



Slovenian Innovation Hub and Strategic Research Innovation Partnership (SRIP) Health – Medicine

dr. Alenka Rožaj Brvar, MBA, SIH EEIG

Coordinator of SRIP Health - Medicine and Reference Site Slovenia 3 RSCN*

www.sis-egiz.eu; direktor@sis-egiz.eu

Ljubljana, March 1st, 2024

Slovenian Innovation Hub, European Economic Interest Grouping – SIH EEIG (also known by Slovenian acronym SIS EGIZ)

established in mid 2015

Our values: Mutual trust and respect.

- Located at the new University Campus in Brdo, Ljubljana.
- Bridging academia, innovation and business to create global value chains.
- Actively implementing Slovenian Smart Specialization Strategy in Health – Medicine.
- Creating better tomorrow SINCE together we can make changes happen.

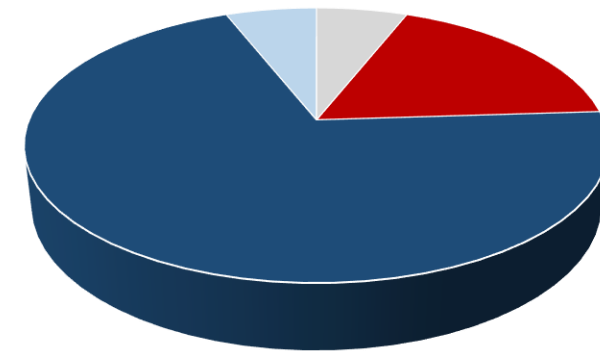


Strategic Research Innovation Partnership (SRIP) **Health – Medicine** is dedicated to achieving Strategy's goals and in collaboration with other stakeholders contribute to:

- Connecting the creative and ambitious to improve healthcare and create higher value added,
- identifying new business opportunities, promising technologies and big projects,
- creating opportunities for new projects,
- supporting the stars of tomorrow,
- trying to identify future competences and skills,
- influencing legislation.



