

The Role of Clusters in Digital Health

Linking and Reinforcing Industrial Ecosystems in the National Recovery Plans and the Smart Specialization Strategies

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CEBR

- + 38 members
- +15 EU countries
- Connecting the Health and Lifesciences Ecosystems in Europe and beyond

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Key working streams for our association

- ❖ Connecting Ecosystems in Europe, ensure networking

- ❖ **Digitalisation**

- ❖ International Markets

- ❖ Develop and support concrete support schemes for SMEs, such as voucher schemes

- ❖ **Ensure clusters' experience and connector role taken into account**

- ❖ Skills exchange amongst clusters workers

- ❖ Connection with other ecosystem players(I.e Industry organisations, Public Providers, etc)



So how do the clusters relate to eHealth and digitalisation?



Clusters are very active in promoting and engaging in Digital innovation Hubs



Smart Specialisation related to eHealth in half of the ECCP registered clusters



Concrete example and scale up of these initiatives



Bridging the gap between ecosystem actors (I.e InDemand model)

Special Interest Group on Digitalisation

- Bring together 5 to 10 clusters
- Objectives are under review, but related to the current state and needs for better coordinated digitalisation in Healthcare strategy
- Monthly meetings
- Open to external stakeholders' participation
- White paper/recommendations 2021
- Practical exchange of practices and relation with other networks

Experiences from clusters' involvement



[S3martMed](#) : on medical technologies, but good example on **fostering interregional and cross-sectoral cooperation between European clusters and their SME members in the field of medical technologies through the establishment of a unique cluster partnership**



[DIH-HERO](#) is an independent platform which connects Digital Innovation Hubs across Europe to create a sustaining network for all those who are active in the healthcare robotics sector.



[Safenmt](#) is focused on nano-enabled medical technologies, but high demand on Health Technology assesment, and how to break silos on data.



[ELIXIR](#) unites Europe's leading life science organisations in managing and safeguarding the increasing volume of data being generated by publicly funded research.



The [Interreg project Codex4SMEs](#) (Companion diagnostics expedited for small and medium-sized businesses) project plans to improve healthcare by enhanced adoption of **Personalized Medicine** in **North-West Europe**.

CEBR encourages counteractive EU-wide measures to address above shortages:

- Pan-European challenges related to SME funding, and in fields such as the personalised medicine, should be defined and monitored, especially with regards to **pre-seed and seed funding gaps**.
- Funding instruments in the life science sector for European SMEs need to be mapped and made accessible to life science ecosystem managers and their SMEs.
- To facilitate easier access to the European market - also from within -, market entry schemes and support-initiatives need to be mapped and made simpler.
- For a joint global internationalization approach of the European life science sector, we need a clear alignment of regional, national, and European policies and initiatives, including a clear common future strategy.

The European Commission can create initiatives to act as funding instruments in the life science sector.

To support the role of life science ecosystem managers and particularly of cluster management organizations, the European Commission is asked to consider these groups when defining general policies and funding schemes.

An info portal for financing schemes could be implemented by the European Commission.

To consider the special needs of pre-seed and seed SMEs, the European Commission can nurture a regular exchange with these groups, also involving ecosystem managers.

To recognize their important role in the support of SMEs, more targeted financing schemes for life science ecosystem managing organizations can be initiated by the European Commission, including topics such as open innovation, technology transfer, scale-up and globalization.

We recommend the continuation of the current trend of better aligning European financing schemes with structural and regional policies, especially in terms of multi-national projects, thematic priorities, and bureaucratic rules.

Key recommendations

Thank you!

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