

The logo features a stylized blue wave above a series of dark blue dots of varying sizes, all set against a light blue circular background.

EVOLVE2CARE

Open Call Guidelines

Prepared by: SPLORO

Opening Date: March 17, 2025

Closing Date: November 06, 2025

First Cut-off: May 26, 2025 (17:00 Brussels Time)

Second Cut-off: July 28, 2025 (17:00 Brussels Time)

Last Cut-off: November 06, 2025 (17:00 Brussels Time)

Project Website: www.evolve2care.eu

Open Call platform: <https://accelup.eu/home>



Funded by
the European Union

List of Abbreviations

CoI	Conflict of Interest
EC	European Commission
ENoLL	European Network of Living Labs
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulation
HORIZON	Horizon Europe
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
OC	Open Call
P&L	Profit and Loss
PIC	Participant Identification Code
SME	Small and Medium Enterprise
TRL	Technology Readiness Level

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1. Introduction

The EVOLVE2CARE project aims to foster collaboration between innovators and Living Labs across Europe to drive advancements in HealthTech innovation. Through this Open Call, innovators with novel ideas and certified Living Labs capable of providing facilities and expertise for testing and validation will be identified and engaged. This initiative covers the costs for Living Labs to offer their experimentation services to selected innovators.

The purpose of this document, "**Guidelines for Applicants**," is to provide clear and concise instructions to applicants submitting proposals for the Open Call (OC) of the EVOLVE2CARE project, **which opens on 17 March 2025, and closes on 06 November 2025**. The document contains information that is specific to this Open Call, including eligibility criteria, evaluation procedures, and submission requirements, which have been carefully curated to ensure clarity and accuracy. Therefore, it is essential that all applicants thoroughly read and comprehend this document to ensure that their proposals meet the specific requirements outlined for the OC.

The Guidelines for Applicants document aims to assist potential applicants for the EVOLVE2CARE OC. It is provided for information purposes only and is not intended to replace consultation of the Services Agreement template (**which will be provided during the Agreement signing period**), which defines the framework of rights and obligations of the Contracting Parties for the development of the accepted projects. The Services Agreement will be signed between ENoLL, on behalf of the entire consortium, and each beneficiary (Living Labs) of this Open Call. Between Innovators and Living Labs, a Declaration of Collaboration (**which will be provided during the Agreement signing period**) will be signed.

HOW THE PROCESS WORKS:

- **Step 1:** Register and create a profile on the Accelup platform (**Annex 1**)
- **Step 2:** Post your project details
- **Step 3:** Wait for a response from a Living Lab (you will receive an email)
- **Step 4:** Once you are connected with the Living Lab, you are considered a "Mini-consortium"
- **Step 5:** You will receive a notification to open your Mini Consortium's application on the Sploro's platform – there you and the Living Lab can quickly fill out the form (**Annex 2**)
- **Step 6:** Your application on Sploro will be reviewed (reviews take place according to the CUT OFFs periods) and a decision will be emailed with directions for how to proceed!

- **Step 7:** Sploro provides ENoLL with the final list of eligible mini-consortia that meet the requirements to participate in ENoLL's subcontracting call. This step applies only to Living Labs, as they will be compensated through a service agreement concluded between the Living Lab and ENoLL. (Please see Annex 5. Call for subcontracting).

2. Open Call Objectives and Budget

2.1. Objectives

The EVOLVE2CARE Open Call has the following objectives:

- To recruit top-tier innovators and researchers to advance their innovations by leveraging Living Labs' experimentation services.
- To onboard certified Living Labs (ENoLL members) capable of providing high-quality services and infrastructure to innovators.
- To facilitate impactful collaborations between innovators and Living Labs, ultimately advancing HealthTech solutions.

The Open Call targets two types of participants:

1. **Innovators:** Individuals, SMEs, startups, or research teams with innovative HealthTech solutions ready for testing and validation.
2. **Living Labs:** Certified Living Labs (ENoLL members) that can provide facilities, expertise, and resources for testing and experimentation.

The Open Call (OC) will follow the process flow as defined below:

1. **Registration on the [Accelup Platform](#):** All applicants must first register on the Accelup platform. (**Annex 1**)
2. **Matchmaking Process (Accelup Platform):** The matchmaking process will also take place on the Accelup platform, where mini-consortia will be formed. Mini-consortia can be composed of:
 - 1 Innovator and 1 Living Lab
 - 1 Innovator and 2 or more Living Labs, depends on the innovator types of services
3. **Registration on [Sploro's Platform](#):** Once the mini-consortia are formed on Accelup platform, registration on Sploro's platform is required for mini-consortia teams. EVOLVE2CARE Consortium Partners recommend to the mini-consortia teams that the application on the Sploro' Platform to be open by the innovators rather than the Living Labs. (**Annex 2**)
4. **Evaluation Phases (Sploro's Platform):** The evaluation process will be conducted via Sploro's platform and will include:
 - **Eligibility Check**
 - **Technical Evaluation**
 - **Score Normalisation**
 - **Ethics Evaluation**

- 5. Communication of Results:** After the Ethics Evaluation, each mini-consortium team will receive an email with the communication of the results. The pre-selected teams need to upload all necessary documents described in the Legal Validation Section on Sploro's platform.
- 6. Legal Validation:** Before validating the final list of accepted applicants, we will perform a thorough validation of the legal entities.
- 7. Communication of Awarded Mini-Consortia & Agreement Signing:** Selected mini-consortia will be notified, followed by the agreement signing process. The Services Agreement will be signed between ENoLL and Living Labs only. Between Innovators and Living Labs, a Declaration of Collaboration will be signed.
- 8. Onboarding Meeting:** Awarded mini-consortia teams will participate in an onboarding session to prepare for project implementation.
- 9. Project Implementation Start Date:** The final step marks the official start of project activities.

2.2. Budget

This call boasts a total budget of **EUR 50,000**. Beyond the financial contribution, EVOLVE2CARE offers support through mentoring, coaching, and networking opportunities, fostering an environment conducive to achieving project objectives.

The project is committed to providing funding to empower up to **10** (or more) mini-consortia teams through services agreements. These agreements will be made exclusively with Living Labs to cover the costs for opening their facilities and services to innovators for real-world experimentation.

The maximum support per proposal is **EUR 5,000**, paid by ENoLL to the Living Labs to cover these costs. While **the amount may be less**, it **will not exceed this limit** and will be correlated with the complexity of the proposed project.

