

Apply AI: Piloting AI-based image screening in medical centres

DIGITAL-2026-AI-
PILOTING-10-SCREENING

DIGITAL
EUROPE
PROGRAMME



CNECT A.6 Artificial Intelligence in
Health and Life Sciences

21 May 2026
Info Day

#DigitalEUProgramme

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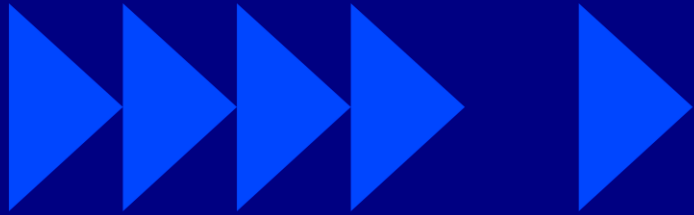
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Time (CET)	Topic	Presenter
14:00 – 14:15	Welcome & Policy context	Anca SCORTARIU (CNECT A6)
14:15 – 14:40	Call topic presentation: Apply AI: Piloting AI-based image screening in medical centres, and Questions & Answers (Q&A)	Matthieu RUTHVEN & Vanessa MENDES (CNECT A6)
14:40 – 14h50	Financial requirements & guidance, and Q&A	Ojdana MATAS (CNECT A6)
14:50 – 15:00	Restricted calls guidance and Q&A	Mateja POGACIC (CNECT R5)
15:00 – 15:10	 Coffee break	
15:10 – 15:30	Pitching session	Stakeholder presentations



EUROPEAN NETWORK OF **AI-POWERED** ADVANCED SCREENING CENTRES

Flagship of the Apply AI strategy

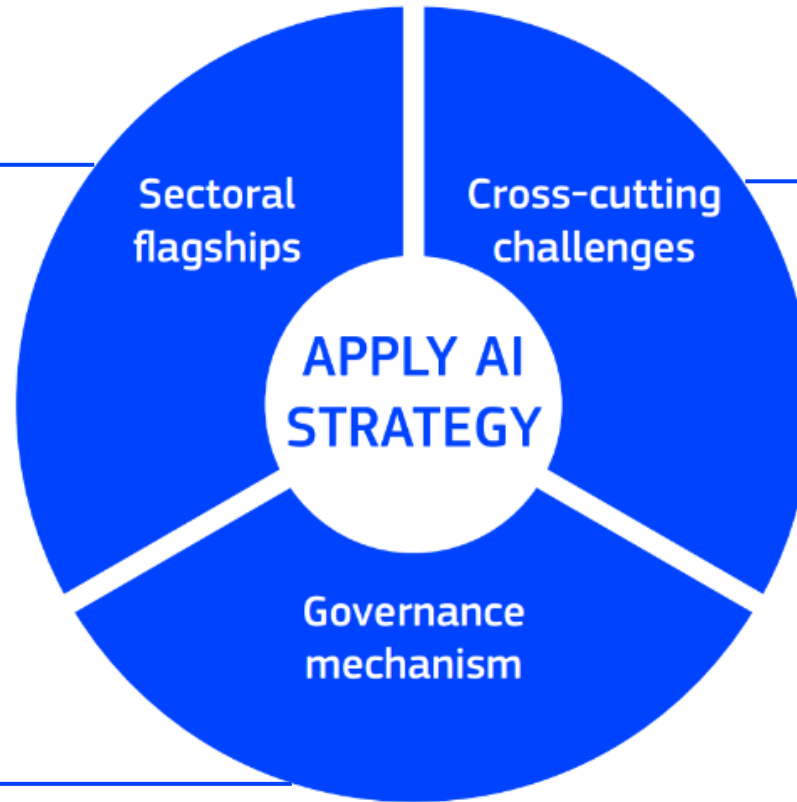
Anca Scortariu

Deputy Head of Unit

AI in health and life sciences, DG CNECT, AI Office

Apply AI Strategy

Harness AI's transformative potential by driving **adoption of AI across strategic and public sectors**



- support for SMEs
- enabling an AI-ready workforce
- leveraging advanced AI capabilities
- ensuring trust in the market

- **Apply AI Alliance:** a Forum for policymakers, industry, academia and civil society
- **AI Observatory:** Tracking progress and insights



