



Call for EIP on AHA Twinnings 2020

Terms of Reference

Background information

The European Commission (EC) initiated the 2016 Transfer of Innovation Twinning Support Scheme through a call in 2016 to contribute to the European scaling-up strategy of the EIP on AHA. The twinning scheme as applied in the Active and Healthy Ageing domain was a new concept that aims to de-risk investment in digital innovative ICT solutions by financing the exchange of knowledge and good practice in digital health solutions with high potential for replicability and scaling up.

Twenty pairs of originators and adopters of innovations were selected to exchange knowledge and expertise with financial support to cover the travel and accommodation costs of the twinning activities. The twenty pairs represented a variety of solutions being adopted by the EIP on AHA Reference Site¹ organisations from 13 different European countries. In total, 43 organisations were involved in the 2016 twinning scheme. Twinning subjects include EHRs, ePrescription solutions, integrated health and social care ICT service platforms, homecare and telemonitoring, etc.

The level of twinning varied from pure knowledge exchange and training, over to adaptation, partial or full adoption depending on the twinning topic. Results of the twinings showed successful implementations. The scheme was in line with the objectives of the Digital Single Market's mid-term review report, in particular, the priority related to large-scale deployment of innovations in Europe.

These twinings were co-organised by the SCALE-AHA study and the PROEIPAHA project under the guidance of the EC Directorate General Connect. An overview of the 2016 twinning results is available at the following link: <http://www.scale-aha.eu/2016-twinings.html>.

In the 2018-2020 cycle of the EIP on AHA² the first call for twinings took place in 2019 for Reference Sites which received this status as a result of the 2016 call for Reference Sites. The 2019 call for twinings received eleven applications out of which five were awarded. The successful candidates were the following Reference Sites: Trento – Oulu, Campania – Rotterdam, Olomouc – Catalonia, Basque country – Andalusia, Crete – Ireland. Results from these twinings can be found on the [EIP on AHA portal](#).

The 2020 call for twinings has now been launched with the objective of facilitating the deployment of large-scale digitally-enabled innovative solutions for health and care delivery for older adults. **This call is open to those Reference Sites that received this status as result of the third call for Reference Sites in 2019 and the extended third call for Reference Sites.**

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/reference-sites_en.

² https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/about-the-partnership_en.



How the Twinning support scheme works (edition 2020)

Regional organisations holding **Reference Site status as a result of the 2019 calls (third call and extended third call)** can apply to benefit from a scheme that supports expenses incurred to facilitate the transfer of innovative practices for implementation in another region.

The **focus** is on digitally-enabled innovative ICT solutions for health and care delivery for the ageing population according to the priorities of the Communication of the EC “on enabling the digital transformation of health and care in the Digital Single Market”³.

There are **two types of organisations** involved:

- The “*Organisation adopting the innovative practice*” (*adopter organisation*) (is the organisation that will receive the innovative practice and deploy / implement it in its territory). This is the organisation that is awarded Reference Site status in the 2019 calls and will benefit from the experience and know-how developed by the “organisation transferring an innovative practice” in a particular field of intervention;
- The “*Organisation transferring the innovative practice*” (*originator organisation*), which is the organisation with the experience and know-how developed in a particular field of intervention, that is awarded Reference Site status in the 2019 calls and that is included in the innovative practices repository of the EIP on AHA.

Furthermore, the “*Organisation transferring the innovative practice*” could involve an **SMEs or a start-up in the twinning activities** as a way to connect some twinings with the I2M Plan. A limited number of twinings (at least 3 in total considering both editions in 2019 and 2020) will include an SMEs or a start-up operating at a national / regional level which already developed innovative digitally-driven health and care solutions (product or service) and have the ambitions to scale-up them in a cross-border context⁴.

An **essential requirement** for the adopting organisations is clear financial commitment to implement/procure the innovative practice within 2020.

The objective of this support scheme is to support the transfer of innovation (from the “organisation transferring the innovative practice” to the “organisation adopting the innovative practice”) in a way that facilitates the latter's deployment of large-scale digitally-enabled innovative solutions for health and care delivery to the ageing population. This initiative therefore contributes to the European Scaling Up Strategy

³ Communication from the Commission to the European Parliament, the Council, the European Economic and Social Committee and the Committee of the Regions “on enabling the digital transformation of health and care in the Digital Single Market”, Brussels, 25.4.2018, COM(2018) 233: <https://ec.europa.eu/digital-single-market/en/news/communication-enabling-digital-transformation-health-and-care-digital-single-market-empowering>.

⁴ This element of the twinning relies with the knowledge transfer activities foreseen in the Innovation to Market (I2M) Plan: https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/library/innovation-market-plan_en.



of the EIP on AHA⁵ and to the implementation of the priorities set out in the EC Communication on digital transformation of health and care in the Digital Single Market (see figure 1).

