

I3-2026-INV2a Partner Search - French health cluster is looking SME/start-up offering technology TRL6+ (digital health or AI-enabled healthcare solutions) based in Less Developed Regions to join an interregional Innovation Investments consortium

Summary

Profile type

Research & Development Request France

Company's country

POD reference

RDRFR20261009028

Profile status

PUBLISHED

Type of partnership

Research and development cooperation agreement

Targeted countries

- Portugal
- Latvia
- Romania
- Greece
- Hungary
- Bulgaria
- Spain
- Slovenia
- Lithuania
- Italy
- Croatia
- Czechia
- Slovakia

Contact Person

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Term of validity

12 Oct 2026
12 Oct 2027

Last update

12 Oct 2026

General Information

Short summary

A French innovation cluster in healthcare sector finalises an consortium (I3) with the aim at sustaining interregional gateways for scaling digital and welfare technology for the independent living of EU's ageing population. They seek Tech driven SMEs with under developement solution fitting home care ecosystem (such as active ageing, remote

patient monitoring, telehealth and support for independent living) to set up partnerships between more and less developed regions

Full description

Europe is ageing, and the care workforce cannot grow fast enough to keep up. Demographic change means more older adults and more people reliant on care, while regions face a widening shortage of care staff and informal carers. The shared goal is to let older adults and people who depend on care live independently, safely and with dignity.

Thus, the French innovation cluster in healthcare sector is finalising an Interregional Innovation Investments (I3) program for SMEs to develop transnational collaborative Innovation/research cooperation agreements between more and less developed regions:

EU Funding rate: 70%

Max EU grant: 2 to 10 M (avg. 5,5 M)

Duration: 18-36 months

70% of funding to SMEs/companies

In each participating region, a business support organisation, a municipality or a living lab opens its local market to innovators and SMEs from the other regions. Together they form an interregional value chain in which solutions and companies move in both directions, so every region gains new technologies, new business links and stronger access to European markets.

The idea is to connect home care innovators from across Europe, including from less developed regions, with markets and partners elsewhere. Both sides gain, innovators reach new markets and stronger ecosystems benefit from fresh solutions and new business connections. The goal is to move beyond testing and piloting toward actual market introduction of technologies. The cooperation between more and less developed regions is the core value chain of the I3 program.

The French health cluster is currently looking for a tech-driven SME or startup with a demonstrated technology at a minimum of TRL6 (digital health or AI-enabled healthcare solutions) based in Less Developed Regions to join the consortium. The final aim for the partner is to progress to TRL7-9.

Advantages and innovations

Benefits of the I3 project for the partner company:

- Access to a network of European stakeholders active in this sector and to new markets in Europe
- Promotion of its expertise and solutions within the EU
- Access to EU co-funding to develop its technology (TRL 6+ to TRL 7–9)
- Participation in project activities and the exchange of European best practices

Technical specification or expertise sought

Stage of development

Under development

Sustainable Development goals

- **Goal 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure**
- **Goal 3: Good Health and Well-being**

IPR Status

IPR Notes

Partner Sought

Expected role of the partner

The consortium is looking for a tech-driven SME or startup with a technology at a minimum of TRL6. They should already have a proven solution in digital health or AI-enabled healthcare that fits into the home care ecosystem, such as active aging, remote patient monitoring, telehealth and assisted living.

They would join as a direct, funded partner under the 70% EU funding rate to act as something we call "anchor business case", demonstrating how the partnership can successfully scale a health tech solution into new European markets.

The partner should be based in Less Developed Regions (cf I3 map below) : Portugal, South of Spain, South of Italy, Greece, Bulgaria, Rumania, Croatia, Slovenia, Hungary, Tchequia, Slovaquia, Lettonia, Lithuania.

Type of partnership

Research and development cooperation agreement

Type and size of the partner

- SME ≤ 10
- SME 50 - 249
- SME 11-49

Call Details

Framework program

Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme

Call title and identifier

Interregional Innovation Investments I3-2026-INV2a — Strand 2a

Submission and evaluation scheme

Single-stage submission and evaluation via the EU Funding & Tenders Portal

Anticipated project budget

To be defined by the consortium

Coordinator required

No

Deadline for EoI

30 Oct 2026

Deadline of the call

12 Nov 2026

Project duration in weeks

144

Web link to the call

https://eisma.ec.europa.eu/programmes/interregional-innovation-investments-i3-instrument_en

Project title and acronym

CARE-GATE

Dissemination

Technology keywords

- **06005001 - Safety & systems**
- **06005002 - Sensors & Wireless products**
- **06005003 - Health information management**
- **06005004 - Remote diagnostics**
- **06001010 - Gerontology and Geriatrics**

Market keywords

- **05004002 - Rescue and emergency equipment**
- **05004005 - Diagnostic equipment**
- **05007007 - Other medical/health related (not elsewhere classified)**
- **05005005 - Geriatrics**
- **05007004 - Monitoring equipment**

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- Czechia
- Slovakia

Sector groups involved

- Digital
- Health

Media

Images



[Map - Less Developed Regions](#)