

WEBINAR

After VALO: the Finnish Health Data Space

This webinar explores the proposal for the Finnish Health Data Space (FHDS), a national initiative to unify Finland's fragmented health data infrastructure. It is part of a webinar series discussing collaboration in the secondary use of health data across the Nordics and Baltics.

**SCHEDULE**

Tuesday 25.08.2026 at 16.00-17.30

REGISTRATION

Register for the webinar →

GMT/UTC+3

SEE ALSO

[Safe space principles](#)



VALO

Value from Nordic Health Data

VALO Objectives

- 1** Strengthen Nordic co-operation in the secondary use of health data
- 2** Prepare for the European Health Data Space legislation in the Nordic countries
- 3** Showcase results by piloting a Nordic federated analysis use case



Funded by the
Nordic Council
of Ministers

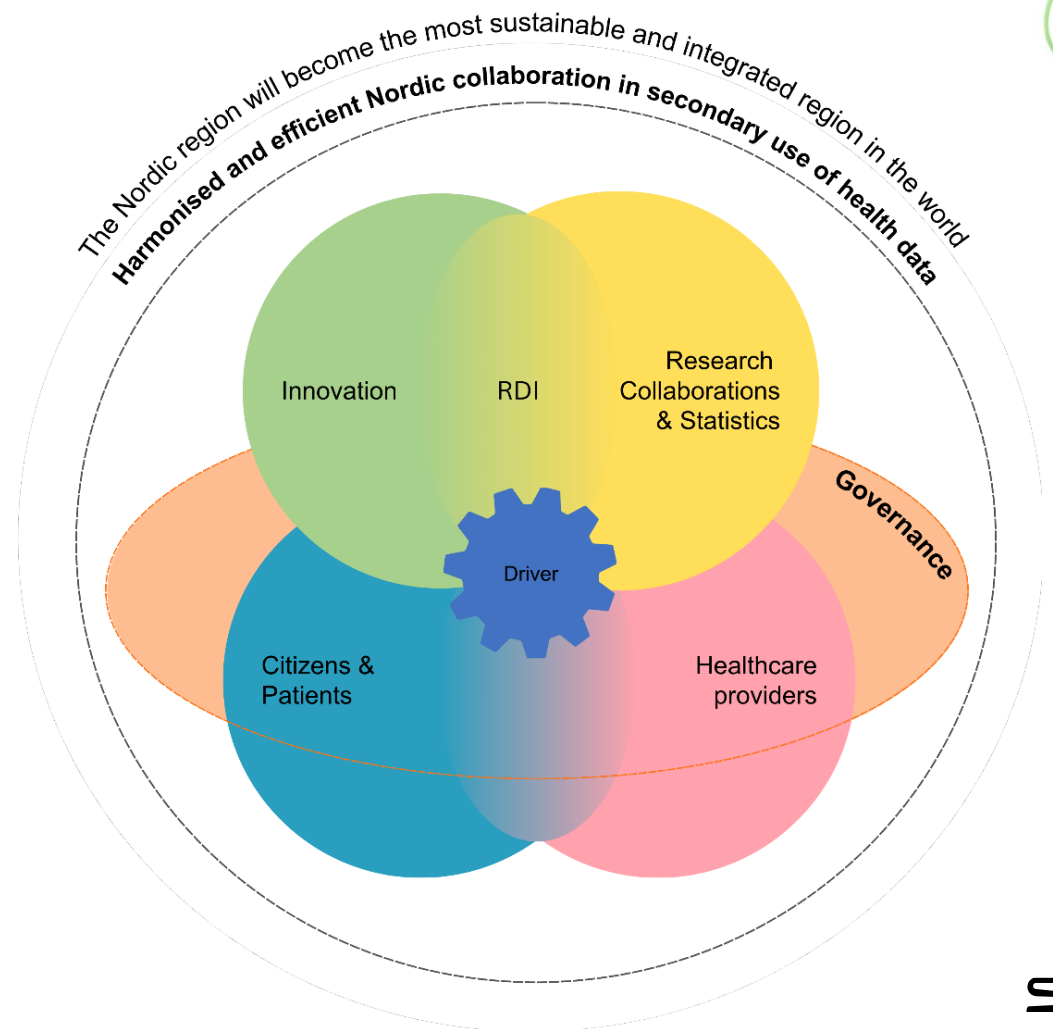


Nordic model for collaboration on secondary use of health data



VALO project will not be able to operationalise this model alone.

Where to pass the ball?



EHDS Competence Forums

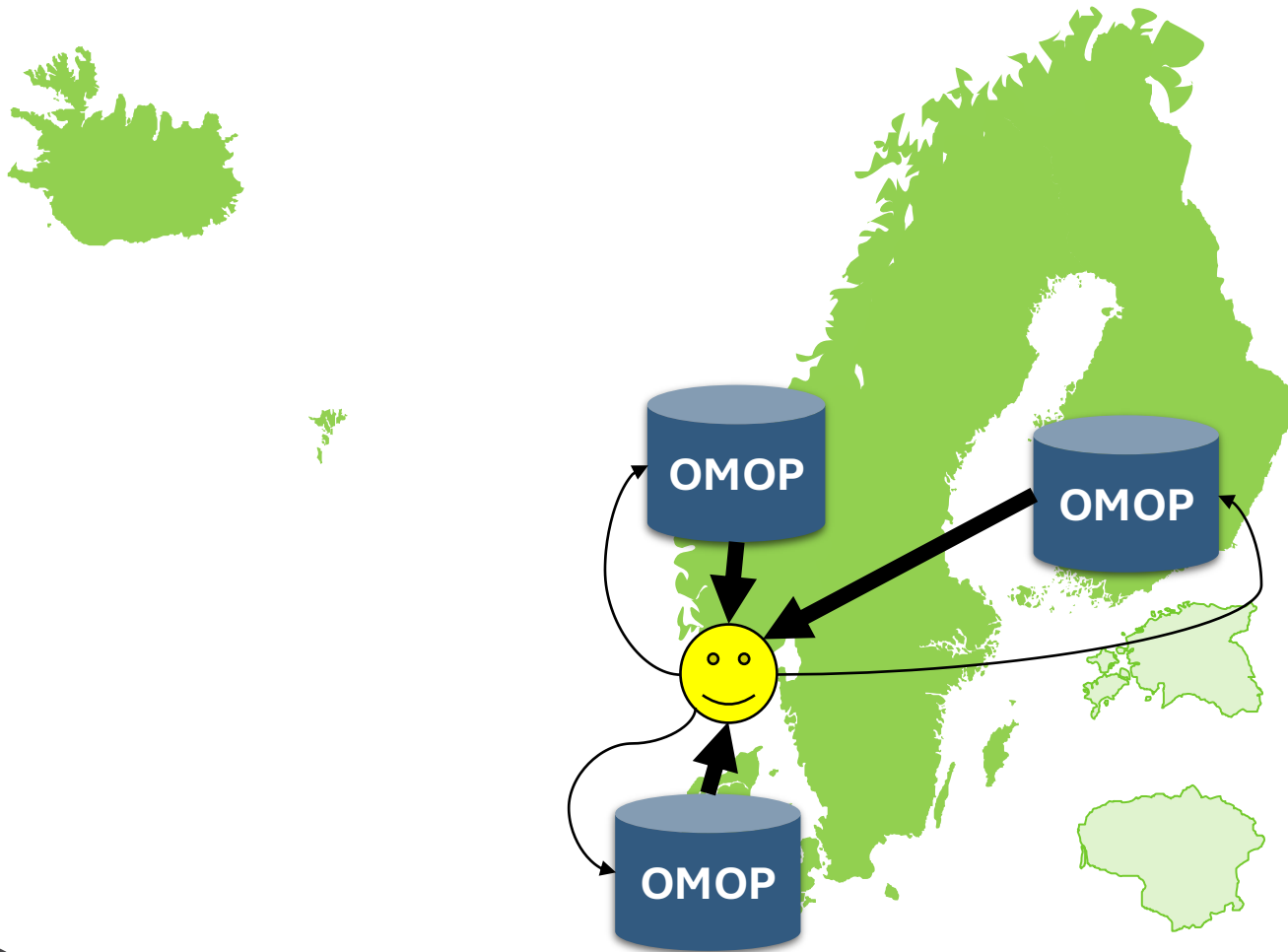


**Many benefits
achieved!**

**Hoping to see
continued
collaboration.**



VALO Pilot Study: Federated Data Analysis

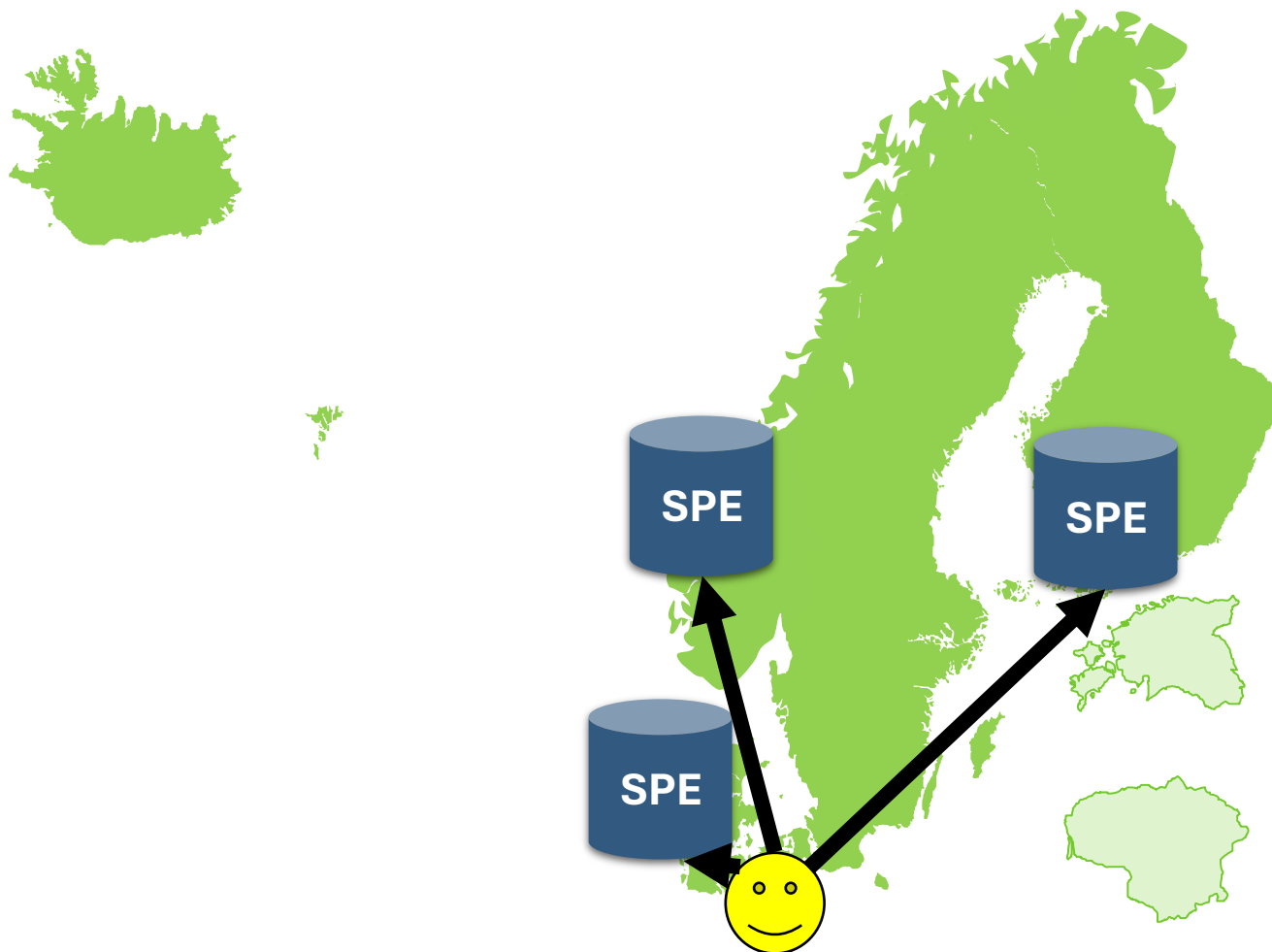




Pohjoismaiden
ministerineuvoston
rahoittama

SITRA

VALO2 Pilot Study: Remote Access to Secure Processing Environments



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sitra.fi/valo

EVENT

Nordic Health Data Summit 2026

On 23 September, the Nordic Health Data Summit 2026 brings together policymakers, experts, researchers, innovators and stakeholders from across the Nordic region and Europe to explore how health data can be used more effectively for research, innovation and better health outcomes.



LOCATION

Oslo Congress Center, Youngs gate 21, 0181, Oslo, Norway
and online



SCHEDULE

Wednesday 23.09.2026 at 08.30-18.00
CEST / UTC+2

REGISTRATION

[Register here! →](#)

Attendance is free but advance registration is required. Onsite registration closes on 7 September 23:59 (CEST).

SEE ALSO

[Safe space principles](#)



SITRA



What comes next?

The data are there. The infrastructure is there. Want to utilise them?

The data are not perfect. The infrastructure is not perfect. Want to improve them?

Want someone else to do the work for you? What can you commit to?

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Plan for Next Webinars

- September 1: IQVIA
 - September 8: New Ideas
 - September 15: NNF
-
- Tuesdays, 15.00 CET

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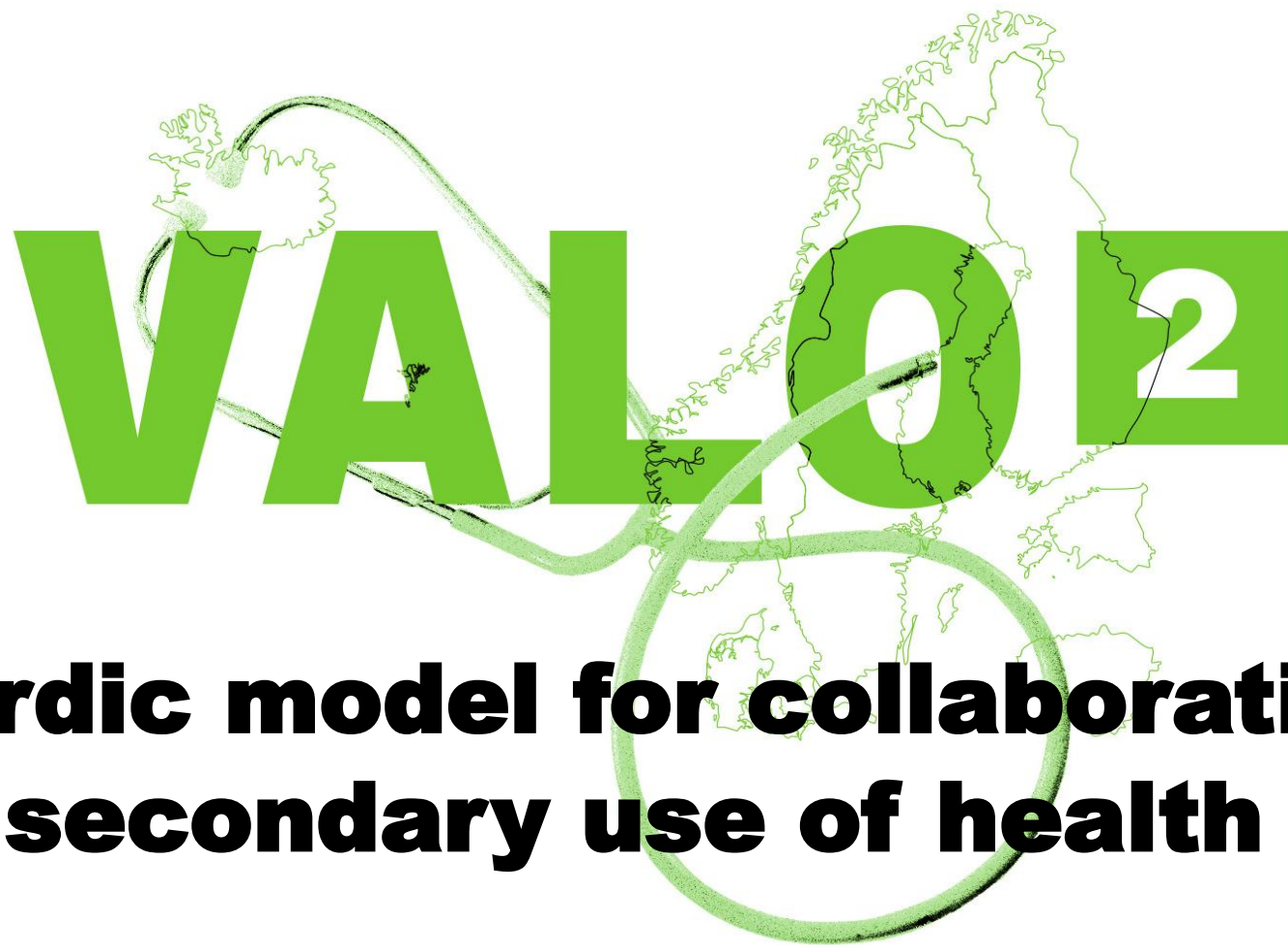
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Nordic model for collaboration on secondary use of health data

Rebekka Bjorg Gudmundsdottir,
Directorate of health, health information, Iceland



Funded by the
Nordic Council
of Ministers

2026

SITRA

A map of Europe with the Nordic region highlighted in green. The highlighted countries include Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, and the Faroe Islands. The rest of Europe is shown in light gray.