Digital Health and Care



TRANSFORMATION OF HEALTH AND CARE IN THE DIGITAL SINGLE MARKET - Harnessing the potential of data to empower citizens and build a healthier society

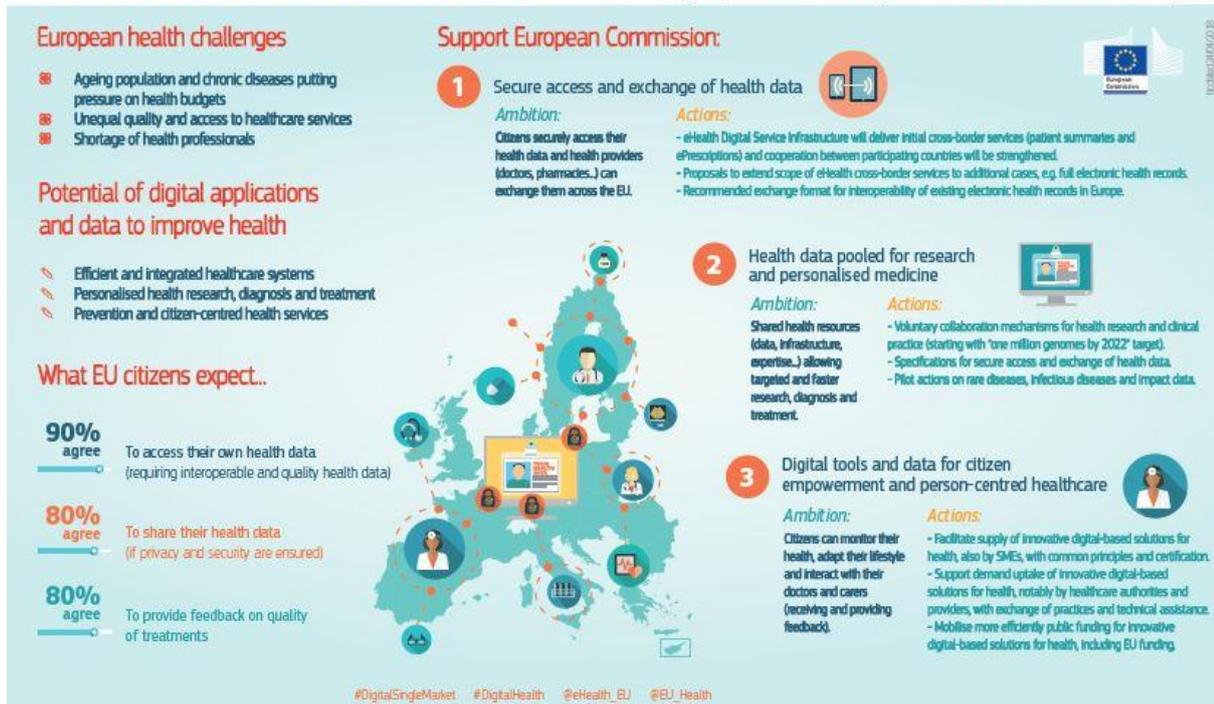


Figure 1: EU Priority areas for the transformation of health and care in the Digital Single Market

This is a pilot support scheme that provides financial support to cover the travel and accommodation of experts from the "adopting organisation" to the "originator organisation" or vice-versa.

It will also cover expenses related to the "hosting" (such as transport within the region) incurred by hosting meetings etc. It will not cover fees for professional services (consulting, advisory services, moderation services etc.) and will not include the acquisition of products and services from third parties that do not fall within the meaning of travel, accommodation and meeting expenses.

The lump sum to be claimed in expenses is a maximum **€ 5,000 per twinning action based on real costs**. There can only be 1 hosting organisation for the twinning (which could be either the transferring organisation or the adopting organisation). Irrespective of the number of "adopting" organisations involved in the twinning action the maximum amount is € 5,000 per twinning action.

⁵ European Scaling-up Strategy in Active and Healthy Ageing, European Union, 2015: https://ec.europa.eu/research/innovation-union/pdf/active-healthy-ageing/scaling_up_strategy.pdf.



Collaboration with the 2020 edition of the Digital Health Europe twinning scheme

Building on the success of the first twinning scheme launched by the DigitalHealthEurope project in summer 2019⁶, the EIP on AHA 2020 has teamed up with DigitalHealthEurope to amplify the synergies of the two initiatives and to provide a joint twinning scheme.

In DigitalHealthEurope, the twinning programme is a support mechanism for scaling up innovative digital solutions. Twinning is used as a mechanism for accelerating fulfilment of the Communication's priorities, by enabling the transfer of innovative solutions from one European region or country to another.

Interested organisations and individuals will first exchange ideas on **twinning solutions** which they can offer or would like to adopt. A **twinning marketplace** has been set up by DigitalHealthEurope to facilitate the matchmaking process. Potential Twinning Originators can post information about their available twinning solutions, and those wishing to be Twinning Adopters can specify their solution requirements.

The outputs of the twinning are expected to inform key work areas of DigitalHealthEurope, such as elaboration of policy recommendations and development of useful resources ("building blocks" for scaling up innovative solutions). These are a crucial part of the capacity building of European health and care institutions.