Apply AI Strategy in healthcare

Four flagships including targeted measures to **boost AI adoption**



European network
of AI-powered
advanced screening
centres



European Networks
of Expertise on
AI Deployment
in Healthcare

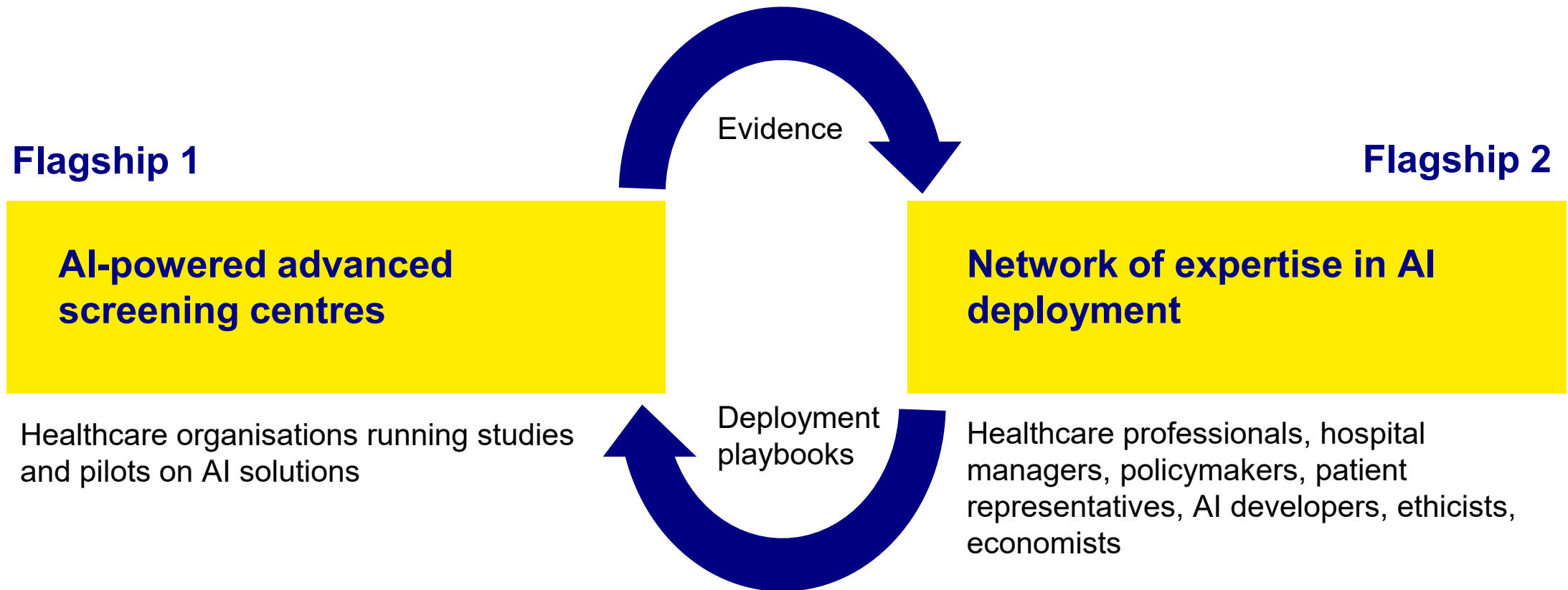


AI drug discovery
challenge
for potential
new drugs



Actions to streamline
and enable quicker
market entry of
medical devices

Apply AI flagship initiatives in healthcare



AI-powered advanced screening centres

Open network of medical centres that are deploying AI solutions for prevention, early detection or diagnosis of cancer or cardiovascular diseases.

- ▶ **Piloting AI tools and solutions:** **deploy solutions**, integrate them in clinical workflow, carry out local performance evaluation and monitoring of the deployed solutions
- ▶ **Collaborative studies on AI performance:** **generate evidence** by evaluating the real-world performance of AI models/algorithms

Call for expression of interest open until 10 September 2026

▶ **Webpage:**
[European AI-powered advanced screening centres](#)



Benefits of participating

- ▶ **Knowledge exchange and transfer:** community of practice with regular meetings and events → medical centres gain timely insights from peers, across different levels of AI maturity.
- ▶ **Capacity-building support:** targeted training on AI and data management
- ▶ **Early access to EU outputs:** information sessions on results, tools and guidance from COMPASS-AI, Cancer Image Europe etc.
- ▶ **Participation in real-world studies:** early exposure to emerging technologies
- ▶ **Positioning as early adopters:** EU reference sites for AI in healthcare and featured in Commission communications and Apply AI Alliance events



Supporting actions

No funding directly linked to participation in the network, but funding from Digital Europe for projects that will **contribute to the work of the network**

- ▶ **Deployment of cutting-edge multi-modal AI-based solutions in medical imaging**, building on the Cancer Image Europe platform, **EUR 14.4 million**

Call closed on 3/3/2026, [EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#)

- ▶ **Apply AI: Piloting AI-based image screening in medical centres**, assist resource-limited health care settings with performing analysis of medical data **EUR 9 million**

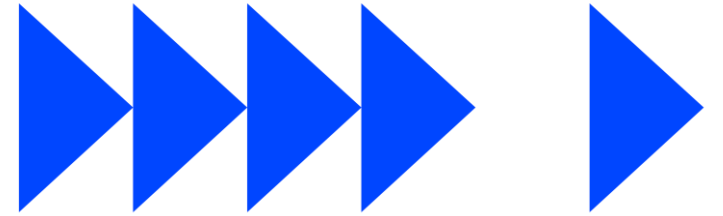
Call will open on 21/04/2026, more info: [Large-Scale Pilots of AI and GenAI for Medical Imaging](#)

- ▶ **Advanced digital skills for AI in health**: training in the area of AI and related advanced digital skills for healthcare workforce **EUR 7.8 million**

Call will open on 21/4/2026, more info: [Amended DEP WP 2025-2027](#)



More information



► Webpage: [European AI-powered advanced screening centres](#)

► Call for expression of interest:
https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/EuropeanNetworkAIScreeningCentres_registration



Thank you



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EUROPEAN ARTIFICIAL
INTELLIGENCE OFFICE



Apply AI: Piloting AI-based image screening in medical centres

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Matthieu RUTHVEN & Vanessa MENDES
CNECT A.6 Artificial Intelligence in Health and
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Basic information

Topic ID	DIGITAL-2026-AI-PILOTING-10-SCREENING
Topic Title	Apply AI: Piloting AI-based image screening in medical centres
Indicative budget	EUR 9 000 000 (EUR 4 500 000 per project)
Type of action	Simple Grants
Nr. of projects expected	2
Indicative duration of the action	36 months
Funding rate	50%
Call opening	21 April 2026
Call closing	1 October 2026 – 17:00 CET (Brussels)
Additional information	• Security restrictions under Article 12(6) of the Digital Europe Regulation • Restrictions for the protection of European digital infrastructures, communication and information systems, and related supply chains



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Scope

Implement a **cloud-based AI system** running **European AI algorithms** that were **developed, trained and validated using very large sets of patient data**.