A Nordic environment that empowers stakeholders to collaborate in advancing use of health data for research, development, innovation and policymaking – to benefit health and wellbeing, and economic prosperity.



Principles



Support the
grassroot



Coordinate,
not
duplicate



Respect
existing
mandates



Investment
saving
resources



Start
simple with
growing
potential

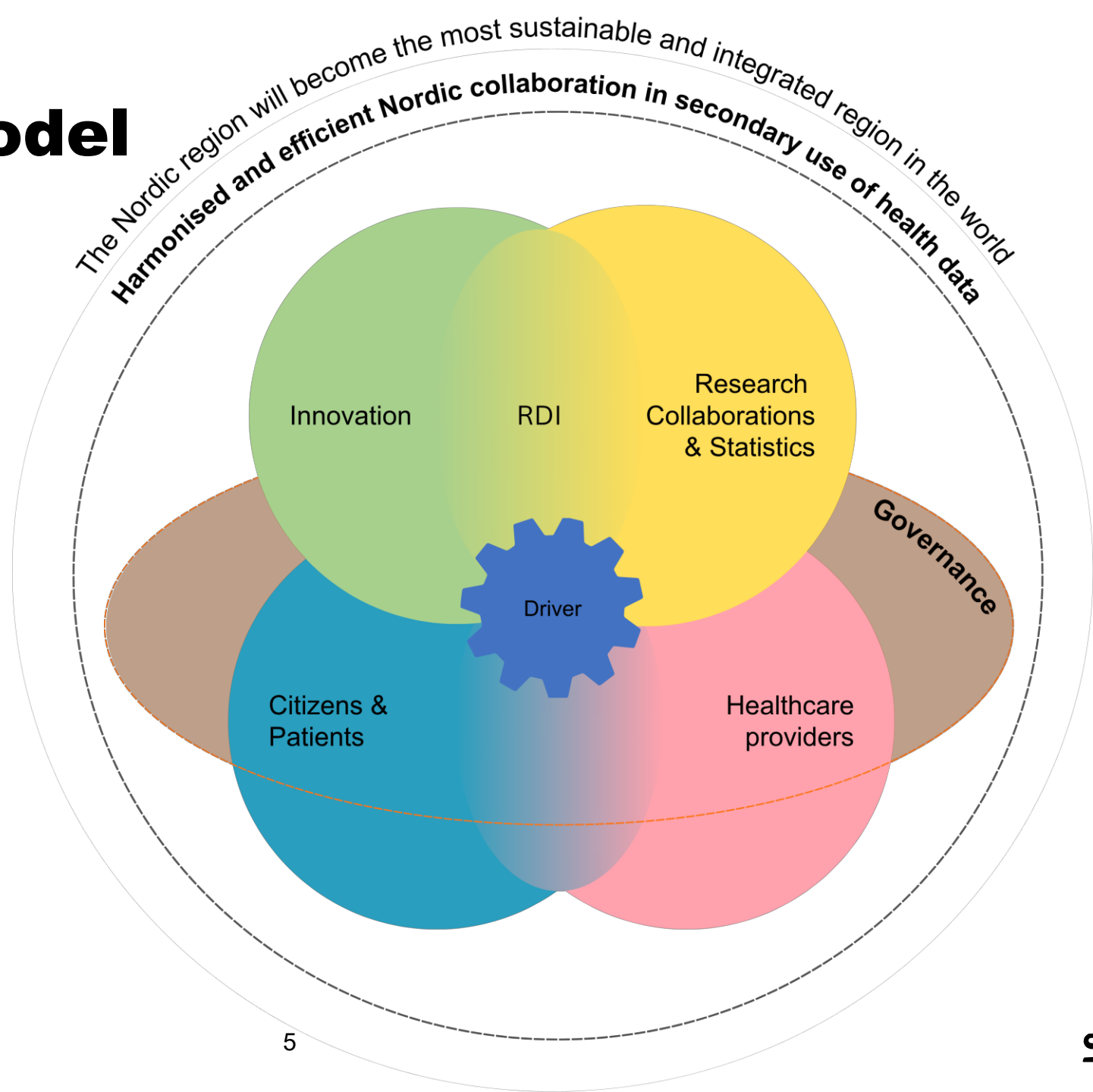


The development of the Nordic model

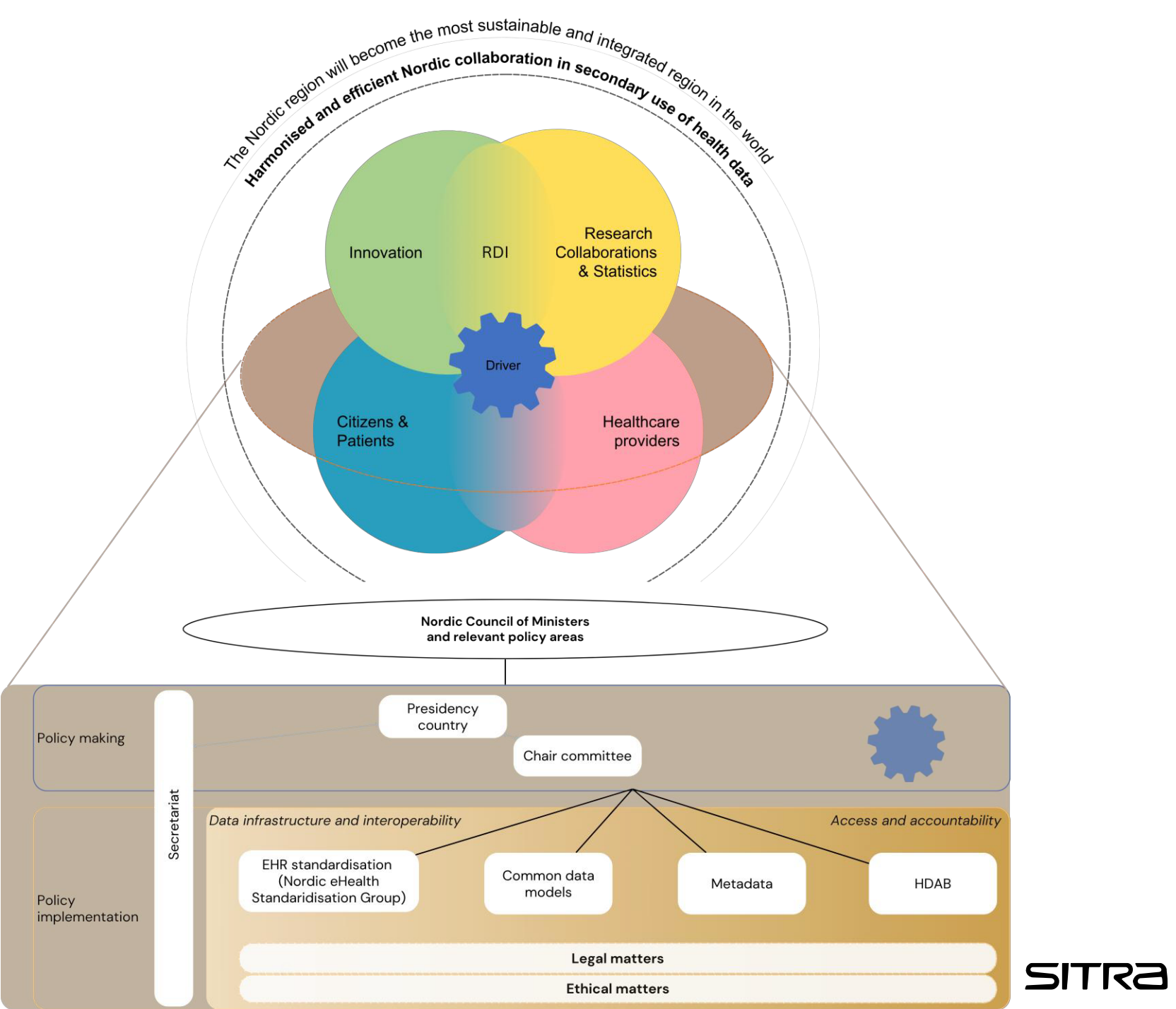


Funded by the
Nordic Council
of Ministers

The Nordic model



Governance



Funded by the
Nordic Council
of Ministers

FHDS = a national health data layer for secure,
scalable secondary use and AI-enabled R&D&I

The Future of Health Data in the Age of AI

A Proposal for the Finnish Health
Data Space (FHDS)

Based on the report by Olli Kallioniemi & Kimmo Porkka (Sitra/STM)

Feb 10, 2026 (61 pages)



<https://www.sitra.fi/julkaisut/terveystiedon-tulevaisuus-tekoalyn-aikakaudella/>

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SITRAN SELVITYKSIÄ 255

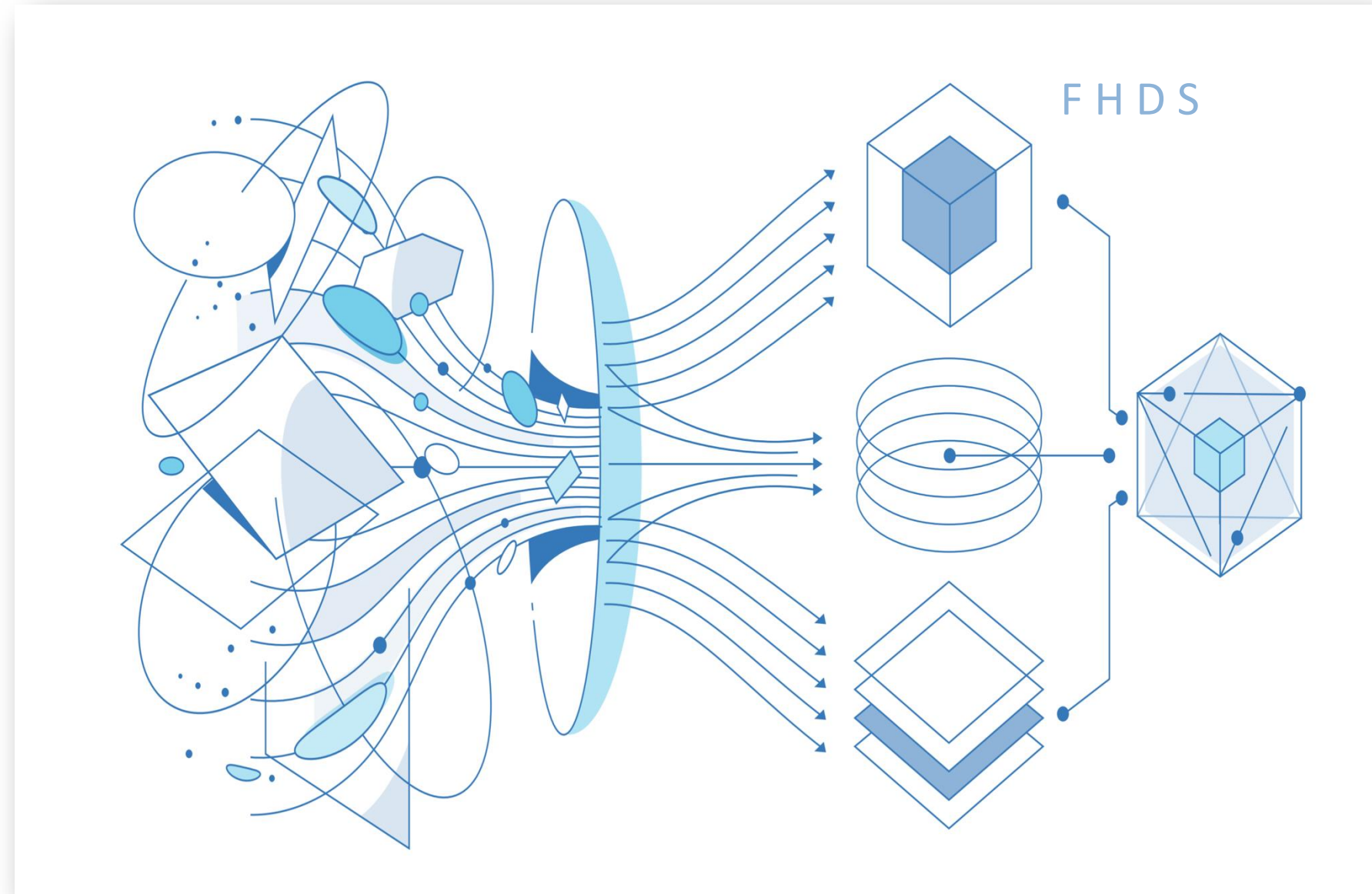
HELMIKUU 2026

TERVEYSTIEDON TULEVAISUUS TEKOÄLYN AIKAKAUDELLA

Ehdotus Suomen kansallisesta terveystietoalueesta

Olli Kallioniemi, Kimmo Porkka

ISBN: 978-952-347-449-9



**Please note: FHDS is just a plan and
a suggestion for government action!**

Olli Kallioniemi
Research Director, FIMM, HiLife, UH
Professor Molecular Precision Medicine,
KI and SciLifeLab

Disclosure:

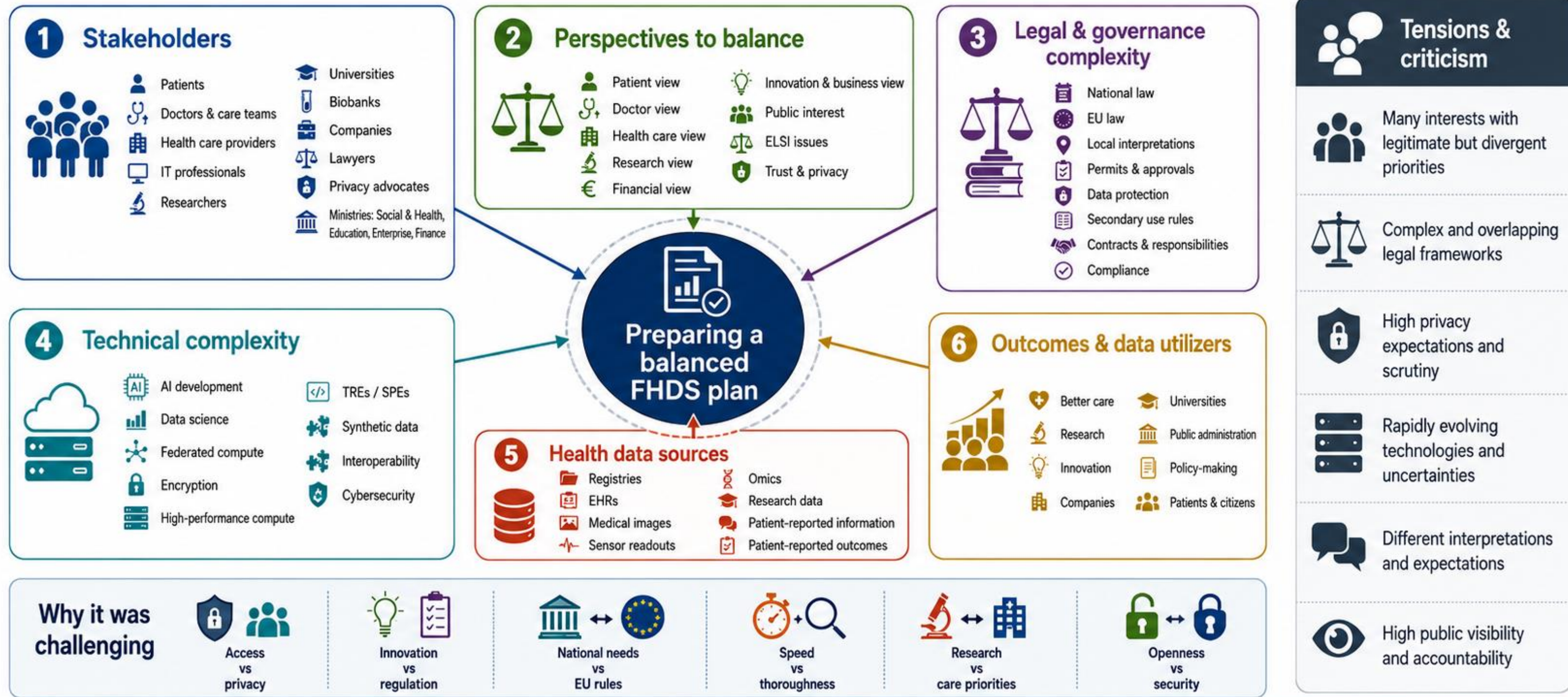
- Advisor to Knut and Alice Wallenberg Foundation, ex-director of SciLifeLab and the DDLS program in Sweden
- Advisor to Sitra, Folkhälsan, data science committee chair Novo Nordisk Foundation (-2025)
- Founder of Sartar Therapeutics

AI-DRIVEN HEALTHCARE



Why preparing the FHDS plan was so complex

A balanced report had to reconcile many stakeholders, laws, technologies, data sources and expectations.

