Digital Transformation and the Future of Cancer Screening in Europe

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CNECT.A6 “AI in health and life sciences”

European Commission

AI Continent Action Plan

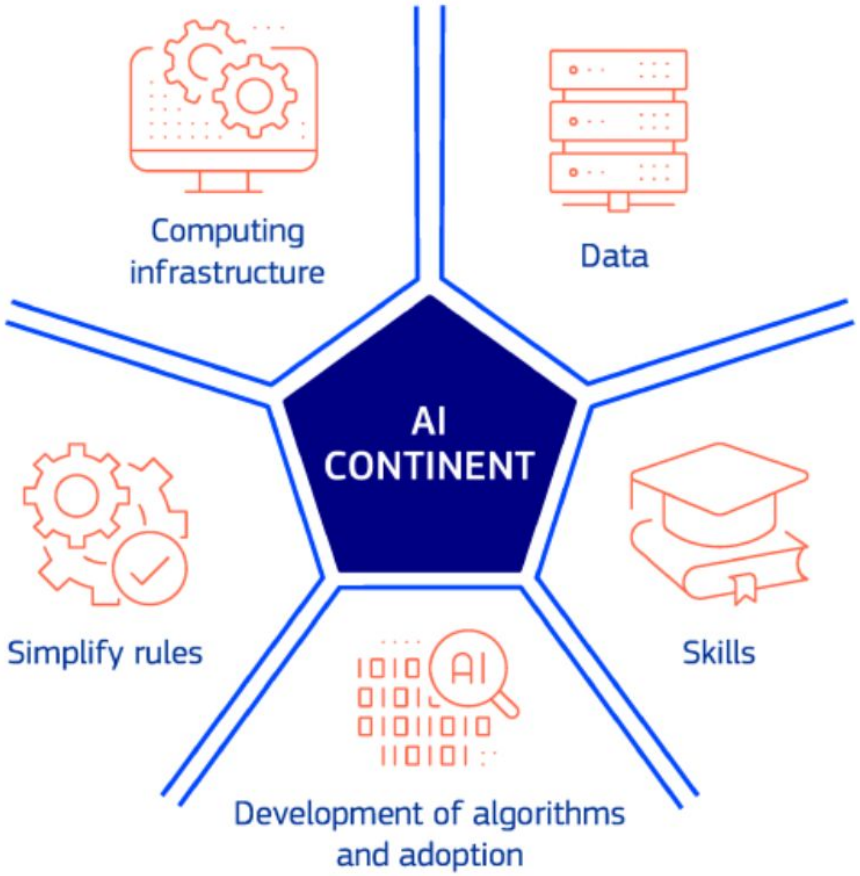
Targeted actions in healthcare, across each pillar

Computing capacities

- **15+ AI factories** specialised in health and life sciences
- **€20 billion** in InvestAI up to 5 Gigafactories

Regulatory framework

AI Act, MDR, IVDR: clear, risk-based and clinically aligned rules for safe AI in healthcare



European Health Data Space

Health data infrastructures

- Genomic Data Infrastructure
- Cancer Image Europe
- Intensive Care Unit data space
- Advanced Platform for VHT

Health data lab

AI skills for healthcare workers

- EU4Health
- Pact for Skills
- AI skills academy
- Digital Europe: advanced digital skills

