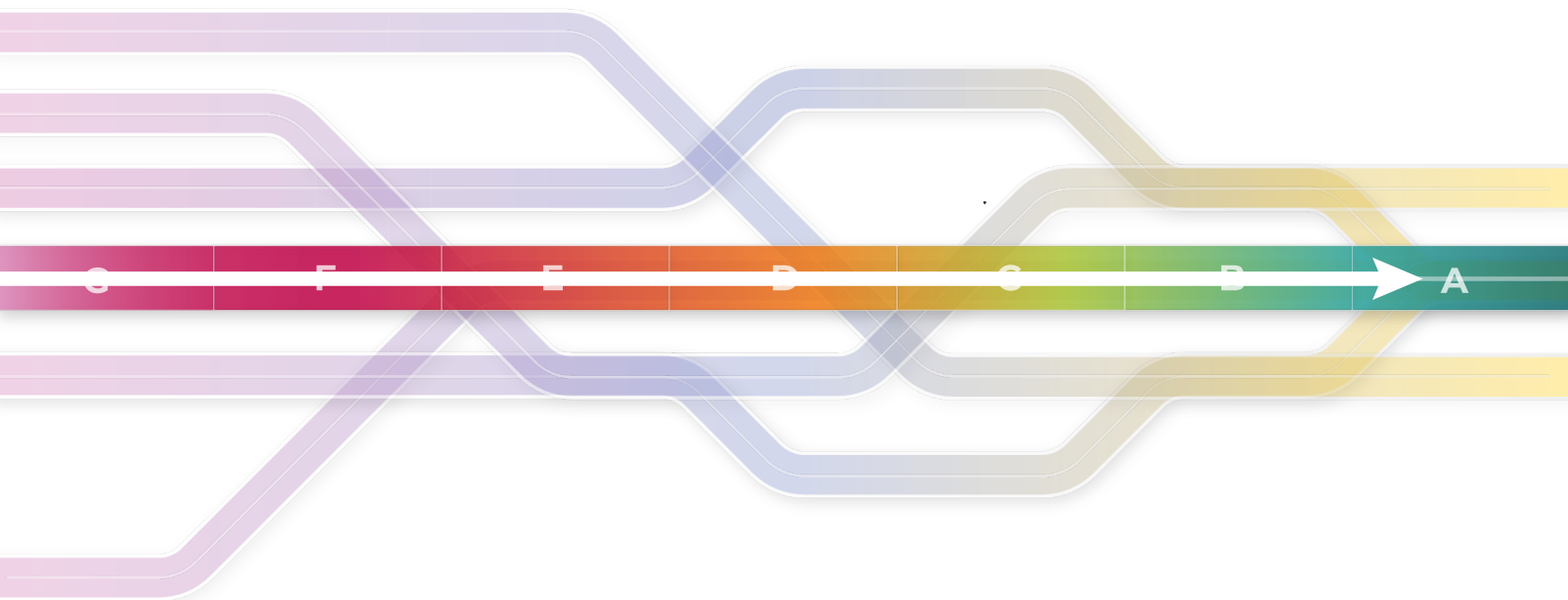


TEF-Health



TEF-Health Call #2

Action number: 101100700

Action Acronym: TEF-Health

Action title: Testing and Experimentation Facility for Health AI and Robotics

Author(s): TEF-Health consortium partners

Testing and Experimentation Facility for Health AI and Robotics hereby invites startups and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) to submit their applications to the TEF-Health Call #2

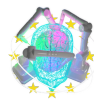
Publication of call: 01.04.2025

Last Update: 01.04.2025

DIGITAL Europe - 101100700



Co-funded by
the European Union



TEF-Health call #2, published on 01.04.2025 was updated according to the following table:

Date of update	Details	Page
----------------	---------	------



Table of Contents

1. Context of the Call.....4

2. The Services.....4

3. Roadmap for Applicants4

4. Target Audience5

5. Eligibility & Evaluation Process.....5

 a. Eligibility Criteria5

 b. Evaluation schema5

6. Timeline6

7. Contact Information.....6

8. FAQs.....6

1. Context of the Call

Under the Digital Europe Programme, the European Commission, in collaboration with several Member States, is co-financing a 5-year project, that started in January 2023 under the name “Testing and Experimentation Facility for Health AI and Robotics (TEF-Health; Project: 101100700 — TEF-Health — DIGITAL-2022-CLOUD-AI-02). TEF-Health is coordinated by Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Germany and comprises 52 partners from 9 European Union countries – each of which forms a so called “Node”. TEF-Health is co-financed by national funding provided by the following participating countries: Belgium, France, Germany, Portugal Slovakia and Sweden. TEF-Health establishes a network of testing facilities. These facilities offer a range of services, including access to physical and digital infrastructure, consulting, access to data, and computational resources, living labs, laboratory testing facilities and real-world testing environments. They provide healthcare innovators with the opportunity to conduct extensive tests and experiments on their AI and robotics solutions within real or realistic environments and to obtain support by experts for making their solutions compliant with the EU AI-Act and other regulations.