3. Timeline and Information

Please find below significant information related to the Open Call summarised:

- **Project Acronym:** EVOLVE2CARE
- **Full name of the EU funded project:** Engaging the Value Of Living Labs to Innovate Care And Regulatory Environments
- **Project number:** 101158152
- **Granting authority:** European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency
- **Topic:** HORIZON-EIE-2023-CONNECT-02-01
- **Programme:** Horizon Europe (HORIZON)
- **Call title:** EVOLVE2CARE Open Call
- **Open Call Abbreviation:** EVOLVE2CARE_OC
- **Opening date:** 17 March 2025
- **Closing date:** 06 November 2025 17:00h (Brussels time/CET) - unless the available budget is fully allocated earlier.
 - 1st Cut-OFF: 26 May 2025 – 17:00 CEST – Brussels time
 - 2nd Cut-OFF: 28 July 2025 – 17:00 CEST – Brussels time
 - Last Cut-OFF: 06 November 2025 – 17:00 CET – Brussels time
- **Expected duration of participation:** A maximum of 6 months. The expected duration of participation will depend mostly on the complexity of each awarded project, but it **cannot exceed** 6 months from the agreement's signature.
- **Evaluation and Notification Period:** Following the cut-off periods.
- **Awards Principle:** Subject to meeting eligibility and quality thresholds.
- **Maximum amount for the whole of services agreements:** EUR 50,000
- **Maximum amount for services agreement(s) per proposal:** Maximum of EUR 5,000
- **Language in which application should be submitted:** English
- **Project Website:** <https://evolve2care.eu/open-call/> (OC guidelines, application complementary forms, FAQ included)

- **Application link:** <https://accelup.eu/home>
- **Dedicated email helpline for Open Call:** helpdesk@evolve2care.eu
- **Project email:** info@evolve2care.eu

3.1. Cut-off Periods

As illustrated in Figure 1. Open Call CUT-OFF Periods, there are three CUT-OFF periods for the EVOLVE2CARE Open Call. Please consider the following:

- The orange section in the figure represents the Accelup Platform.
- The blue section in the figure represents the Sploro's Platform.

Registration on Accelup platform		
1st CUT-OFF 26 May – 17:00 CET	2nd CUT-OFF 28 Jul – 17:00 CET	Last CUT-OFF 6 Nov – 17:00 CET
Sploro's Platform		
Sploro's Platform Registration until 2 Jun – 17:00 CET	Sploro's Platform Registration until 25 Aug – 17:00 CET	Sploro's Platform Registration until 12 Nov – 23:59 CET
Eligibility Check 03 – 06 Jun 2025	Eligibility Check 26 – 29 Aug 2025	Eligibility Check 11 – 14 Nov 2025
Technical Evaluation 09 – 13 Jun 2025	Technical Evaluation 01 – 05 Sept 2025	Technical Evaluation 17 – 21 Nov 2025
Ethical Evaluation 16 – 20 Jun 2025	Ethical Evaluation 08 – 12 Sept 2025	Ethical Evaluation 24 – 28 Nov 2025
Legal Validation 23 – 27 Jun 2025	Legal Validation 15 – 19 Sept 2025	Legal Validation 01 – 05 Dec 2025
Awardees & Agreement Signing 30 Jun – 11 Jul 2025	Awardees & Agreement Signing 22 Sept – 03 Oct 2025	Awardees & Agreement Signing 08 Dec – 19 Dec 2025
Onboarding Day 16 Jul 2025	Onboarding Day 08 Oct 2025	Onboarding Day 05 Jan 2026
Project Implementation Starting on 21 Jul	Project Implementation Starting on 13 Oct	Project Implementation Starting on 12 Jan 2026

Figure 1. Open Call CUT-OFF Periods

1. Registration on the Accelup Platform: Starting on 3 March, 2025 for both Innovators and Living Labs.

2. Matchmaking Process (Accelup Platform)

- First CUT-OFF: **26 May 2025, 17:00, CEST Time**
- Second CUT-OFF: **28 July 2025, 17:00, CEST Time**
- Last CUT-OFF: **06 November 2025, 17:00, CET Time**

3. Registration on Sploro's Platform

- First CUT-OFF: **02 June 2025, 17:00, CEST Time**
- Second CUT-OFF: **25 August 2025, 17:00, CEST Time**
- Last CUT-OFF: **12 November 2025, 23:59, CET Time**

4. Evaluation Phases (Sploro's Platform)

- **Eligibility Check**
For the First CUT-OFF: **From 03 to 06 June 2025**
For the second CUT-OFF: **From 26 to 29 August 2025**
For the third CUT-OFF: **From 11 to 14 November 2025**
- **Technical Evaluation and Score Normalisation**
For the First CUT-OFF: **From 09 to 13 June 2025**
For the second CUT-OFF: **From 01 to 05 September 2025**
For the third CUT-OFF: **From 17 to 21 November 2025**
- **Ethics Evaluation**
For the First CUT-OFF: **From 16 to 20 June 2025**
For the second CUT-OFF: **From 08 to 12 September 2025**
For the third CUT-OFF: **From 24 to 28 November 2025**

5. Communication of Results to Applicants

- For the First CUT-OFF: **Around 20 June 2025**
- For the second CUT-OFF: **Around 12 September 2025**
- For the third CUT-OFF: **Around 28 November 2025**

6. Legal Validation

- For the First CUT-OFF: **From 23 to 27 June 2025**
- For the second CUT-OFF: **From 15 to 19 September 2025**
- For the third CUT-OFF: **From 01 to 05 December 2025**

7. Awarded Mini-Consortia & Agreement Signing

- For the First CUT-OFF: **From 30 June to 11 July 2025**
- For the second CUT-OFF: **From 22 September to 03 October 2025**
- For the third CUT-OFF: **From 08 to 19 December 2025**

8. Onboarding Day

- For the First CUT-OFF: **16 July 2025 11:00 am CEST**
- For the second CUT-OFF: **08 October 2025 11:00 am CEST**
- For the third CUT-OFF: **05 January 2026 11:00 am CEST**

9. Project Implementation Start Date

- For the First CUT-OFF: **21 July 2025** – for maximum of 6 months
- For the second CUT-OFF: **13 October 2025** – for maximum of 6 months
- For the third CUT-OFF: **12 January 2026** – for maximum of 6 months

Project implementations may begin at any time within the periods outlines above. Mini-consortia are advised to plan carefully to ensure that enough time is allotted to successfully finish the experimentation process.