- System requirements:
 - Performs **analysis of medical imaging data**, automatically detecting findings of potential clinical significance.
 - Is **seamlessly integrated in regular clinical workflows** of the care settings involved.
- Proposers are expected to choose:
 - the **types of health data**,
 - the **AI algorithms** that are trustworthy and secure, and
 - the **medical use cases**, focusing on **cancer** and **cardiovascular diseases**.



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Scope

- Perform **technical and clinical validation of the system**, generating **evidence on AI system performance and usability** in different clinical settings.
- Ensure that AI results are **systematically validated by qualified medical professionals** to confirm findings, assess clinical relevance, and maintain patient safety.
- Projects must involve **medical centres from multiple eligible countries**. The medical centres should join and contribute to the **European network of AI-powered advanced screening centres**.



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Outcomes & Deliverables



One or more proofs-of-concept of replicable, scalable cloud-based AI systems for analysis of medical imaging data in a healthcare setting, with demonstration of the role of the **clinicians in validating AI** findings and reports showcasing seamless **integration of the system into clinical workflows**.



Evidence-based analysis of (cost-)efficiency of the piloted solutions for healthcare systems for regulatory and Health Technology Assessment (HTA) purposes.



Two or more events or workshops organised per year and per project for the European network of AI-powered advanced screening centres. The agenda should include lessons learned from the project activities, as well as other items relevant to the network. Participant satisfaction rates should be measured for the events and workshops



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Outcomes & Deliverables



Medical centres in the consortium joined the **European network of AI-powered advanced screening centres** under the Apply AI Strategy



A plan for obtaining regulatory approval for application of the AI solutions in real life scenarios and clinical settings. This includes the required risk management and compliance activities, as well as clinical evaluation plans and post-market clinical follow-up



Detailed data protection and cybersecurity plan, with measures to secure sensitive health data, mitigate cybersecurity risks, and comply with EU legal and ethical frameworks.



Sustainability plan for the uptake of the systems across the EU.



Stakeholder engagement and dissemination report with measurable actions (KPIs).



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Consortium composition & participants

Consortium Composition

- Minimum **7** independent applicants (beneficiaries; not affiliated entities)
- from **5 different eligible countries**
- at least **one industrial partner**

Types of stakeholders

Public and private entities such as (but not limited to):

- Healthcare providing organisations
- Medtech industry
- SMEs
- AI/GenAI and IT solution providers
- Research organisations
- Governmental authorities (at national, regional, local level)
- Non-governmental organisations representing key stakeholders, such as patients, healthcare professionals, etc.



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Eligibility

In order to be eligible, the applicants (beneficiaries and affiliated entities) must:

- *be legal entities (public or private bodies)*
- *be established in one of the eligible countries*

NB *This call is subject to restrictions due to security reasons. Consequently, only the following countries are eligible:*

- **EU Member States**
- **EEA countries**
- **Switzerland**



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General attention points

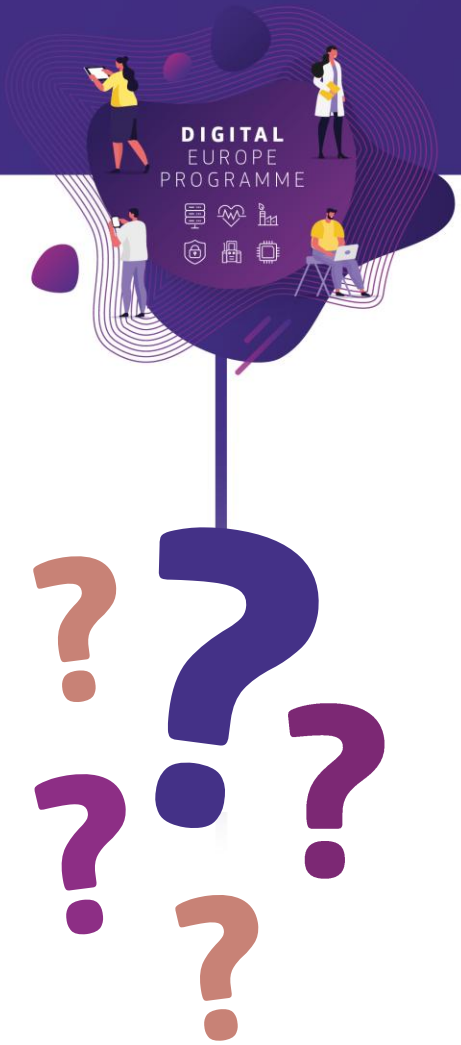
Proposal DO's

Ensure the following requirements are met:

- **Consortium composition** and **types** of applicants
- **Eligible countries:** only EU Member States, EEA countries and Switzerland
- Use case(s) focused on **cardiovascular disease and/or cancer**
- Use of **European** AI algorithms **trained and validated** using very large sets of patient data
- **Restrictions** for the protection of European digital infrastructures, communication and information systems, and related supply chains

