

Date 11 03 2025

Deadline 29... 04 2025

**CONTACT**

<b>Organisation</b>	ZHAW Zurich University of Applied Sciences	<b>Department</b>	School of Health Sciences
<b>Contact person</b>	Dr Mandy Scheermesser	<b>Email</b>	mandy.scheermesser@zhaw.ch
<b>City</b>	Winterthur	<b>Website</b>	<a href="https://www.zhaw.ch/en/about-us/person/shem">https://www.zhaw.ch/en/about-us/person/shem</a>
<b>Country</b>	Switzerland		

**Organisation type**

<b>Research organisation type</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Research Organisation	<b>Is your company a Small and Medium Sized Enterprise (SME*)?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>NO</b>
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>University</b>		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Company		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other		
		<b>Number of employees:</b>	

Your enterprise is an SME if:

- it is engaged in **economic activity**
- it has **less than 250 employees**
- it has either an **annual turnover not exceeding €50M**, or an **balance sheet total not exceeding €43M**
- it is **autonomous**

For the definition of SMEs, look at: [http://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes/business-friendly-environment/sme-definition\\_en](http://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes/business-friendly-environment/sme-definition_en)

**Short introduction of key areas of institute's research:** The School of Health Sciences at ZHAW is one of Switzerland's leading educational centers for healthcare professionals. Our physiotherapy research focuses on developing, applying, and implementing digital technologies, such as robotics or mHealth applications to advance physiotherapy. We prioritize user-centered development, ensuring practical and sustainable solutions. Collaborating closely with patients, physiotherapists, and key stakeholders from politics, healthcare, and industry, we bridge innovation with real-world application.

Former participation in an FP European project?

☒ YES ☐ NO

Project title / Acronym:

[XoSoft](#) - Soft modular biomimetic exoskeleton to assist people with mobility impairments (2016-2019) European Union's Horizon 2020 framework programme for research and innovation under grant agreement No 688175.

Activities performed:

The goal of this multidisciplinary project was to develop a soft, modular exoskeleton for the lower extremities to facilitate mobility for elderly individuals and people with movement impairments by supporting their leg strength and stability. XoSoft consisted of intelligent soft sensors and biomimetically controlled actuators, as well as an interactive interface providing health-related feedback.

Project title / Acronym:

[Experience keep people Active](#) (ExpAct) AAL Joint Programme, 2014-2016

Activities performed:

The project aimed to develop a software framework that facilitates the creation and management of web-based platforms designed to preserve and share the experiences of older adults for the benefit of future generations. ExpAct offered both online and offline services to help older individuals remain in or re-enter the workforce, ensuring that their valuable skills and expertise did not go untapped. By sharing their knowledge, they made a meaningful long-term contribution while staying actively engaged in society, ultimately enhancing their quality of life.

### Expertise / Commitment offered

Description of your expertise:

- **Expertise in Scientific Research & Validation:** Extensive experience in conducting rigorous scientific research and validating digital health technologies, with a strong emphasis on developing evidence-based assessment tools and frameworks rooted in established methodologies.
- **In-Depth Digital Health Knowledge:** Comprehensive understanding of the digital health landscape, including the development and implementation of health apps and wearables, along with expertise in addressing the technical and clinical challenges in this evolving field.
- **Extensive Healthcare Professional Network in Switzerland:** Access to a broad network of healthcare professionals who provide critical insights into the practical application and real-world effectiveness of digital health solutions in clinical settings.
- **Strong Clinical Collaborations:** Well-established partnerships with clinical and research institutions in Switzerland to support clinical validation and real-world testing of digital health solutions.
- **Commitment to Patient-Centered Design:** A strong focus on user-centered development, with dedicated resources for conducting user experience studies and working closely with patient advocacy groups to ensure digital solutions meet the needs of both patients and caregivers. Additionally, we collaborate with the **Usability Lab | ZHAW Applied Linguistics**, leveraging their expertise to test and optimize our solutions for maximum usability and effectiveness.

**Keywords specifying your expertise:**

Digital Health Technologies, Scientific Research & Validation, Clinical Collaboration, Patient-Centered Design, Usability Testing, Qualitative research

**Commitment offered:**

☒ **Research**
☐ Demonstration
 ☐ Training  
☐ Technology
 ☒ **Dissemination**
☐ Other:

**Interested in participation in project types:**

☒ **Research & Innovation Action**
☐ Innovation Action
 ☐ EIC Pathfinder

**Work Programme research areas: indicate your interest**

We have developed a scientifically validated assessment checklist that provides a structured, objective, and transparent evaluation of health apps and wearables. Based on the eHealth Suisse criteria (Albrecht, 2019), it examines key factors such as medical device classification, transparency, risk management, ethical and legal compliance, content validity, technical performance, and resource efficiency. This tool serves as a pre-competitive benchmark for digital health innovations, helping to assess their quality before clinical implementation and regulatory approval. By ensuring that only safe, effective, and high-quality solutions reach patients and healthcare providers, it supports the advancement of reliable digital health technologies.

**Call topic(s):** [IHI Call 9](#)

**Do you have other partners for this topic (which partners/country)?**

no

**Profile of partner sought**

**Role**

☐ technology development
 ☒ **research**
☐ training  
☒ **dissemination**
☐ demonstration
 ☐ other \_\_\_\_\_

**Country /region**

☒ **Switzerland**

**Expertise required**

- **Digital Health & Technology Development:** Expertise in designing, implementing, and evaluating digital health solutions, including health apps and wearables, with a deep understanding of industry trends, challenges, and best practices.
- **Patient Advocacy & User Experience:** Close collaboration with patient groups and UX designers to ensure digital health solutions are user-friendly, accessible, and tailored to the needs of diverse patient populations.
- **Funding & Industry Partnerships:** Strong collaborations with industry leaders and funding organizations to drive the development, scaling, and adoption of innovative digital health technologies.

**I agree with the publication of my contact data:**

☒ **YES**

☐ NO