

- A summary description of project context and objectives

Health challenge: HealthTIES addresses Europe’s greatest health challenges for the 21st century: the increasingly ageing population and the sustainability of the healthcare system. Recent governmental studies paint a worrisome picture. With the costs of Europe’s healthcare sector over 10% of its GNP, we will need to find ways to use our limited resources more efficiently and effectively if we are to succeed in improving health for all our citizens. This is a cross-border challenge that requires a collaborative approach.

Third revolution or convergence: True collaboration between medical scientists and engineers, as well as health care providers, industrial partners and regional authorities is currently seen as the key to innovation that will ultimately lead to improved health and sustainable health care. These initiatives have been described as the “third revolution” in healthcare research. HealthTIES is at the forefront of this third revolution by providing a transnational consortium in medical technology. HealthTIES combines four of Europe’s top regions in biosciences, medical technology and health entrepreneurship: Medical Delta (West of the Netherlands), Oxford and Thames Valley, Canton of Zurich, Biocat (Catalonia), and the mentoring region Észak-Alföld in Hungary.

Common goals: We intend to maximise the impact of innovation and RTD (Research and Technological Development) for the benefit of health care. The common goals of the HealthTIES regions are

- 1) to boost the Healthcare Technology Innovation Cycle.
- 2) to stimulate joint science, education and state-of-the-art infrastructure in major disease areas

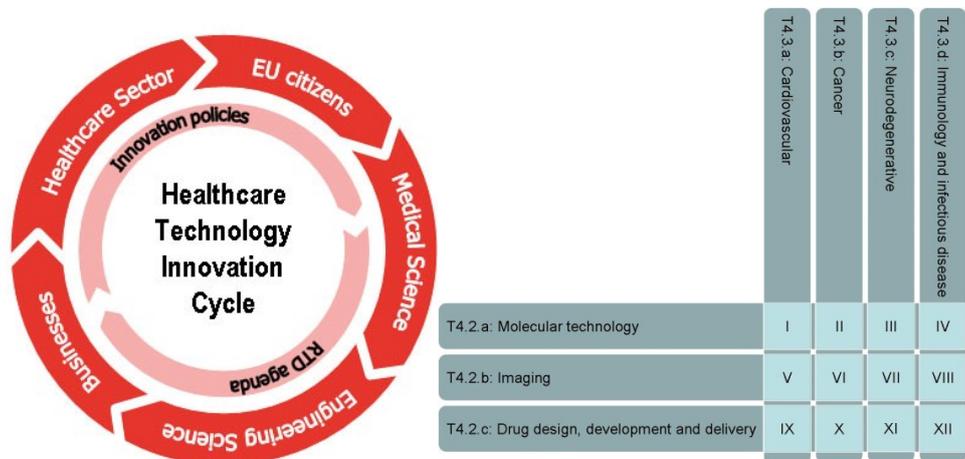




Figure 1 HealthTIES innovation cycle

Figure 2 HealthTIES “convergence” matrix

Approach: The project starts to investigate – in a benchmark comparison – the innovation system parameters and best practices per region and an analysis of the scientific strengths at the universities and companies per region. The information will be made visual by developing a web-based Virtual Reference Region followed by a SWOT analysis. Based upon these insights a Joint Action Plan will be constructed and executed during the HealthTIES project period. It is the intention of the HealthTIES partners to continue the cooperation for years after the end of the project (2013) and therefore a construction for continuation will be part of the Joint Action Plan.