



Council of the European Union
General Secretariat

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MEETING DOCUMENT

From: General Secretariat of the Council
To: Working Party on Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices (Attachés)
Working Party on Public Health (Attachés)

Subject: Working Parties on Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices and Public Health 9
January 2026
- Commission presentation

Delegations will find in annex the presentation by the Commission services on the item on Apply AI Strategy for the Working Parties on Pharmaceuticals and Medical Devices and Public Health on 9 January 2026.

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Apply AI Strategy

WPPH 09/01/2026

SANTE C1 - Digital Health
CNECT A6 - AI in health and life sciences

AI Continent Action Plan

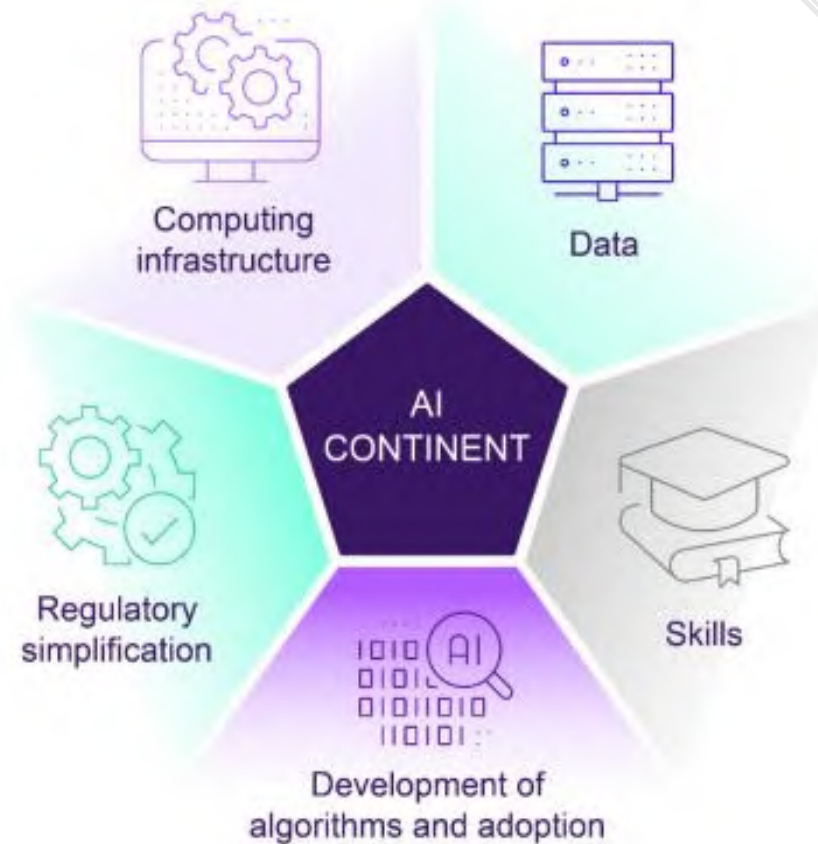
5 pillars to support the development of trustworthy AI solutions → examples in the health sector