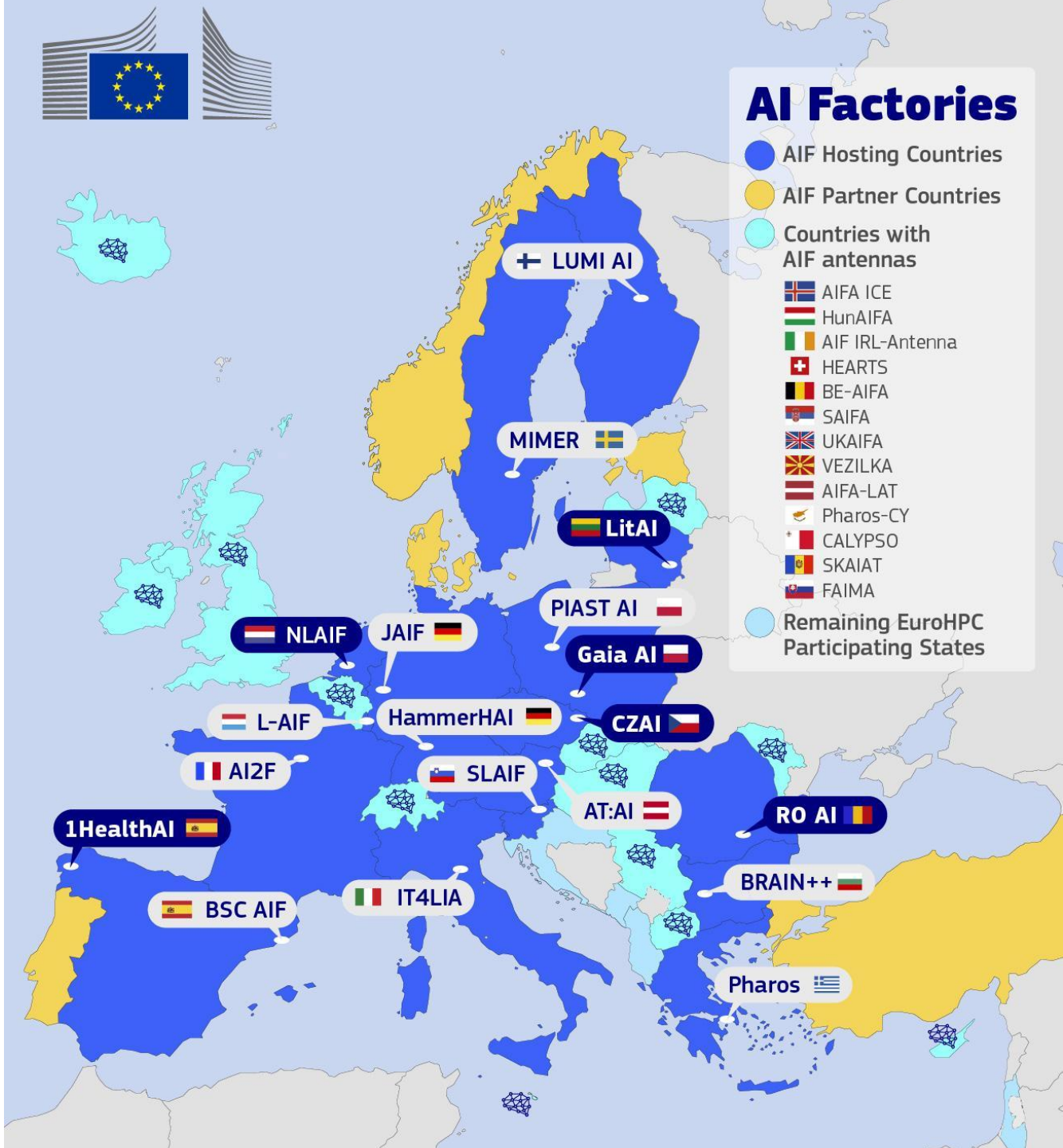
AI Testing and Experimentation Facilities

European Digital Innovation Hubs

Apply AI Strategy

AI Factories

- **€2.6 billion** from 2021 to 2027
  - 19 **AI factories** and
  - 13 AI Factory **Antennas**
- **15+ AI Factories** working on **health**
- **More information:** AI Factories - The European High Performance Computing Joint Undertaking (EuroHPC JU)



Apply AI Strategy

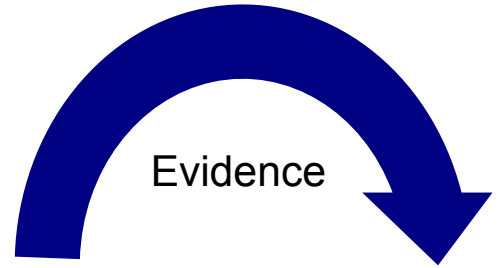
Harness AI's transformative potential by driving **adoption of AI across strategic and public sectors**



- support for SMEs
- enabling an AI-ready workforce
- leveraging advanced AI capabilities
- ensuring trust in the market

- **Apply AI Alliance**: a Forum for policymakers, industry, academia and civil society
- **AI Observatory**: Tracking progress and insights

Apply AI flagship initiatives in healthcare

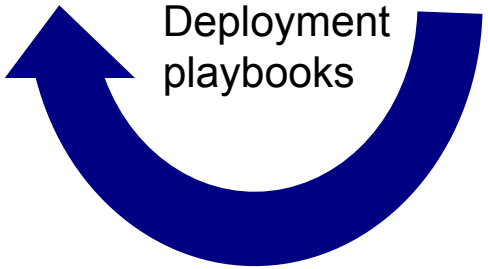


Flagship 1

AI-powered advanced screening centres

Community of practice of medical centres that are deploying **AI solutions for prevention, early detection or diagnosis of cancer or cardiovascular diseases**

Healthcare organisations engaged in collaborative studies on AI performance and pilots of AI solutions



Compass AI

Flagship 2

Network of expertise on AI deployment in healthcare

Healthcare professionals, hospital managers, policymakers, patient representatives, AI developers, ethicists, economists

Compass AI

AI-powered advanced screening centres



Community of practice of medical centres that are deploying AI solutions for prevention, early detection or diagnosis of cancer or cardiovascular diseases.