3.2. Important Notes for Applicants

Please find below significant information related to the Open Call:

- If the available budget is fully allocated within the earlier CUT-OFF periods, the call may close before the official closing date.
- The EVOLVE2CARE consortium strongly encourages participants to submit their applications as early as possible to enhance their chances of selection.
- The deadline for submission is as stated in this Guidelines document. Please note that the platform for submission's time depends on the user's configured time zone and may or may not coincide with the correct time (this depends on the user, not the platform for submission). Any discrepancies in system time will not be grounds for deadline extension.
- The Accelup Platform is used for the matchmaking process.
- The Sploro Platform is used for the projects' information submission and evaluation phases.
- Mini-consortia teams can be formed by 1 innovator and 1 Living Lab or by 1 innovator and 2 or more Living Labs, depending on the complexity of the innovator's project.

- The maximum amount of the services agreement per proposal is EUR 5,000. The amount can be less but will not exceed this limit. This amount will be paid only to Living labs. If a project exceeds this amount, it can be covered by their own funds.
- Living Labs need to provide detailed descriptions of the facilities, resources, and capabilities that are required to fulfil the needs of the innovator. These descriptions will be used during the matchmaking and evaluation phases to ensure optimal project matching and should be included on both platforms (Accelup and Sploro).
- If a proposal does not pass one of the evaluation phases in the first cut-off period, there is an opportunity to revise the proposal and apply for the second or final cut-off period. Only the matched teams (i.e., mini-consortia) will proceed to the Sploro Platform for evaluation.
- Single Funding Rule: A Living Lab may participate in multiple proposals and can have different services agreements for more than one project, provided that each services agreement is matched with a different innovator.
- No country restrictions for innovators, except for countries under sanction or other restrictive measures as specified by the European Commission. However, Living Labs must be located in EU member states or associated countries, as specified by the European Commission.
- EVOLVE2CARE recommends to the mini-consortia teams that the application on the Sploro's Platform to be open by the innovators in the teams.

4. Open Call Process

Below are the detailed phases of the Open Call. Additionally, at the end of this chapter, a diagram is provided illustrating the entire process for better understanding. Please refer to Figure 3. Open Call Diagram Process.

4.1. Registration on the Accelup Platform

Both innovators and Living Labs must begin by registering on the Accelup Platform. This platform serves as the initial point of contact where matchmaking and consortia formation take place. Please see **Annex 1**. Registration Form for Accelup.

- **Accelup registration:** Starting on 17 March 2025. Please note that you can register on the Accelup platform for the matchmaking process until the last cut-off period.
- **Matchmaking Process:** Matchmaking will occur in 3 CUT-OFF periods, by when Living Labs will bid on projects submitted by innovators.
- **Notification:** Innovators and Living Labs will be notified of their selection as mini-consortia teams through the Accelup platform.
- **Cut-Off Dates:** Matchmaking will follow the following dates:
 - 1st CUT-OFF: 26 May 2025 – 17:00 CEST
 - 2nd CUT-OFF: 28 July 2025 – 17:00 CEST
 - Last CUT-OFF: 06 November 2025 – 17:00 CET

Upon successful matchmaking, consortia will receive an email notification through the Accelup platform, informing them of their selection for the next phase. This email will include instructions on registering on the Sploro's Platform.

4.2. Registration on the Sploro's Platform

After receiving the matchmaking confirmation, selected consortia must register on the Sploro Platform to proceed to the evaluation phase. Please see **Annex 2**. Application form for Sploro's Platform.

The registration process on Sploro's platform will follow the following dates:

- Starting after the first CUT-OFF until **2 June 2025 – 17:00 CEST**
- Starting after the second CUT OFF until **25 August 2025 – 17:00 CEST**

- Starting after the last CUT OFF until **12 Nov 2025 – 23:59 CET**

4.3. Evaluation Phases

As per Figure 2. Evaluation Phases the evaluation process consists of the following steps:

- Eligibility Check
- Technical Evaluation
- Evaluation by External Ethics Expert
- Legal validation

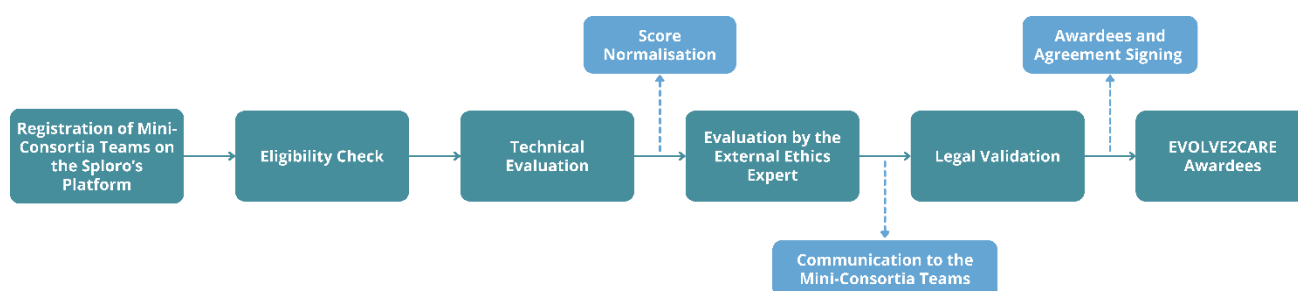


Figure 2. Evaluation Phases

4.4. Eligibility Check

To participate in the EVOLVE2CARE Open Call, applicants must meet specific eligibility criteria to ensure alignment with the project's objectives and the Horizon Europe funding framework. This section outlines the eligibility conditions for both Innovators and Living Labs, as well as specific requirements for mini-consortia applicants.

SPLORO will conduct eligibility checks for all registered consortia based on predefined criteria. Please see below the eligibility criteria for Innovators and Living Labs.

4.4.1. Eligibility Check for Innovators

Innovators must meet the following criteria:

- Be one of the following type of innovators:

1. SMEs/companies

- Must submit legal data of the organisation as requested in the application form.

2. Independent researchers or group of researchers

- Must provide a detailed CV highlighting research experience in HealthTech and relevant achievements.

3. Research Organisations:

- Teams operating under universities, research institutes, NGOs, private companies, or public bodies.
- Must submit legal data of the organisation as requested in the application form.

4. Associations, Foundations or Clusters in the health care sector

- Must submit legal data of the organisation as requested in the application form.
- Have a Technology Readiness Level (TRL) between 4 and 7. TRLs between these levels will be prioritised and will influence the selection of the awarded mini-consortia teams. Even though applicants may have a TRL higher than 7, priority will be given to those within the indicated levels.
- There are no geographical limitations for innovators. Any of the above-listed innovators from anywhere in the world are eligible for this Open Call.
- Innovators may submit multiple proposals.