Proposal DON'Ts

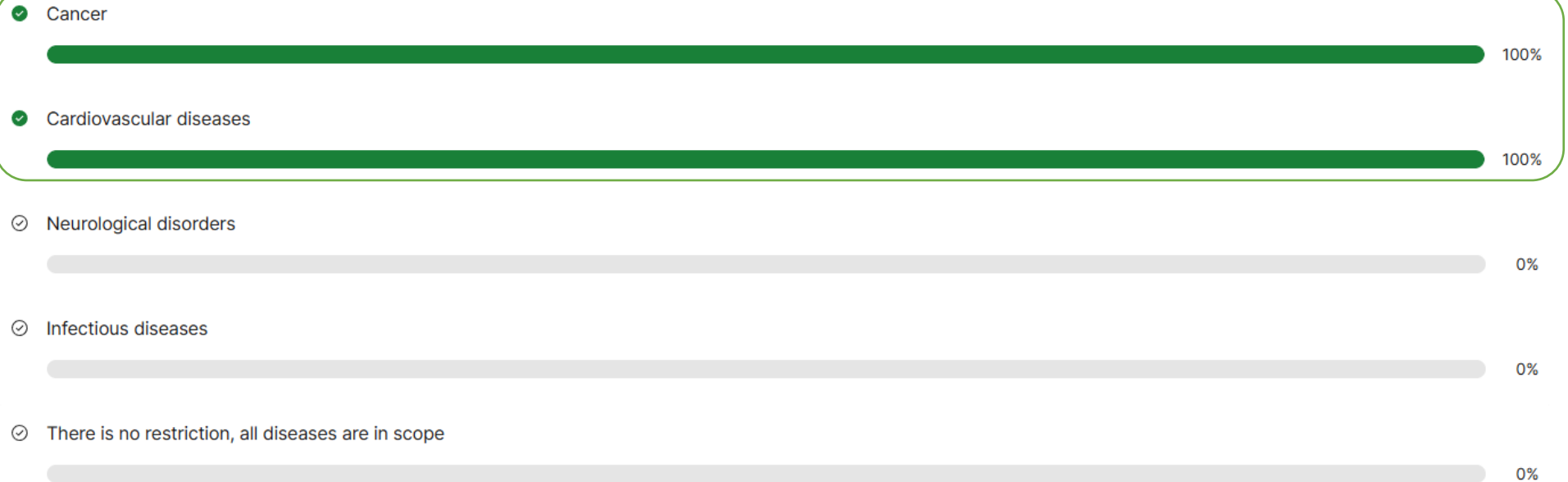
- Focus on uses cases other than cardiovascular disease and/or cancer
- Use of non-European AI algorithms and cloud systems
- Missing mandatory annexes, using a wrong Part B template
- **Omit to read all sections of the call document and verify that the proposal meets all call requirements**

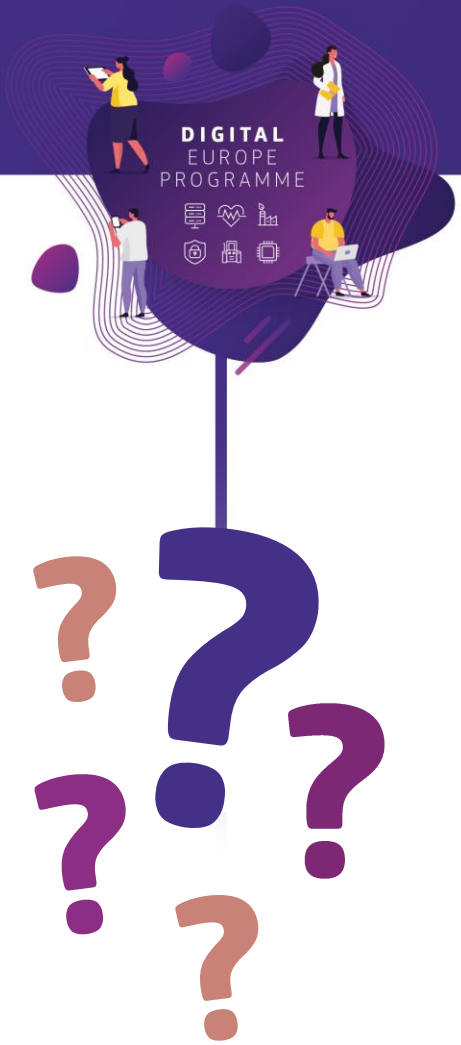


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Frequently asked questions

Which disease areas are in scope for funding in this call for proposals? (Select all that apply)





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Frequently asked questions

What is the primary focus of this call for proposals regarding AI algorithms? (select one option)

☐ Developing entirely new AI algorithms from scratch

0%

☒ Further developing existing AI algorithms that have already been developed, trained, and validated using large-scale patient datasets