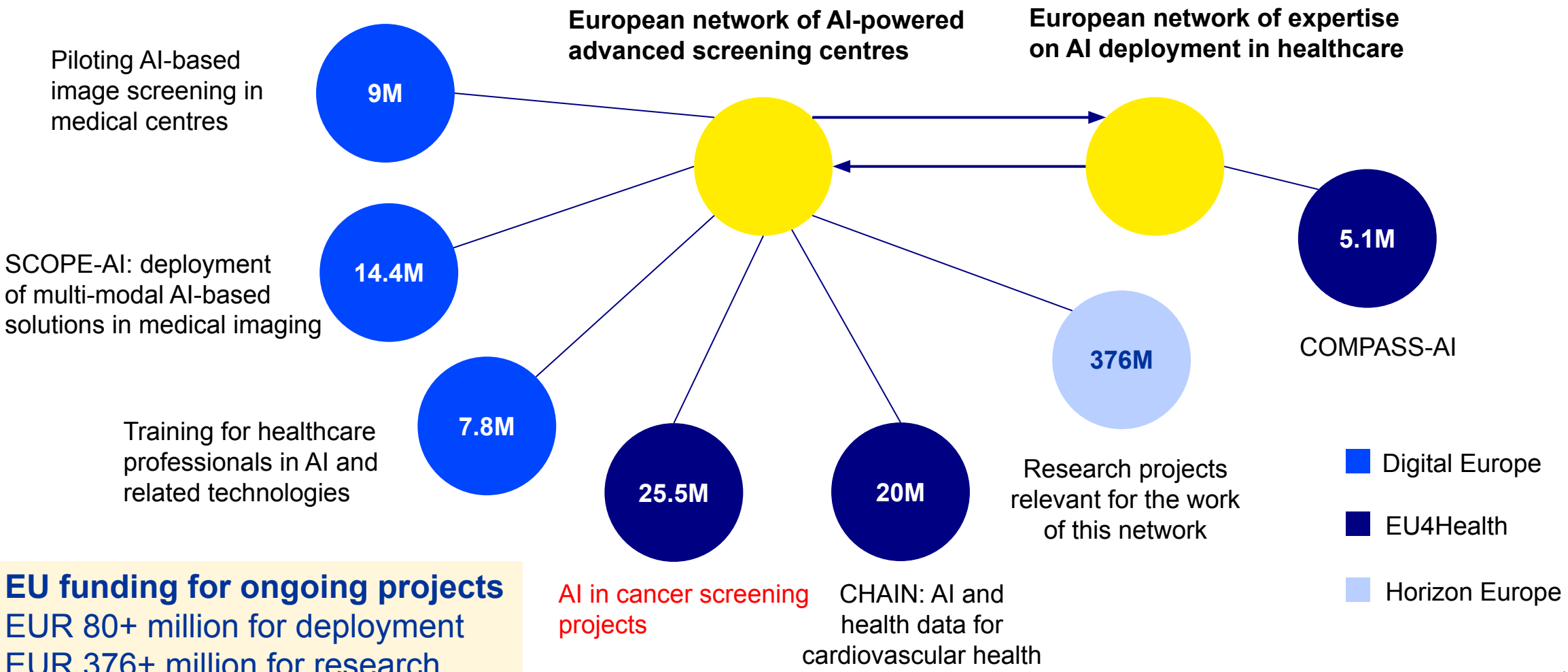
- **Piloting AI tools and solutions**: deploy solutions, integrate them in clinical workflow, carry out local performance evaluation and monitoring of the deployed solutions
- **Collaborative studies on AI performance:** generate evidence by evaluating the real-world performance of AI tools
- European AI-powered advanced screening centres | Shaping Europe's digital future (incl. event report from the first meeting, Terms of Reference and List of Organisations)

