

**WEBINAR**

# After VALO: Funding opportunities with the Novo Nordisk Foundation

This webinar presents funding opportunities from Novo Nordisk Foundation (in open competition) and invites participants to a discussion on challenges, needs, and opportunities around Nordic health data. It is part of a webinar series exploring collaboration in the secondary use of health data across the Nordics and Baltics.

**SCHEDULE**

Tuesday 15.09.2026 at 16.00-17.30

EEST/UTC+3

**REGISTRATION**

[Register for the webinar](#) →

**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



SITRA

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?

**SITRA**

# Follow Us!



[sitra.fi/valo](https://sitra.fi/valo)

@SitraFund



@Sitra **in**





Novo Nordisk Foundation

# Funding opportunities in open competition and collaboration potential for Nordic health data

$$\log \mathcal{L} = \sum_{\text{reg}} \sum_i \log \left( \frac{1}{d_i} \text{NB}(p(d_2 - d_1) | \tau_1, \tau_2, \tau_1, \tau_2) \right)$$
$$\left[ \frac{MR}{K} (1-s) \right]^{-MK} = G_n(s; MR, MK) \quad \Delta \tau \triangleq d_2 - d_1 = \tau_2 + t_2 - \tau_1$$
$$\left[ \frac{PR}{K} (1-s) \right]^{-K} = G_n(s; PR, K) \quad p(\tau_d, d) = \frac{p(\tau_d) T(d)}{\sum_d p(\tau_d + d) T(d + d)}$$

$$\frac{z(t)}{t} = f(z(t), \theta, t)$$

$$= -alt) \frac{\partial f(z, \theta, t)}{\partial z}$$

$$\int_{alt}^{tn} \frac{\partial \mathcal{L}(z(t), \theta, t)}{\partial \theta} dt$$

$$y''(x) = f(x) \Rightarrow D_2 y = f$$

$$D_2 = \frac{1}{\Delta x^2}$$

$$D_2 y = f \Leftrightarrow y = D_2^{-1} f$$

$$1 = D_2^{-1} D_2 \Rightarrow \partial_x 1 = \partial_x D_2^{-1} D_2$$

$$\begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & \dots \\ 1 & -2 & 1 & \dots \\ 0 & 1 & -2 & 1 & \dots \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & -2 & 1 & \dots \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots \end{pmatrix}$$

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# Agenda

1. Introduction to the Novo Nordisk Foundation Strategy 2030
2. Funding opportunities in open competition for Nordic applicants and collaborators
3. Recent support for health data access and use
4. Discussion





Novo Nordisk  
Foundation

The **vision** of the Novo Nordisk Foundation is to improve people's health and the sustainability of society and the planet

The Novo Nordisk Foundation is an independent Danish enterprise foundation with three philanthropic purposes:

- To support physiological, endocrinological, metabolic and other medical research,
- to support research hospital activities within diabetes in Denmark, and
- to support other scientific as well as humanitarian and social purposes.

In addition, the Foundation has a special obligation to safeguard and maintain a controlling influence in the Novo Group companies\*.

\* The Novo Group comprises Novo Nordisk A/S, Novonesis A/S and Novo Holdings A/S, and companies in which Novo Holdings A/S may hold a material equity interest or over which it may have material influence.

# The Novo Nordisk Foundation Strategy 2030

## Health

Progress research and innovation in the prevention and management of cardiometabolic and infectious diseases, regenerative medicine, and equitable health outcomes

- 1 Preventing and managing cardiometabolic diseases
- 2 Decreasing the burden and threat of infectious diseases
- 3 Advancing and applying regenerative medicine
- 4 Reducing inequity in health

## The Life science ecosystem

Invest in scientific research, education and innovation to enable a world class life science ecosystem

- 1 Fundamental research
- 2 Enabling research infrastructures and technologies
- 3 Translational capacity and societal impact
- 4 Education and science capital

## Sustainability

Advance knowledge and solutions to support the green transition in society

- 1 Sustainable and high-yield agriculture
- 2 Sustainable food for healthy diets
- 3 High-impact climate change mitigation technologies
- 4 Supporting society in the green transition

