

August 27, 2019

Comments of

**ACT | The App Association's Connected Health Initiative
(Transparency Reg. # 7202951387754)**

**Lighthouse Europe
Avenue Adolphe Lacomblé, 59
B-1030 Brussels**

to

**The European Commission's Directorate-General for Research and
Innovation**

on its

Roadmap Consultation, "European Partnership for Innovative Health"

ACT | The App Association's Connected Health Initiative¹ (CHI) hereby submits comments to the European Commission's (EC) Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (DG-RTD) in response to its Roadmap Consultation, *European Partnership for Innovative Health*.² The App Association appreciates DG-RTD's efforts to improve the support for strategic value chains in innovative health solutions in Europe.

CHI is the leading multistakeholder policy and legal advocacy effort driven by a consensus of stakeholders from across the connected health ecosystem. CHI aims to create an environment in which Europeans can realize the potential of connected health technologies to improve health outcomes and reduce costs. CHI members are providers, developers, and users of innovative connected health technologies that promote patient care and engagement across a wide range of use cases. We are active advocates before the EC and its member states to advance responsible pro-digital health policies and laws in areas including in reimbursement and payment, privacy and security, effectiveness and quality assurance, regulation of advanced medical devices, health data interoperability, and the rising role of augmented/artificial intelligence (AI) in healthcare.

A consistently growing body of evidence demonstrates that connected health technologies improve patient care, reduce hospitalizations, help avoid complications, and improve patient engagement (particularly for the chronically ill). These tools, increasingly powered by AI, leverage patient-generated health data (PGHD) and include wireless health products, mobile medical devices, telehealth and preventive services, clinical decision support, chronic care management, and cloud-based patient portals.

A European partnership on innovative health that provides a collaborative platform for research and innovation and speeds up development and uptake of innovation in public health must advance a connected care continuum to be successful. Connected health technologies enable accessible high-quality care that is affordable to all and will help Europe to address a number of concerns ranging from its ageing population and a rise in chronic diseases to a shortage in its health workforce. CHI strongly supports the European Commission taking every opportunity to create a connected health system that maximizes the potential of PGHD by removing barriers to advanced technologies in healthcare through its digital health and care policies and laws.

As the Commission's inception assessment states, collaboration between health-related industrial sectors is limited. We agree with DG-RTD that the collaborative platform discussed in the Roadmap Consultation can and should address this challenge by supporting the integration of technological and health research and innovations, and CHI calls on RTD to explicitly promote the use of connected health technologies to address it.

CHI further encourages the new partnership to support efforts to harmonize, synchronize, and streamline support programs across the European Union (EU) to maximize SMEs' ability to bring their health innovations to new customers and new markets efficiently,

¹ www.connectedhi.com.

² <https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/initiatives/ares-2019-4972474>.

building on successful national efforts. Benefits from network effects and collaborative projects, and aligned research agendas on the basis of an EU partnership, should augment and align our members' efforts to advance science and develop innovative health solutions.

Given the current model of EU participation and the state of national support for innovation in health, we support a European partnership consistent with the above recommendations. If realized, such a partnership would significantly contribute to achieving the EU's goals and objectives in this space more effectively. CHI supports a co-programmed or institutionalized partnership, as both options allow the member states, the EU, academia, and the private sector to collaborate in addressing priorities for the success of innovative health solutions.

We look forward to further engagement on this partnership as it is developed.

Sincerely,



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