

ONEHEALTH

A cross-border approach to meet public health challenges, support system transformation and create sustainable growth.

ONEHEALTH is a €10 million cross-border research and innovation project, supported by PEACEPLUS and led by Catalyst in partnership with Atlantic Technological University (ATU), Queen's University Belfast, Health Innovation Research Alliance Northern Ireland, Tyndall National Institute and University of Galway.

The programme represents a major four-year investment in collaborative research and innovation across Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

Built on a One Health approach, the programme connects human, animal and environmental health through the integration of artificial intelligence, digital health technologies, academic expertise and industry capability. It is designed to respond to complex, system-level challenges while creating new opportunities for innovation, adoption and economic growth.

HIRANI Perspective

HIRANI sees ONEHEALTH as a platform to fundamentally improve how innovation is developed, connected and applied across health and life sciences. As a cluster organisation, HIRANI brings together companies, researchers and health system stakeholders to ensure that innovation is aligned with real-world needs and supported through lasting partnerships.

The programme enables a more coordinated approach to innovation by allowing data, expertise and infrastructure to move across organisational and regional boundaries. This creates the conditions for faster progression from concept to deployment, supported by access to test environments, regulatory insight and routes to market.



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It also reflects a broader shift in the role of AI, from isolated tools to enabling infrastructure that can operate across clinical, environmental and population health systems. Within this context, ONEHEALTH provides a mechanism to translate emerging capability into practical application, supporting both system improvement and commercial development.

Looking ahead, the programme contributes to a more connected innovation environment where learning feeds into service transformation and supports the development of high-

value skills in areas such as applied AI, regulatory science and evidence generation. This positions the region as a testbed for integrated, ethical innovation that can be developed, validated and adopted at pace.

Aims and Strategic Alignment

ONEHEALTH's core ambition is to establish a cross-border, AI-driven Life and Health Sciences ecosystem that strengthens SME innovation, improves outcomes and enhances economic resilience.

The programme aligns with Life and Health Sciences and Agri-Tech Action Plans, alongside Ireland's National AI and Research and Innovation strategies. Through coordinated investment and partnership, it will:

- Strengthen collaboration across the innovation landscape
- Enable SMEs to develop and commercialise new products and processes
- Address system-level challenges in health and agrifood
- Support sustainable economic growth

This alignment ensures a clear connection between research activity, innovation delivery and wider economic priorities.

Programme Design and Opportunity

ONEHEALTH operates through a dual-strand model that combines research depth with practical delivery:

- Deep Research Strand (2 years): Collaborative AI-driven research with SMEs
- Business Accelerator Strand: A 9-month programme, delivered across three cycles, supporting product and process innovation

Together, these strands provide structured support that links discovery, development and deployment, enabling ideas to progress efficiently towards application.

Progress to Date

The programme has been formally launched in Belfast, marking the transition from planning to delivery and bringing together partners from across both jurisdictions. Early engagement has reinforced the importance of addressing barriers such as fragmented data, limited integration between research and industry, and challenges in scaling innovation.

Initial progress includes:

- Establishment of a cross-border partnership network
- Activation of the accelerator programme
- Development of collaborative pathways connecting AI, digital health and agrifood systems

These foundations support a coordinated approach focused on implementation and measurable impact.

Targets and Expected Impact

Over its four-year lifetime, ONEHEALTH will deliver:

- 12 cross-border research and innovation projects
- 20 SMEs supported to develop new products or processes
- 20 additional SMEs receiving structured mentorship through accelerator programmes
- 20 joint outputs, including publications, white papers or patents

These outputs will enhance SME capability, strengthen collaboration and contribute to improved outcomes across health and agrifood systems.

Long-Term Vision

ONEHEALTH establishes a model for how coordinated investment in research and innovation can translate into practical benefits. By linking capability across sectors and supporting the adoption of new solutions, the programme will contribute to improved outcomes, stronger economic performance and a more resilient innovation landscape.