The DigitalHealthEurope twinning can be grouped into **three types**. They range from knowledge exchange to adoption (whether partial or full) of the transferred solution. The different twinning types require different forms of funding, have different deployment time frames and need different experts.

Deadline: 4th May 2020

For additional information on the DigitalHealthEurope twinning, please consult the project webpage: <https://digitalhealtheurope.eu/twinning.html>

NOTE: Organisations should not submit the same idea to both the EIP on AHA and DigitalHealthEurope knowledge exchange twinning. Doing this may risk the application being disqualified.

⁶ <https://digitalhealtheurope.eu/twinning/digitalhealtheurope-call-for-twinning-june-august-2019.html>



How to apply for the support scheme

- Applications to the scheme can be made through a "joint request" (submitted through a brief online form) – to be completed and submitted between **26th February and 4th May 2020**.
- The "joint request" is filled in through an [online form](#) by the adopting and transferring organisations who are requesting the twinning support.
- The request should include details on the content of the twinning action, (notably which is the innovation practice to be transferred) and outlining the commitment to start implementing that innovative practice within 2020 (see Criteria for Application).
- An independent panel made up of the WE4AHA project partners and the European Commission will select up to 5 twinning actions awarded funding by **1st June 2020**.

Twinning actions must take place between the **1st June 2020 and the 30th November 2020**.

Each selected twinning will have to provide final report about the action.

Criteria for application

The applications submitted will be assessed by an independent panel on the following:

- Whether or not they meet the essential profile criteria (see below). If they don't meet the essential profile criteria they will be deemed ineligible.
- For those applicants that meet the essential profile criteria; they will be evaluated on the "Other Criteria" which examines the merits and relevance of the twinning plan and the expected impact of implementation.

Essential Profile Criteria (all these requirements must be met in order for the application to qualify as eligible):

Overall: The proposed twinning action relates to digitally enabled ICT innovation practice in active and healthy ageing. The ICT aspect of the practice is clearly described.

i) Organisation transferring the innovative practice (originator organisation)

- Awarded Reference-Site status at the 2019 Calls for Reference Sites of the EIP on AHA.
- Innovation practices to be transferred in the twinning are already included in the EIP on AHA Innovative Practices Repository⁷.
- Involvement in research and innovation projects or policy initiatives which have a strong connection with EIP on AHA objectives and with high EU and regional added-value.
- Involvement in networking activities between regional and national level to support best practice or knowledge exchange opportunities

⁷ <https://ec.europa.eu/eip/ageing/repository>



ii) Organisation adopting the innovative practice (receiving/adopter organisation)

- Awarded Reference-Site status in the 2019 Calls for Reference Sites of the EIP on AHA.
- Clearly established financial commitment to procure / implement large scale digitally-enabled ICT innovative solutions for health and care delivery to the ageing population within 2020.

Other Criteria ("joint requests" that meet the essential profile criteria will then be evaluated according to the following criteria):

- Adopting / receiving organisation should be a beneficiary or be an applicant to benefit of EU Structural Funds*** in the field of active and healthy ageing**
- Quality of the twinning plan description submitted (detail provided on financial commitment to procure / implement innovative practice)
- Expected impact of the twinning in terms of knowledge and know-how transferred/acquired, scale of impact of the implemented innovative practice and expected outcome.
- Need to ensure a balanced distribution of support throughout the different intervention areas of the EIP on AHA Action Groups*.
- Eventual involvement of an SME or a start-up at a national / regional level which already developed innovative digitally-driven health and care solutions (product or service) and have the ambitions to scale-up them in a cross-border context.

* For donor organisations only

** For adopting / receiving organisations only

*** List of European Structural and Investment Funds can be found here: ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/funding/



Overall scope of the applications

The following table illustrates the type of ICT enabled innovative solution for AHA which will be considered for the 2020 twinning call and the link with the three priorities of the Communication of the EC “on enabling the digital transformation of health and care in the Digital Single Market”

ICT enabled innovative solutions and services for AHA	Priorities of the EC Communication “on enabling the digital transformation of health and care in the Digital Single Market”		
	<i>Citizens' secure access to and sharing of health data across borders</i>	<i>Better data to advance research, disease prevention and personalised health and care</i>	<i>Digital tools for citizen empowerment and person-centered care</i>
Regional/national EHR systems and summaries			
Care provider EHR systems integration (joined-up/shared records)			
Regional ePrescription system			
Integrated medicines management			
ICT tools supporting adherence to care plans			
Technology for falls prevention			
ICT-supported integration of health and social care services			
Homecare, tele monitoring and mobile health systems			
Multi-disciplinary team support, workflow, care planning and co-ordination			
Health and care needs assessment toolkit			
Tele-mentoring and virtual consultations			
Telecare service / call centre			
Online health portals			
Age-friendly buildings			
Risk stratification and population health management			

For any questions related to the twinning support scheme 2020, please contact: we4aha@funka.com