34 partners from quadruple helix

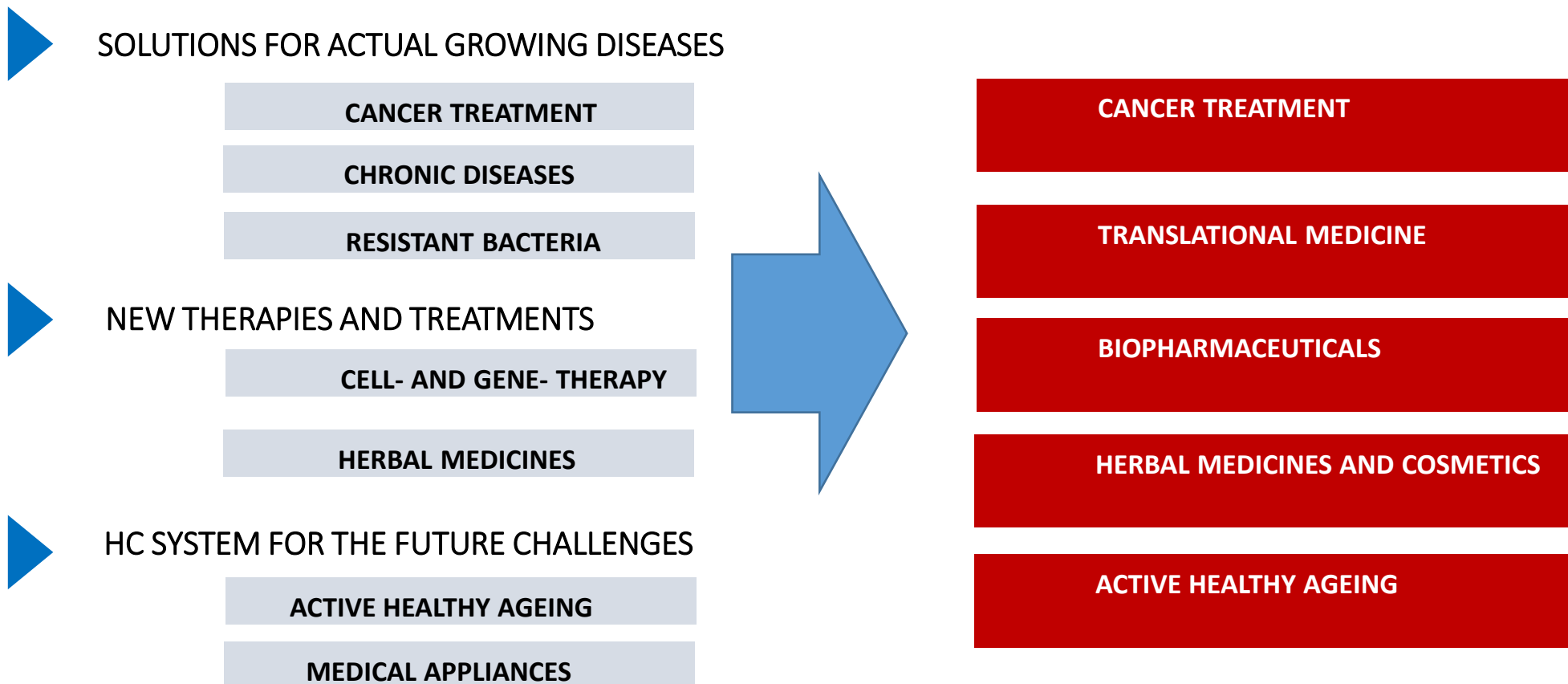


Education R&D Business NGO

PARTNERS HAVE DEVELOPED VALUE CHAINS, EMPLOYING KEY ENABLING TECHNOLOGIES TO PUSH INNOVATION FROM LAB TOWARDS THE MARKET AND TO THE MARKET



ADDRESSING PARTNERS' PRIORITY CHALLENGES (also by implementing AI and KET)



SOME IMPORTANT RESULTS



SOLUTIONS FOR ACTUAL GROWING DISEASES

CANCER TREATMENT

CHRONIC DISEASES

Center for proton irradiation treatment of cancer

Mobile Health (R)Evolution – control of chronic diseases – Vanguard initiative pilot project



NEW THERAPIES AND TREATMENTS

CELL- AND GENE- THERAPY

HERBAL MEDICINES

Gene therapy for skin cancer –clinical trials
Cell therapy – globally first innovative cure for prostate cancer
Center for gene and cell therapy technologies

Food supplements, new start-ups created



HC SYSTEM FOR THE FUTURE CHALLENGES

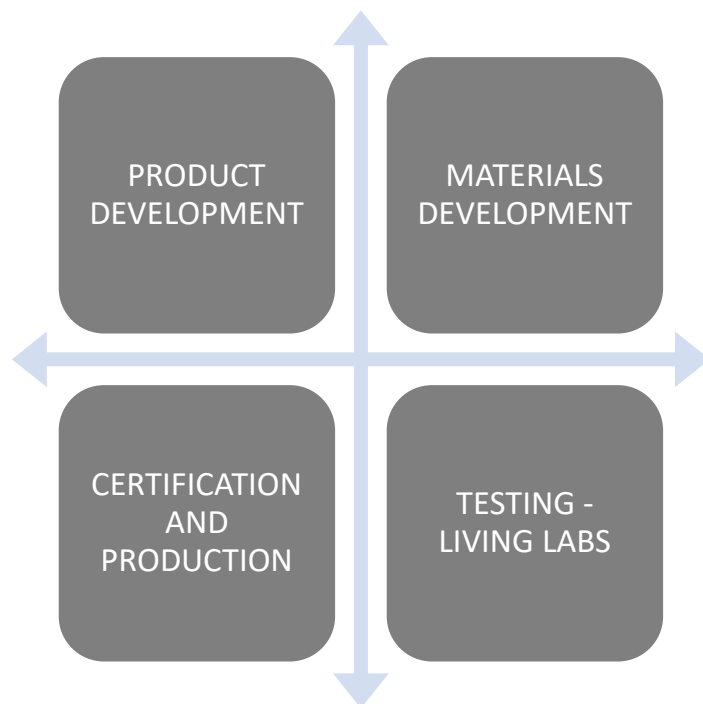
ACTIVE HEALTHY AGEING

Partners in European projects related to innovation and silver economy (IN4AHA, Senior Eco Nect, HealthChain)



ACTIVE HEALTHY AGEING – more years of healthy life → SILVER ECONOMY

PROMISING AREA FOR SME - CLOSEST TO THE MARKET



New requests for the products dictated by demographic changes and EU recommendations.