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

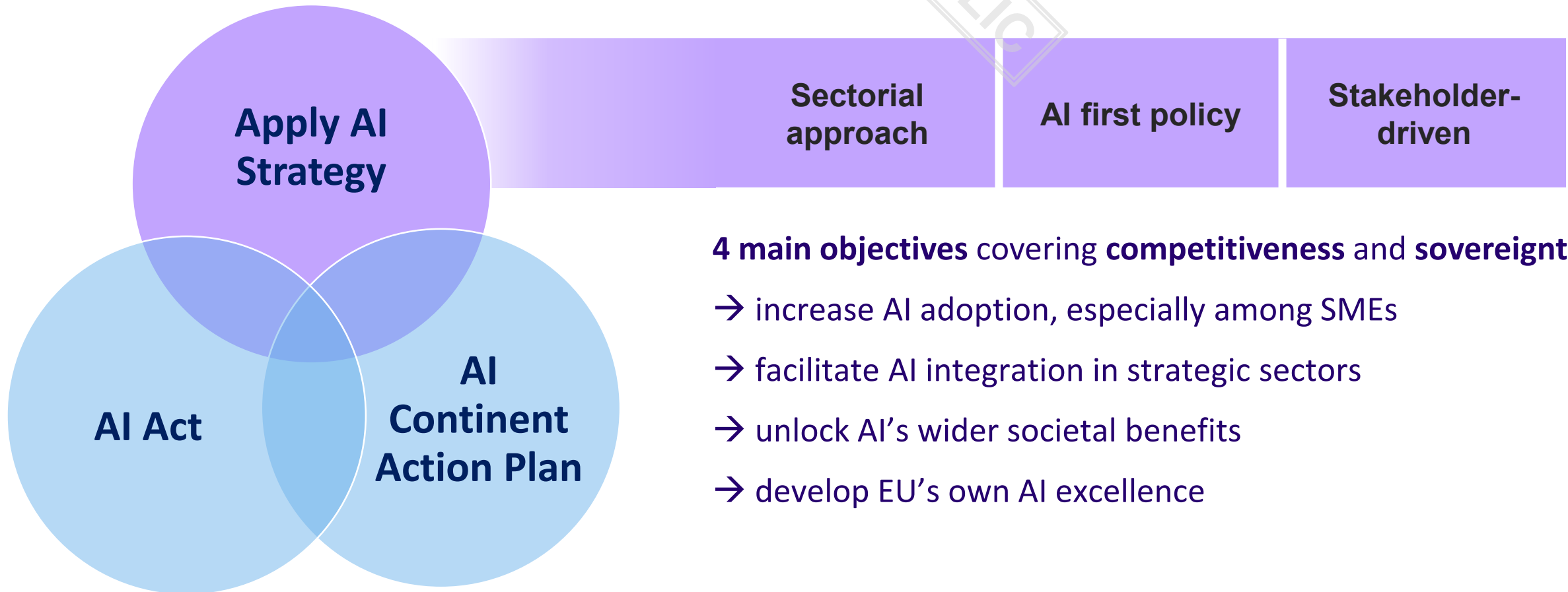
AI skills for healthcare workers

- **EU4Health** and **Pact for Skills**
- **AI skills academy**
- **Digital Europe advanced digital skills for health**
→ tailored education programmes and training for clinicians to understand, use and challenge AI tools

Apply AI Strategy: healthcare flagships

+TEF-health, SHAIPEd, Cardiovascular flagship etc.

EU approach to AI: promoting excellence and trust



<https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/apply-ai>

Apply AI Strategy



Driving **adoption of AI** across strategic sectors, including **healthcare**

Sectorial actions based on:

- structured dialogues (17)
- 2 high-level political dialogues and a public consultation

- 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

11 strategic sectors (example of actions)



Healthcare and pharma

Establish AI-powered screening centres to improve detection and diagnosis.



Mobility, transport and automotive

Launch an Autonomous Drive Ambition Cities initiative to accelerate the deployment of self-driving vehicles.



Robotics

Establish a Catalyst for the Uptake of European Robotics to boost innovation.



Manufacturing, engineering and construction

Develop advanced models and AI agents for manufacturing.



Climate and environment

Deploy an AI-Earth frontier model to foster better weather forecasts, Earth monitoring, and prediction.



Energy

Support a generative AI-enabled digital backbone to better balance energy generation, load and demand.



Agri-food

Create an Agri-food AI platform to facilitate specialised farming apps to reach the market.



Defence, security and space

Deploy a EU highly secured computing power infrastructure for the development and training of defence AI models.



Electronic communications

Create an AI platform for telecoms operators to build AI elements.



Cultural and creative sectors, and media

Foster the development of micro-studios across the EU, specialising in AI-enhanced virtual production.



Public sector

Build an AI toolbox for public administrations, with a repository of practical, open-source and reusable tools and solutions.

Apply AI Strategy: Health Sector

4 Flagship initiatives in healthcare, including pharmaceuticals

Flagship 1: European AI-powered advanced screening centres

Flagship 2: European Network of Expertise on AI Deployment in Healthcare

Flagship 3: AI drug discovery challenge for potential new drugs that could be used to address unmet medical needs and treat diseases that have proven difficult to cure, such as Alzheimer's disease or certain cancers

Flagship 4: Propose appropriate actions to streamline and enable quicker market entry of medical devices without compromising safety

Apply AI Strategy: Health Sector

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Flagship 1

AI-powered advanced screening centres

Healthcare facilities running studies and pilots deploying AI solutions

Evidence

Deployment playbooks

Flagship 2

Network of expertise in AI deployment

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

AI-powered advanced screening centres

Open network of medical centres that are deploying AI solutions for prevention, early detection or diagnosis of cancer and/or cardiovascular diseases.

- **Generate evidence:** evaluating the real-world performance of AI models/algorithms
- **Piloting AI tools and solutions:** deploy solutions, integrate them in clinical workflow, carry out local performance evaluation and monitoring of the deployed solutions

- Aims to cover all EU Member States by the end of 2029
- Building on **Cancer Image Europe** and the **Cardiovascular Flagship**
- Call for expression of interest → in the first quarter of 2026

More information online: [European AI-powered advanced screening centres](#)