# Facts & Figures 2025

2,206

grants awarded

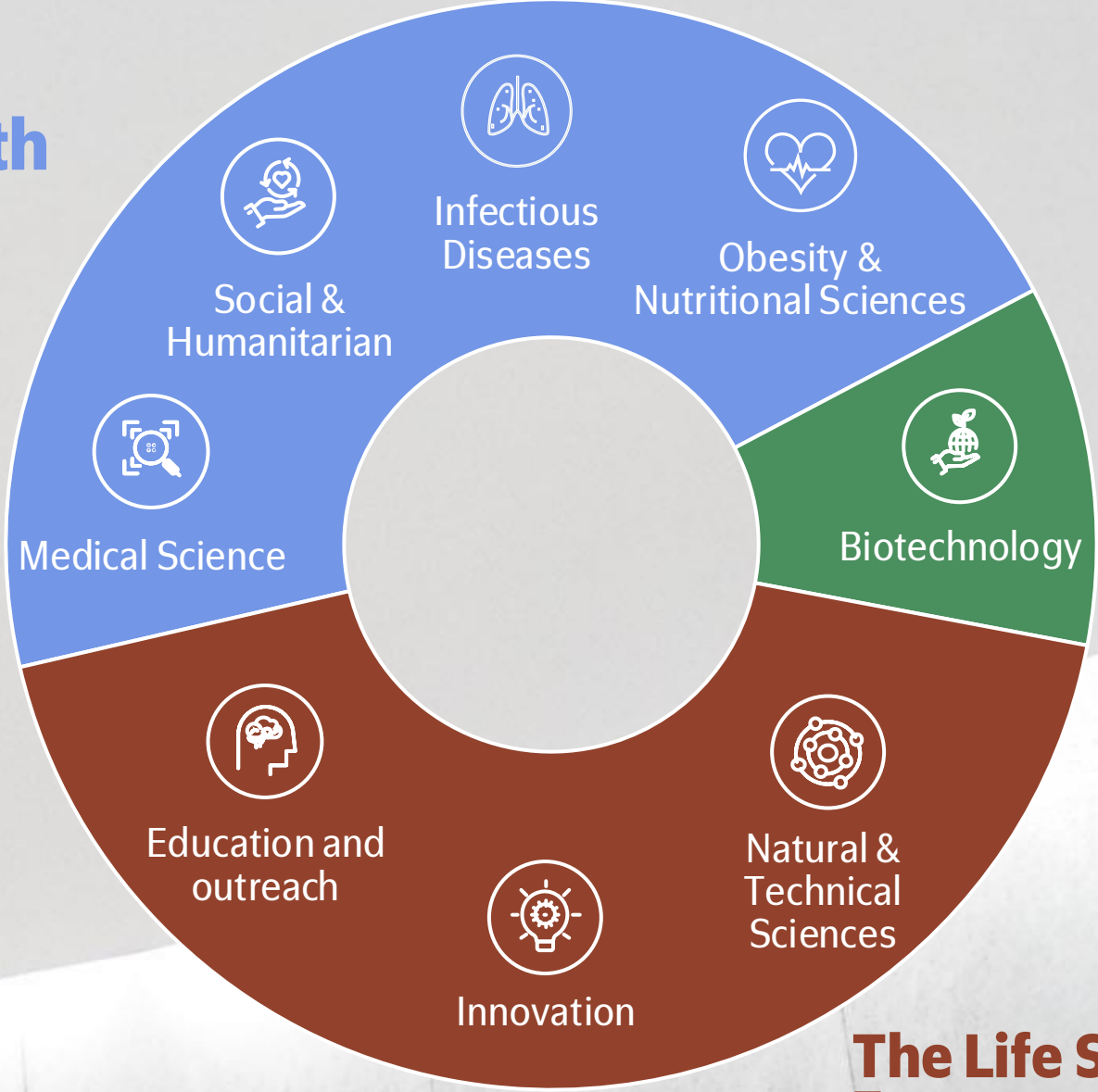
~10,000

people in science\* fully or partly employed  
by NNF grants

22

spin-outs and  
start-ups established, based on  
NNF grants

Health



Sustainability

The Life Science  
Ecosystem

EUR 1.59 billion

(DKK 11.8 billion)  
philanthropic grants and investments



Novo Nordisk Foundation

\* people in scientific activities or research-hospital settings

According to our 2030 strategy, we will increasingly engage in international activities, while maintaining Denmark as the 'centre of gravity'



### **Benefitting the health of people and the planet through:**

- Synergy driven by complementary skills at Danish and international organisations and research institutions
- Exchange of scientific talent
- Transfer and better use of technology and knowledge

