



15th January 2026 | 13:00 – 14:15 CET

Webinar on
**Funding and Collaboration Opportunities for SMEs in Health
Research and Innovation**

#healthNCPnet | www.healthncp.net



 HNN3.0 (The Cluster 1 Health consortium of NCPs for Horizon Europe) has received funding from the European Union's Horizon EUROPE research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement number 101057279

2026 Calls for Proposals

Horizon Europe – Cluster 1: Health

Key Opportunities for SMEs

 **Zoe Atsipoulia**

*NCP Health & EU Cancer Mission – Greece
Innovation Consultant – Health SG|EEN Hellas
National Documentation Centre (EKT)*



Why Cluster 1: Health matters for SMEs

- **Strong focus on innovation and practical health solutions**
 - Projects aim at developing and testing real solutions, not basic research
- **Topics linked to real needs of patients and health systems**
 - Calls address concrete challenges in healthcare delivery and care pathways
- **Many calls close to market and testing activities**
 - Pilots, validation and demonstration are often included
- **Very relevant for digital health, medical devices and data solutions**
 - These are core thematic areas of Cluster 1
- **SMEs seen as key innovation partners**
 - SMEs often bring specialised knowledge and agility
- **SMEs are expected partners, especially in Innovation Actions**
 - Innovation Actions require market orientation and exploitation



2026 Calls for Proposals – Cluster 1: Health

- The **2026 Work Programme** includes several open calls under Cluster 1 – Health
- These calls address concrete **health challenges** and **innovation needs**
- SMEs can participate either as **coordinators** or as **key partners**
- Most calls are open to **international consortia with complementary expertise**
- **Early engagement** and **clear role definition** are very important for successful participation



2026 Calls for Proposals – Cluster 1: Health

Selected open calls relevant for SMEs

Call title	Call code	Opening date	Deadline
Behavioural interventions as primary prevention for NCDs among young people	HORIZON-HLTH-2026-01-STAYHLTH-02	10 Feb 2026	16 Apr 2026
Building public trust and outreach in the life sciences	HORIZON-HLTH-2026-01-STAYHLTH-03	10 Feb 2026	16 Apr 2026
Innovative interventions to prevent harmful effects of digital technologies on mental health of children and young adults	HORIZON-HLTH-2026-01-DISEASE-02	10 Feb 2026	16 Apr 2026
Post-infection long-term conditions: prevention, diagnosis and management	HORIZON-HLTH-2026-01-DISEASE-03	10 Feb 2026	16 Apr 2026
Development of novel vaccines for viral pathogens with epidemic potential	HORIZON-HLTH-2026-01-DISEASE-04	10 Feb 2026	16 Apr 2026
Public procurement of innovative solutions for access to healthcare	HORIZON-HLTH-2026-01-CARE-01	10 Feb 2026	16 Apr 2026
Integrating New Approach Methodologies (NAMs)	HORIZON-HLTH-2026-01-TOOL-03	10 Feb 2026	16 Apr 2026
Regulatory science for patient-centred health technologies	HORIZON-HLTH-2026-01-IND-03	10 Feb 2026	16 Apr 2026

What Evaluators expect from SMEs

- ✓ A **clear and well-defined role** in the project and in the consortium
- ✓ **Relevant expertise and capacity** aligned with the project objectives
 - ✓ **Realistic contribution** to tasks, milestones and deliverables
- ✓ **Credible TRL level** and contribution to TRL progression
- ✓ **Market and user-oriented perspective**, especially in Innovation Actions
 - ✓ Contribution to **impact, exploitation and use of results**
 - ✓ **Awareness of IP and data management issues**
- ✓ Capacity to **support scaling-up and sustainability** beyond the project
 - ✓ **Active participation** throughout the project duration
 - ✓ **Consistency between role, budget and effort**

Thank you for your attention!

Zoe Atsipoulouliaki

*NCP Health & EU Cancer Mission – Greece
Innovation Consultant – Health SG/EEN Hellas
National Documentation Centre (EKT)*

✉ zatsipoulouliaki@ekt.com

☎ 210 2204998

🌐 <https://www.ekt.gr/>

