

Horizon Europe – Cluster 1: Health

What is Horizon Europe?

Horizon Europe is the EU's key funding programme for research and innovation (R&I) with a budget of €95.5 billion for the period 2021-2027. It tackles climate change, helps to achieve the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and boosts Europe's competitiveness and growth.

The programme facilitates collaboration and strengthens the impact of R&I in developing, supporting, and implementing EU policies while tackling global challenges. It supports the creation and better sharing of knowledge and technologies.

It also creates jobs, fully engages Europe's talent pool, boosts economic growth, promotes industrial competitiveness, and optimises investment impact within a strengthened European Research Area.

For information on UK participation in the programme see UKRO's [dedicated factsheet](#).

What are Clusters in Horizon Europe?

The 'Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness' pillar of Horizon Europe takes forward the current societal challenges and industrial technologies in a more 'top-down' approach, addressing EU and global policy challenges. These challenges and opportunities are integrated into six Clusters, each with a number of specific intervention areas and designed to incentivise cross-disciplinary, cross-sectoral, cross-policy and international collaboration. In terms of addressing global political priorities, each Cluster contributes towards several Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and many SDGs will be supported by more than one Cluster.

The Clusters and their intervention areas are expected to achieve greater impact when compared to the societal challenges of Horizon 2020 since they will cut across classical boundaries between disciplines and address different types of challenges. The integrated Clusters of activities derive from the [First Strategic Plan for Horizon Europe 2021-24](#) and [Second Strategic Plan for Horizon Europe 2025-27](#) and form the basis for support to collaborative R&I projects under the 'Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness' pillar.

What is funded under Cluster 1?

Cluster 1 has an overall budget of €8.246 billion. This funding is used to support six impact areas of the Horizon Europe Strategic Plan:

- Staying healthy in a rapidly changing society
- Living and working in a health-promoting environment
- Tackling diseases and reducing disease burden
- Ensuring equal access to innovative, sustainable, and high-quality healthcare
- Developing and using new tools, technologies, and digital solutions for a healthy society
- Maintaining an innovative, sustainable, and competitive EU health industry

A wide range of call topics are aimed at improving human health and wellbeing and making healthcare systems more inclusive, accessible, sustainable, and resilient to cross-border health threats, demographic change and the impacts of climate change and environmental challenges. Cluster 1 also focuses on how digitalisation and new digital technologies such as AI can help to respond to these challenges.

The work programme for 2025 is the first part for the Health Cluster under Horizon Europe's new strategic plan 2025-2027. It aligns with the European Commission's Political Guidelines for 2024-2029, focusing on strengthening healthcare resilience, leveraging biotechnology and artificial intelligence, and addressing public health needs including supporting the development of critical medicines.

More specifically, Cluster 1 contributes to **six expected impacts** set out in the 2025-2027 Strategic Plan, which are the **six destinations** described below:

Destination 1 - Staying healthy in a rapidly changing society

Focuses on enhancing dialogue and coordination among stakeholders, policymakers, ensuring integration across different care settings. Funded activities should seek to leverage the wealth of data sources, including real-world health data, to develop integrated and personalised health promotion and diseases prevention strategies. Emphasis is also on enhancing the quality of life, autonomy, and empowerment of individuals with intellectual disabilities and their families through innovative medical, technological, and digital solutions, as well as addressing rehabilitation for disabilities which have not yet been funded under Cluster 1.

Destination 2 - Living and working in a health-promoting environment

Focuses on the health impacts of exposures to pollution and environmental degradation in living and working environments. Aims to fill knowledge gaps in the understanding of the impacts on health and wellbeing of those environmental, occupational, and socio-economic risk factors that have the most significant or widespread societal impacts.

Destination 3 - Tackling diseases and reducing disease burden

Focuses on major societal challenges linked to the Commission's political priorities such as the fight against non-communicable and communicable diseases, mental health and better treatment of mental, behavioural, and neurodevelopmental diseases, preparedness, and response to and surveillance of health threats and epidemics, reduction, and treatment of the number of antimicrobial-resistant infections.