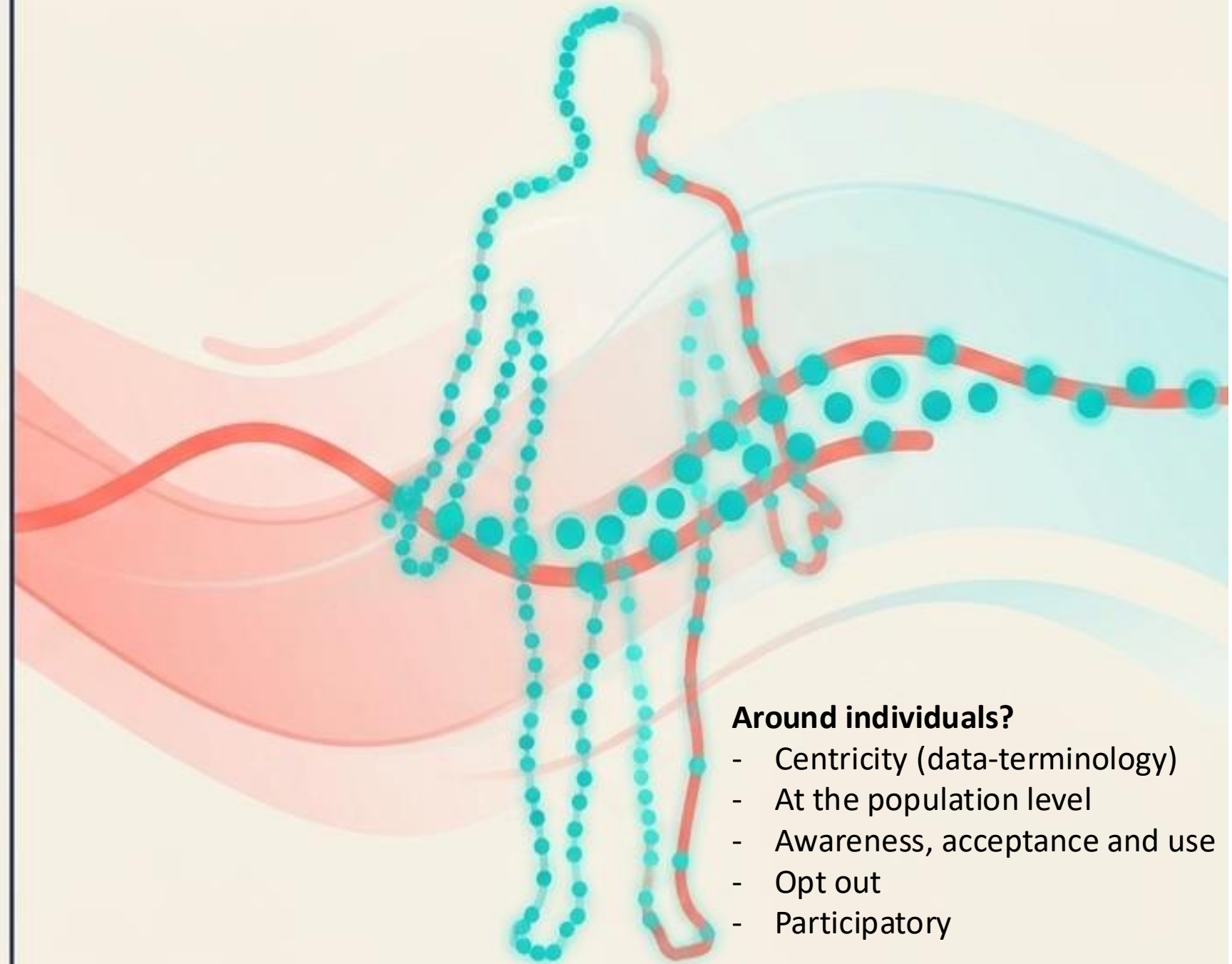


The task was inherently difficult: any serious FHDS plan had to be broad, balanced and evidence-based — and was bound to attract both attention and criticism.

Healthcare is organized around institutions.



Health data must be organized around individuals.



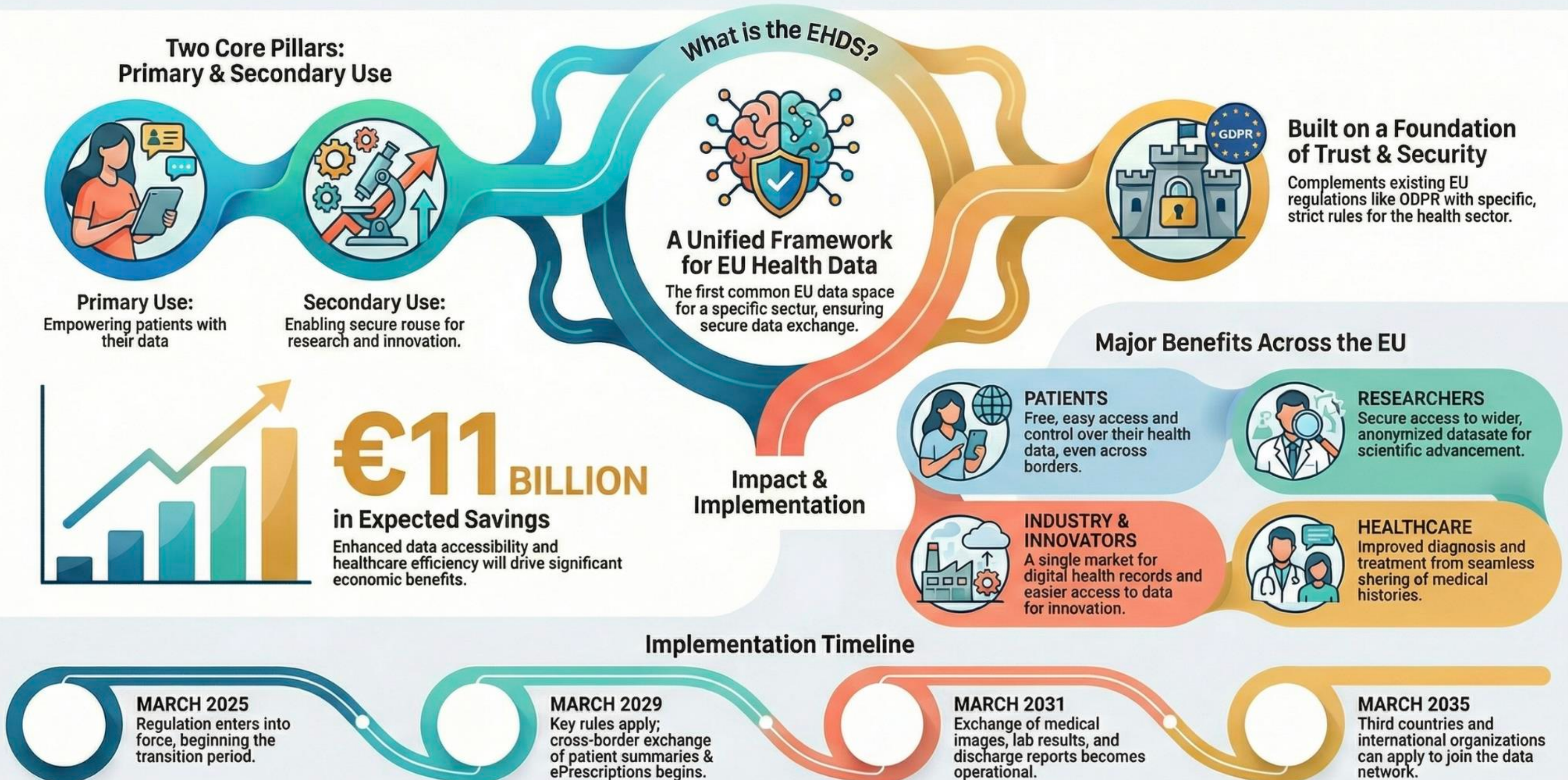
Around individuals?

- Centricity (data-terminology)
- At the population level
- Awareness, acceptance and use
- Opt out
- Participatory

Three major drivers right now for creating the FHDS plan

- European Health Data Space (EHDS) regulation: EHDS is a necessary national step towards organizing health data access across Europe. Legal and organizational changes will need to be done in any case.
- From cost crisis to RDI opportunity (Research-development-innovation) : Health care is not just a critical cost item, but it is an opportunity for growth and innovation => solve national challenges and develop solutions and products for global markets
- AI opportunity: Mankind's biggest investment and opportunity to speed up progression => How can we use AI to understand health at a national level and increase cost-effectiveness, automation and quality of health care

Unlocking Europe's Health Data: An Overview of the European Health Data Space (EHDS)



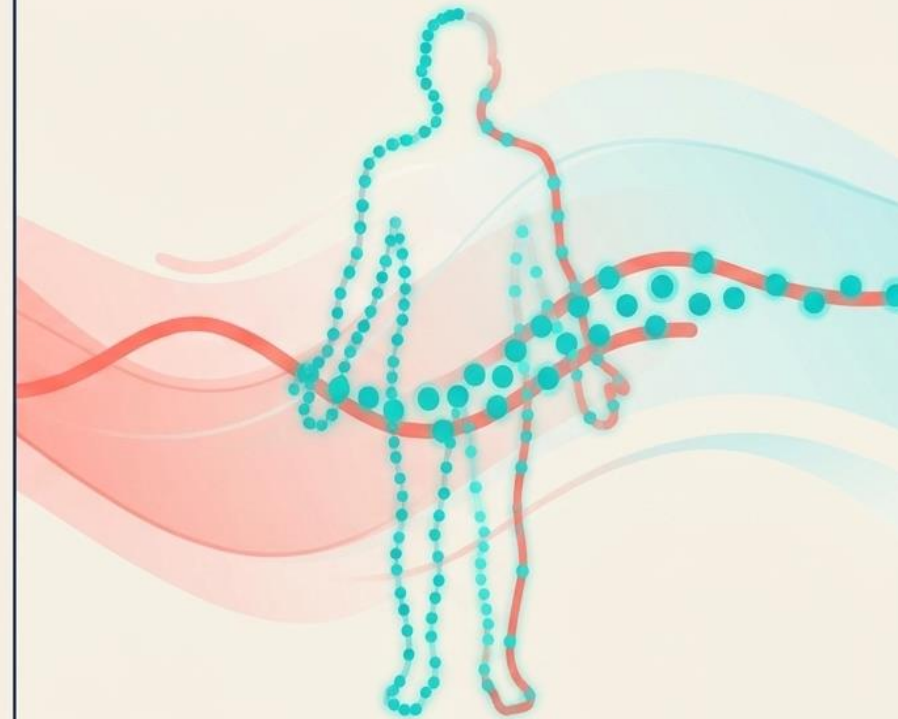
EHDS motivation = FHDS motivation

Health data follows people — not health care regions or organisations

Healthcare is organized around institutions.



Health data must be organized around individuals.



~**20%** move between regions over 10 years
(*estimated from 2.4% annual interregional moves*)

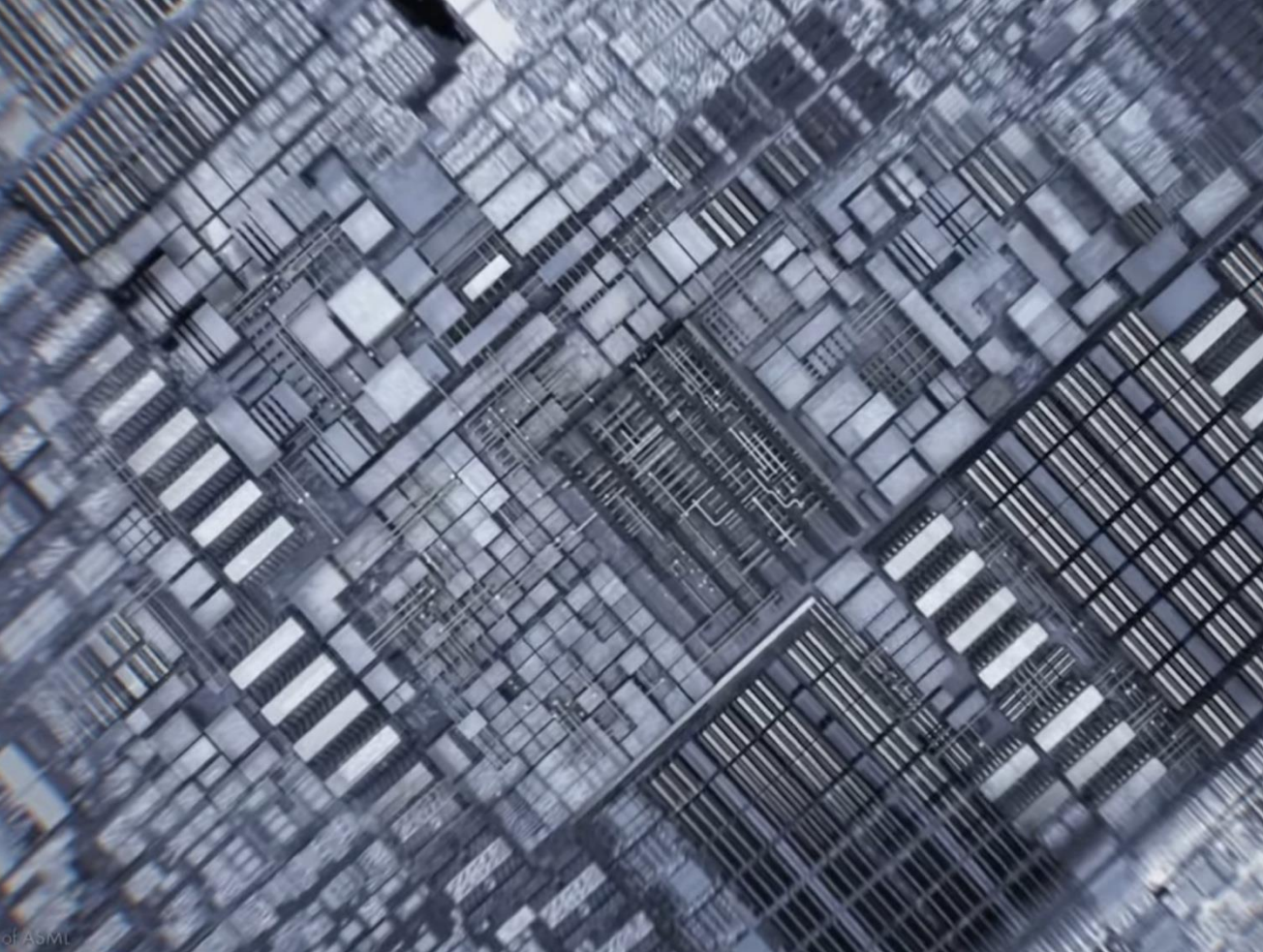
~**70%** of employed people use occupational healthcare

~**25%** of the population use Kela-reimbursed private physician services annually

~**12%** of the population has a foreign background

~**1.3%** of the population moves across Finland's national borders each year

References for the data: Statistics Finland, *Migration 2025* Migration statistics; Finnish Institute of Occupational Health/THL, *Use of occupational health services* Occupational healthcare data; Kela, *Private physician reimbursements* Private healthcare statistics; Statistics Finland, *Population structure 2025* Foreign-background population statistics.



