



SMART HEALTH

VANGUARD INITIATIVE

Smart Health Pilot Meeting

2025 Results and 2026 Outlook

11 March 2026

A 3D printer is shown in the process of printing a white, porous, lattice-like structure. The printer's nozzle is positioned directly above the structure, which is being built on a white surface. The background is a dark blue gradient. The text "The Smart Health Pilot in a nutshell" is overlaid in yellow on the left side of the image.

The Smart Health Pilot in a nutshell

Smart Health pilot in a nutshell

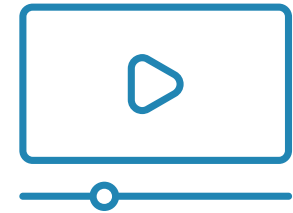
- **Launched in April 2021**

- Rooted in the S3P4PM Partnership- Smart Specialisation Strategies (S3) Modernisation partnership for Personalised Medicine
- Second youngest pilot of the Vanguard Initiative's pilot

- **3 co-leading regions** : Flanders, East Netherlands, and South Netherlands

- Smart Health is involved in the **S3 Community of Practice (S3 CoP)** as a Thematic Smart Specialisation Partnership and close collaboration with **with S3 MedTech Partnership**

Meet our co-leads:



Transform the connected European value chains on Personalised Medicine (PM) and smart health, by combining biomedical, technological and data-driven expertise.

12 dynamic Regions involved



Flanders (BE)

East Netherlands (NL)

South Netherlands (Limburg and Brabant) (NL)

Autonomous Province of Trento (IT)

Emilia Romagna (IT)

Lombardy (IT)

East and North Finland (FI)

Northeast Romania (RO)

Saxony-Anhalt (DE)

Slovenia (SI)

Wallonia (BE)

Aragon (observer for 2026) (ES)



Discussions with additional Regions:

- Cantabria (ES)
- South Holland (NL)

The Smart Health Community



130+ individual
members in the Smart
Health group

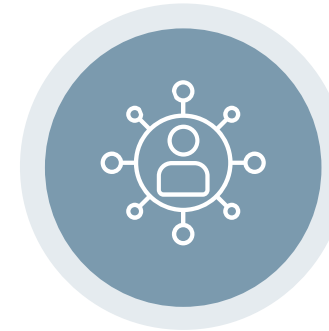
80 organisations



24 Public Authorities



25 Research & Academia



19 Clusters



12 Companies

Region	Public authorities	Research & Academia	Business sector
Flanders (BE)	Flanders Region; Department of Care; VLAIO; Vlaams Brabant; POM Antwerpen	KU Leuven; Ugent; U Hasselt; VUB; Imec; SCK CEN; VITO; VIB; UZ Antwerpen; UZ Leuven	Flanders Bio; Medvia; at.las; Health House; Johnson & Johnson; Antleron; Comate; Nonacus; Leadlife; Inovigate
East Netherlands (NL)	Oost NL Region	University of Twente	
South Netherlands (Limburg and Brabant) (NL)	Province of Brabant; Province of Limburg	RegMed XB	Cluster Sports & Technology; Alpha Packaging
Autonomous Province of Trento (IT)	Provincia Autonoma di Trento; Trentino Sviluppo	CIBIO – UNITN	Hub Innovazione Trentino
Emilia Romagna (IT)			ART-ER; CLUST-ER Health
Lombardy (IT)		CNR / STIIMA	Cluster Lombardo Scienze della Vita; TechForLife
East and North Finland (FI)	East and North Finland EU Office; Regional Councils	KAMK University of Applied Sciences	OuluHealth; Business Oulu
Northeast Romania (RO)	ADR Nord-Est	University of Medicine & Pharmacy Iași "Petru Poni"	Imago Mol
Saxony-Anhalt (DE)	Saxony-Anhalt Region	Research Campus STIMULATE	
Slovenia (SI)	Gospodar Zdravja Health Lord		SIS EGIZ
Wallonia (BE)	Walloon Region		BioWin; BioVia
<i>Aragon (observer for 2026) (ES)</i>			<i>Arahealth</i>

What does the pilot do?

The Smart Health Partnership bears the ambition to transform the connected EU value chains on Personalised Medicine and Smart Health by combining biomedical, technological, and data-driven expertise. In bringing regional ecosystems together, a higher added value can be reached to boost the implementation of Personalised Medicine at EU regional level and offer a smart and innovation approach to health and care in Europe.



Supporting the creation and development of interregional demonstration projects addressing the development gaps and needs of Personalised Medicine



Animating a learning- and co-creation community of quadruple helix stakeholders



Building the Pilot's visibility and communicating with impact about its activities.