Via the call SMEs can access to novel validation and experimentation services that are not yet established in the market at discounted prices

2. The Services

TEF-Health is equipped to provide validation through services for AI and robotics-based solutions across various medical domains. The current Call is a gateway to access discounted TEF-Health services for designing and conducting validation studies for groundbreaking healthcare products or services with AI or robotics technology. Through this call, TEF-Health will connect SMEs to the best research centers and laboratories, universities and hospitals or certification bodies within Europe that can help testing AI and robotics solutions with high-quality data, access to patients, clinicians, and medical staff, so the products become ready for market access. **SMEs from the European Union (EU) member states may receive state aid support in the form of discounts on the market price of validation services targeting their proposed solutions.** For a complete list of **services offered** by TEF-Health, please refer to tefhealth.eu (“Search for Services”). After the eligibility check and evaluation process, all eligible companies will enter a matchmaking process to determine which TEF-Health service will be best suited according to the company’s requirements.

3. Roadmap for Applicants

The application process is divided in four phases:

Phase 1 – Application to TEF-Health

Phase 2 – Eligibility Assessment according to section 5a below

Phase 3 – Evaluation according to section 5b below resulting in scores

Phase 4 – Matchmaking: All applications passing eligibility check will be presented together with the achieved evaluation scores to the selected TEF-Health Service Providers who based on this information select applicants for matchmaking. The process includes:

- Access to service quotations from TEF-Health service providers
- Signature of service agreement (this signature will only take place if the service provider has the implementation capacity to provide the service in the period requested. If the TEF-Health service provider has several service agreement requests for the same period and lacks capacity to serve them the *first come first served rule* applies for the selection of TEF-Health service beneficiaries).
- TEF-Health service provision with discounts / state aid under the conditions of De Minimis, as per

Commission Regulation (EU) N° 1407/2013, not exceeding €300,000 per company over a period of 3 financial years.

4. Target Audience

SMEs from European Union (EU) and European Economic Area (EEA) member states may receive discounted services, if the applicable conditions are met (see section 5 Eligibility & Evaluation Process).

5. Eligibility & Evaluation Process

To apply for TEF-Health funding, please fill in the application webform on the TEF-Health Platform (<https://tef.charite.de>) as described here: <https://tef.charite.de/docs/call/applicant/>.

For questions related to the application process, please use the offered TEF-Health platform communication channels accessible upon registration (chatters, helpdesk) or contact info@tefhealth.eu.

Applications will be assessed according to the following eligibility and evaluation criteria:

a. Eligibility Criteria

- SME is legally incorporated and established in one of the EU or EEA member states¹. The ownership or shares of the SME must not be held by individuals or entities outside the EU/EEA. The fulfilment of these requirement shall be confirmed through an official declaration issued by the legal representative of the SME.
- Company is an SME according to the EU definition ([Commission Recommendation 2003/361/EC](#)). The fulfilment of this requirement shall be confirmed with an official declaration issued by the legal representative of the SME.
- According to [EU Regulation n°1407/2013](#) (de-minimis) of the European Commission. The company must present evidence in the form of a formal declaration by the legal representative of the SME that the SME has not received over 300,000 EUR in state aid support during the previous 3 fiscal years.
- AI and robotics solutions must be at a minimum Technology Readiness Level (TRL) of 6 (self-declared by the SME).

b. Evaluation schema

Expert evaluators will assess each application using the criteria in the following table.

Criteria	Weight
Solution	40/100
(1) The applicant presents a novel solution that is innovative and promotes clear advancement beyond the current state of the art. The applicant presents a clear and feasible timeline for the solution	15/100

¹ Currently SMEs from EEA countries can only apply for services from the Swedish node / a limited set of services.