4.4.2. Eligibility Check for Living Labs

Living Labs must meet the following criteria:

- Be an active certified member of ENoLL (European Network of Living Labs).
- Be located in an EU Member State or an Associated Country¹.

4.4.3. Eligibility Check timeline

The eligibility check will be conducted according to the following timeline:

- For the first CUT OFF: Between **03 – 06 June 2025**
- For the second CUT OFF: Between **26 – 29 August 2025**
- For the last CUT OFF: Between **11 – 14 November 2025**

¹https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/strategy/strategy-research-and-innovation/europe-world/international-cooperation/association-horizon-europe_en#:~:text=Association%20agreements-,Countries%20associated%20to%20Horizon%20Europe,with%20entities%20of%20EU%20countries.

4.5. Technical Evaluation

Proposals are assessed by the Partners' Review Committee based on **impact** and **innovation potential, feasibility** and **implementation, excellence** and **alignment** with EVOLVE2CARE objectives. This review ensures that the selected projects can deliver measurable impact and advancing HealthTech innovation.

The Partners' Review Committee will consist of **two evaluators** from the EVOLVE2CARE team, each bringing complementary expertise to assess the **impact** and **innovation potential, feasibility** and **implementation, excellence** and **alignment** with EVOLVE2CARE objectives.

4.5.1. Evaluation Criteria and Scoring System

The **Partners' Review Committee** will assess the proposals based on predefined criteria, ensuring consistency and transparency (please see tables below). The evaluation includes a structured **scoring system** from **0 to 5** as outlined below.

Table 1. Scoring Scale Legend

Score	Meaning
0	Not addressed or very poorly addressed
1	Poorly addressed, significant improvements needed
2	Somewhat addressed but lacks detail or clarity; improvements needed
3	Adequately addressed, but could be improved
4	Well addressed, only minor improvements needed
5	Excellent addressed, no improvements needed

Each proposal will be scored based on the following criteria:

Table 2. Scoring Criteria & Thresholds

Criteria	Description	Weight on the Score	Threshold
Excellence and Alignment with Project Objectives	How well the proposal aligns with the goals of EVOLVE2CARE	20%	3
	How well the proposal aligns with the Use Cases of EVOLVE2CARE		

Impact and Innovation Potential	The novelty, impact, and added value of the proposed solution	50%	3
	The strength of the research methodology and evidence provided		
Implementation and Feasibility	The clarity and robustness of the plan for carrying out the project	30%	3
	The practical execution and implementation of the project		
	The adequacy of facilities, infrastructure, and expertise for execution		

The established threshold requires a minimum score of 3 points in each of the three evaluation sections, with a total combined score of at least 10 points across all sections.

4.5.2. Normalisation score

For the final score calculation, there will be **two** evaluators per proposal, where each one will score differently without knowing the evaluation of their colleague, thus avoiding one evaluator conditioning the other. Therefore, the same evaluation may receive very different scores.

The normalisation process counts with a several steps approach:

- Evaluators Average (EEA) and Overall Average Score (OAS): each evaluator has evaluated several proposals. We calculate the average score of all applicants and compare it with the average score of each evaluator.
- Each Evaluator Average is compared to the Overall Average Score using a simple division (EEA / OAS). As a result, we know the percentage each evaluator represents of the OAS. This has a double meaning:
 - Evaluators under 100% have a negative pattern against the average. Their scores are then increased.
 - Evaluators above 100% have a positive pattern against the average. Their scores are then decreased.
- Correction factor: Based on this formula $1 + (1 - (EEA/OAS))$. This factor is unique for each evaluator.

- The following step is applying the Correction Factor to each criterion per evaluator. Excellence x Correction Factor | Impact x Correction factor | Implementation x Correction factor.
- Then, the final score is calculated for each criterion as the average of each corrected score of the two evaluators on each proposal. (It may be the case that correction brings scores over a 5 in any criteria. In those cases, the score is capped in 5).
- The corrected scores are then summed to calculate the total score.
- Finally, the shortlist is prepared from the highest to the lowest total scores.

Using this method, a more balanced distribution of scores would be guaranteed, and the possibility of biases and distortions would be reduced. At the end of the evaluation process, all proposals will be ranked based on their scores. The list of accepted proposals at remote evaluation will be published as well as the information about the non-eligible proposals. All applicants will be informed about the evaluation results.

4.5.3. *Technical Evaluation timeline*

The technical evaluation will be conducted according to the following timeline:

- For the first CUT- OFF: Between **09 – 13 June 2025**
- For the second CUT OFF: Between **01 – 05 September 2025**
- For the last CUT OFF: Between **17 – 21 November 2025**

4.6. Ethics Evaluation

The ranked list of the projects will undergo an Ethics evaluation by an external ethics expert to ensure compliance with EU ethical standards and guidelines.

To ensure that all the shortlisted projects under the EVOLVE2CARE Open Call align with the highest ethical standards, an External Ethics Expert Evaluation will be conducted as part of the selection process. This evaluation assesses the ethical, legal, and societal implications of each proposal, focusing on compliance with European Union regulations, including the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Horizon Europe's ethical guidelines.

4.6.1. *Objectives of the Ethics Evaluation*

The main objectives of the External Ethics Expert Evaluation are to:

- **Ensure Compliance:** Verify that projects adhere to EU and national ethical standards, including data protection, clinical research regulations, and responsible innovation practices.

- **Identify Risks:** Assess potential ethical risks related to data privacy, patient safety, informed consent, and vulnerable groups.
- **Promote Responsible Innovation:** Encourage ethical research and innovation practices that foster trust, transparency, and social responsibility.

4.6.2. *Scope of the Ethics Evaluation*

The evaluation will cover the following key areas:

1. Data Protection and Privacy:

- Compliance with GDPR and relevant data protection laws.
- Secure handling of personal, sensitive, or health-related data.
- Technical and organisational measures to safeguard the freedoms and rights of the data subjects. (e.g., data anonymization, encryption, and storage security etc.).

2. Informed Consent:

- Clear procedures for obtaining informed consent from participants, especially in clinical studies or user testing.
- Transparency in communicating project objectives, risks, and participant rights.

3. Ethical Treatment of Vulnerable Groups:

- Special considerations for projects involving vulnerable populations (e.g., children, elderly, individuals with disabilities, minorities, migrants etc.).
- Safeguards to prevent exploitation or harm.

4. Human Rights and Ethical Research Practices:

- Respect for human dignity, autonomy, and freedom.
- Ethical sourcing of materials and responsible use of technology (e.g., AI, biometrics).

