fragmented Services

By aggregating dispersed and region-specific startup, living lab, and testbed services, UNITE will improve access to and usability of the ecosystem services.

### Training Stakeholders

Online programs will equip stakeholders with the knowledge to drive innovation and collaborate effectively across regions.

### Shaping Policy

By 2028, UNITE will deliver policy recommendations to guide future European healthcare initiatives.

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