Progress is expedited in the AI era:
560 billion dollars spent in datacenters
in 2025-2026



AI can be transformed by breakthroughs and investments in < 6 mos.
In healthcare, implementing even a small change takes > 6 years.

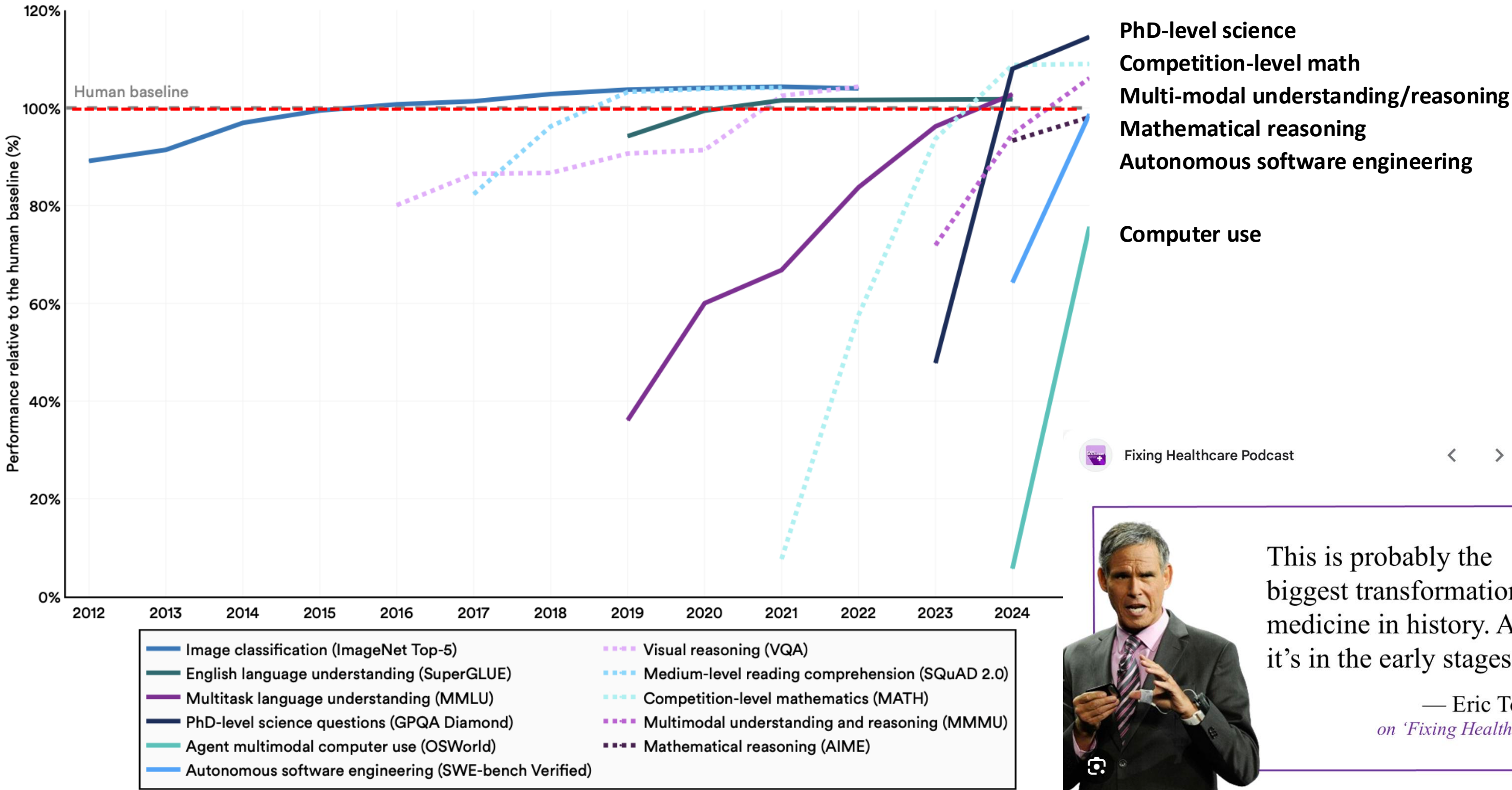


100s of billions are spent to build data centers in space
while we cannot get health data shared at a national level....

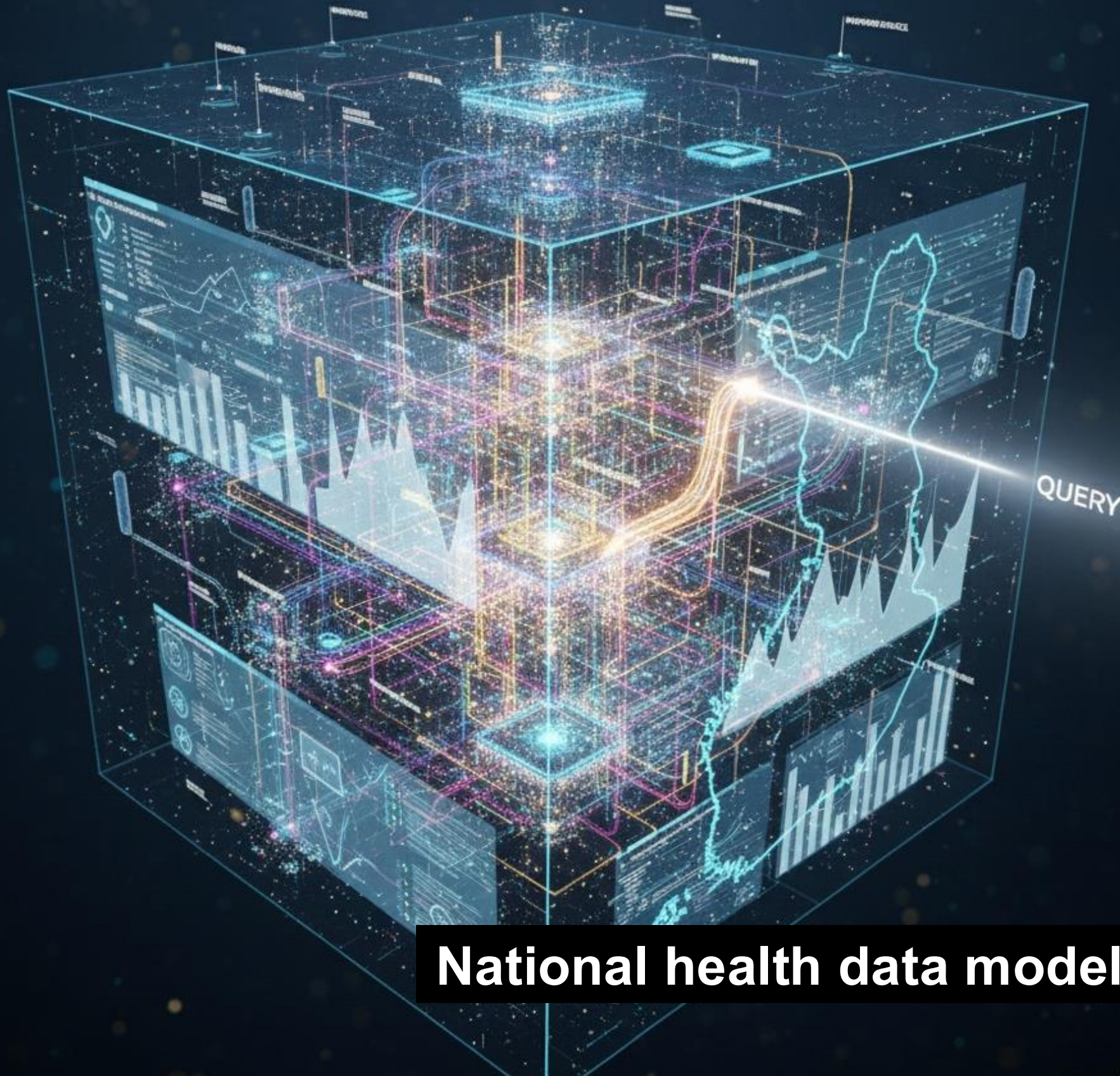
AI will have a transformative impact in health care (when fully implemented)

Select AI Index technical performance benchmarks vs. human performance

Source: AI Index, 2026 | Chart: 2026 AI Index report



FHDS: Finnish health data space



National health data model

Nationwide health data

- Registry data
- Longitudinal health data
- Diagnoses & Therapies
- Lab values and images
- EHR systems
- Healthcare costs
- Trajectories and outcomes
- Environmental and life style factors, drug use, interventions
- Genomics, biobanks, research
- Distinct views and uses:
Patients, physicians, hc operators, government, industry, AI developers etc.

World-Class Assets in Finland

Starting point



DATA ADVANTAGES

- **National Registers** (Longitudinal data covering entire lifecycles)
- **Kanta Services** (100% population coverage)
- **Diverse Clinical Data** (EHRs, imaging, pathology)
- **FinnGen & Biobanks** (Unique genomic data, 500k+ samples)



PROCESS & LEGISLATION

- **Secondary Data Act** (Clear legal framework for data use)
- **Findata** (Single permit authority for health data)
- **SPEs** (Kapseli, 10 other SPEs)
- **EHDS legal implementation**



CAPABILITIES

- **EuroHPC LUMI** (World-class supercomputing power)
- **AI & ML Expertise** (Strong research community & talent pool)
- **Health Tech Ecosystem** (Vibrant startup & innovation landscape)
- **Digital Infrastructure** (High connectivity & advanced networks)



We just need to bring them together.

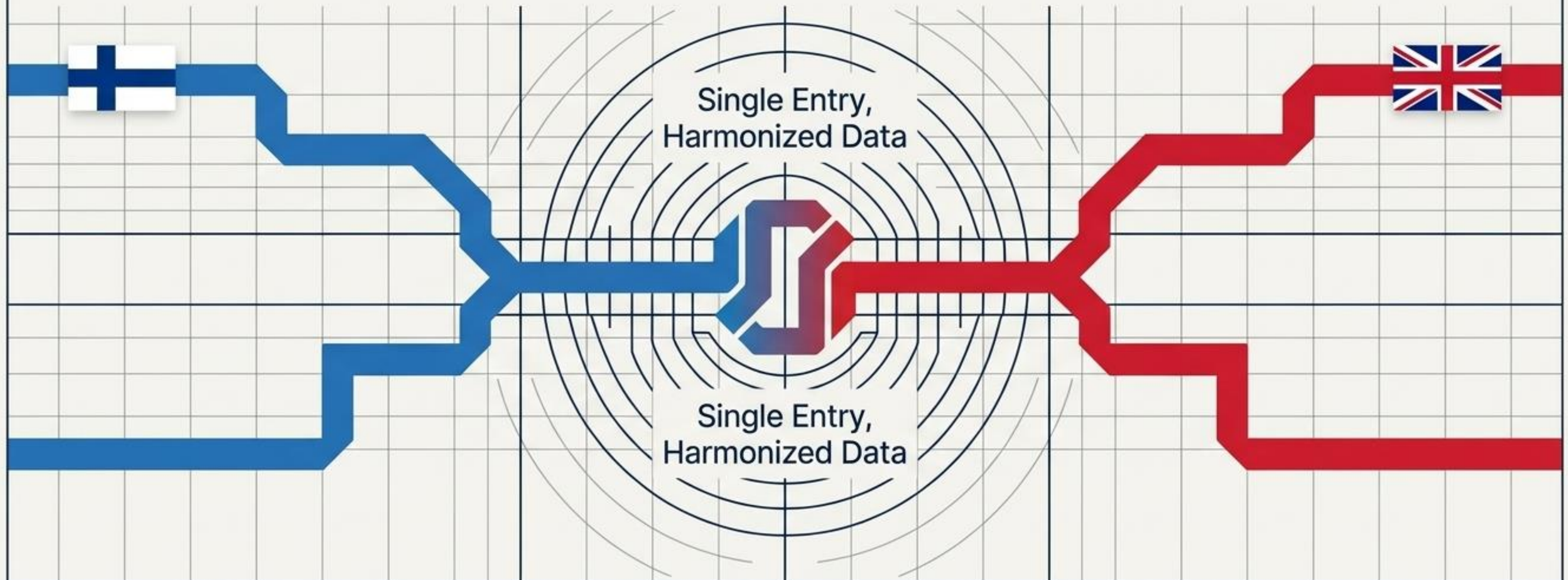
The reality of Finnish Health Data today: A Patchwork Quilt

- 21 wellbeing regions + HUS (silos)
- Distinct EHR systems & vendor lock-ins
- Complex legislation & national and EU
- Many data controllers, many independent decision makers



Architecting the Future of Health Data

A Strategic Blueprint Comparison: Finland's Health Data Space (FHDS) [🇫🇮]
& The UK's Health Data Research Service (HDRS) [🇬🇧].



Two Nations, Parallel Visions



FINLAND

Initiative: Finnish Health Data Space (FHDS)

Drivers: Sitra & Ministry of Social Affairs and Health (STM)

Timeline: **2026–2031** rollout

Core Mandate: European Health Data Space (EHDS) compliance, national data harmonization, and AI readiness.



UK

Initiative: Health Data Research Service (HDRS)

Drivers: UK Government & Wellcome Trust (Public-Philanthropic Partnership)

Funding: **£600M** total (£500M Gov + £100M Wellcome)

Timeline: Initial launch end of **2026**

Core Mandate: One-stop entry for precision medicine and accelerating clinical trials.

The UK Blueprint: **Six Functional Pillars** of the HDRS

Joint National Functions (HDRS Services)



1. Comprehensive Records:
Linked primary care, hospital, and mortality data.



2. Research-ready Datasets:
Integration with world-leading cohort studies and biobanks.



3. Advanced Diagnostics:
Unlocking genomic data, lab results, and imaging.



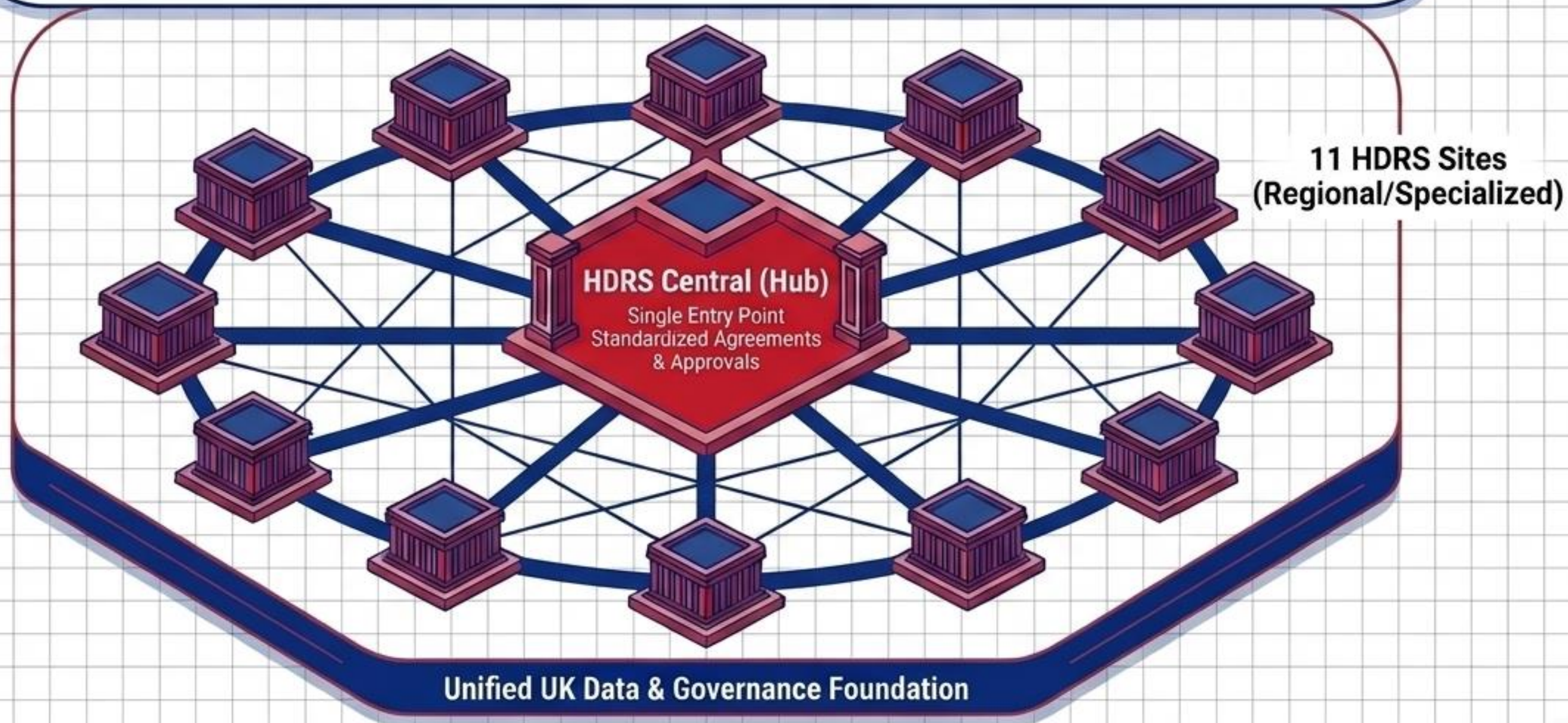
4. Faster Clinical Trials:
Deep integration with platforms like NHS DigiTrials.