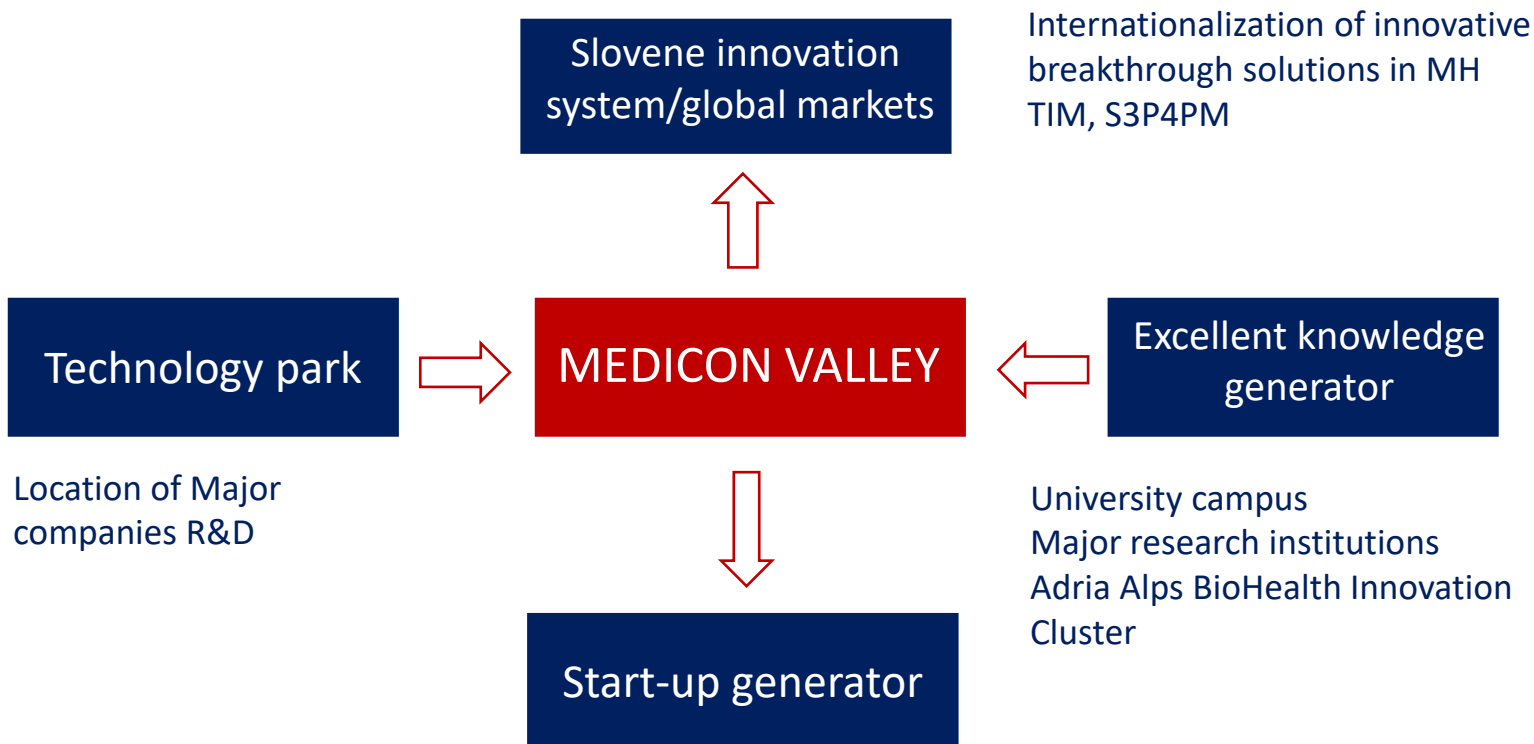
Most of the products are designed and manufactured for younger generations. Longer lifespan calls for adaptation in ergonomics and function of various products. New value created will come to products suited for elderly population (ergonomic adaptation, better nursing possibilities etc. A good example is electric bike, that enables recreation for older people, and they are willing to pay much higher prices in comparison to classical bike.