### **Working in partnerships:**

- Hub-and-spokes research centres
- Strategic research partnerships
- Mission-driven partnerships
- International participation in open calls

# Ways of funding



## Open competition

Large Collaborative Grants  
Project Grants  
Research Career Programmes  
Ph.D. fellowships  
Infrastructure Grants  
Innovation Grants  
Education and outreach grants

**31.2%** (EUR 1.8 billion)  
awarded since 2020



## Strategic and mission-driven

Research centres  
Academies  
Own initiatives

Examples:



**52%** (EUR 3.0 billion)  
awarded since 2020



## Partnerships

Public-private  
Private-private  
Philanthropic partnerships

Examples:



**4.1%** (EUR 235 million)  
awarded since 2020



## Philanthropic investments

Companies created to protect IP rights in industry partnerships

Examples:



**8.4%** (EUR 486 million)  
awarded since 2020



## Impact and strategic investments

Impact bonds  
Equity loans

Example:



**4.3%** (EUR 246 million)  
awarded since 2020



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# Challenge Programme

To overcome specific challenges in health, technology and sustainability

## Key Information

- Substantial funding to challenging and ambitious projects focused on in-depth research
- Annually selected research themes
- A collaborative effort in a centre-like setup, where projects limited to a single discipline or single approach, such as exclusively in-vitro research or purely observational studies, are out of scope
- International collaboration encouraged, when relevant
- Two stage application process

## Application bounds

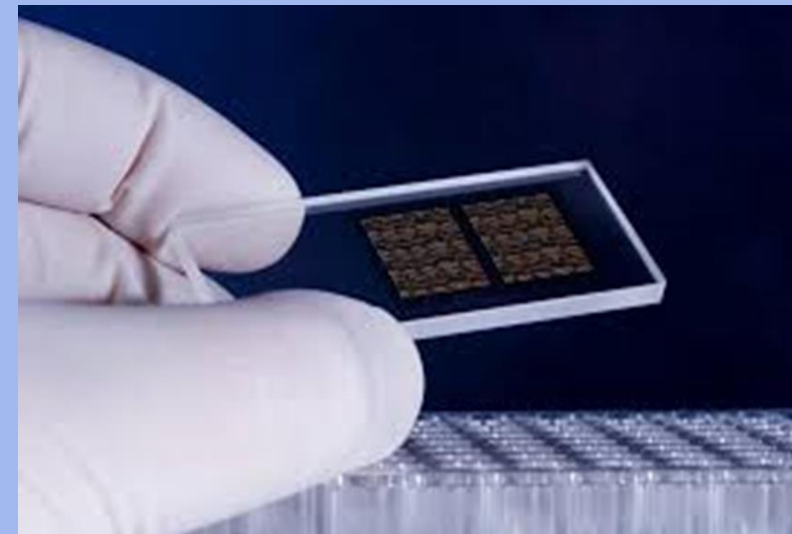
- **Main applicant anchored in EU, Schengen or British Isles**
- Consortia with **2 - 4 research groups including 1+ Danish co-applicant**
- Grant budget: **DKK 30-75 million (EUR 4-10 million) over up to 6 years (total DKK 150 million / EUR 20 million per theme)**
- Expression of Interest deadline (Application stage 1): **7 October 2026**