5. Simpler Access:
Standardized agreements and unified approval processes.



6. Linked Data:
Cross-referencing health with environmental and social determinants.

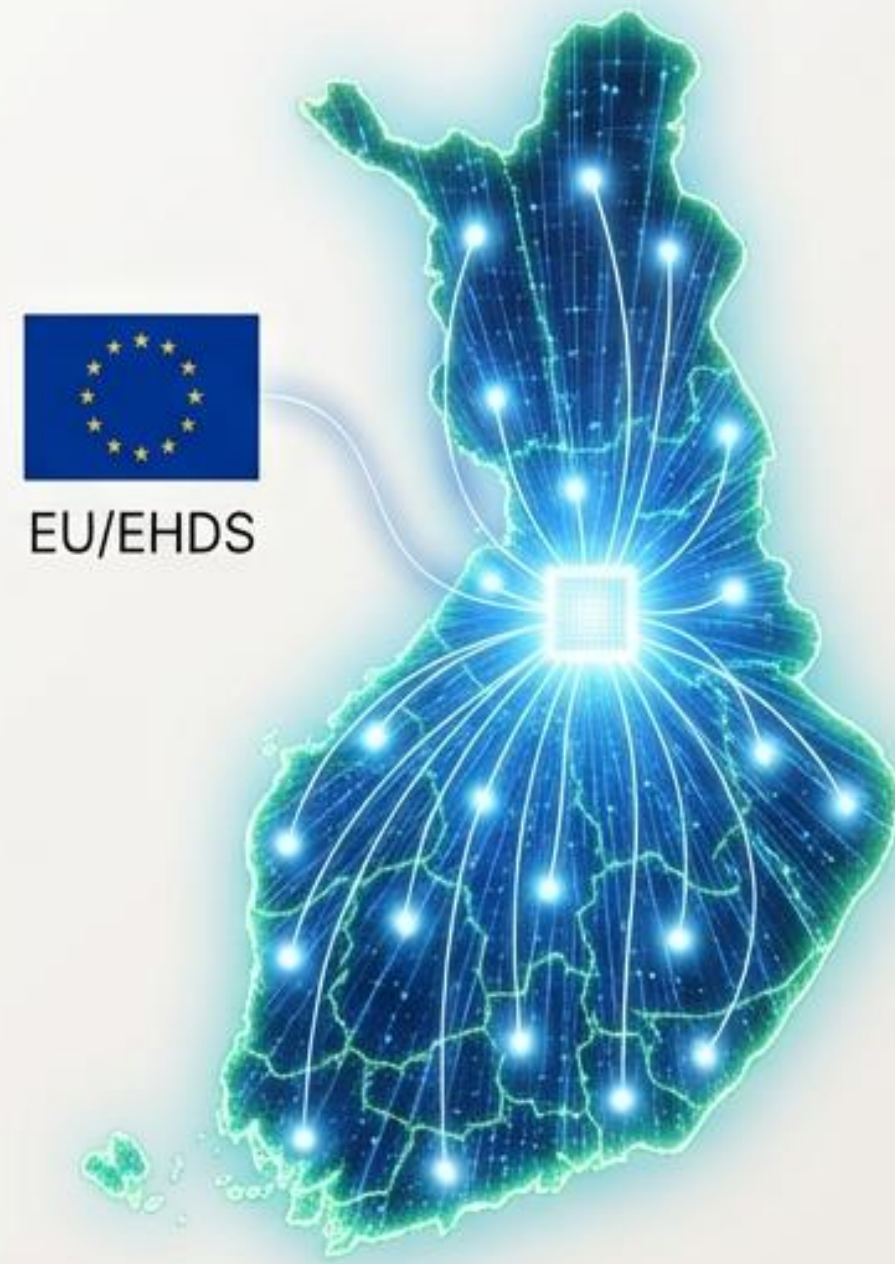


The Vision: From Patchwork to Network

Aligning Finland with the European Health Data Space (EHDS)



Fragmented Silos



Unified National Network

The reality of Finnish Health Data today: A Patchwork Quilt

- 21 wellbeing regions + HUS (silos)
- Distinct EHR systems & vendor lock-ins
- Complex legislation & national and EU
- Many data controllers, many independent decision makers

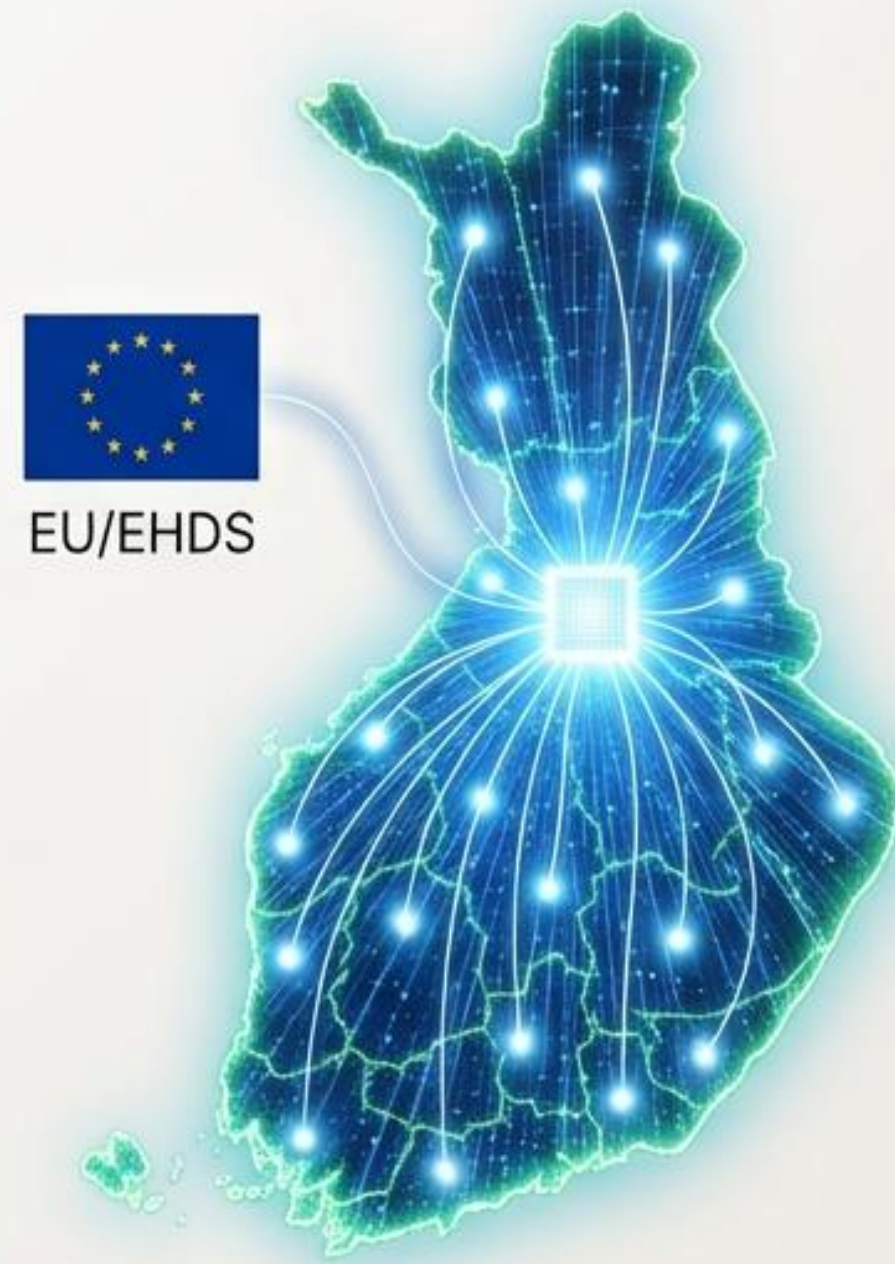


The Vision: From Patchwork to Network

Aligning Finland with the European Health Data Space (EHDS)



Fragmented Silos



Unified National Network

The Strategic Architecture: The 1-1-1 Model



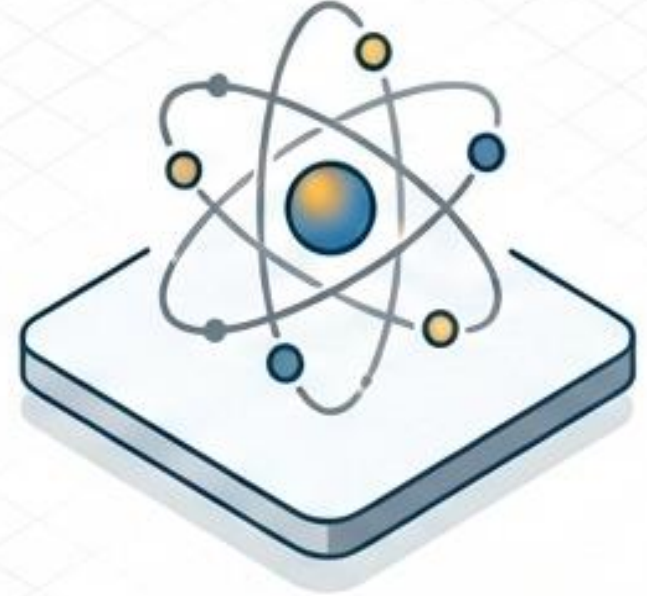
FHDS-DATA

One Infrastructure.



FHDS-PERMIT

One Gatekeeper.



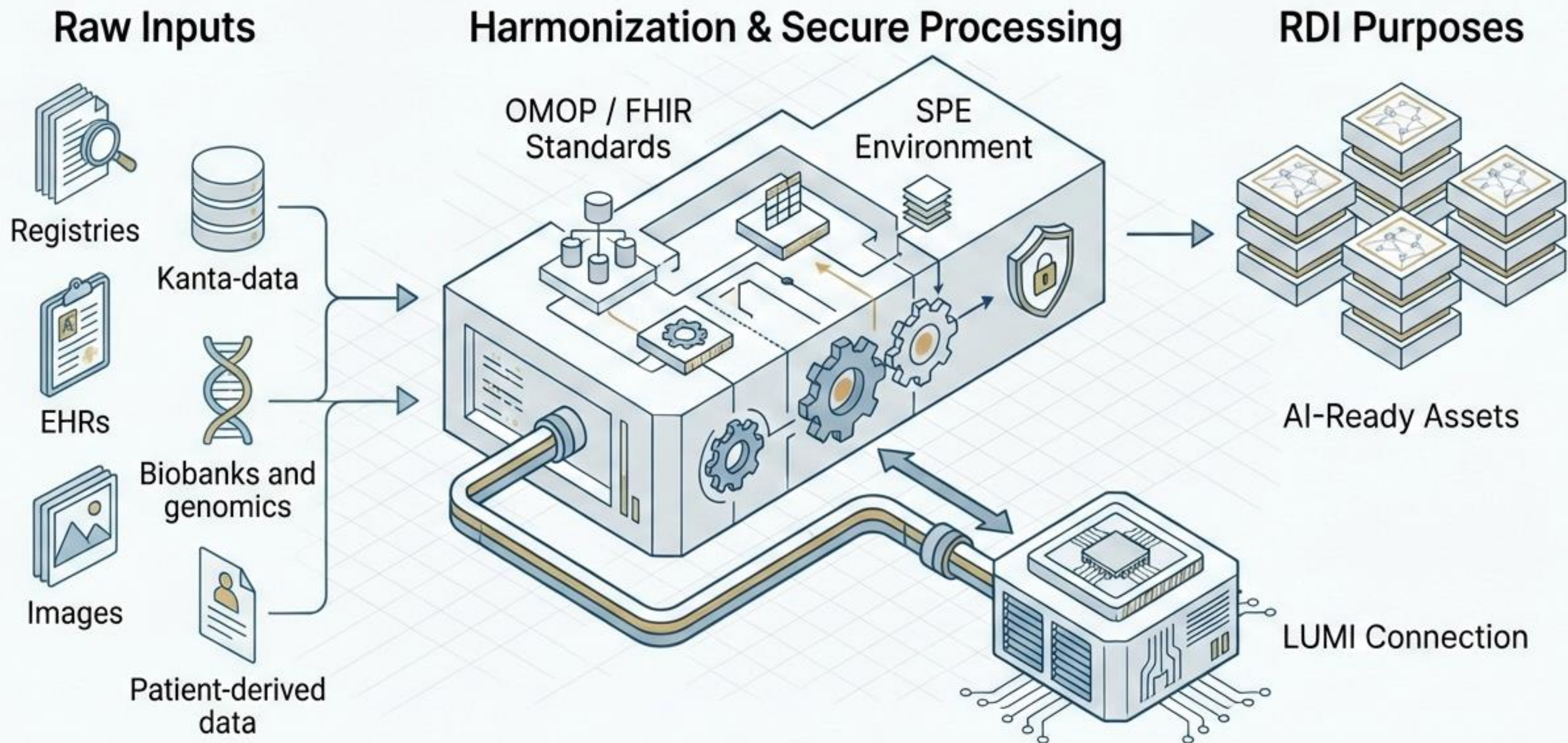
FHDS-RDI

One research and innovation engine.

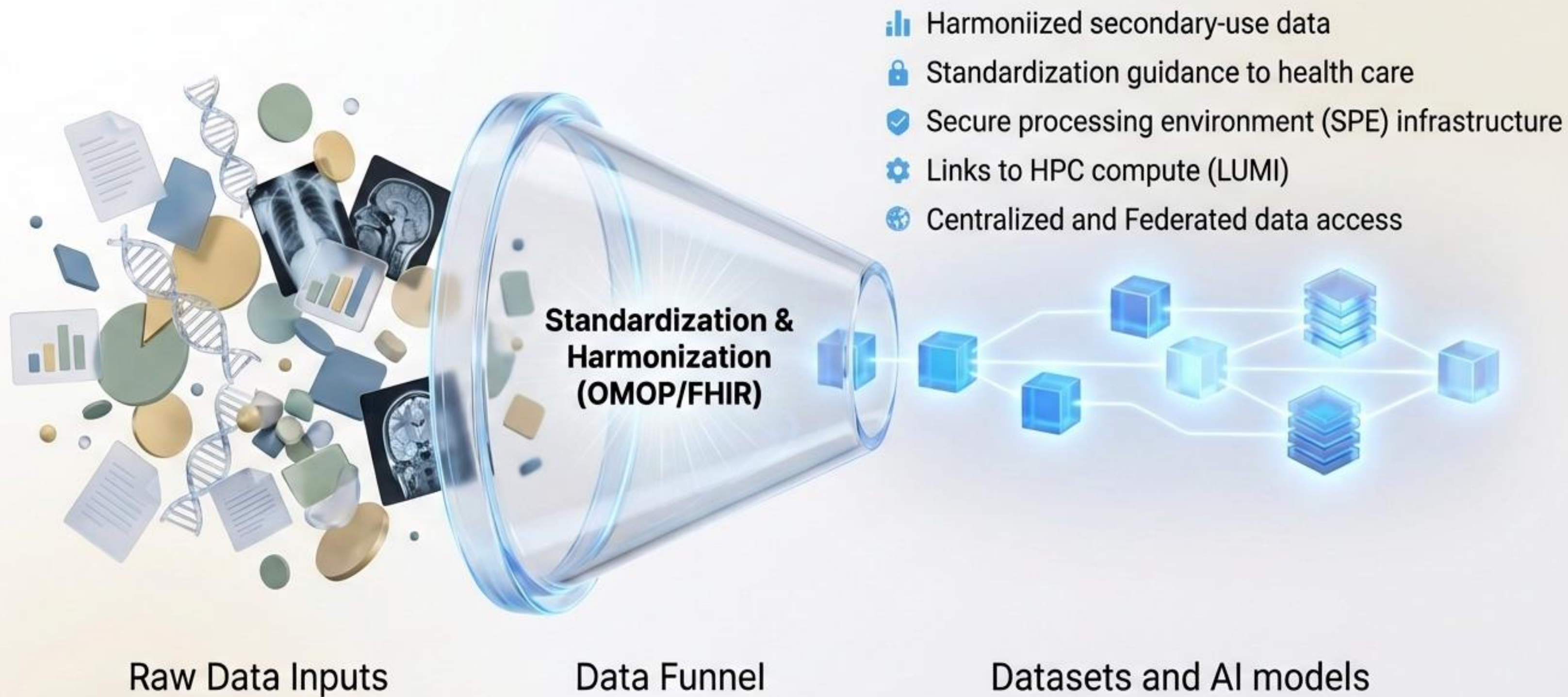


National Advantage.