Scouting and identification of EU funding opportunities, supporting the creation of complementary consortia, provision of guidance during the project proposal preparation

SMART HEALTH



Demo cases
current focus



DATA & DIGITAL TECH



Human centric data management



Digital therapies



Data quality and quantity in
prediction & data driven care



CONVERGING TECHNOLOGIES



Cell-based technologies :
Regenerative medicine, ATMPs

Non invasive medical imaging

Organ-on-chip



PREVENTIVE HEALTH



Preventive and positive health

Reinforced primary care



Patients empowerment



SUSTAINABILITY OF HEALTH

Regulatory preparation

Implementation sciences

Training for jobs of the future



Smart Health achievements in 2025

Smart Health – Learn & Connect in 2024/2025

Plenary Meetings and Events

- **4 online plenary meetings** covering: status of demo case development; members' priorities and support needs from the Pilot, Vanguard, or other initiatives; pitches from startups and SMEs; funding opportunities.
- **4 in-person plenary events (1.5 days each; 30 participants)** – Ghent, Maastricht & Lecco (joint events with the S3P MedTech Partnership), and Brussels: demo case development updates; working sessions on innovation and interregional challenges; project ideation sessions; presentation of funding opportunities; strategic guidance and policy insights (EISMEA, PLP, DG RTD, etc.); pitches from startups and SMEs; networking sessions; presentation of members' projects; site visits to technological and innovation facilities

Synergies and Collaborations

- Continuous outreach and onboarding of new members through dedicated meetings (East and North Finland, Catalonia, Scotland, Aragon, Cantabria, South Holland, etc.).
- Close collaboration with major EU initiatives, programmes, and networks: S3 CoP (Smart Health holds the status of S3 Partnership), EP PerMed, EHAB, S3 MedTech Partnership, Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platform, etc.
- The East Netherlands region successfully submitted an application for a PLP Peer Review following the presentation by thematic expert Laura Varisco during the Pilot plenary meeting in Maastricht.

Smart Health – Demo-case & Commercialize in 2025

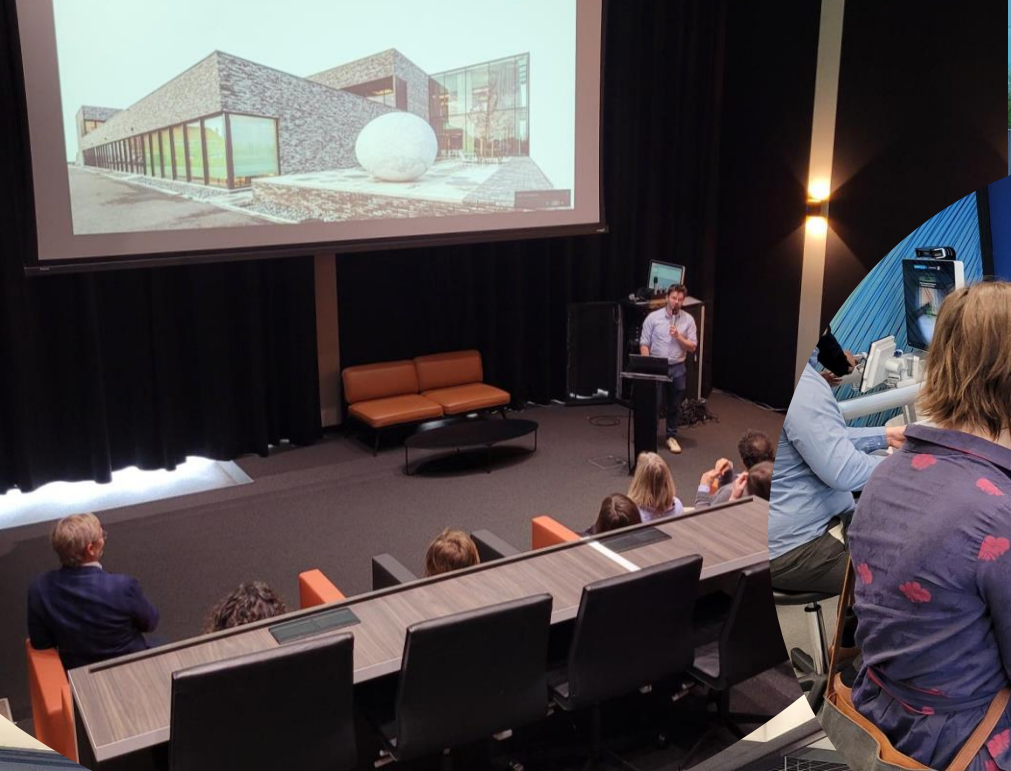
Democases

- **4 democases** (RegMed XB, WE ARE, TRACE-MED, Mobile Health (R)evolution). **1 new demo case under discussion** (Cardio Telerehab).
- **New uses cases development** : WE ARE (WellData, ICON), RegMed XB (Moonshots : eye, diabetes, osteoarthritis), TRACE-MED (Transnational Pipeline, Digital data hub for imaging, biodistribution & radiomics)
- In 2025, 2 democases benefited from the **Demonstration service delivered by the S3 CoP** (concept note, budget, project draft, relevant funding opportunities, etc.)

