

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-004022/25
to the Commission
Olivier Chastel (Renew)
(14 October 2025)**

Subject: Creating a European network of AI-powered advanced screening centres

During Italian Tech Week, which took place from 1-3 October 2025, Commission President Ursula von der Leyen announced that a European network of AI-powered advanced screening centres would be created to improve preventive healthcare and shorten waiting times.

This initiative forms part of a wider framework: the AI Act (Regulation (EU) 2024/1689) lays down stringent obligations for high-risk AI systems, including those intended for use for medical purposes, while the Digital Europe Programme has a budget of EUR 8.1 billion and provides for the rollout of 150 European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIH).

Innovative start-ups still struggle to gain access to research infrastructure and computational capacity, particularly in the digital health industry.

1. What legal status will this network of AI-powered screening centres have, how will it be funded and how will it tie in with the 150 EDIHs, the AI factories and the existing programmes so that innovators in the industry are guaranteed access to the network?
2. How will the Commission ensure that the AI-powered screening systems comply with the obligations for high-risk systems set out in the AI Act and with the General Data Protection Regulation? What technical frameworks will be put into place so that health data can be shared securely before the European Health Data Space is up and running?

Submitted: 14.10.2025

**Answer given by Executive Vice-President Virkkunen on behalf of the European Commission
(1 December 2025)**

The European network of artificial intelligence (AI)-powered advanced screening centres is a flagship initiative under the Apply AI Strategy ⁽¹⁾.

It will be an open network of medical centres that are deploying AI solutions for prevention, early detection and diagnosis of cancer and/or cardiovascular diseases.

It will be supported by several actions under Digital Europe Programme (DIGITAL) and EU4Health. For example, DIGITAL will fund pilot projects in which medical centres will use AI systems for screening, evaluate performance and monitor solutions after deployment.

Under EU4Health, the Cardio-AI ⁽²⁾ flagship will support the deployment of AI models for cardiovascular disease prevention and care.

The network will collaborate closely with the European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIHs) and the European Network of Expertise on AI Deployment in Healthcare ⁽³⁾.

The EDIHs will be crucial in bridging supply and demand and in promoting European AI models and systems. They will act as privileged access point to the European AI innovation ecosystem, including AI Factories.

The AI Act lays down the rules for AI systems commensurate to their risk level and ensures that only compliant systems are used on the EU market.

The sharing of data in the network will be carried out in compliance with applicable laws, such as the General Data Protection Regulation, monitored and enforced by the competent national data protection authorities and courts. The European Health Data Space ⁽⁴⁾ will provide the secure data infrastructure and governance framework enabling AI applications.

⁽¹⁾ Apply AI Strategy | Shaping Europe's digital future <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/apply-ai>.

⁽²⁾ Cardio-AI flagship call, EU Funding & Tenders Portal: <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/EU4H-2026-SANTE-PJ-04?keywords=EU4H-2026-SANTE-PJ&isExactMatch=true&status=31094501,31094502,31094503&order=DESC&pageNumber=1&pageSize=50&sortBy=startDate>.

⁽³⁾ Commission launches flagship initiative to increase use of AI in healthcare | Shaping Europe's digital future https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/commission-launches-flagship-initiative-increase-use-ai-healthcare?pk_source=ec_newsroom&pk_medium=email&pk_campaign=Shaping%20Europe%27s%20Digital%20Future%20website%20updates/en.

⁽⁴⁾ Regulation — EU — 2025/327 — EN — EUR-Lex https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=OJ:L_202500327.

Until the HealthData@EU infrastructure is operational, the network will rely on existing secure health data infrastructures, such as Cancer Image Europe ⁽⁵⁾.

⁽⁵⁾ Cancer Image Europe <https://www.cancerimage.eu>.