European Network of Expertise on AI Deployment in Healthcare

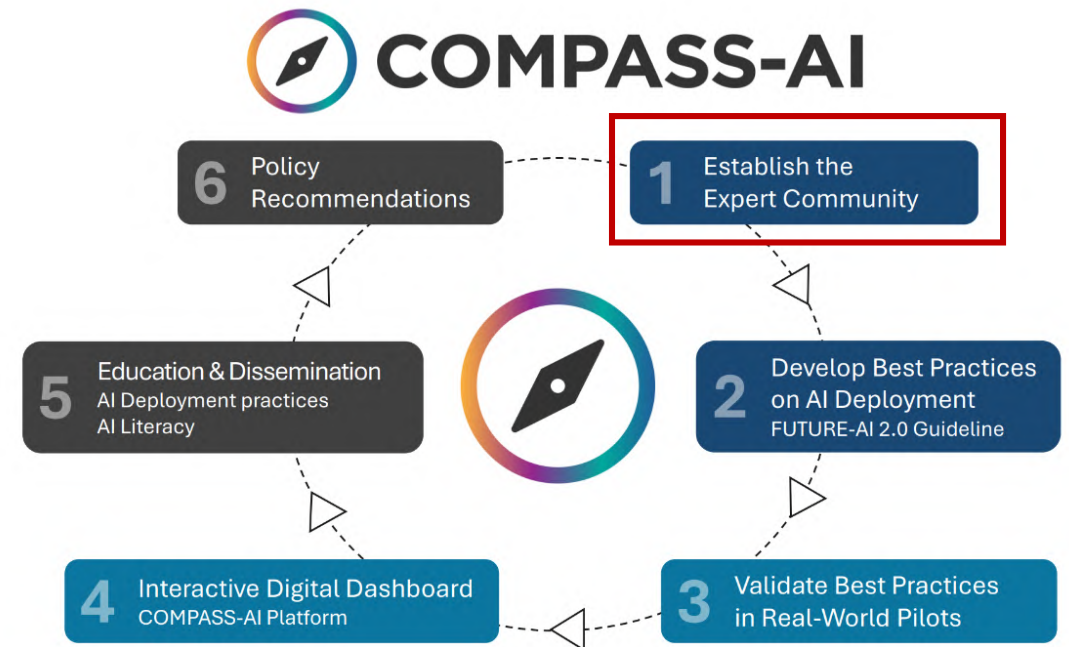
piloted by COMPASS-AI (EU4HEALTH)

Building on the *Study on Deployment of AI in Healthcare* that identified challenges in deploying AI in clinical practice and good practices that may address such challenges, the Commission launched - **COMPASS-AI** - to bridge development with deployment of AI.

It aims at the effective, safe scale up of AI in clinical practice, with focus on cancer and remote areas.

COMPASS-AI will:

- **Establish an European AI expert community and set the foundations for the Network of Expertise under the Apply AI Strategy**
- The development of best practice guidelines for AI deployment
- A digital tool/-platform mapping and showcasing AI deployments across European healthcare institutions
- A sustainability framework for the community
- Contribute to policy recommendations that accelerate the safe and effective deployment of AI in clinical practice



European Network of Expertise on AI Deployment in Healthcare

piloted by COMPASS-AI (EU4HEALTH)

COMPASS-AI will start building the foundations for the Network by establishing a multidisciplinary expert community composed of:

- Healthcare professionals (e.g., medical specialists, paramedics, medical physicists)
- Hospital managers experienced in AI implementation
- Patient representatives
- AI developers, IT specialists, scientists, ethicists, regulatory experts, economists, and policymakers



- Establish a multidisciplinary community of experts on AI adoption across EU
- To identify challenges and success factors for safe & effective AI deployment
- Multiple working groups (e.g., local performance testing, post - deployment monitoring)

EHDS enabling AI

The Commission has **laid the legal foundations for trustworthy AI** in healthcare: AI Act and the European Health Data Space.

Focus: achieve real impact—from legislation to the patient's bedside. Through deployment projects in clinical settings, best practices – keeping patients at the center.

One major barrier to **usable AI is data.**



The EHDS **provides secure, governed access to health data for AI** development and validation.

Key digital infrastructures

1+ Million Genomes Initiative



Secure access to genome data for research, healthcare and public health

Cancer Imaging Initiative



9 cancer types, 83 public datasets covering +100,000 subjects, 50 AI tools

Virtual Human Twins Initiative



EU framework supporting the emergence and adoption of the next generation of virtual human twin solutions

Intensive care unit data space



Secure federated infrastructure supporting personalised medicine and disaster preparedness

High-quality health data for AI innovation

EC Funded projects:

DG SANTE:

- SHAIPEP (DEP 2025):
 - supports Health Data Access Bodies in building pathways for AI deployment
- COMPASS-AI (EU4HEALTH 2025):
 - pilots Apply AI Strategy Flagship 2
- Health data for biotech innovation and AI: leveraging the EHDS (EU4HEALTH 2026)
- A European flagship initiative leveraging AI and health data for cardiovascular health and related non-communicable diseases (EU4HEALTH 2026)

DG CNECT:

- Deployment of cutting-edge multi-modal AI-based solutions in medical imaging, building on the Cancer Image Europe platform, 14.4MEUR
 - Call open until 3/3/2026, [EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#)
- Apply AI: Piloting AI-based image screening in medical centres (DEP 2026), 9MEUR
 - pilot AI solutions to assist resource-limited health care settings with performing analysis of medical imaging data and other clinical data

Questions



- Has your Member State adopted a **national strategy or action plan for AI in health**, or is one under development?
- If yes, which authority is leading or coordinating AI in health at national level, and how is coordination organised with other relevant authorities (health, research, digital)?

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Thank you



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