FHDS-DATA: The National Data Factory

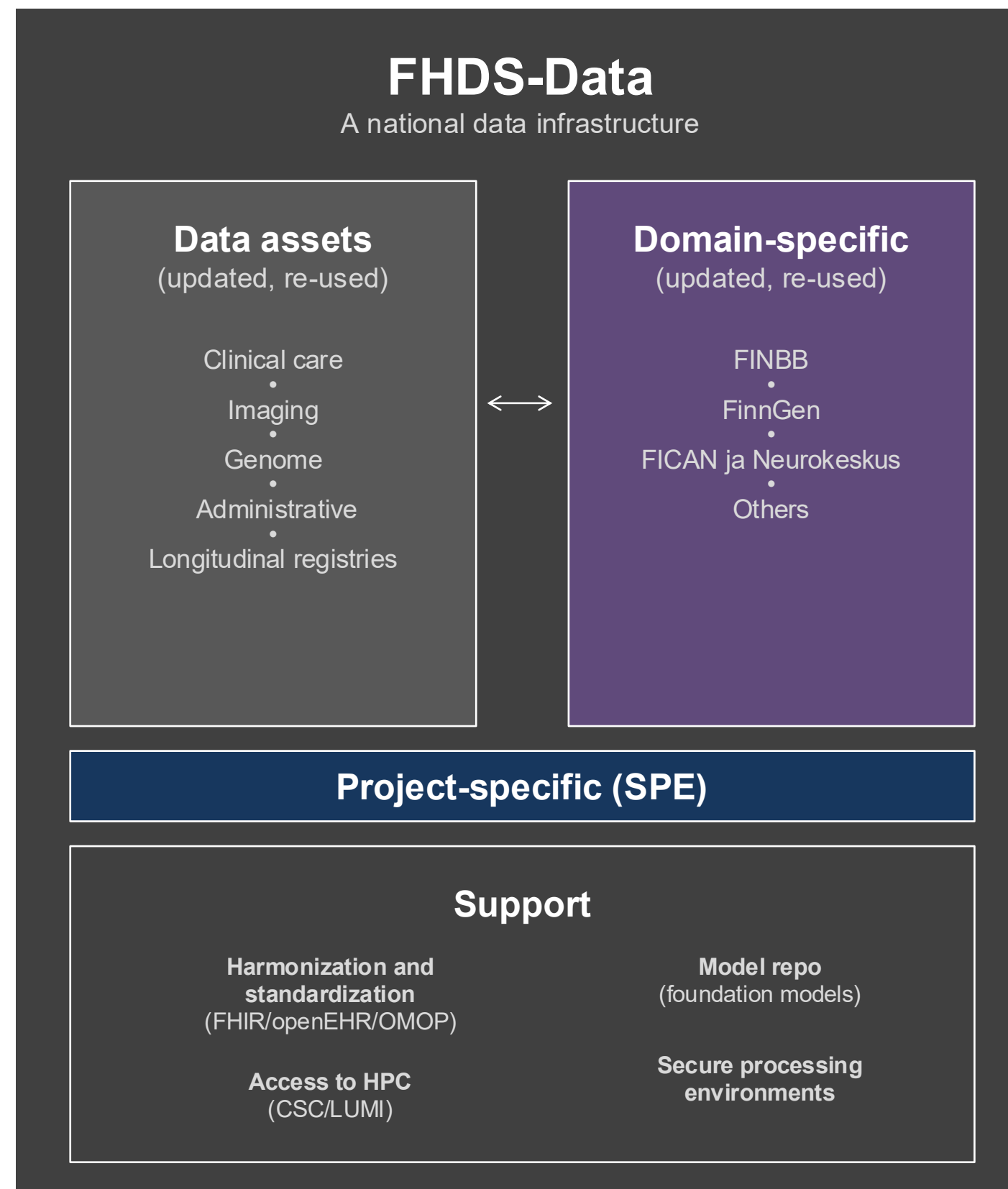


FHDS-Data: Standardized, secure, ready to use datasets

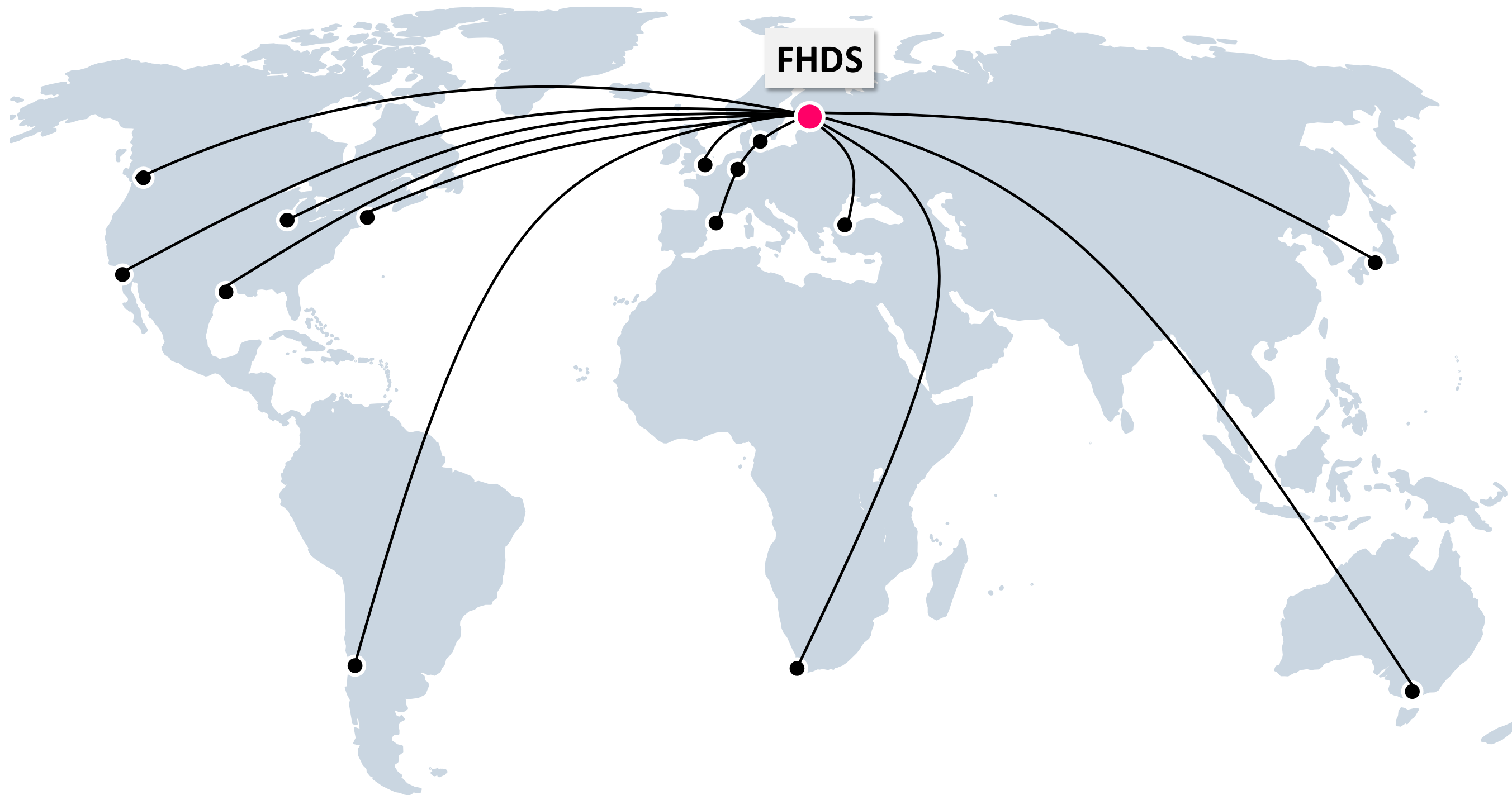


FHDS – Data

- patient-centric, FAIR infrastructure
- federated & centralized



FHDS: centralized and federated



FHDS-PERMIT: Streamlined Governance & Trust

Built on Trust and Individual Rights



-  MyData (OmaKanta): Citizens see who uses their data.
-  Opt-Out Mechanism: Clear right to restrict secondary use.
-  Transparency: Data usage must return value to the individual's treatment.
-  Recruitment/collaboration: Recall option for follow-up studies, samples, interventions.



One Application: One central application (Findata-style)



GDPR & EHDS Compliance: Ensures citizen trust.



Citizen Control: Opt-out mechanisms & transparency.

EHDS: coordinating health data access body (HDAB)



FHDS-RDI: The research and innovation engine

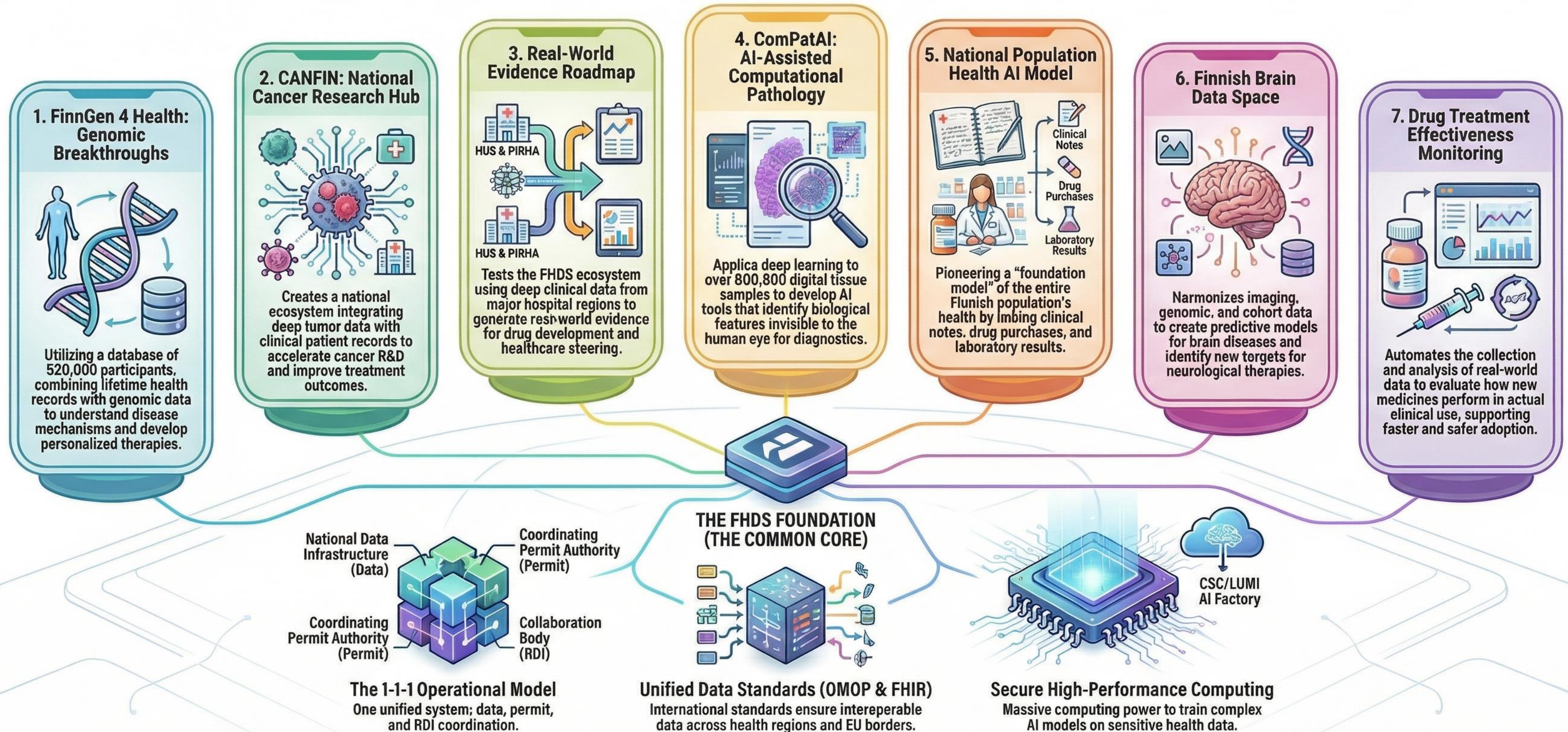
A collaborative hub for Research, Development, and Innovation.
Goal: Move from academic papers to “AI-to-Bedside” real-world applications.



FHDS: The Seven Pillars of Finland's Health Data Revolution

Showcasing seven proof-of-concept pillar projects demonstrating the practical implementation and value of the Finnish Health Data Space initiative.

PILLAR PROJECTS



Proposal

Monitoring treatment effectiveness: a regulatory pilot study

Transparent, standardized, high-quality real-world evidence on
treatment value following COHERE
(Finnish national HTA body) recommendation



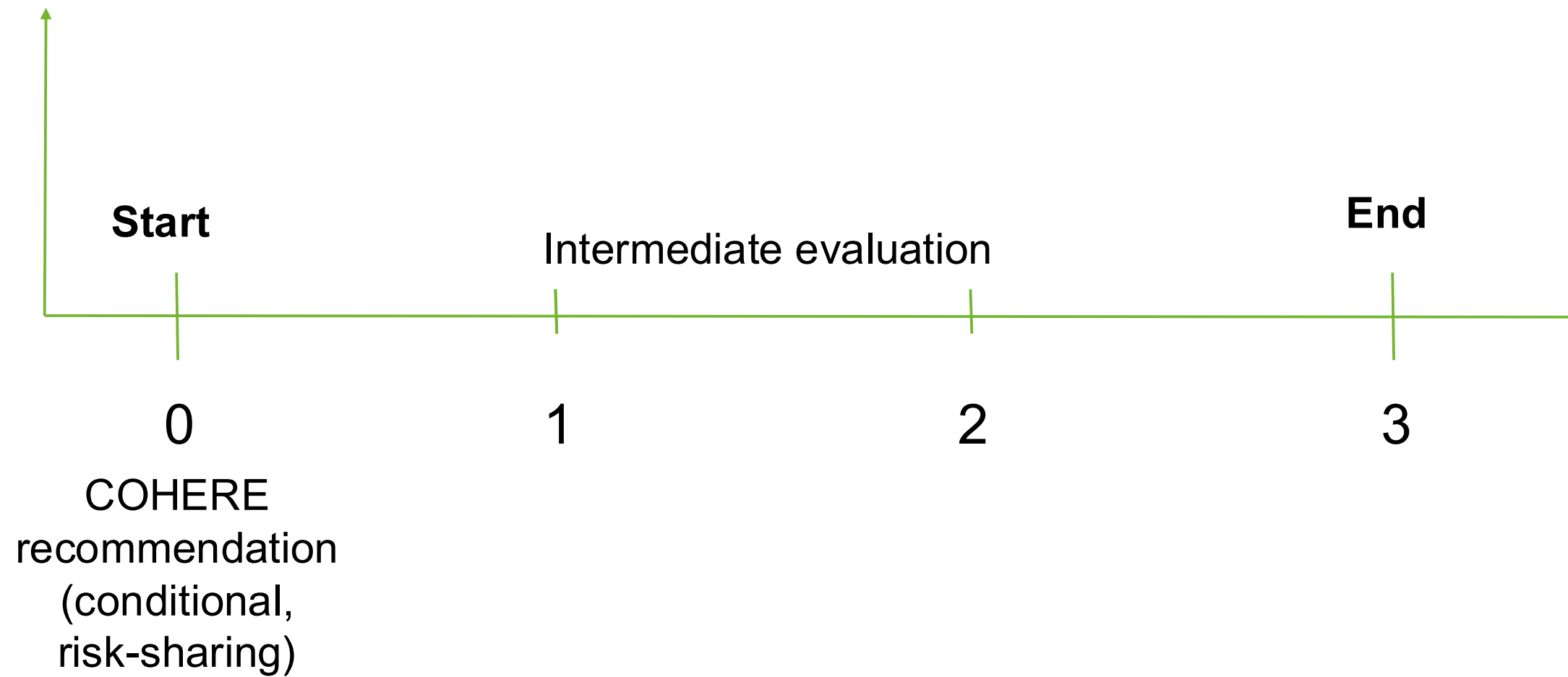
Aims

- For a given drug, at the time of preparations for COHORE recommendations, design and perform a prospective data collection in the FinOMOP network for generating regulatory-grade evidence and estimation of value in a real-world setting
- Generate experience and expertise in running federated studies, standardized analytics and regulatory reporting

Study design

- Prospective data generation, retrospective analysis (secondary use of data)
- Defined set of outcome variables
 - Value: efficacy/outcome, toxicity (ICD-10, lab values, CTCAE?), based on label
 - Comorbidities
 - Other (healthcare resource use?)