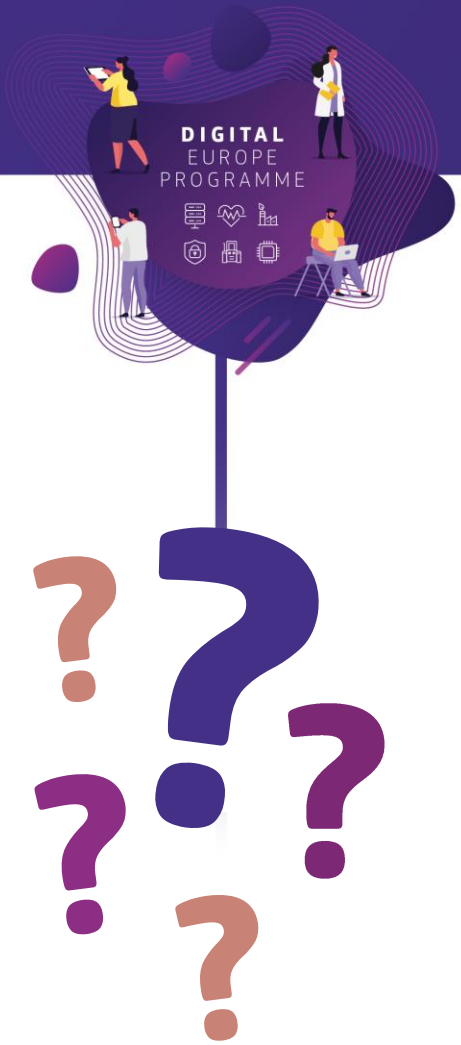
79%

☐ Both new and existing algorithms are equally in scope

21%

☐ Unsure

0%



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Frequently asked questions

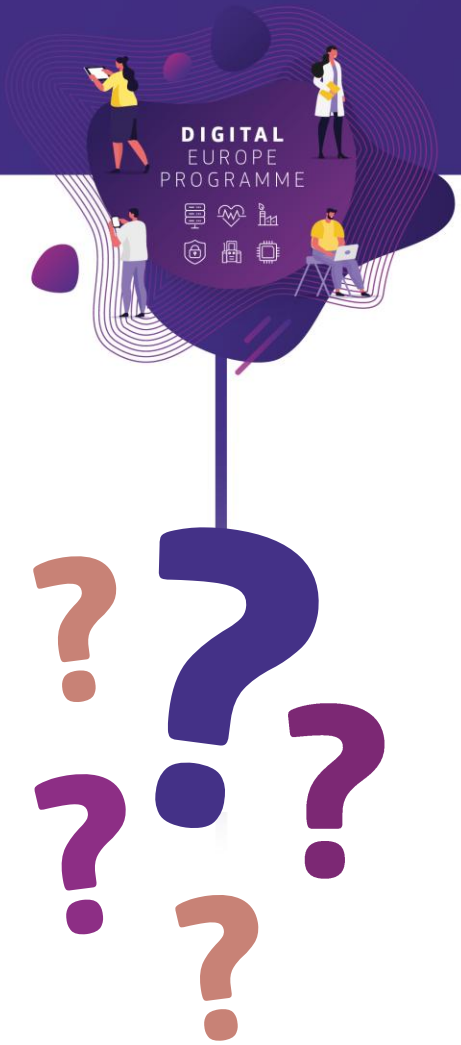
Must medical centres be registered in the network before the proposal submission deadline, or can registration happen afterwards?

☐ Yes, registration must be completed before the proposal submission deadline



☒ No, registration can happen after the proposal submission deadline

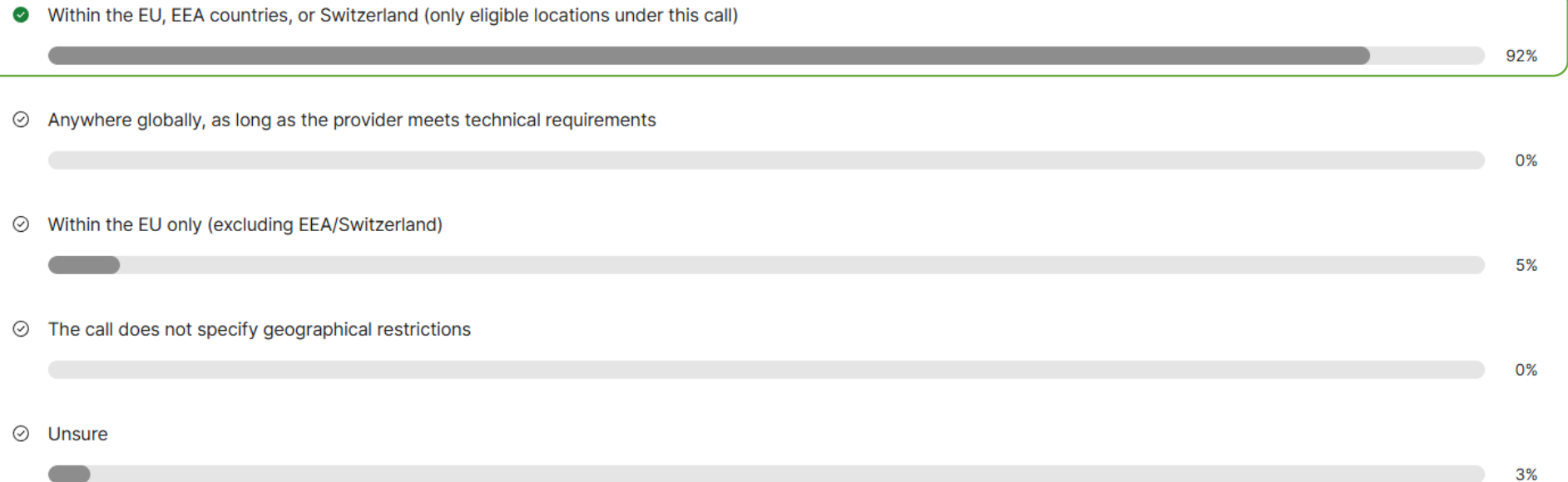




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Frequently asked questions

Where must the AI algorithms and cloud systems used in this project be developed and hosted? (Select one)





