

Horizon Europe – Health Cluster 2025 Work Programme

Background

As a benefit of association to Horizon Europe, Canada can now attend the meetings where the upcoming work programmes are developed. The first meeting we can attend is on September 11, 2024. While we are unable to share the unredacted draft document with stakeholders, we are able to share a modified version of this document to obtain your comments. This input will be essential in shaping Canada's approach for this as well as future work programmes with Horizon Europe.

Key Thematic Areas of the 2025 Health Cluster Work Programme

The 2025 Health Cluster Work Programme is allocating a **total budget of €651 million** to address six thematic areas or “destinations”. In general the calls will open in May 2025 and have a deadline of September 2025. The destinations are detailed below with the anticipated number of projects to be funded and includes the general topics of focus.

1. “Staying healthy in a rapidly changing society”

5 projects,

- a. Topics of Focus: improving the quality of life and autonomy of persons with intellectual disabilities and their families

2. “Living and working in a health-promoting environment”

12 projects

- a. Topics of Focus: the relationship between pollution and health with a specific focus on micro and nano-plastics and brain diseases/disorders

3. “Tackling and reducing disease burden”

26 projects

- a. Topics of Focus: alternative treatment options for antibiotic resistance, management and treatment of mental, behavioural & neurodevelopmental disorders, pandemic response and preparedness, and global research collaboration

4. “Ensuring equal access to innovative, sustainable, & high quality care”

3 projects

- a. Topics of Focus: Application of generative AI technology in healthcare (i.e. virtual assistants), public trust and acceptance of AI, updating regulatory schemes for digital health technologies

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5. “Developing and using new tools, technologies, and digital solutions for a healthy society”

24 projects

- a. Topics of Focus: synthetic biology, biomanufacturing, leveraging artificial intelligence for predictive and personalized medicine, supporting SME innovation

6. “Maintaining an innovative, sustainable, and competitive EU health industry”

11 projects

- a. Topics of Focus: Process optimization for medicinal products manufacturing, digitalizing assessment procedures, and multi-national clinical studies for orphan or breakthrough innovations

Please Note: As the planning processes for the Health Cluster 2025 Work Programme are ongoing, the details are subject to change.