



A Tradition of Innovation

EIT-Health recommendations

1. Education through research projects in university laboratories

The EIT-Health project promotes University-private enterprise collaborations in the Health sector. However, there has been insufficient impact of the EIT-Health on participating Universities and student education. Universities are educating students and prepare the higher educating work force. Life sciences and medical training are the backbone of the health sector. Only Universities are capable of educating students and thus provide the foundation not only for academia but particularly of the entire private sector research and development and entrepreneurial activity. To sustain the European health sector economy, higher education in life sciences and medical research need to be strengthened and expanded. Universities across Europe are insufficiently equipped to provide scientific projects using cutting edge technology as part of the education in life sciences and medical research. We therefore recommend that the EIT-Health could vastly improve their impact by providing funding for student and postdoc trainees' projects at Universities.

2. Translational research is critically dependent on fundamental discovery science

Transformative technologies originate in fundamental research. Groundbreaking innovations have been generated by fundamental research, for example stem cell reprogramming or gene editing. From discovery to clinical implementation it takes about 3 decades, because only a mechanistic understanding can provide the groundwork for the development of a clinical application. The rate limiting step of innovation in health is not the final step of the clinical implementation as significant funding for this exists in the private sector. Instead, the breakthrough in fundamental science is the rate limiting step in the innovation chain.

November 2019