

Life Sciences for Europe

An integrated strategy for healthcare innovation (2019-2024)

The healthcare industry looks very different to how it did ten years ago. Innovation in health technology – medicines, medical devices, diagnostic technologies and increasingly, digital health – has revolutionised healthcare and is transforming the way we deliver and manage treatments and organise healthcare systems. There is also an increasing use of integrated treatment options that combine these technologies offering significant benefits to patients. However, the integration and uptake of these integrated technologies is posing new challenges.

Life Sciences for Europe: An integrated strategy for healthcare innovation (2019-2024) features a review of the key trends and challenges across the life sciences sector, including those that prevent the development and access of patients to innovative products and services in the EU. The report also addresses these challenges with a set of novel policy solutions to promote more favourable conditions, incentivise innovation and deliver benefits to patients across the entire life sciences sector in the EU.

Health technologies contributing to life sciences



Medicines



Diagnostic technologies



Digital health



Medical devices

Key trends across the life sciences sector



Socio-economic

(ageing population, increased prevalence of chronic illnesses, etc.)



Technology

(digital health, emergence of personalised medicine, etc.)



Policy-related

(regulatory changes, etc.)

Novel policy solutions

Each health technology (medicines, medical devices, diagnostic technologies and digital health) has a long list of sector specific issues or challenges, but there are also shared issues and new challenges that arise if they are used in combination. This is why an integrated approach to foster the wider life sciences sector in Europe is a priority. It can bring ground-breaking benefits to patients, healthcare systems and the economy. As such, this report has prioritised issues where:

- Common policy challenges and technologies have very different policy frameworks, which could cause issues as technologies are combined; and
- Novel challenges have emerged due to the integrated combined use of some healthcare technologies across the life sciences sector.

Across the four health technologies, four main issues were identified where novel policy solutions are lacking and concrete policy proposals have been recommended.



Overcoming limited funding and budgeting issues

1. **Integrated funding models**
2. **Budgeting for long-term spending**
3. **Monitoring the performance of budget holders**
4. **Conducting holistic value assessment**



Introducing robust data protection and security

1. **Building digital interoperability for health information sharing across Europe**
2. **Regulatory clarity and legal certainty**
3. **Education and training to improve electronic (eHealth) and mobile (mHealth) skills**



Tailored approaches to value assessment across different technologies

1. **Early dialogue and horizon scanning**
2. **Appropriate value assessment mechanisms**



Adapting to new healthcare business models

1. **An industrial strategy incorporating the whole life sciences sector**
2. **Better incorporating digital capabilities**
3. **Fostering partnerships between private health providers and healthcare systems**
4. **A flexible and adaptable regulatory regime fit for future technologies**



Read the full report:
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