Destination 4 - Ensuring access to innovative, sustainable, and high-quality health care

Focuses on enhancing healthcare efficiency and cost-effectiveness with Generative AI solutions, augmented by other AI tools that aim to support healthcare professionals in decision-making, offering personalised care, and to develop sustainable practices. Also focuses on improving patient engagement and empowerment by increasing public knowledge, trust, and acceptance of AI tools, while also improving communication between patients and healthcare providers, as well as between healthcare providers.

Destination 5 - Unlocking the full potential of new tools, technologies, and digital solutions for a healthy society

Promotes the development of novel tools, technologies and digital solutions for prevention, diagnosis, and therapy with the goal to improve health outcomes, while taking into consideration the rights of the individual, safety, effectiveness, appropriateness, accessibility, comparative value-added and fiscal sustainability as well as issues of ethical, legal, and regulatory nature.

Destination 6 - Maintaining an innovative, sustainable, and globally competitive health-related industry

Focuses on collaborative efforts to advance manufacturing processes and activities to ensure increased knowledge on and a faster uptake of medical devices and in vitro diagnostic medical devices in the current EU regulatory context. Activities will support optimising the manufacturing of Advanced Therapy Medicinal Products (ATMPs), advance digitalisation of conformity assessment procedures, and facilitate and enable improved knowledge on the conduct of multinational clinical studies of orphan devices and/or 'breakthrough' devices.

Call timings and requirements

Please note the following timings:

- Single stage 2025 calls open on 22 May 2025 with a deadline of 16 September 2025.
- Calls related to Partnerships in Health open on 13 May 2025 with a deadline of 03 June 2025.
- Two stage 2025 calls open on 22 May 2025. The first stage deadline is 16 September 2025, and the second stage deadline is 16 April 2026.

To increase the impact of EU investments under Horizon Europe, the European Commission encourages and supports cooperation among EU-funded projects to foster cross-fertilisation and synergies.

Please note that some topics have specific eligibility criteria, listed under eligibility and admissibility conditions, such as the obligation to include legal entities established in the target country/region. Applicants are advised to check the work programme for details relating to their topics of interest.

For ten 2025 calls, the Commission will use the lump sum funding model.

The [UK National Contact Points \(NCPs\)](#) can provide further advice and guidance to potential applicants.

European Partnerships

The UK is a part of the following Cluster 1 European Partnerships:

Institutionalised European Partnerships:

- [Global Health EDCTP3 \(EDCTP = European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership\)](#)
- [Innovative Health Initiative \(IHI, which follows-on from Innovative Medicines Initiatives - IMI1 and IMI2\)](#)

Co-funded Partnerships:

- [ERA for Health Research \(ERA4Health, ERA = European Research Area\)](#)
- [Transformation of Health Care Systems \(THCS\)](#)
- [Personalised Medicine \(EP PerMed\)](#)
- [European Rare Diseases Research Alliance \(ERDERA\)](#)
- [One Health AMR \(OH AMR\)](#)
- [Pandemic Preparedness](#)
- [Brain Health](#)
- [European Partnership for Assessment of Risk of Chemicals \(PARC\)](#)

International cooperation

International cooperation is strongly sought across Horizon Europe.

Cluster 1 topic areas are also included in many high-level agreements for R&I cooperation like the [EU-AU Innovation Agenda](#). Out of the 24 calls that will receive an additional €500.5 million under the [Africa III Initiative](#), the following is part of the Cluster 1 Work Programme:

- HORIZON-HLTH-2025-01-DISEASE-03: [Development of antibodies and antibody-derived proteins for the prevention and treatment of infectious diseases with epidemic potential](#)

Relevant EU policy areas and developments

Cluster 1 is linked to multiple European Commission's political priorities, in particular the agenda for a European Health Union - the recent proposal to enhance EU preparedness and response to health crises, building on lessons learnt from the Covid-19 pandemic. The key initiatives underpinning the Health Union include a Pharmaceutical Strategy for Europe creation of a European Data Space and Electronic cross-border health services (eHealth Digital Infrastructures, including electronic health records), as well as the Health Emergency Response Authority (HERA).

The 2025 Work Programme for Cluster 1 supports R&I investments to understand and mitigate the effects of climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss on human health and healthcare systems.