Check the application guidelines for each call for specific details

## Relevant Health Themes – Challenge Programme 2027

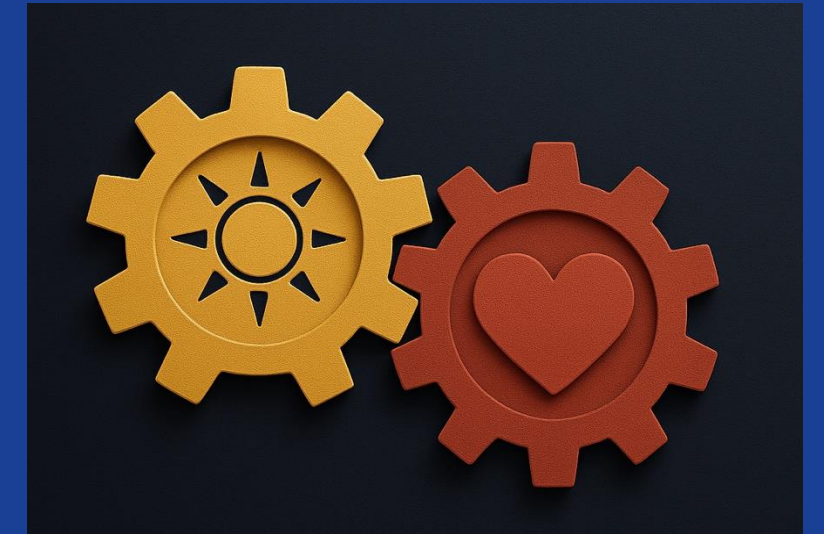
# 1

**Advancing Next Generation AMR Diagnostics for Lower Respiratory Tract Infections**



# 2

**Heat and hypertension - understanding the mechanisms of interaction**



Novo Nordisk Foundation

For more details on all NNF open calls: <https://novonordiskfonden.dk/en/grant/>

# Funding in Endocrinology and Metabolism

Place of research is within the Nordic countries

## Project grants

Support for basic and clinical research within the endocrine system and metabolism relating to cellular energy homeostasis

- For independent research leaders
- Includes research involving patients and/or clinical practice, non-human models, cellular- or sub-cellular systems as well as in silico analysis
- Grant budget: **up to DKK 4.0-4.3 million (EUR 575k) over 1 - 3 years**
- Application deadline: **Summer 2027**

## Investigator grants

Support excellent research leaders at different career stages, and promote their career progression and research at the highest international level

- For emerging, ascending, and distinguished investigators
- Grant budget: **Up to DKK ~11-14.7 million (EUR 1.5-2 million) over 5 years**
- Application deadline: **January 2027**

## Distinguished investigator

Professor level

## Ascending investigator

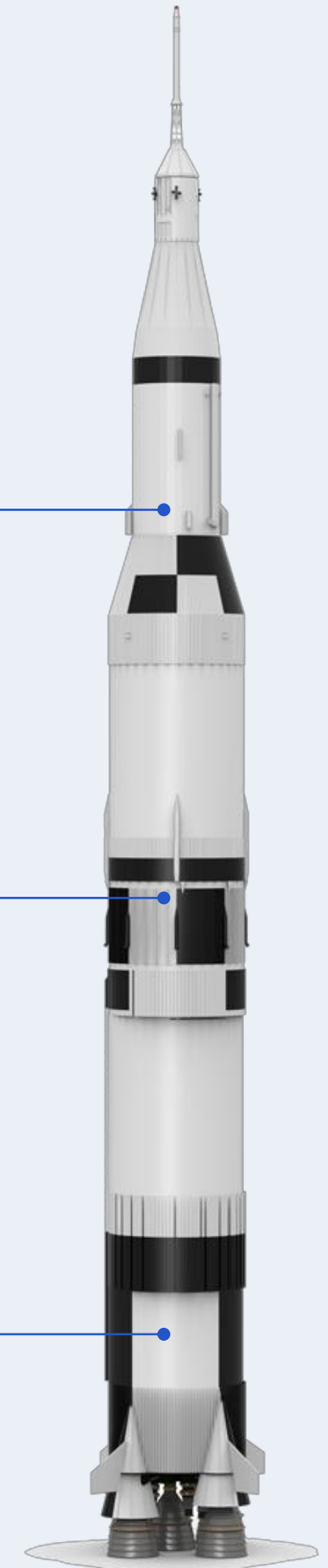
Associate professor level

*Approx. 7 - 18 years from PhD*

## Emerging investigator

Starting research leaders

*Approx. 4 - 8 years from PhD*



Novo Nordisk Foundation

For more details on all NNF open calls: <https://novonordiskfonden.dk/en/grant/>

# Interdisciplinary Synergy Programmes

Support for research projects across disciplines, organisations, and national borders, aiming to resolve complex interdisciplinary challenges.

## Key information

- Pursue creative and **high-risk/high-gain interdisciplinary** research ideas (i.e. disruptive science at TRL1-2)
- Break down or overcome the barriers that exist between different disciplines
- Consortia with 2 - 4 research groups
- Main applicant anchored in Denmark while 1-3 interdisciplinary **co-applicants may be international**
- No AI-assisted clinical decision support -> Data Science calls

