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## European Digital Innovation Hub for Smart Health: Precision Medicine and Innovative eHealth Services (smartHEALTH)

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### ABSTRACT

The European Digital Innovation Hub for Smart Health: Precision Medicine and Innovative eHealth Services (smartHEALTH) is a strategic partnership between the most significant research and academic institutions, as well as representatives from the private sector in Greece. The goal of smartHEALTH is to create and operate a one-stop shop for providing advanced added-value services to businesses and public entities active in the health sector within Greece, in their efforts for the digital transformation of their products, services, and processes. To achieve this goal, the specialized expertise and state-of-the-art infrastructure of smartHEALTH partners are leveraged for the benefit of potential beneficiaries.

smartHEALTH encourages the broad adoption of cutting-edge technologies (namely Artificial Intelligence, High-Performance Computing, and Cybersecurity) by its service recipients, increasing in this way the competitiveness of Greek businesses and improving the quality of services provided by the public sector [1].

The smartHEALTH service portfolio includes: i) “test before invest” consulting services in order to assess, experimentally develop, and/or introduce innovative ideas, products, services, and processes; ii) advanced training services for developing digital skills among professionals in the health sector; iii) consulting for businesses to find investments through public and private sources; and iv) ecosystem building and networking activities to create new partnerships between industry, the research community, the public sector, and civil society [2].

smartHEALTH is part of a coordinated effort by the EU and its Member States to systematically strengthen the digital transformation of businesses and public entities across the European area. Currently, a network of more than 200 hubs has been established and is operational throughout Europe, covering over 40 thematic areas of interest [3].

Since 01.01.2023 smartHEALTH has:

- provided test before invest services to +40 private and public entities,
- organized 17 training activities for +1300 trainees,
- provided access to finance services to +20 businesses,
- participated in +40 networking events.

### REFERENCES

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## Advancing digital health in Greece: The role of the Hellenic Digital Health Cluster

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### ABSTRACT

Clusters in the EU context are seen as strategic initiatives that bring together interconnected companies, suppliers, and institutions to foster innovation and competitiveness. The European Union's cluster policy aims to boost industry competitiveness and innovation by leveraging interconnected groups of companies, suppliers, and institutions to implement EU priorities and support the EU Industrial Strategy [1]. Greece has implemented national cluster programs to foster innovation and collaboration among SMEs, but these initiatives have been limited in effectiveness due to a lack of continuity, performance evaluations, and technical support [2].

In 2021, the **Hellenic Digital Health Cluster (HDHC)** was founded by FORTH, as the innovation cluster facilitator (ICS & PRAXI network), and 20 innovative companies to bridge academia, industry, and professionals in digital health, promoting collaboration and innovation in this critical sector [3]. Up to now HDHC has gained significant traction by having 33 members, implementing innovative projects and providing valuable services.

The objectives of the cluster include facilitating connections between all relevant stakeholders to foster collaboration and knowledge-sharing across the digital health ecosystem. Additionally, the cluster provides strategic guidance and tailored support to its members, assisting with digital health innovations, market readiness, and R&D initiatives. It also promotes and nurtures digital health startups by offering access to resources, mentorship, and funding opportunities for growth.

Ongoing projects, assisting the development of the national ecosystem, include:

- **VELES Excellence Hub** which creates a cross-border **Smart Health Data Space** in SE Europe to promote innovation in healthcare data exchange and drive advancements in personalized care, particularly in cancer treatment, dementia and Alzheimer.
- **LEVELUP** which enhances digital skills across SMEs in Europe, offering training in Data Analytics, AI, and Cybersecurity to aid their digital transition.
- **IRHIS** which establishes an EU-wide Advanced Remote Care Demonstration Chain, scaling AI-powered MedTech solutions for critical care areas such as musculoskeletal rehabilitation, neurological disorder treatment and critical patient conditions (ICU).

HDHC plans to enhance collaboration between digital health stakeholders, expand international partnerships, and promote healthcare innovations. Future efforts include scaling digital health solutions, expanding research, and increasing the reach and impact of training and consulting services to boost digital health in Greece.

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## Crete: Regional Innovation Valley in Precision Medicine

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### ABSTRACT

The Region of Crete has recently been recognized as a Regional Innovation Valley by the European Commission [1], as part of a prestigious initiative (mission) aimed at enhancing innovation ecosystems across Europe. This recognition was achieved through the Region's active participation in the Horizon Europe project PRECISEU [2], which focuses on advancing personalised medicine, with a total budget of 22.7 million euros. The project aims to promote precision medicine and achieve a truly personalized healthcare, through the interconnection of innovative ecosystems in 11 countries across Europe. Its core objective is to foster interregional collaboration to accelerate the development and integration of advanced therapeutic medicinal products (ATMPs) and the use of health data for personalised healthcare solutions.

The project has significant implications for Crete's regional development [3], particularly in the healthcare sector. It aims to further strengthen Crete's capabilities in personalised medicine by enhancing cooperation among regional stakeholders: research institutions, healthcare providers, and industry partners. A key focus of the project is the integration of innovative personalised medicine practices into the regional healthcare system, improving medical treatments tailored to the genetic and molecular profiles of patients. This approach not only enhances the quality of healthcare but also addresses the broader challenges of healthcare access and equality across the region.

Moreover, the PRECISEU project offers a unique funding opportunity for businesses and organizations in Crete to participate in high-impact, innovative research projects related to personalised medicine. With a dedicated budget allocated to support these initiatives, the Region of Crete aims to position itself as a leader in healthcare innovation, driving both scientific advancement and economic growth.

By supporting the development and implementation of cutting-edge medical technologies, the project will enhance Crete's competitiveness in the healthcare sector, foster regional economic development, and contribute to the overall European efforts in building a robust, innovation-driven healthcare ecosystem.

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