5. Environmental and Social Impact:

- Assessment of potential environmental risks.
- Consideration of social equity, diversity, and inclusion.

6. Clinical and HealthTech Ethics (if applicable):

- Adherence to ethical standards in clinical trials, patient care, or medical device testing.
- Compliance with medical research guidelines, such as the ICH GCP.

4.6.3. *Evaluation Process*

1. Appointment of External Ethics Expert:

- Independent ethics expert with backgrounds in HealthTech, data protection, legal compliance, and research ethics will be selected.
- The expert must have no conflict of interest with the applicants or the EVOLVE2CARE consortium.

2. Review Procedure:

- An expert will review shortlisted proposals after the technical evaluation phase.
- Evaluations will be conducted using standardised ethical assessment criteria and checklists to ensure fairness and consistency.

3. Results and Recommendations:

- Each proposal will be evaluated on its ethical compliance, with specific attention to identified risks and mitigation measures.
- Projects with critical ethical concerns may be flagged for revision or rejected if non-compliance cannot be resolved.

4. Ethics Review Report:

A formal ethics review report will be issued for each evaluated proposal, summarising:

- Ethical risks identified
- Mitigation strategies recommended
- Final recommendations (approve, or reject)

4.6.4. *Actions following the Ethics Evaluation*

- Approval: Proposals that meet ethical standards will proceed to the final selection phase.
- Rejection: Proposals with severe breaches of compliance with ethical standards or regulations that cannot be mitigated will be ineligible for funding.

4.6.5. *Ethics Compliance during the Project Implementation*

- Supported projects must adhere to ethical guidelines throughout their lifecycle.
- Periodic Ethics Monitoring may be conducted to ensure ongoing compliance.
- Breaches of ethical compliance may result in support suspension or termination.

4.6.6. *Ethics Evaluation Timeline*

The Ethics evaluation will be conducted according to the following timeline:

- For the first CUT- OFF: Between **16 – 20 June 2025**
- For the second CUT OFF: Between **08 – 12 September 2025**
- For the last CUT OFF: Between **24 – 28 November 2025**

4.7. Communication of the Results

The communication of the evaluation's final results to all applicants will be around 20 June 2025 for the first cut-off, around 12 September 2025 for the second cut-off, and

around 28 November 2025 for the last cut-off. There will be no prior disclosure of information about the evaluation process until the Ethics review has been completed.

At this stage, selected applicants will be requested to confirm their participation in the programme and provide the legal validation documents on Sploro's platform.

Please note that all documents must be uploaded the next working day after receiving the email. For example, if an applicant receives the email on 20/06/2025, which falls on a Friday, they must upload all documents by Monday at 17:00 CEST (Brussels time). If the applicant receives the email on Monday, they must upload all documents by Tuesday at 17:00 CEST (Brussels time), and so on.

After the ethics evaluation, there may be a waiting list for applicants, especially if some participants withdraw from the call, resign, or fail to meet the necessary legal or eligibility criteria. Applicants on the waiting list will be notified promptly if a position becomes available or if there are any changes in the project's legal validation status.

4.8. Legal Validation

Legal validation is applied exclusively to successful applicants and involves the submission of various documents to ensure compliance with the requirements of the EVOLVE2CARE programme. Successful applicants will begin preparation for the agreement signature.

Before validating the final list of accepted applicants, a thorough validation of the legal entities will be performed. This validation includes the submission of various documents to ensure compliance with the EVOLVE2CARE programme's requirements. The requested elements for innovators' validation that will be requested are:

- **For entities** that are **already validated** by the **European Commission's Funding and Tenders Portal** that count with a registered and **validated PIC Number** we will request the **PIC Number** and **a screenshot** of the Funding and Tenders portal in which it's evidenced the type of organisation which has been selected as a beneficiary (university, NGO, foundation, SME...)

For those **entities without a validated PIC** number OR **without a validated status** (like self-declared SMEs) we will request:

- **Legal entity form.** The Legal Entity form for [private companies](#), and [public law bodies](#) necessary for the awarding of EU funding. Company Register, Official Journal and so forth, showing the name of the organisation, the legal address and registration number and

- **VAT Number registration** (if applicable), a copy of a document proving VAT registration (in case the VAT number does not show on the registration extract or its equivalent).

Only for SMEs

- **SME declaration** (see **Annex 3**): form based on the standard templates by the EC in which the consortium can verify the ownership structure and financial figures to verify the size of the company.
- **Balance accounts** and P&L for the last two closed years (if applicable)
- In companies with linked or associated entities, **additional information** (accounts for mother companies, group trees, etc.) could be requested.

A legal entity that does not provide the requested data and documents in due time will not be included in the evaluation process.

For the legal validation of **independent researchers** or a group of researchers in the context of the EVOLVE2CARE project, the following steps can be followed to ensure compliance and transparency:

- **Legal Status:** Researchers must confirm their legal status as independent individuals or as a registered research group authorized to conduct HealthTech-related research. To be provided a valid registration number or certification, if applicable, **evidence of academic or professional credentials** (PDF copy of PhD diploma) required by their jurisdiction A detailed **CV** and recommendation letters or endorsements from previous collaborators or supervisors are encouraged for added validation.

4.8.1. Legal Validation Timeline

The Legal validation will follow the following timeline:

- For the first CUT- OFF: Between **23 – 27 June 2025**
- For the second CUT OFF: Between **15 – 19 September 2025**
- For the last CUT OFF: Between **01 – 05 December 2025**

Please note that the documents must be submitted on Sploro's platform (in PDF format) and as soon as possible. If any documents are missing, the mini-consortia teams will be considered ineligible.

4.9. Final Selection

Based on evaluations, a ranked list of winning consortia is created after each cut-off period. This list will be sent by Sploro to ENoLL. The latter will then contact the Living

Labs from the selected mini-consortia, in ranked order, to invite them to participate in the call for sub-contractors. This step specifically concerns the Living Labs, as the service agreements are concluded solely between ENoLL and the Living Labs (please see Annex 5. Call for sub-contracting).

Notifications will be also sent to the selected projects, enabling them to initiate their activities under the project. The **Final Selection** phase determines the **winning consortia teams** that will benefit from the services agreements.

