

What	Interregional thematic partnership for smart specialisation (TSSP) on health and wellbeing
Main relevant stakeholders involved	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European regional and local health authorities (EUREGHA) • European Connected Health Alliance (ECHAAlliance) • Reference site collaborative network (RSCN)
Objective	Establishing a new interregional thematic partnership for smart specialisation (TSSP) on health (health and social care services innovation)
What is a smart specialisation strategy (S3)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The S3 principle was introduced, during the 2014-2020 multi-annual programming regulations, as ex-ante conditionality for using European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) under thematic objective 1 (R&I) • The principle of Smart Specialisation involves building on cross-regional cooperation that would advance regional competitiveness while minimising duplication and fragmentation of publicly funded activities across the European Union • These S3 strategies are being implemented by authorities in charge of regional development and innovation together with relevant stakeholders in order to develop and match innovation strengths with business opportunities and needs. • The S3 helps EU regions improve the use of any existing and new regional capabilities that help regions spread innovation throughout regional and national economies.
What is an Interregional thematic partnerships for smart specialisation (TSSP)?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staying competitive in the global economy increasingly depends on transnational activities and participation in global and cross-sector value chains • To support EU industrial competitiveness and growth, EU Regions need to develop and link their innovation ecosystems by continuously supporting and facilitating cooperation between regional actors across the European Union. • The European Commission recognises that four specific challenges need to be addressed to promote new regional level growth models: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Further reform of research and innovation systems within regions; ○ Increasing cooperation in innovation investment across regions; ○ Leveraging research and innovation in less developed and industrial transition regions; ○ Harnessing synergies and complementarities between EU policies and instruments • Under the current Cohesion Policy, regions are encouraged to build regional coalitions (thematic partnerships for smart specialisation)

to support the creation of new value chains in areas associated with strategic growth (**Agri-Food, Energy, and Industrial Modernisation**)

Why a Region should take part in a TSSP?

- Collaboration allows regions to access resources, skills, knowledge, and capabilities
- Potential improvements in competitiveness, economic resilience, and sustainability of their regional innovation ecosystems. In line with EC recommendations
- Regions involved in collaborative arrangements generally access expert knowledge, methodology, facilities, and experts (normally provided by the EC)
- Gaining access to important know-how that otherwise cannot be accessed

Why a TSSP on health and social care services innovation?

- AIM To transform health and social care systems, ensuring their sustainability and resilience
- OBJECTIVES:
 - To produce new methodologies, tools and models of care to address unmet needs of health authorities, health professionals, patients and citizens
 - To sustain and align EU regional health and social care strategies towards an integrated value-based, patient-centric approach
 - To pursue transformative health innovation policies by embedding a mission-oriented approach in regional S3 agendas and interregional cooperation
 - To ensure a leadership role of the European health and digital industry

How to build a TSSP?

- Minimum **3 regions** required to set up the TSSP
- **Leadership**: one or more regions are expected to become lead regions (co-lead);
- **Commitment** requires the production of a **letter of political and financial commitment by the relevant regional or national authorities**. This commitment letter helps each partner ensure that they are able to commit to taking part in the activities of the proposed partnership¹
- Proposal and scoping paper
- If accepted by the EC, **undertake an analysis of needs/connect regions and their respective ecosystems**²

¹ All the procedural steps of this phase will be carefully discussed and illustrated to those potentially interested

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What are we looking for?

- 3 European Regions that:
 - have prioritised Health in their S3, for the current programming period
 - are willing to establish a collaboration on health and social care services innovation
 - are willing to co-invest using ESIFs on the TSSP
 - are willing to lead politically the European debate on healthcare services innovation and transformation

What can we offer?

- Expertise of our networks
 - Support in the setting up of the platform and dialogue with the EU Institutions
 - Facilitation of the setting-up of future meetings and activities at EU level
 - Advocacy support with EU institutions, EU Health stakeholders (e.g. Industry, patients' organisations, healthcare providers, etc)
 - Support with EU funding opportunities that might sustain the running and the sustainability of the platform
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