Study design



- Inclusion and follow-up criteria
 - Indication-specific or broader (real-life use)
 - All stakeholders contributing (transparency)

Methods

- Federated and centralized (comparison)
- All FinOMOP sites, THL (complementary, primary care)
- Regulatory-grade, standardized RWE: OHDSI, DARWIN tooling

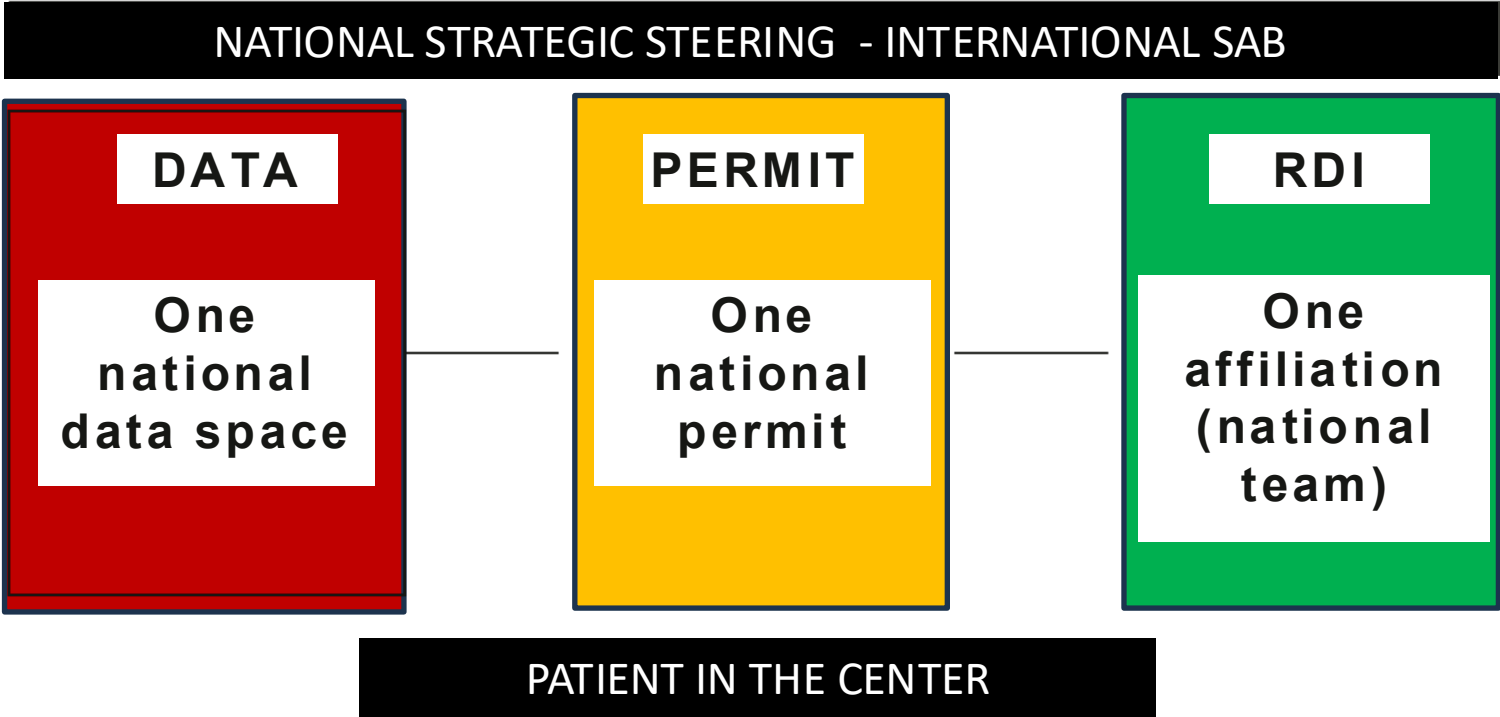
Significance

- Access to reliable, transparent/neutral, high-quality RWD/RWE
 - Streamline processes, transparency, predictability
 - Facilitate timely access to new drugs
-
- Drugs providing value included in treatment/service choices
 - Nordic extension (post-VALO)?

1 — 1 — 1 - model

Three national organizations, one mandate, patient in the center

FHDS — DATA	FHDS — PERMIT	FHDS — RDI
ONE NATIONAL HEALTH DATA INFRA	ONE PERMIT AUTHORITY	ONE R&D&I ORGANIZATION
Standardized, deep, real-time. A national data system operated by a government official – not a research organization	One door, one decision, EHDS-coordinated. Does not make local decision on data use, only national .	Brings researchers to the data via an affiliation model – cross-disciplinary (health data and data science), company collaborations, internationally connected



The Roadmap to 2030



*“Ask not what the Finnish Health Data Space can do for you,
ask what you can do for your Finnish Health Data Space.”*

And now what?

Ministry of health and social affairs:

- Committee planning the organization of national health data

Ministry of finance, next government plan?

Research & development

- Let research show the way

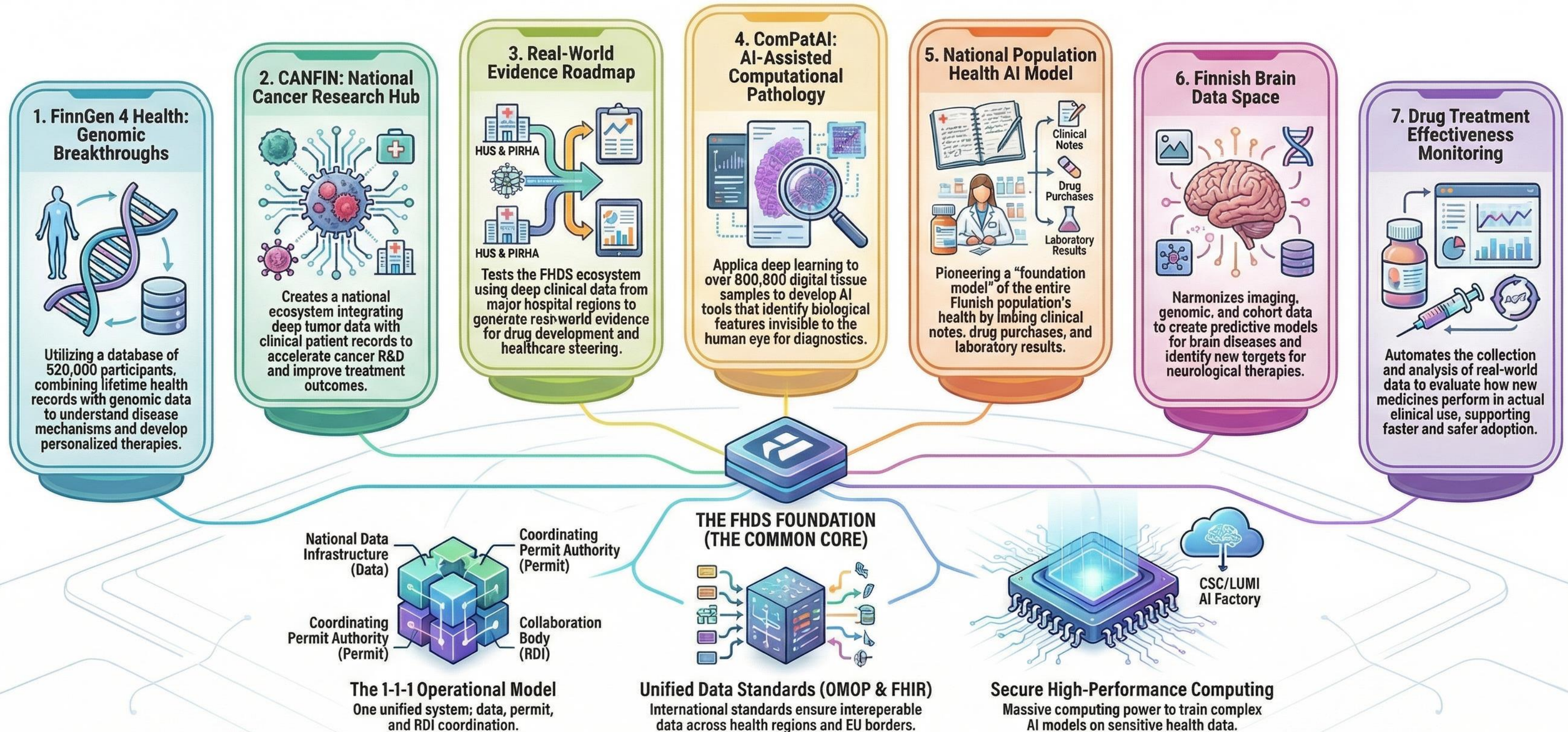
EHDS legislation

Nordic and European dimensions

FHDS: The Seven Pillars of Finland's Health Data Revolution

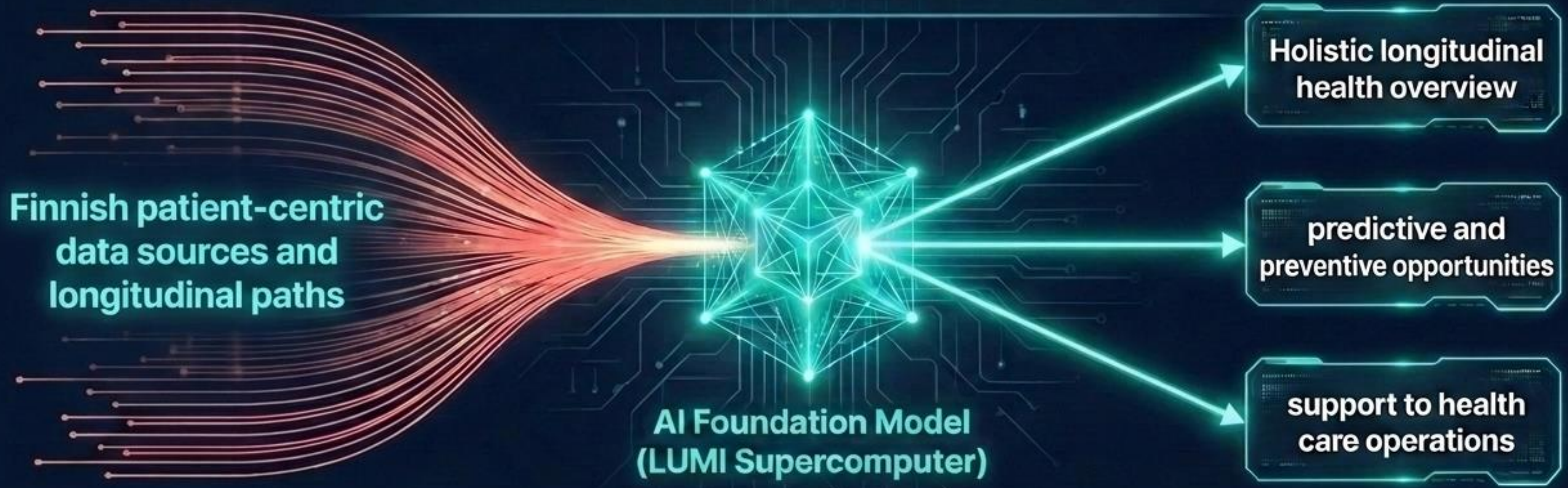
Showcasing seven proof-of-concept pillar projects demonstrating the practical implementation and value of the Finnish Health Data Space initiative.

PILLAR PROJECTS



Finland's nationwide healthcare foundation model is nearly ready, powered by patient-centric holistic data from 7 million people.

“ We are going to build the world's first nationwide healthcare foundation model. ”
— Samuel Kaski, ELLIS Institute Finland



Bring existing capabilities in Finland together

[Citizens](#) / [Instructions](#) / [MyKanta](#)

MyKanta



MyKanta is a nationwide online service in which you can view your health care and social welfare data. Always log in to MyKanta on the kanta.fi website. You can also use the MyKanta application, which you can download on your phone.

In the MyKanta online service, you can, for example,

- read entries related to your care and view the results of your laboratory tests
- request a prescription renewal
- see client data from social services
- record a living will and an organ donation testament
- have a say in how your data will be used in health care and social welfare.

In the future, you will also be able to view your appointments for various services in MyKanta. This will become possible within the next few years.

[Log in to MyKanta](#) 



Download the MyKanta-application on your phone



Finnish Social and Health Data Permit Authority Findata

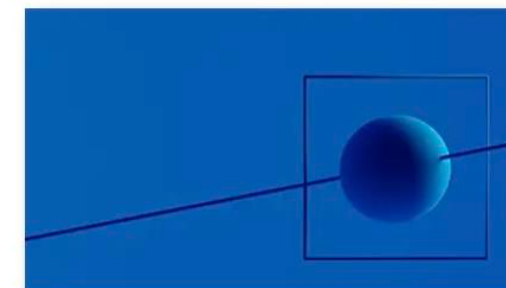
We grant permits for the secondary use of social and health care data and improve data protection for individuals. After granting the permit we compile, combine and pre-process it and offer tools for analysing.



Data sources

See which data controllers' data are available, who grants the permits and where you can find data descriptions.

[DATA](#)



Apply for a permit

Submit an application when the data needed is from several public data controllers, the private sector or from Kanta Services.

