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Webinar on

Funding and Collaboration Opportunities for SMEs in Health Research and Innovation

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2026 Calls for Proposals

Horizon Europe – Cluster 1: Health

Key Opportunities for SMEs



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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!

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