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Questions & Answers

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Financial requirements & Guidance



Ojdana MATAS
CNECT A.6 Artificial Intelligence in Health and
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General information

- **2 Simple grants – 50% funding rate**
- **Maximum EU contribution – EUR 4 500 000 per project**
- **Grants awarded may be lower than the amounts requested**
- **Budget-based mixed actual cost grants (actual costs, with unit costs and flat rate elements)**
- **Grants may not produce profit**



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Financial capacity

- **Stable and sufficient resources to successfully implement the projects and to contribute their share**
- **Assessments made by The European Research Executive Agency on the last two closed financial years**
- **Public bodies, international organisations and entities requesting no more than EUR 60 000 are in general exempt from the financial capacity checks**



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Budget categories and eligible costs

- A. Personnel costs – A.1 Employees, A.2 Natural persons under direct contract, A.3 Seconded persons, A.4 SME owners and natural person beneficiaries**
- B. Subcontracting costs**
- C. Purchase costs – C.1 Travel and subsistence, C.2 Equipment and C.3 Other goods, works and services**
- D. Other cost categories – D.2 Internally invoiced goods and services**
- E. Indirect costs**



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Common errors

Lack of supporting accounting records

Missing or unreliable timesheets or declarations of time worked

Costs incurred by affiliated entities or third parties not foreseen in the Grant Agreement

Deductible VAT incorrectly claimed as eligible

Incorrect or absent procurement procedures or subcontracting costs

Equipment costs claimed in full instead of being depreciated over the reporting period

Absence of, or incorrect, methodology for calculating unit costs under internally invoiced costs

Costs claimed incurred outside the Reporting Period dates



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Questions & Answers

Apply AI: Piloting AI-based image screening in medical centres

**Restricted calls –
available
guidance and
main aspects**



Mateja POGACIC
CNECT R.5 Programme Implementation

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Restricted calls (focus on DEP Article 12.6)



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Legal basis for restricted calls

Legal basis: Digital Europe Programme Regulation, Art. 12(6):

- ✓ Procedures include an Ownership control assessment of participants followed by submission of guarantees, where envisaged

Calls subject to such restrictions and the precise conditions for each call are set out, in the Work Programmes published on the Funding & Tenders Portal.

DEP Work Programme level

- ✓ Indicated in the topic description + justification
- ✓ *9.3 Appendix 3 – Implementation of Article 12(5) and 12(6)*

DEP call documents

- ✓ Indicated in the specific topic conditions
- ✓ Indicated in *Section 6 Eligibility*
- ✓ *Annex 2 Eligibility restrictions under Articles 12(5) and (6) and 18(4) of the Digital Europe Regulation*



Guidance documents restricted calls

Funding and Tenders portal:

- *Participation in EU calls with ownership and control restrictions* – corporate guidance published on 22 December 2021, update of 1/1/2026
- Corporate templates – Ownership control declaration and Guarantee template in the F&T Portal

[LINK](#)



[guidance-on-participation-in-eu-calls-with-ownership-and-control-restrictions_en.pdf](#)



EU Grants

Participation in EU calls with ownership and control restrictions

Version 2.0
01 January 2026

High-risk suppliers



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High risks suppliers' restrictions in DEP

DEP WP 25-27 Appendix 4: *Restrictions for the protection of European digital infrastructures, communication and information systems, and related supply chains*

- lays out the **applicable rules for the protection of strategic assets** and interests of the Union or its Member States, including the **EU Toolbox on 5G cybersecurity** in accordance with Article 136(2) of the Financial Regulation

Entities assessed as “high-risk suppliers”, are currently set out in:

- *Second report on Member States’ progress in implementing the EU toolbox on 5G cybersecurity of 2023;*
- *Related Commission Communication on the implementation of the 5G cybersecurity toolbox of 2023.*



High risks suppliers' restrictions in DEP

- Additional eligibility criteria apply under identified actions in the DEP WP 25-27:
 - Entities that are assessed as high-risk suppliers of mobile network communication equipment (and any entities they own or control) are not eligible to participate in any capacity (including e.g. subcontractors)
 - Introducing related cost/eligibility conditions regarding equipment and other goods, works and/or services (listed in the Appendix 4, such as cyber-security requirements)
- Practical implementation
 - Entity eligibility assessed at GAP
 - Risk-based approach



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Questions & Answers



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Coffee Break

15:00 – 15:10 CET

Apply AI: Piloting AI-based image screening in medical centres

**Pitching
session**



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Time (CET)	Presenter
15:10 – 15:15	Pitching session opening
15:15 – 15:18	Andria HADJIPANTELI , State Health Services Organisation Cyprus
15:18 – 15: 21	Francesco GHINI , Science To People
15:21 – 15:24	Lelde STUKLE-OJASALU , Latvijas Mobilais Telefons (LMT)
15:24– 15:27	Simone STOPPA , Nextage Srl
15:27 – 15:30	Session closure



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Disclaimer

Views and opinions expressed are those of the presenters only and do not necessarily reflect those of the European Union or European Commission.

Neither the European Union nor the European Commission can be held responsible for them.