Capabilities for development, testing and certification

Market potential for silver economy in Slovenia lies in the development of adapted products, in the development of new materials for such products, testing and certification. SRIP Health-Medicine partners are designing a living lab within the new technical campus called Adria Alps BioInnovation Hub, a Slovenian Medical Valley.



Integrative role of Slovenian Medicon Valley (Adria Alps BioHealth Innovation Cluster)



Creation of high value-added jobs in collaboration with other SRIPs.



Slovenian Innovation Hub



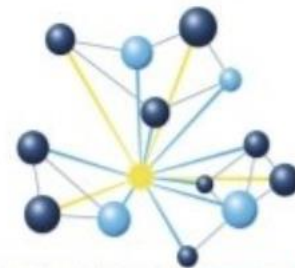
GOOD COLLABORATION IN INTERNATIONAL NETWORKS SUPPORTING THE INNOVATION TRANSFER TO THE MARKET

Membership in supercluster
Twin International Multihelix



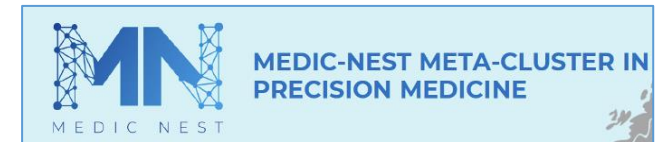
SIH EEIG a member of S3P4PM
Personalized Medicine Platform

<https://s3platform.jrc.ec.europa.eu/personalised-medicine>



VANGUARD INITIATIVE
New growth through smart specialisation

SMART HEALTH pilot projects:
MOBILE HEALTH (R)EVOLUTION
TRACEMED - radiotracers



PARTNERS IN EU PROJECTS



The Operation is funded by Republic of Slovenia and European Union from European Fund for Regional Development.