(2) The solution addresses a significant unmet medical need.	10/100
(3) Soundness and consistency of the AI or robotics system and core technology used.	15/100
Fit to TEF-Health	45/100
(4) The applicant's needs may be supported by the service offerings provided in the current TEF-Health Service Catalogue.	25/100
(5) The solution can increase TRL after implementation of the TEF-Health services.	20/100
Funding	15/100
(6) The applicant provides a budget availability that aligns with the prices of the current TEF-Health Service Catalogue and demonstrates having a solid financial track record with the capacity to cover the estimated expenses of acquiring the TEF-Health services	15/100

Each criterion will be scored from 1 to 7: 1- Very Poor; 2- Poor; 3 – Below expectations; 5- Above expectations; 6- Good; 7 – Very Good. Note that level 4 is not considered in the scale to promote clear results. The final evaluation score will be calculated according to the following formula:

$$Evaluation = Weight(1) * Score(1) + \dots + Weight(6) * Score(6)$$

The number of eligible applicants that will receive state aid support in the form of discounts on the market price of services will be determined by capacity of the service providers.

6. Timeline

- The call will be regularly updated and published with new version number to include new available services.
- The call stays open until the capacity of the service providers is reached. It closes latest at the end of the TEF-Health project funding period on 31.12.2027.
- Upon submission of the application evaluation is expected to take 45 working days. If eligibility criteria are met after this approximate time, the application will be opened to selected service providers for the matchmaking phase.

7. Contact Information

For questions related to the application process, please use the chatter function in TEF-Health Platform that you can access upon registration. For all other questions related to TEF-Health, please contact info@tefhealth.eu.

8. FAQs

Q: What is a solution in TEF-Health?

A: Solutions are digital products or services developed using AI and/or robotic technologies, which are to be subject to testing, experimentation and consulting services provided by TEF-Health.

Q: Can SMEs apply for multiple solutions in the same call?

A: SMEs may benefit from the services of TEF-Health for one or multiple solutions. For each solution, the SME should submit an individual application.

Q: If I am not an EU/EEA based SME, can I still apply to this call?

A: No, as indicated in section [5a. Eligibility Criteria](#), only SMEs legally incorporated and established in one of the EU/EEA member states are eligible to apply to this call and receive discounts due to state aid regulations. Nevertheless, SMEs from outside the EU can receive services at full price. All services can be discovered via [TEF-Health website](#).

Q: Does the Intellectual Property of the product remain with the SME, or is it shared with TEF-Health? Does the sole responsibility for commercialization lie with the SME or is it shared with TEF-Health?

A: The contract to be concluded between the TEF-Health service providers and the SMEs is governed by private law and will result from the terms decided between the two parties involved. The terms of the contractual and post-contractual relationship, as well as future rights over the solutions developed within the scope of the services provided by TEF-Health will be agreed by the parties in compliance with the applicable laws and regulations.

Q: How do the EU state aid rules apply if the SME is registered in an EU member state country, that is not the same as the EU member state of the Service Provider?

A: The EU state aid rules apply uniformly across all EU member states. Therefore, if the SME is registered in a different EU member state from the one where the service provider is registered, the rules still apply. Please check the eligibility requirements from section 5a of this call.

Q: Is there a minimum evaluation score that needs to be achieved for applications to achieve matchmaking phase?

A: There is no minimum 'pass' score. All applications that passed eligibility check will be passed together with the achieved score to selected TEF-Health service providers. TEF-Health service providers decide based on the application material and evaluation results if they open the matchmaking process.

Q: Where can I find the complete list of services offered by TEF-Health and their respective market prices, under this call?

A: Applicants can access the comprehensive list of services on the project website: tefhealth.eu where all available services can be discovered.

Q: What is the required Technology Readiness Level (TRL) for my solution to be eligible for this Call?

A: Your solution should have a minimum entry TRL of 6. Please find here a short summary of each TRL level explanation:

- TRL 1 - Basic principles observed
- TRL 2 - Formulation of the technological concept
- TRL 3 - Experimental proof of concept
- TRL 4 - Validation of the technology in the laboratory
- TRL 5 - Validation of technology in a relevant environment (semi-industrial)
- TRL 6 - Demonstration of the technology in a relevant (semi-industrial) environment
- TRL 7 - Demonstration of the prototype system in an operational environment
- TRL 8 - Complete and qualified system
- TRL 9 - Approved system in series production environment

Q: What are the benefits for SMEs applying to this call?

- Access to AI and robotics experts from best-in-class organizations in Europe. Validation of AI and robotics-based innovation through qualified service offerings in “tefhealth.eu”.
- State aid as discounts for the services, under the applicable conditions of De Minimis, Commission Regulation (EU) N° 1407/2013, not exceeding €300,000 per SME over a period of 3 financial years.