The **winning consortia teams**—each consisting of **one Innovator and one or more Living Labs**—will receive:

- **The amount for the services agreement(s)** worth **up to €5,000** per project, paid to the Living Labs to cover the costs of **opening their facilities and services** to the innovators for real-world experimentation.
- **Access to Living Labs' expertise, infrastructure, and test environments** to validate and refine their HealthTech solutions.
- **Guidance and mentorship** from EVOLVE2CARE project partners and evaluation committees.
- **Visibility** within the EVOLVE2CARE ecosystem.

Once selected, each winning consortia team will be **onboarded** and provided with detailed instructions on the next steps, ensuring a smooth transition into the experimental phase.

4.9.1. Services Agreements

Each selected project will be awarded through a service agreement concluded between ENoLL and the Living Labs which will typically worth up to €5,000 per project. However, the final services agreement amount may vary depending on the specific services required for the project.

- Example: If a project requires **data-sharing services**, costs can fluctuate depending on the complexity, infrastructure, and security requirements of the data exchange.
- **Complex Services:** Certain highly specialised services—such as advanced prototyping, regulatory compliance support, or clinical validation assistance—could result in costs **exceeding €5,000**. Any amount exceeding **€5,000** will be covered by the innovators.

The amount of the services agreements will be disbursed at the end of the collaboration, upon reception of the final report. This means that the amount is paid in full at the conclusion of the project, rather than being distributed gradually based on specific outcomes and milestones.

The actual value of the services agreements will be determined based on the scope of services needed and agreed upon by the Living Lab and the Innovator during project planning. EVOLVE2CARE **will support up to €5,000 per proposal.**

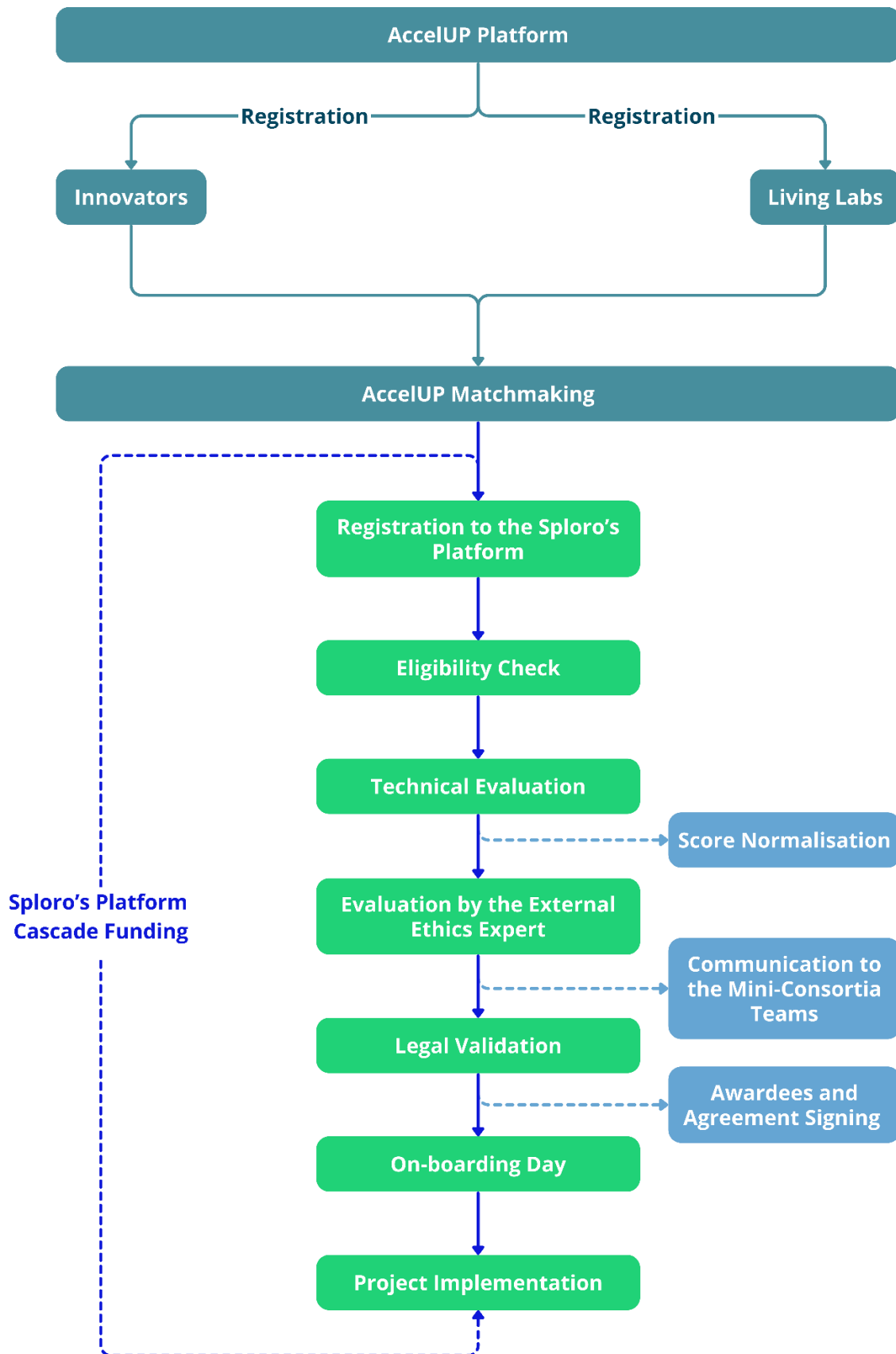


Figure 3. Open Call Diagram Process

5. Rules and Conditions

5.1. Ineligible Applicants and Special Considerations

This section outlines the types of applicants who are not eligible to participate in the EVOLVE2CARE Open Call, along with key considerations that may affect eligibility. Applicants are encouraged to review these conditions thoroughly to ensure compliance before submitting their proposals.

Special Considerations

- **Diversity and Inclusion:** EVOLVE2CARE encourages applications from diverse teams, including women-led initiatives, underrepresented groups, and regions with low participation in EU-funded programs.
- **Ethics Compliance:** All applicants must comply with EU ethical standards, including data protection (GDPR), clinical trial regulations (if applicable), and responsible research practices.
- **Conflict of Interest:** Any entity with a potential conflict of interest (such as a direct relation to the Technical Review Committee) will not be evaluated by the Technical Review Committee.