Funding

- **Systematic screening and matchmaking** around Horizon Europe, I3, EU4Health, IHI, EP PerMed, Vinnovate and other programmes' calls → Flash news, shared Google doc to express interest, mailing loops, ideation and working sessions during plenary events (4 per year), support to project draft
- **14 Vinnovate project applications** submitted in 2025 and several selected for funding. **3 projects under implementation** (€1.4M) from the 2024 edition (Advanced & Smart Materials for health and medical technologies)
- **Major funding successes** secured by pilot members and **significant contributions to European R&I** collaborative projects (running or under preparation) : 7 Interreg Europe ([RISEMED4EU](#), [STEP4NAMs](#), [HACK-IT-NET](#), [HERCULES](#), ...) 6 I3 ([InnoMedCatalyst](#), [AMBITIOUS](#), [EPIC](#), ...) 6 HE Cluster 1, 4 RIVs ([PRECISEU](#)), 3 EIE, 3 IHI, COSME (SpeedinngUpATMPs), Erasmus (CARES, EUVECA JACARDI), EU4Health (Nobocap), local fundings, etc.

Pilot meeting in Ghent - April 24



Pilot meeting in Maastricht - September 24

PLATFORM MEDTECH AND SMART HEALTH PILOT VANGUARD INITIATIVE JOINT MEETING, 10 & 11 SEPTEMBER 2024



Pilot meeting in Lecco – October 25



Pilot meeting in Brussels – November 25



A 3D printer is shown in the process of printing a white, porous, lattice-like structure. The printer's nozzle is positioned directly above the structure, which is being built on a white surface. The background is a blurred, light-colored environment, suggesting a laboratory or industrial setting. The overall image has a blue tint.

Smart Health planning in 2026

Smart Health Pilot in 2026 (1/3)

Events, Plenary Meetings & Policy Influence

- Organise **2 online** and **2 in-person plenary meetings** (tbc: Brussels in June; joint meeting with S3P MedTech in Thuringia in September).
- Prepare a **policy paper on regulations** in smart health and medical technologies.
- Steer and animate **thematic working groups**.
- Strengthen **SME involvement** in the Pilot, particularly through large-scale events, matchmaking sessions and pitch activities.

Funding & Projects

- Conduct **systematic funding screening** and circulate regular flash news on opportunities.
- Maintain a **shared workspace** to express interest in calls and facilitate member coordination.
- Organise orchestration calls, support consortium building, and facilitate interregional project development (I3, EIE, RIVs, Interreg Europe, Vinnovate, HE, IHI, EP PerMed, etc.).
- Support **at least three interregional proposal submissions** emerging directly from Pilot activities.

Smart Health Pilot in 2026 (2/3)

Demo Cases Development

- Support the launch of a **new demo case on cardio-rehabilitation** (North East Romania & South Netherlands).
- Mobilise services from the **S3 Community of Practice** (mapping, smart partnering, funding, demonstration, commercialisation and scale-up).
- **2026 Demo Cases Roadmap**
 - ✓ **WE ARE** : Solid Symposium 2026, Launch of the WellData use case (May 2026), ICON use case development, Preparation of an I3 proposal (November 2026)
 - ✓ **RegMed XB** : Development of Eye, Osteoarthritis (OA) and Diabetes moonshots
 - ✓ **Trace-Med**: Creation of a TRACE-MED Translational Pipeline, Digital data hub (imaging, biodistribution & radiomics), Horizon Europe & IHI collaborative proposals, Potential I3 Strand 2b proposal
 - ✓ **Mobile Health Revolution**: HealthChain (I3) Community of Practice (17 regions); Collaboration with ATMP partners

Smart Health Pilot in 2026 (3/3)

Governance, Synergies & European-Level Collaboration

- Actively contribute to the **VI Pilot reform**, including the Pilot lifecycle review and support to demo cases.
- Ensure close collaboration with **S3P MedTech** (shared working groups, joint plenary meetings, etc.).
- Strengthen cooperation with **EP PerMed** and **EHAB**.
- Engage at the **S3 Community of Practice (CoP)** level (Annual Conference participation, collaboration with other S3 Partnerships, etc.).
- Reinforce links with the **Interreg Europe Policy Learning Platform**, including **two Peer Reviews scheduled in 2026** (Maastricht and Noord-Brabant).
- Attract **new member regions** to further expand the Smart Health community.

Join the vibrant Smart Health Pilot Community!

Co-leading regions contacts:

Flanders: Jolien Roover, jolien.roovers@vlaanderen.be

East Netherlands: Vera Leonhart, vera.leonhart@oostnl.nl

South Netherlands: Dirk Plees, d.plees@prvlimburg.nl



Coordination support team: G.A.C. Group

Mélissa Campago: mcampagno@group-gac.com

Arnaud Mérial: amenial@group-gac.com



Read the Smart Health flyer !

VANGUARD INITIATIVE