[PERMITS](#)



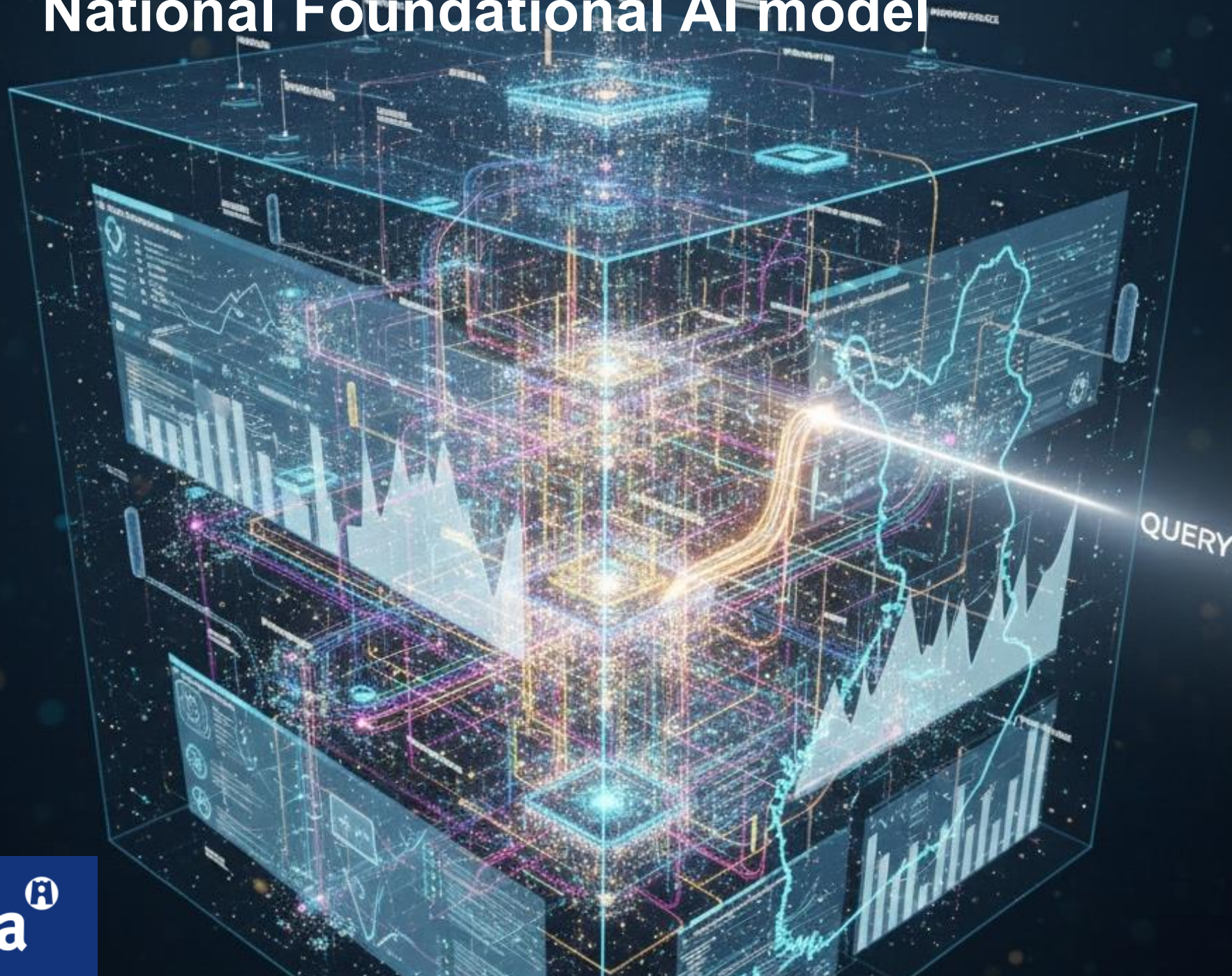
Information for citizens

Learn what your data is used for, what your rights under the GDPR are, and how we take care of your privacy.

[YOUR DATA RIGHTS](#)

FHDS: Finnish Health Data Space

National Foundational AI model



Nation-scale health data analysis (A. Ganna et al. 2026)

- 7 M Finns
- 620 M diagnosis
- 1.1 Billion prescriptions
- 1.4 Billion lab tests
- Education and socioeconomic data

UH, FIMM, Kela, FinData, Ellis-Institute
(Andrea Ganna /Samuel Kaski et al. 2026)

”Pillarproject” in the EHDS plan



INSTITUTE
FINLAND



What about the Nordic-EU level?

We cannot afford to reinvent "AI wheels" in the 21st century

20+ health care regions

5 nordic countries

27 EU member states



1 EHDS

Nordics as a model and testbed for the development of EHDS as an AI-enabled health data collaboration

An AI-Health infrastructure for the Nordic region: technical foundations, data assets, and a roadmap for deployment

⇒ Nordic research councils starting joint planning

Ole A. Andreassen, Hakon Heimer, Dag Aarsland, Anders M. Dale, Daníel Gudbjartsson, Bo Jacobsson, Ingrid Kockum, Tuuli Lappalainen, Andres Metspalu, Lili Milani, Pål R. Njølstad, Aarno Palotie, Samuli Ripatti, Anders Sandvik, Olav B. Smeland, Hreinn Stefánsson, Kári Stefánsson, Marc Vaudel, Jaak Vilo, Thomas Werge, Søren Brunak & Olli Kallioniemi



In this Comment, we outline the Nordic AI-Health Initiative platform, built on unique large-scale longitudinal and multimodal health data sets from across the region. The platform is designed to enable secure, regulation-compliant access and to deliver generalizable models for responsible AI-driven discovery in medicine.

Multinational Nordic

- NewNordic.ai: collaborative framework for applied AI initiated by the Nordic Council of Ministers and Nordic Innovation, with partners AI Sweden, AI Finland, Digital Dogme (DK), TEK Norway, Almannarómur (IS).
- Nordic AI Partnership: collaborative framework between major academic AI centers in Denmark (P1), Finland (FCAI), Iceland (CADIA), Norway (NORA), and Sweden (WASP).
- Value from Nordic Health Data (VALO): project funded by the Nordic Council of Ministers to prepare for implementation of EHDS.

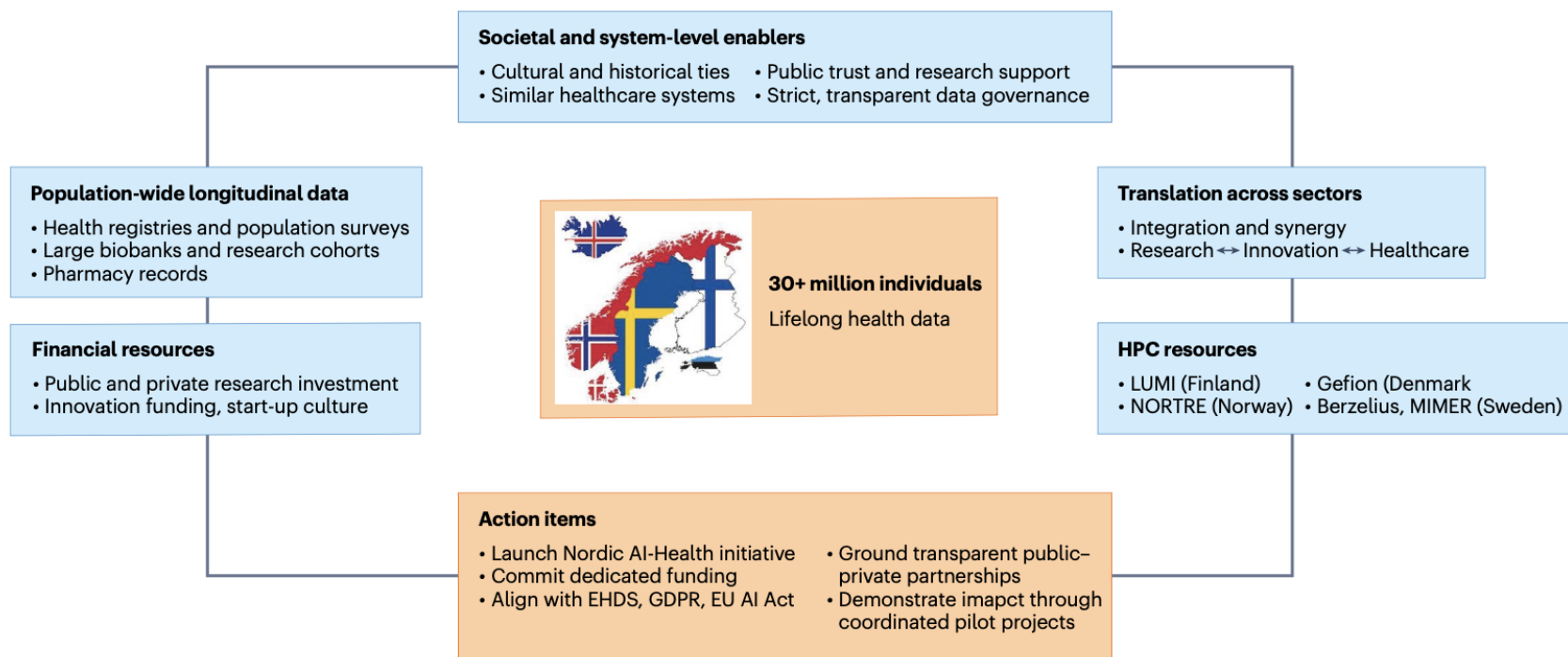
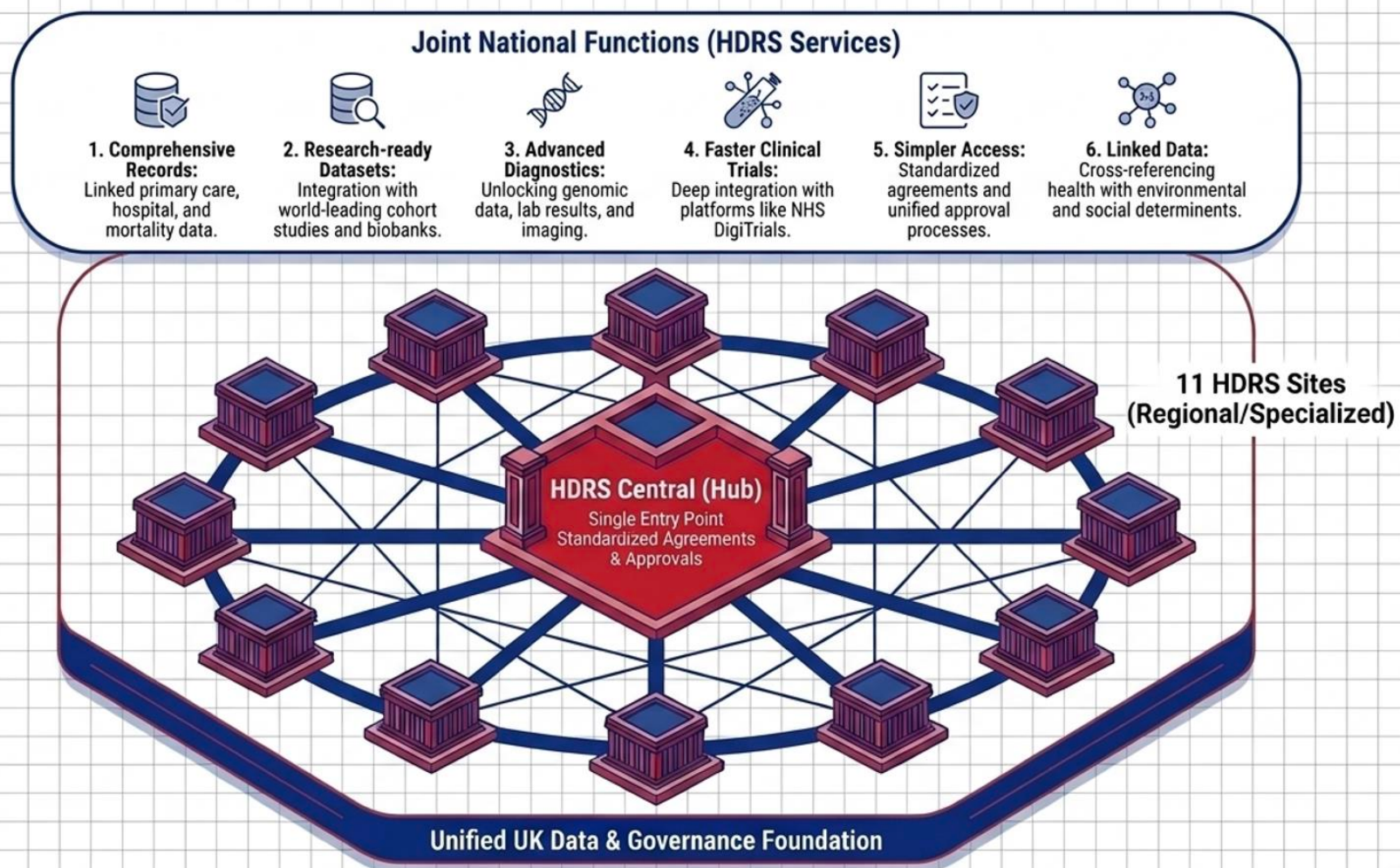


Fig. 1 | A federated Nordic health ecosystem for AI-driven discovery and translation. Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden, along with Estonia, share a unique combination of universal healthcare systems serving more than 30 million people, strong digital infrastructure, large-scale biobanks, high

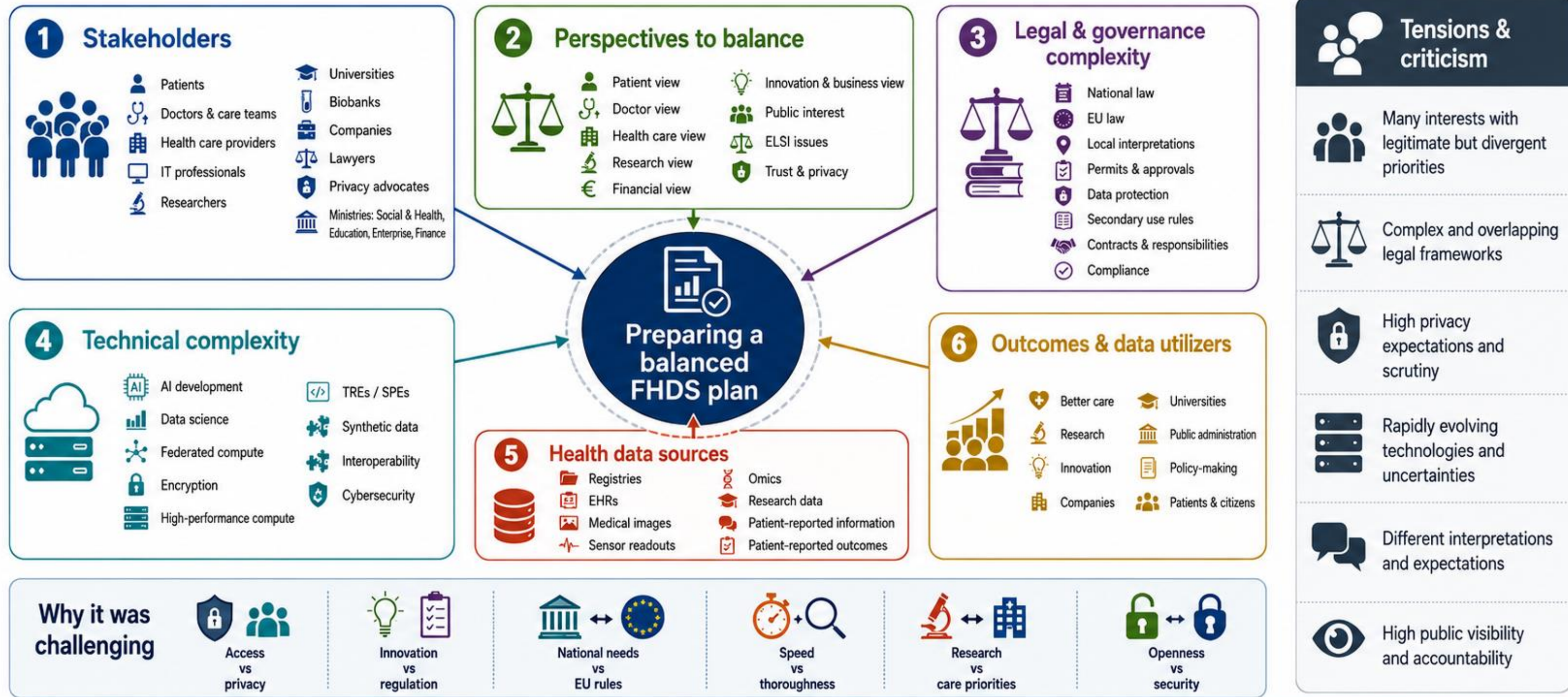
public trust, financial and computational resources, and the means to link decades of population-wide lifespan health and social registries to clinical and biochemical data.

The UK Blueprint: Six Functional Pillars of the HDRS



Why preparing the FHDS plan was so complex

A balanced report had to reconcile many stakeholders, laws, technologies, data sources and expectations.



The task was inherently difficult: any serious FHDS plan had to be broad, balanced and evidence-based — and was bound to attract both attention and criticism.

WEBINAR

After VALO: the Finnish Health Data Space

This webinar explores the proposal for the Finnish Health Data Space (FHDS), a national initiative to unify Finland's fragmented health data infrastructure. It is part of a webinar series discussing collaboration in the secondary use of health data across the Nordics and Baltics.

**SCHEDULE**

Tuesday 25.08.2026 at 16.00-17.30

REGISTRATION

Register for the webinar →

GMT/UTC+3

SEE ALSO

[Safe space principles](#)



Plan for Next Webinars

- September 1: IQVIA
 - September 8: New Ideas
 - September 15: NNF
-
- Tuesdays, 15.00 CET

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