5.2. Types of Activities to be funded

The service categories that qualify for financial support are the services offered by ENoLL certified Living Labs and can consist of:

- 1) **Customer acquisition**
- 2) **Detailed project planning**
- 3) **Project implementation and dissemination**
- 4) **Innovation ecosystem orchestration**

Examples of services offered by Living Labs are:

- Temporary research funding
- Capacity building
- Equipment and facility rental
- Grant writing

- Call identification
- Public procurement applicant support
- Public authority procurement support
- Access to data
- Intake and matching
- Innovation network orchestration
- Panel management
- Participant recruitment
- Stakeholders and partner analysis and mapping
- Expert opinions and advisory services
- Co-creation session
- Usability testing
- Concept and proof-of-concept
- Clinical trials
- Idea selection and testing
- Large-scale real-life testing and piloting
- Prototyping test
- Simulation test
- Small-scale real-life testing and piloting
- Foresight (trends, weak signals, and wild cards)
- Competitor and market analysis benchmarking
- Impact assessment and validation test
- Marketing and sales support
- Post-market surveillance and market acceptance testing
- Legal, regulation, and safety standard support

More information on the available services can be found here: [R&D Services](#)

5.3. Payment Schedule

The payment schedule is directly linked to the relevant phases of the programme as per the Guidelines for Applicants. The lump sum mentioned above will be paid in full at the end of the collaboration, upon reception of the final report.

Final Payment - Final Review: The final review phase occurs after the conclusion of the project. Teams are required to meet the established Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for the entire project duration. The final payment will be made upon the successful achievement of the KPIs, as detailed in the final report. Even if KPIs are not fully met (depending on the KPI), the collaboration may still be deemed successful, and the full amount may still be paid. A lower completion of tasks may result in a proportional payment, depending on the final assessment. If the KPIs are met by less than 10%, the selected applicant will be automatically disqualified from the process.

5.4. Language

English is the official language for the EVOLVE2CARE Open Call. Submissions done in any language other than English will not be eligible or evaluated.

English is the only official language during the whole implementation of the EVOLVE2CARE programme. This means that all communications between EVOLVE2CARE and the mini-consortia, including requests for documentation and/or deliverables, will be done in English. All materials submitted to EVOLVE2CARE must also be in English. Support activities such as coaching and innovation monitoring will be delivered in English.

5.5. Documents format

Any documentation requested in any of the phases of the Open Call and services' implementation must be submitted electronically in PDF format without restrictions for printing.

5.6. Absence of conflict of interest

Applicants must not have any actual or potential conflicts of interest during the EVOLVE2CARE selection process or the entire project duration. Any situations that could potentially influence the impartiality of the individuals taking part in the selection process, or during the project implementation, are considered conflicts of interest. These can include financial interests, personal relationships, or any other factors that could affect the applicant's ability to remain impartial. All cases of conflict of interest will

be assessed on a case-by-case basis by the relevant EVOLVE2CARE selection committee and consortium partners. If an applicant is found to have a conflict of interest, this could result in the application being disqualified.

It is important to note that EVOLVE2CARE consortium partners, their affiliated entities, employees, and permanent co-operators are not allowed to submit a proposal and therefore to receive any support through the Open Call, as this would violate the European Commission's regulations.

5.7. Data Protection

EVOLVE2CARE requires access to Personal and Entity Data in order to process and evaluate applications. As Open Call coordinator, SPLORO will act as the Data Controller for all data submitted through the Sploro platform for this purpose. To ensure the safety and security of this data, the Sploro platform has been designed and operates under strict compliance with The General Data Protection Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR). Therefore, all applicants are required to accept the Sploro Platform terms to ensure full coverage. For more information regarding the data privacy policy and security measures implemented by Sploro, please refer to the following website <https://sploro.eu>.

For Accelup platform, AUTH will act as the Data Controller for all data submitted through this platform for this purpose.

5.8. Application reception

Submissions will be done **ONLY via the Accelup platform for matchmaking and via the Sploro's platform and will be the unique entry point for all application submissions**. Applications submitted by any other means will not be considered nor evaluated. Only the documentation included in the submission will be considered by evaluators. A full list of applicants will be drafted containing their basic information for statistical purposes and clarity (which will be also shared with the EC for transparency). The application reception will close on 06 November 2025, 17:00 CEST. If the available budget is fully allocated within the earlier CUT-OFF periods, the call may close before the official closing date. There will not be any deadline extensions unless there is a Force Majeure situation, caused by the EVOLVE2CARE consortium and not by the applicants, which renders the system unavailable.

5.9. Final Selection

At the end of the evaluation process all proposals will be ranked based on their scores, and a list will be prepared. This list will be sent by Sploro to ENoLL. The latter will then

contact the Living Labs from the selected mini-consortia, in ranked order, to invite them to participate in the call for sub-contractors (please see Annex 5. Call for sub-contracting). This step specifically concerns the Living Labs, as the service agreements are concluded solely between ENoLL and the Living Labs.

Once ENoLL makes the final selection of the Living Labs, the top proposals will be invited to sign the service agreements and participate in the programme.

All applicants will be informed about the evaluation results.

The criteria for the ranking of the proposals will be semi-automatic following the rules below:

- Rule 1: The proposals will be ranked based on their overall score.
- Rule 2: In case following Rule 1 there are proposals in the same position, priority will be given to proposals that have higher score on the Excellence award criterion.
- Rule 3: In case following Rule 2 there are proposals in the same position, priority will be given to proposals that have a higher score on Impact award criterion.
- Rule 4: In case following Rule 3 there are proposals in the same position, priority will be given to proposals that have a higher score on Implementation award criterion.
- Rule 5: In case following Rule 4 there are proposals in the same position, priority will be given to the total number of experts in the team.
- Rule 6: In case, following Rule 5, there are proposals in the same position, priority will be given to Living Labs that haven't received funding, particularly if they are applying for a second project. The EVOLVE2CARE consortium will then formally approve a list of proposals within the limits of the available funding.

5.10. Appealing procedure

The EVOLVE2CARE consortium has established a process that allows applicants to appeal the decision of the consortium in the event their proposal is not selected for funding. If, at any point during the evaluation process, an applicant believes that there has been a deficiency in how their proposal was assessed, which could potentially impact the final funding decision, or if they believe that the results of eligibility checks are incorrect and do not adhere to the Open Call rules, resulting in harm to their interests, the following appeal procedure is available.

- If clear evidence of a deficiency that could influence the ultimate funding decision exists, it is possible that all or part of the proposal will be subject to re-evaluation.

- Complaints must be submitted (through mail on helpdesk@evolve2care.eu) within **five (calendar) days** from the date of receiving the evaluation results.
- As a general guideline, the EVOLVE2CARE team will investigate complaints with the aim of reaching a decision to issue a formal notice or to close the case within no more than **twenty days from** the date of receiving the complaint, provided that all required information has been submitted by the complainant.
- In cases where this time limit is exceeded, the EVOLVE2CARE team will inform the complainant via email. If a definitive response cannot be provided at that stage, the response will indicate when a definitive response will be furnished.
- It should be noted that the EVOLVE2CARE consortium does not commit to engage in any further discussion regarding the evaluation of a proposal beyond the definitive response.

