

IMPACT SUCCESS STORIES



HIVE aims to improve the management of HIV and non-communicable diseases (NCDs) through smart, inclusive, and sustainable healthcare.

By combining digital tools, interpersonal counselling, and implementation research, HIVE brings together experts, healthcare providers, and communities to strengthen health systems and enhance the wellbeing of people living with HIV (PLWH).



1. Describe your project through key words/key phrases that identify it.

The aim of the HIVE project is to improve the lives of people living with HIV (PLWH) by addressing the growing complexity of managing HIV alongside non-communicable diseases (NCDs). This is particularly important for those patients and their families who live in LMICs or are among vulnerable groups. If I had to summarise the HIVE project in a few key phrases, I would say: integrated HIV-NCD care, digital health, implementation research, mental health, and reducing health inequalities.

More specifically, the project combines a mHealth application for self-management, the integration of non-communicable disease care into HIV clinics, and interpersonal support to support mental health. What makes it particularly distinctive is that it brings all of these elements together within a real-world, multi-country (LMIC and HIC) implementation framework, with a strong focus on scalability and adaptability across different healthcare systems.

2. In terms of impact, what will be the most tangible your project will achieve?

One of the most tangible outcomes of HIVE will be a fully validated, adaptable mHealth tool that supports people living with HIV in managing both their condition and related non-communicable diseases (NCD). Alongside this, we will deliver a model for integrating NCD care directly into HIV clinical settings, which is something that is still lacking in many healthcare systems.



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produce structured interpersonal support protocols to address the psychosocial needs of patients, as well as results from a large multinational clinical trial demonstrating how these components work together in practice.

Beyond the interventions themselves, the project will generate a comprehensive implementation roadmap, policy recommendations, and clear guidelines for replication and scale-up in different socio-economic contexts. These outputs are designed to be directly usable by healthcare providers, policymakers, and other researchers.

The long-term impact of our study is the reduction of inequalities between HICs and LMICs in relation to providing holistic care to PLWH with more than one NCDs.

3. Please describe your project's overall impact, if applicable, at the European level.

At the European level, HIVE contributes to particularly the need to move away from fragmented, disease-specific care towards more integrated and patient-centred approaches.

By focusing on people living with HIV the project addresses a growing but often under-recognised burden. Our approach helps bridge gaps between services, improve continuity of care, and ultimately reduce health inequalities across different populations and regions.

Importantly, the solutions we are developing are not limited to one country or healthcare system. Because HIVE is implemented across diverse settings, the results will be highly transferable, offering a scalable model that can inform policy and practice across Europe and beyond.

4. As an applicant, what advice would you have wanted in the Horizon project design process? What support did you receive from National Contact point (NCP) and your organisation, and what improvement of support would you benefit from?

A major challenge in the preparation of the application was the limited time available. The call timeline was particularly tight, and in hindsight, the process would have benefited significantly from earlier preparation, ideally starting with the formation of the consortium even before the call officially opened. This would have allowed more time for strategic alignment, clearer role definitions, and a more mature project design.

Due to these time constraints, the National Contact Point (NCP) was not contacted during the preparation phase. While NCP support can be valuable, the compressed schedule made it difficult to meaningfully engage with them in this case.

The administrative support provided by the coordinating institution was helpful and contributed positively to the submission process. However, this support could be further strengthened, for example through dedicated administrative training tailored specifically for institutions aiming to submit proposals as coordinators. Such targeted training could improve efficiency, reduce administrative burden on academic or technical staff, and enhance overall proposal quality.

Finally, access to peer support from previous successful applicants would have been extremely valuable, particularly during the project design phase. Learning from their practical experience, including key “dos and don’ts,” common pitfalls, and effective strategies, would have supported more informed decision making and strengthened the proposal at an early stage.

5. Please highlight aspects of your Horizon project's strengths that you consider important and that may constitute good practice for other applicants.

One of the key strengths of HIVE is its genuinely integrated approach. Rather than focusing on a single intervention, we combine digital health, clinical care integration, and psychosocial support into one coherent framework. This allows us to address patient needs in a much more holistic way.

Another important strength is the project's governance and management structure. We have very clear roles, decision-making processes, and quality assurance mechanisms in place, which helps ensure that such a complex, multi-country project can run efficiently and stay on track.

We also place strong emphasis on stakeholder engagement. Through co-creation activities and our Stakeholder Steering Committee, we actively involve patients, clinicians, and policymakers in shaping the interventions. This makes the project more relevant, acceptable, and ultimately more likely to succeed in real-world settings.

Finally, I would highlight our focus on implementation and sustainability from the very beginning. We are not just testing whether something works, we are also looking at how it can be adopted, scaled up, and maintained over time, including through cost-effectiveness and policy-relevant outputs. This forward-looking approach is something that I think is particularly valuable for other applicants to consider.