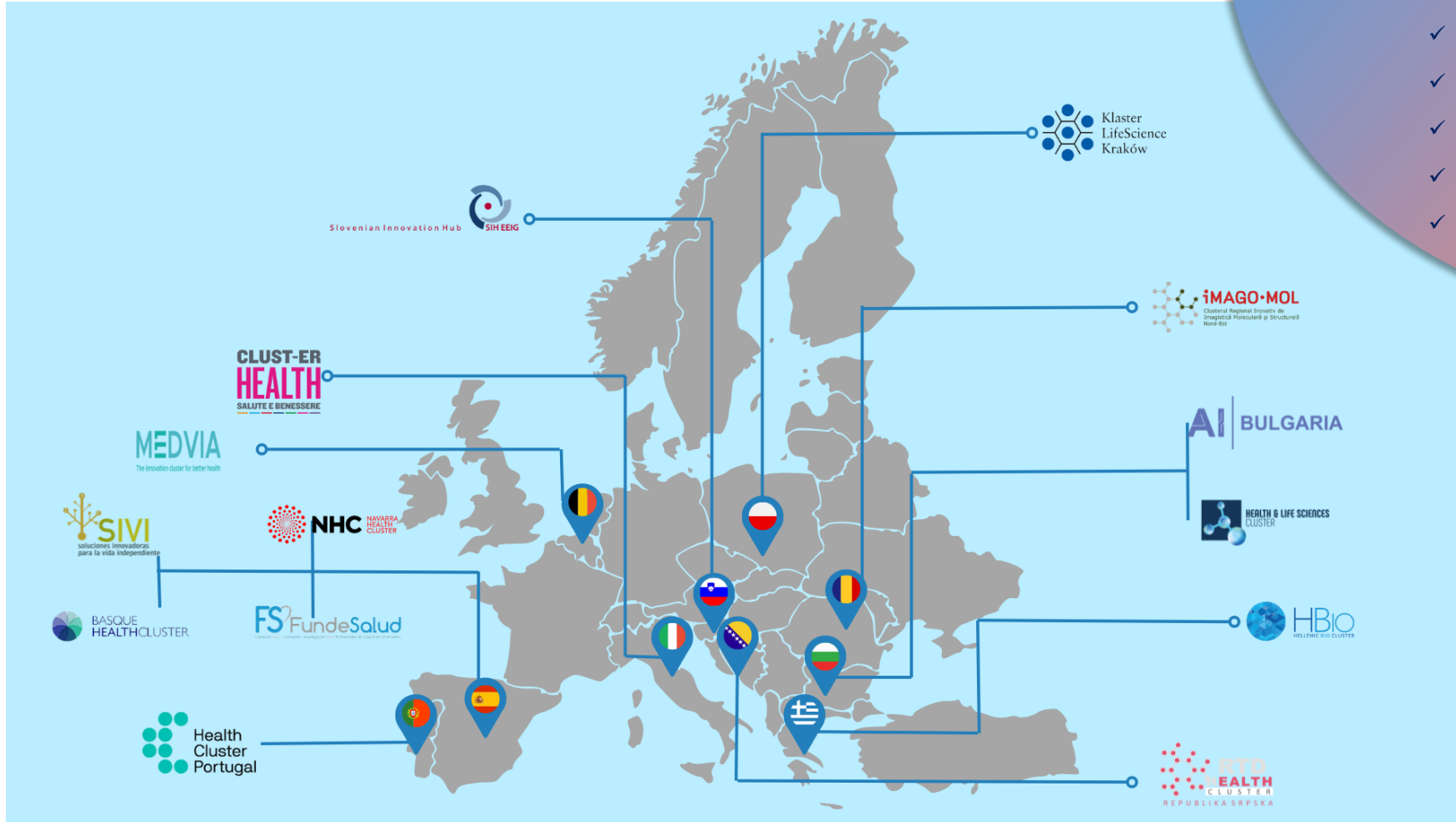


**MEDIC-NEST META-CLUSTER IN
PRECISION MEDICINE**

European Cluster Excellence Partnership

Industrial focus

- ✓ **MedTech**
- ✓ **Digital technologies**
- ✓ **Biotech**
- ✓ **Pharma**
- ✓ **Medical imaging**



IN4AHA 1/2

The project focuses on the engagements of existing and needed mechanisms to empower the European Innovation Partnership on AHA ecosystem and the cross-border scale-up of tested and ready-to-use applications towards healthcare.

Project brings **together supply and demand actors** to create **sustainable model for innovation scale-up**, its integration with stakeholders and the needs for systemic change.

Service providers as start-ups, SME-s and large industries need the support of ecosystem, incl. health clusters. Demand actors as health care institutions, health centres, local governments are responsible for service provision to ageing communities and elders.

Well-designed cooperation mechanisms in frame of agreed model facilitate regular exchanges between the demand and supply sides as well as whole network, enable to identify the barriers and improve the innovation process in local as well EU level, incl. cross-border deployment of innovations.

The role of the policy and whole ecosystem is to **encourage innovators to step up with user-centred strategies and transformative solutions**.

IN4AHA 2/2

This may lead to the **need for change in ecosystem operations** to gain the success with mHealth solutions for AHA, more **smart age-friendly homes for longer independent living** or chronic disease management.

Our goal was **to identify and support the most important innovation ecosystem elements** and encourage the relations between functioning actors by addressing the challenges of innovators in market uptake, and expansion in the domestic and cross-border markets.

To reach wider commitment to investment, leading to successful and cost-effective implementation of digitally-enabled, person-centred care solutions, **co-creation among policy and ecosystem actors** towards long-term investment strategy for more investments into cost-effective digitally-enabling healthcare solutions, is needed.

Administrative capacity of regional authorities to support innovation through strict and clear procedures should correspond to supply and demand.

(<https://innovation4ageing.tehnopol.ee>)



Senior Eco-Nect 1/2

Senior Eco-Nect project will prepare a joint action plan to support the emergence and the development of European ecosystems dedicated to silver economy as well as ensuring the inclusivity and interconnectivity between all the key innovation stakeholders of the sector and cross-sectors.