AI-powered advanced screening centres

- **Almost 350 healthcare providing organisations**
- **27 EU Member States,** plus Norway, Iceland, the UK, Switzerland, Ukraine, Serbia, Türkiye
- Call for expression of interest will reopen in November 2026



Contributing actions



EU funding for ongoing projects
EUR 80+ million for deployment
EUR 376+ million for research

AI in EU-funded cancer screening actions

PRAISE-U Plus

- aims to accelerate the implementation of organised, population-based and risk-stratified prostate cancer (PCa) screening across EU Member States
- explicitly addresses **the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) into screening pathways**
- **Project start date: 1 September 2026**

SOLACE Plus

- supports EU Member States to design, launch, evaluate, and optimise low-dose CT (LDCT) lung cancer screening (LCS) programmes
- A key objective **is integration of validated AI-based tools to support radiologists in LDCT interpretation to reduce workload**
- **Project start date: 1 November 2026**

TOGAS Plus

- support the implementation of primary and secondary gastric cancer (GC) prevention programmes
- The project will **explore the potential of AI in gastric cancer prevention**
- Project start date: 1 November 2026

EU CanScreen
European Joint Action on Cancer Screening

European Cancer Imaging Initiative

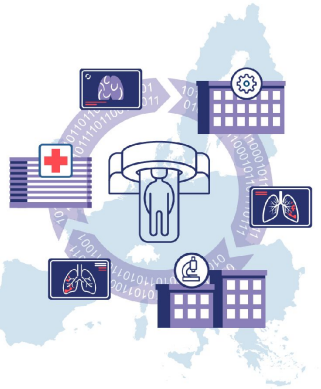
Flagship initiative of Europe's Beating Cancer Plan

EUROPE'S BEATING CANCER PLAN

EUROPEAN CANCER IMAGING INITIATIVE

#euCancerImaging

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Key aims:

- Unite and share imaging data
- Enable AI-driven innovation
- Foster collaboration
- Ensure trust and ethics
- Translate research into care

Webpage:
https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/cancer-imaging

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BreastSCan

Pan-European Breast Image Platform for Advanced AI-based Breast Cancer Screening



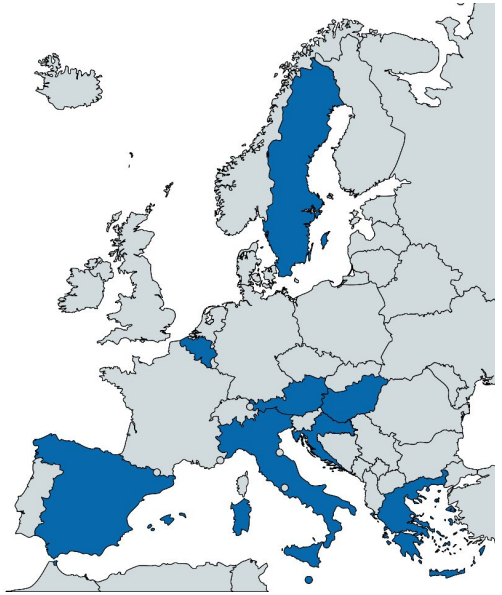
Goal: The BreastSCan project's main goal is to use digital innovation to improve breast cancer screening and care across Europe.



Expected results: a large, high-quality collection of breast images to create a pan-European platform for advanced AI-based screening. This platform will help develop and test AI tools that can improve the accuracy and efficiency of breast cancer detection.

Key Contributions

- **Earlier and more accurate detection** – AI tools trained on a huge dataset will help doctors find breast cancers sooner and with greater precision, giving patients better chances of survival.
- **One of the largest breast cancer image collections in Europe** – Over 1 million images will make Europe a leader in AI-driven screening, ensuring research and innovations reflect diverse populations.
- **Better care for patients across Europe** – Common standards, smarter tools, and training for doctors will mean more reliable screening and more personalised treatment, no matter where patients live



Webpage: BreastSCan - Cancer Image Europe

European Commission

AI, the European way



Our approach is clear. We want AI. We want AI to create more value, more responsibly. […] ***But above all, we want AI with human agency.*** *This is the essence of the European way.*

The key is creating the value that AI has not yet delivered. Moving AI from the screen to the real economy and society. […] ***On the hospital ward.***

Let me give you one societal example. On ***breast cancer screening*** *[…]. Mammography screening reduces mortality by around 30–40 % among women who attend the screenings. Early detection is of the essence. This is where AI can step in.*

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Ursula von der Leyen,
President of the European Commission
State of the Union Address 2026

Thank you