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Zürcher Hochschule der Künste
Zurich University of the Arts
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SwissCorerd
Contact Office for European Research
Innovation and Education

Swiss Science Briefing

Co-Creating FP10

How design science can help bridge the translational gap
from research to health innovation



29 April, 2026 – 13:00

ISELP, Boulevard de Waterloo 31, 1000 Bruxelles



Digital
Health
Design
Living Lab



HELMHOLTZ

Event Summary



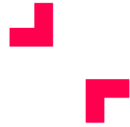
The European Commission has clearly articulated its ambition to leverage Europe's strong research capabilities to boost competitiveness and strategic autonomy in its proposal for the next research framework programme, FP10. While the vision and rationale are evident, the pathway to achieving these goals remains undefined. Europe continues to face significant bottlenecks in translating research into innovation, particularly in the health and digital health sectors where promising research results often struggle to reach patients, healthcare professionals, and health systems in practice. This underscores the need for new approaches to bridge these gaps.

Among the underexplored approaches, design science and co-creation methods offer considerable untapped potential. By experimenting with and applying new principles and methods, collaboration between researchers, innovators, industry, and end-users can be strengthened. In the context of healthcare innovation, such collaboration is particularly critical, as successful solutions must align not only with technological possibilities but also with clinical workflows, patient needs, and regulatory frameworks. This alignment can ensure that promising innovations respond to societal and market needs. In line with FP10's call for greater interdisciplinarity to address pressing challenges in the R&I sector, design science can play a pivotal role in translating health research into user-centred, implementable health innovations.

As one of the largest art universities in Europe, the Zurich University of the Arts (ZHdK) possesses strong interdisciplinary expertise, notably in the field of design-driven innovation for (digital) health and healthcare transformation. One flagship initiative in this space is its Digital Health Design Living Lab (DHDLL), bringing together experts from the three initiating Zurich universities (ZHdK, Zurich University of Applied Sciences, University of Zurich). It is a co-creative, interdisciplinary hub that brings together a wide range of healthcare stakeholders – including clinicians, patients, health innovators, policymakers, and researchers – to actively shape the future of digital healthcare together.

Under the motto „Co-creating FP10: How design science can help bridge the translational gap from research to health innovation“, the event, which is co-hosted by Helmholtz, will feature a workshop that invites participants to experience co-creative methods while jointly formulating key messages for the new framework programme. Through hands-on engagement with design-driven approaches, participants will explore how interdisciplinary collaboration can accelerate the translation of health research into impactful digital health solutions for European healthcare systems.

Event Agenda



From 13:00	Registration
13:30	Welcome address Prof. Dr. Karin Mairitsch President ZHdK
13:40	AI in Health: Where do we stand, where do we go? Fabiola Curion Scientific Project Officer, Joint Research Centre
13:55	Reflections from the research frontier Prof. Dr. Carsten Marr Director, Institute of AI for Health, Helmholtz Munich
14:10	Spotlight Session: Co-Creating Digital Health Innovation – Insights from the Digital Health Design Living Lab Prof. Dr. Anna Lisa Martin-Niedecken Head of the Institute for Design Research, ZHdK Director, DHD LL Followed by an interactive exercise on integrating design and the arts into the future health research & innovation programmes Prof. Dr. Anna Lisa Martin-Niedecken Head of the Institute for Design Research, ZHdK Director DHD LL Aleksandra Szewc Research Associate DHD LL Laurin Schaffner Research Associate DHD LL

Event Agenda



15:00

Coffee break

15:20

Panel discussion: Can design and the arts help bridge the translational gap from research to health innovation?

Prof. Dr. Anna Lisa Martin-Niedecken

Head of the Institute for Design Research, ZHdK
Director DHD LL

Prof. Dr. Carsten Marr

Director, Institute of AI for Health, Helmholtz Munich

Pawel Świeboda

Senior Fellow for Neurotechnology, CFG

Brigita Serafinavičiūtė

Research Attaché, Permanent Representation of Lithuania to the EU

16:00

Networking Apéro