The specific objectives of Senior Eco-Nect are the following:

- O.1 – Support the **emergence, growth, efficiency, and interconnection** of at least 4 European ecosystems dedicated to silver economy.
- O.2 – Unlock the full potential of silver economy sector by integrating key transversal areas **targeting the ageing population beyond the scope of health and care.**
- O.3 – Ensure **inclusiveness and interconnectivity** between the key innovation players from across the quadruple helix around the sector of silver economy at the local, regional, national, and European level and beyond,
- O.4 – Increase the **efficiency and innovation potential of silver economy innovators** and projects by addressing key challenges and exploiting the opportunities offered by silver economy,
- O.5 – Encouraging synergies and complementarities between Senior Eco-Nect Joint Action Plan and the innovation programmes of public authorities.

Senior Eco Nect 2/2

Six partners representing innovation ecosystems and sectoral networks will join forces and strategies toward the strengthening of European innovation ecosystem in silver economy:

Eurasanté in France, Munster Technological University in Ireland, Slovenian Innovation Hub in Slovenia, Cluster Saude de Galicia in Spain, the European Platform for Sports and Innovation, and the European Network for Accessible Tourism. Their effort will be supported by the engagement of 32 associated partners representing key innovation ecosystems members of the quadruple helix (industry, academia, public authorities and civil society across Europe).

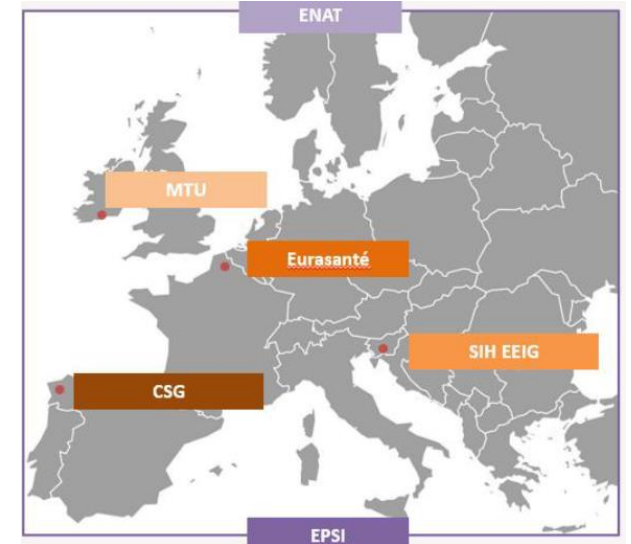


Figure 1 – Geographic map of the consortium

HealthChain (I3) 1/2

I3 – Interregional Innovation Investment – cascade financing of SMEs

Investing public money, effort and even passion in **innovation pilots that never get adopted** produces enormous frustration. If innovation does not produce impact, it is then something else. In end-users, it generates 'innovation burnt-out' which severely affect their willingness to enrol in future innovation opportunities.

At organizational level it is, at a minimum, **a lost opportunity to better spend their resources**, and a killer for promoting intra-preneurship. For **suppliers** that spend their own resources, it is a **double loss**.

Apart from the money invested with no immediate return, they lose face in front of other potential customers. If the innovation is so good, why the piloting customer did not acquire it? Without a first commercial reference, they cannot get a second one. In the past, this '**valley of death**' of pilots was **provoked by technology-push approaches**, that did not take into account the needs of the customers.

HealthChain (I3) 2/2

Besides, the involvement of end users was limited. To cope with this situation, instruments like PCP and PPI promote demand-driven, co-creative methodologies. However, they have sizeable administrative burdens and require a lot of economic resources to put them in motion.

There is a gap for demanders of innovation with challenges that require **leaner, cheaper** and **faster testing and deployment**. HealthChain proposes a model that is **demand-driven, co-creative, geared to adoption and ecosystem enabled to complement current instruments**. It is demand-driven because it is the customer and its end-users who identify the challenges to be solved. The development of the innovative solutions is co-developed with suppliers.

Besides, and very important for impact, there is a commitment from the customer to adopt the innovation if successful. In addition, ecosystem supporters (clusters or business associations) deliver business support to increase suppliers' know-how and boost their competitiveness.



Thank you!

Contact information:

direktor@sis-egiz.eu

www.sis-egiz.eu

www.sripzdravje-medicina.si

Just became a member in new meta-cluster in precision medicine for partnering on EU calls