Please be aware that only one request for appeal per proposal will be considered by the consortium.

5.11. Services Agreement preparation

At the end of the evaluation process, all proposals will be ranked based on their scores, and a list of the highest-ranked proposals will be created. This list will be sent by Sploro to ENoLL. The latter will then contact the Living Labs from the selected mini-consortia, in ranked order, to invite them to participate in the call for sub-contractors (please see Annex 5. Call for sub-contracting). This step specifically concerns the Living Labs, as the service agreements are concluded solely between ENoLL and the Living Labs.

Once ENoLL makes the final selection of the Living Labs, the top proposals will be invited to sign the service agreements and participate in the programme.

- Services agreement. Signed between ENoLL and the Living Labs.
- All the legal issues are accurately covered by the planned contracts with the Living Labs. The services agreement will foresee, among other things, the special clauses derived from Horizon Europe, the payment schedule, and conditions (milestones), general legal text issues of rights and obligations by the EVOLVE2CARE consortium and each Living Lab, including IPR. It will also have a set of annexes such as the description of the project, and any other document required by EVOLVE2CARE consortium to assure the correct execution of the projects.

The Services Agreement will be signed between ENoLL and Living Labs only. Between Innovators and Living Labs, a Declaration of Collaboration will be signed. The objective

of the contract preparation is fulfilling the legal requirements between the EVOLVE2CARE consortium and every beneficiary of the call.

6. Beneficiaries' Responsibilities

The selected organisations are indirectly beneficiaries of European Commission funding. As such, they are responsible for the proper use of the funding and ensure that the recipients comply with obligations under Horizon specific requirements. The obligations that are applicable to the recipients include:

6.1. Conflict of interest

Beneficiaries must take all measures to prevent any situation where the impartial and objective implementation of the project is compromised for reasons involving economic interest, political or national affinity, family or emotional ties or any other shared interest ('conflict of interests'). They must formally notify to the EVOLVE2CARE coordinator without delay any situation constituting or likely to lead to a conflict of interest and immediately take all the necessary steps to rectify this situation. The EVOLVE2CARE coordinator may verify that the measures taken are appropriate and may require additional measures to be taken by a specified deadline. If the sub-contracted consortium member breaches any of its obligations, the sub-contract may be automatically terminated. Moreover, costs may be rejected.

6.2. Data protection and confidentiality

During implementation of the sub-project and for four years after the end of the sub-project, the parties must keep confidential any data, documents or other material (in any form) that is identified as confidential at sub-contract signing time ('confidential information').

6.3. Promotion of the action and EU Funding visibility

The beneficiary must promote their participation in the EVOLVE2CARE project, and the benefits obtained as a result of participating in the programme. They will provide targeted information to multiple audiences (including the media and the public) in a strategic and effective manner and to highlight the support of the EC. The EVOLVE2CARE Communication Team will guide, provide materials and support these communication activities. Unless the European Commission or the EVOLVE2CARE coordinator requests, or agrees otherwise or unless it is impossible, any communication activity related to the action (including in electronic form, via social media, etc.), any publicity, including at a conference or seminar or any type of information or promotional material (brochure, leaflet, poster, presentation etc.), and any infrastructure, equipment and major results

funded by the grant must (please see Figure 4. Display of the project logo along with EU funding):

- display the EU emblem.
- display the EVOLVE2CARE logo.



Figure 4. Display of the project logo along with EU funding acknowledgment

When displayed in association with a logo, the European emblem should be given appropriate prominence. This obligation to use the European emblem in respect of projects to which the EC contributes implies no right of exclusive use. It is subject to general third-party use restrictions which do not permit the appropriation of the emblem, or of any similar trademark or logo, whether by registration or by any other means. Under these conditions, the Beneficiary is exempted from the obligation to obtain prior permission from the EC to use the emblem. Further detailed information on the EU emblem can be found on the Europa web page. Any publicity made by the beneficiary in respect of the project, in whatever form and on or by whatever medium, must specify that it reflects only the author's views and that the EC or EVOLVE2CARE project is not liable for any use that may be made of the information contained therein. The EC and the EVOLVE2CARE consortium shall be authorized to publish, in whatever form and on or by whatever medium, the following information:

- the name of the mini-consortia teams;
- contact address of the mini-consortia teams;
- the general purpose of the project;
- the amount of the financial contribution foreseen for the project; after the final payment, and the amount of the financial contribution actually received;
- the geographic location of the activities carried out;
- the list of dissemination activities relating to the foreground;
- the details/references and the abstracts of scientific publications relating to the foreground and, if funded within the sub-project, the published version or the final manuscript accepted for publication;
- the publishable reports submitted to the EVOLVE2CARE consortium;
- any picture or any audio-visual or web material provided to the EC and EVOLVE2CARE in the framework of the project.

The beneficiary shall ensure that all necessary authorisations for such publication have been obtained and that the publication of the information by the EC and EVOLVE2CARE does not infringe any rights of third parties. Upon a duly substantiated request by the

beneficiary, EVOLVE2CARE, if such permission is provided by the EC, may agree to forego such publicity if disclosure of the information indicated above would risk compromising the beneficiary's security, academic or commercial interests.

6.4. Financial audits and control

The European Commission (EC) will monitor compliance with the financial conditions outlined in Annex 1 of the EVOLVE2CARE Grant Agreement by beneficiaries and third parties. The EC may conduct financial audits, which may be conducted by external auditors or by EC services, including the European Anti-Fraud Office (OLAF). Beneficiaries must make all detailed information and data available to the EC or any authorized representative for audit purposes. The beneficiary must keep all sub-project deliverables and documents for up to five years from the end of the project.

6.5. Internal communication

Each of the teams selected to join the programme must nominate a primary contact point that will act as a coordinator during the duration of the programme.

- Provide any notice in writing to the EVOLVE2CARE programme coordinator.
- Notify immediately of any change of persons or contact details to helpdesk@evolve2care.eu. The address list shall be accessible to all concerned.

6.6. External communication and open data

Each funded organisation will be publicly listed at EVOLVE2CARE public channels like social networks or website. The funding disbursed by the EVOLVE2CARE consortium to each of the beneficiaries will be made public under a dataset that will be uploaded into an open a free repository as it is Zenodo.