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# Boosting Interregional Innovation Investment and cooperation among Health Innovation EcoSystems



Press release no. 01

## I3HIES Kick-off meeting in Ljubljana

**I3HIES as dedication to improving the efficiency,  
accessibility, sustainability, competitiveness, simplicity  
and quality of healthcare systems**

Ljubljana, February 13, 2023 – On December 4 and 5, 2023, the kick-off meeting of the newly launched I3 Instrument programme entitled “Capacity Building Strand 2b” took place. I3HIES project, named “Boosting Interregional Innovation Investment and cooperation among Health Innovation EcoSystems” started on November 1, 2023, the contracting authority for this action is EISMEA.

9 partners from seven regions/countries (MediKlaszter Nonprofit Kft, Hungary; Human.technology Styria gmbh, Austria; Viesoji Istaiga Lietuvos Inovaciju Centras, Lithuania; Interizon, Poland; Wojewodztwo Pomorskie; Poland; Asociatia Cluj-IT, Romania; Universitatea Babes Bolyai, Romania; Obcianske zdruzenie No gravity; Slovakia; Tehnološki park Ljubljana, Slovenia) will tackle the following challenges: (i) resilience of health systems, (ii) collaboration and co-creation, (iii) information and knowledge sharing, and (iv) access to finance. With a focus on EU partnerships and an outlook on international cooperation, I3HIES focuses on digital innovation in healthcare and addresses decision support, confidence building, matchmaking and opportunity identification.

And what is the aim of I3HIES?

The main objective of I3HIES is to focus on healthcare innovation ecosystems to achieve the desired healthcare sector effectiveness and to boost and sustain efficient international collaboration among relevant quadruple helix innovation actors.

The I3HIES project follows a complex approach to foster interregional innovation investments and collaboration in the health innovation ecosystem. Partners will work thematically in 3 focus areas (medical devices, emergency equipment, MDR compliance) and methodically in 2 implementation pillars (innovation investment and interregional cooperation and participation

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in EU value chains) on 2 intervention levels (intraregional and interregional), by providing a comprehensive portfolio of tailored services to 4-helix stakeholder groups (quadruple helix actors representing research, policy, business and society) that will experiment and validate at least 6 innovative methods, tools and techniques (interactive peer reviews, living lab concept, service design, customer friction, intrapreneurship, innovation scouting) in 5 thematic work packages (I3HIES Community Building, Front End Discover, Business Case Design, Preparation for Funding and Strengthening the Ecosystem).

The innovation actors participating in the I3HIES community will be supported i) to prepare innovation investments by facilitating and tutoring the innovation process from ideation through business case design till the preparation for funding, and ii) accelerate the development of validated innovation investments in the thematic priorities, and ii) to enhance interregional cooperation and participation in interregional partnerships and contribute to EU value chains.

The immediate goal is to validate 15 project ideas, establish 3 European partnerships and develop the most promising mini-business cases into concrete investment plans, thereby supporting the ongoing transformation of the healthcare sector.

Who are actors to be invited to be part of the I3HIES Community?

4-Helix stakeholders: incubators, accelerators, start-ups, SMEs, large corporations, technology hubs, health insurers, healthcare professionals at healthcare providers and beyond, policy makers, end users, patients, venture capitalists, civic associations, business angels, regulators, clusters and business support organisations

The partners have expressed their ambition to complete – and even exceed – the expected results of the activities and collaboration.

Stay tuned to find out how we are driving innovation in healthcare at an interregional level and join us in [LinkedIn I3HIES group](#).



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