RADIATION DOSE
MANAGEMENT
MARKET

Market Size (2023)

\$372.6MN

CAGR (2024-2032)

13.2%

Market Size (2032)

\$1.28B

Cyprus State Health Services Organisation

SEGMENT VALUATION

Oncology segment

Market Value (2023)

Solutions segment

Market Value (2023)

Computed tomography segment

Market Share (2023)

SUMMARY STATEMENT

Large organization and image database
Infrastructure and technical expertise
AI interest and ongoing projects

262MN

51.4%



Medical Physics/PACS



State Health Services Organisation

Communication

a.hadjipanteli@shso.org.cy

North America

Market Value (2023)

128 Imaging Systems

National Coverage

Cyprus State Health Services Organisation (SHSO)

last saved: Just now

Communication

a.hadjipanteli@shso.org.cy



Who we are

- Public Health provider of Cyprus serving 0.5 million patients per year
- Operates and manages state hospitals and healthcare centres
- Supports the National General Healthcare System (GESY)
- Focused on accessible, high-quality healthcare for all citizens and residents
- Provides patient-centered medical services across the country
- Promotes healthcare innovation and digital transformation



SHSO Radiology

- 128 radiology systems** across the SHSO network - X-rays, US, Computed Tomography, MRI, Mammography, Fluoroscopy, NM systems
- Supports emergency, inpatient and outpatient care
- Staffed by specialized radiologists, radiographers and technical personnel
- Modern and the most advanced imaging systems
- Focuses on patient safety, image quality and timely reporting



Continuous service of Imaging Procedures

NATIONAL COVERAGE



SHSO



Cyprus Law Compliance



EU Guidelines Compliance



IAEA Standards

Radiology and PACS Services



Medical Physics/ PACS Services



Digital Transformation

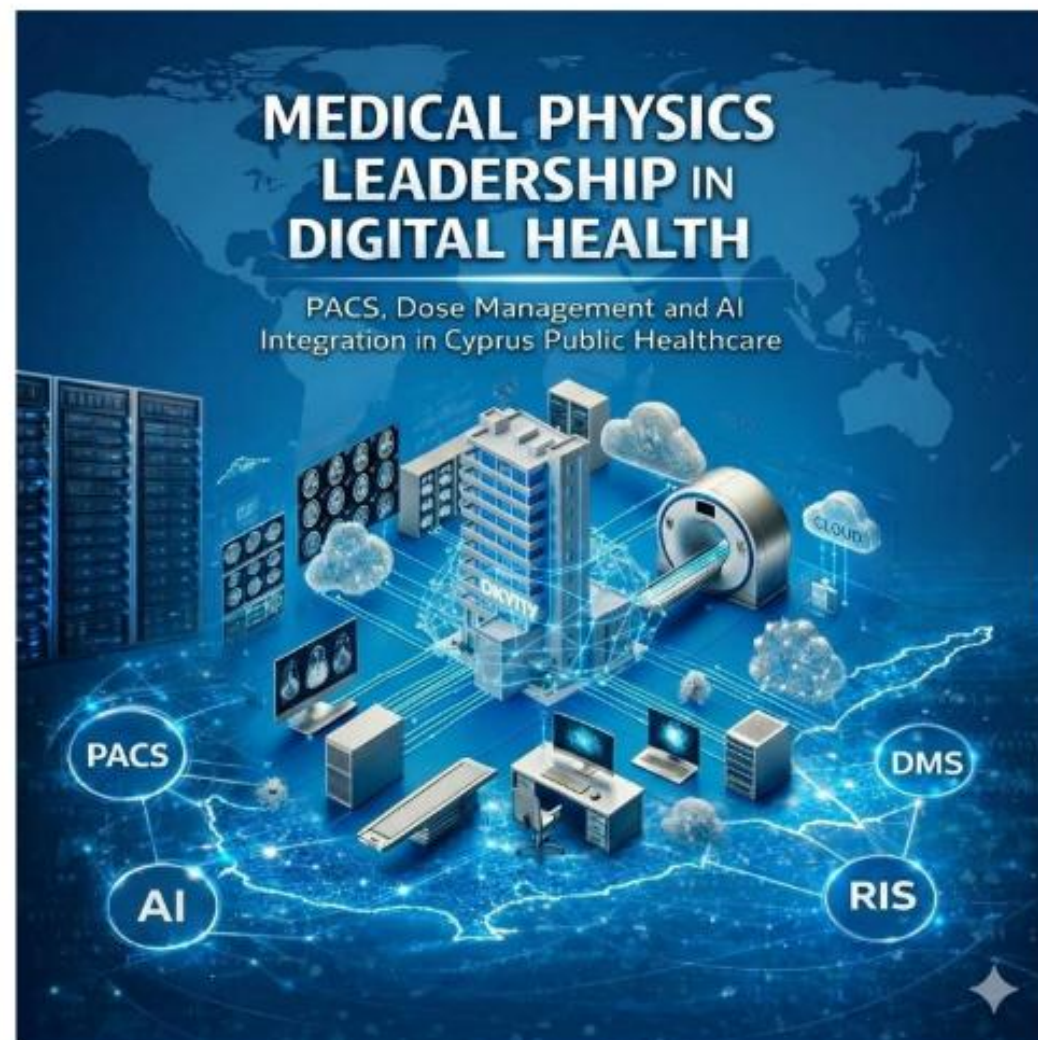


350 000 exams
annually

Comprehensive national
ecosystem encompassing
PACS, VNA, RIS and Dose
Management

Achievement of three strategic advantages

- Clinical ownership of imaging quality from acquisition to archival
- Substantial cost efficiencies through shared infrastructure and in-house expertise
 - Framework of scientific evaluation



SHSO



Cyprus Law Compliance



EU Guidelines Compliance



IAEA Standards

AI deployment



AI in Radiology

The Medical Physics/PACS Department commissioned the evaluation and deployment of AI as a clinical tool and its integration into diagnostic workflow. SHSO manages the full AI procurement lifecycle from evaluation to hardware provision, PACS integration and ongoing support.