This aligns with EU's flagship European Green Deal, which is the European Union's growth strategy setting the EU on the path to a green transition with the ultimate goal of reaching climate neutrality by 2050. Other EU strategies influencing environment and health R&I include: 8th Environmental Action Programme, Chemicals Strategy for Sustainability, Climate Adaptation Strategy, Zero Pollution Action Plan.

Cluster 1 supports addressing the need for further R&I investments in mental health, contributing to the Commission's initiative on a comprehensive approach to mental health.

Some topics are expected to address Europe's long-term challenges related to an ageing population and non-communicable diseases. Cluster 1 will contribute to initiatives such as 'Healthier Together – EU Non-communicable Diseases Initiative'.

Cluster 1 will also bring relevant complementary inputs to Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, a political commitment to combat cancer, also supported through the Horizon Europe Mission on Cancer, covering the entire cancer care pathway, including prevention, early detection, diagnosis, treatment, cancer data monitoring, as well as the quality of life of cancer patients and survivors.

The proposed European Health Data Space (EHDS) Regulation will provide a framework for data-based health R&I activities in Cluster 1. Critical technologies such as AI and biotechnology will be supported to secure EU technological sovereignty in the healthcare sector, in line with the EU's Artificial Intelligence Strategy and Biotechnology and Biomanufacturing Strategy.

The Work Programme aims to enhance healthcare efficiency, patient engagement, and trust in AI tools, in line with the European Care Strategy.

Some topics will focus on addressing rehabilitation for disabilities, aligning with the EU Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030 and supports Pillar 17 of the European Pillar of Social Rights, which aims to promote the inclusion of people with disabilities.

In line with Europe's Strategy for International Cooperation in R&I, and the EU Global Health Strategy, Cluster 1 aims to enhance the EU's role at the international level, as a leader in health R&I. This applies for multi-lateral cooperation with countries associated to Horizon Europe but also with other countries and regions in the world, especially the partnership with Africa.

The strategy builds on existing global alliances in health in key sectors such as antimicrobial resistance (One Health), rare diseases (IRDiRC), chronic non-communicable diseases (GACD) or poverty-related infectious diseases (EDCTP), contributing therefore to the UN's Sustainable Development Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages.

While the Innovative Health Initiative European Partnership is the key Horizon Europe initiative driving a globally competitive European health industry, Cluster 1 contributes towards the European Industrial Strategy such as investing in advancing manufacturing processes for medical devices and Advanced Therapy Medicinal Products, and the EU's Digital Strategy.

Some of its calls focus on innovation, sustainability, and competitiveness of the EU health industry as well as on strengthening the EU autonomy in critical health technologies. Cluster 1 also supports the development of the European Health Data Space and the exchange of electronic health records across EU.

More information

- [Horizon Europe website](#) and [Cluster 1 website](#)
- [Work Programme 2025 for Cluster 1](#)
- [Find your UK National Contact Point](#)
- [UK National Contact Point Newsletter](#)

Horizon Europe's legal basis:

- [Regulation establishing Horizon Europe](#)
- [Decision establishing the Specific Programme of Horizon Europe](#)
- [First Strategic Plan for Horizon Europe \(2021-2024\)](#)
- [Second Strategic Plan for Horizon Europe \(2025-2027\)](#)

UKRO Portal

- [UKRO Portal](#)

Other websites and resources

- [Commission's 2024-2029 priorities](#)
- [HaDEA Cluster 1 website](#)
- [EU Health Research and Innovation website](#)
- [EU Mission on Cancer website](#)
- [EU Action on Health website](#)
- [EU's Coronavirus response](#)
- [EU Vaccines Strategy](#)
- [EU Strategy on COVID-19 Therapeutics](#)
- [European Health Union website](#)
- [EU Environment, climate, and health website](#)
- [EU Personalised medicine website](#)
- [European Health Data Space](#)
- [European Electronic Health Records](#)
- [Pharmaceutical Strategy for Europe](#)
- [European One Health Action Plan against AMR](#)
- [Europe's Beating the Cancer Plan](#)
- [EU4Health Programme](#)
- [The EU's Cybersecurity Strategy](#)
- [UN STSDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages \(WHO\)](#)
- [Horizon Europe Partnerships in Health](#)