- Infrastructure (PACS, servers)
- AI investment and financial independence
- Dedicated staff members with relevant expertise (IT, Medical Physics, Technologists) take care of technical investigation, evaluation, demonstrations, implementation and support
- Multidisciplinary collaboration (radiologists, physicists, IT, radiographers)

Upcoming projects

- AI in stroke diagnosis
- AI in dermatology
- AI in lung cancer screening
- Open to others

On-going Projects

AI in Breast Cancer Screening

Five breast cancer screening centres – 30 000 patient cases/year

Hologic 3Dimensions

Dose Management and Protocols Optimisation

Phase 1 – Foundation

Identification of priority use cases

Review image data quality

Phase 2 – Pilot Deployment

Validation in clinical workflow

Building clinician confidence and adoption

Ensuring patient safety and regulatory adoption

Phase 3 – Scale & Optimization

Full integration into PACS/RIS reporting workflows

Monitoring and QA

Staff and patients education





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Why Science to People?

Because innovation needs real uptake.

A strategic communication and
stakeholder engagement partner in
health innovation.

We work at the intersection of **science**,
healthcare, **patients** and **adoption**.





**What is
the call
about?**

**Not only about
deploying AI-based
screening tools.**

It is about demonstrating that
these tools can be

- trusted
- clinically integrated,
- accepted by professionals and patients
- replicated across European healthcare systems.



We can support you and your consortium **by**

Turning research results into **engagement, visibility**, and non-commercial exploitation.

Designing **interactive scientific events** that activate audiences and generate actionable take-home insights.

Supporting healthcare and research organizations in **adopting innovation** through **experiential learning**.

Let's talk
francesco@sciencetopeople.com
Italy - SME





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Latvijas Mobilais Telefons SIA (LMT)

Lelde Stukle-Ojasalu
AI Department

Who We Are

Latvijas Mobilais Telefons (LMT) is Latvia's largest telecommunications operator. Since 1992, LMT has evolved from mobile connectivity into a full-stack technology group – with a dedicated AI department and a growing healthcare vertical.



Strong foundation in critical national infrastructure and 4G/5G connectivity



Experience collaborating with public sector, regulated industries & EU programmes



Dedicated AI department with medical vertical – building healthcare AI models



Robust IT infrastructure supporting large-scale, production-grade data systems

Main Areas of Activity



AI and Computer vision



IoT and sensors



Drone solutions



EDGE computing and 5G



Enhanced security solutions



Cloud computing



Firmware development



5G open core

In-house capacity for innovation and development

142

Engineers and developers

40

System architects and analysts

33

Product managers and QA

2

R&D laboratories

7

Testbeds

Topics of Interest: EU Consortium Building

DIGITAL-2026-AI-PILOTING-10-SCREENING:

Partner/Coordinator

Piloting AI tools in clinical screening workflows - LMT brings medical AI models, real-world data and compute infrastructure.

DIGITAL-2026-SKILLS-10-DIGITAL-HEALTH-STEP:

Partner/Coordinator

Building AI literacy across healthcare organisations - LMT contributes training programme prototype and real-world AI deployment know-how.

AI Continent (DIGITAL-2026-AI-DATA-10):

Partner/Coordinator

Scaling AI technologies across European healthcare via shared infrastructure - LMT provides compute capacity, ML engineering and edge deployment expertise.



Contact:

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AI Department Medical Product Manager

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+371 26170338

<https://innovations.lmt.lv>



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COMPANY PROFILE - who we are

Contact

Nextage srl

www.nextage-on.com



Simone Stoppa

Innovation & Research
Projects

simone.stoppa@nextage-on.com
innovation@nextage-on.com

Business Overview

Nextage in an **italian SME** founded in 2008 with 2 headquarters (Genoa and Cagliari).

Today the company is composed by **3 synergistic business areas** active in **data acquisition** and **management activities**, and **risk analysis** with a strong **focus on the healthcare** sector.

TURNAROUND (2024)

1,8 M€

EXTERNAL FUNDING (2024-2025)

1,2 M€

3 Areas

DIGITAL AREA

Full-stack dev
User Research
UX/UI Design

INNOVATION AREA

Machine Learning, AI
Digital Twin

GOVERNANCE AREA

Cybersecurity, Privacy
Data Governance



AI & Imaging

PRISCA: AI-based image classification.

Structured information exchange between patient and physician.



Oncology

COLIBRI: Remote management of CLL patients.

H-Maps: Visual guide for patients with Hodgkin Lymphoma.



Clinical Integration

Consolidated network with healthcare providers.

Efficient and accurate development of clinical study protocols.

Our Contribution to the Call

simone.stoppa@nextage-on.com



Scalable Systems

- Full-stack development of cloud-based AI systems.
- Seamless integration with hospital EHR, PACS, and RIS via our NX-Frame framework.



Regulatory Compliance

- Certified data protection plans and risk mitigation.
- Regulatory support for AI in real clinical settings.



Clinical Support

- User research with patient and clinicians
- Design solution with human-centered methodology
- Validation focusing on Cancer and Cardiovascular domains.



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