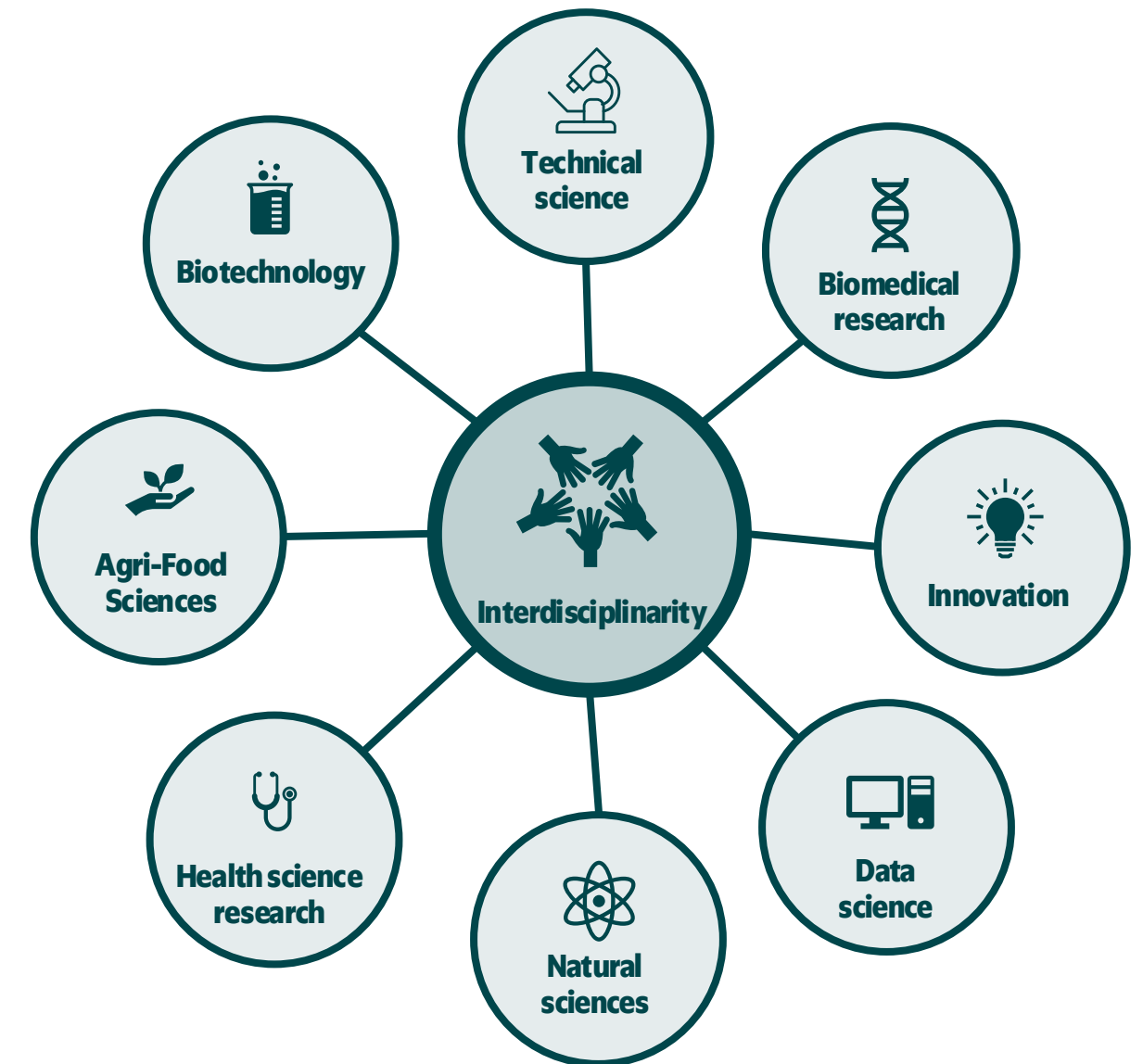
## Interdisciplinary Synergy Programme:

- Ideally founded on early data showing feasibility of the idea
- Grant budget: **DKK 19.4 million (EUR 2.6 million) over 4 years**
- Application deadline: **May 2027**



## Exploratory Interdisciplinary Synergy Programme:

- Aimed towards early-stage or unexplored ideas
- Grant budget: **DKK 6.8 million (EUR 910k) over 3 years**
- Application deadline: **Fall 2027**



# Data Science Collaborative Research Programme

Collaborative projects aiming to provide new algorithms, methods and technologies within data science or computational science, e.g., artificial intelligence, statistics, bioinformatics, applied math, computer science, big data analytics, simulations, mathematical modelling and cyber security

## Key Information

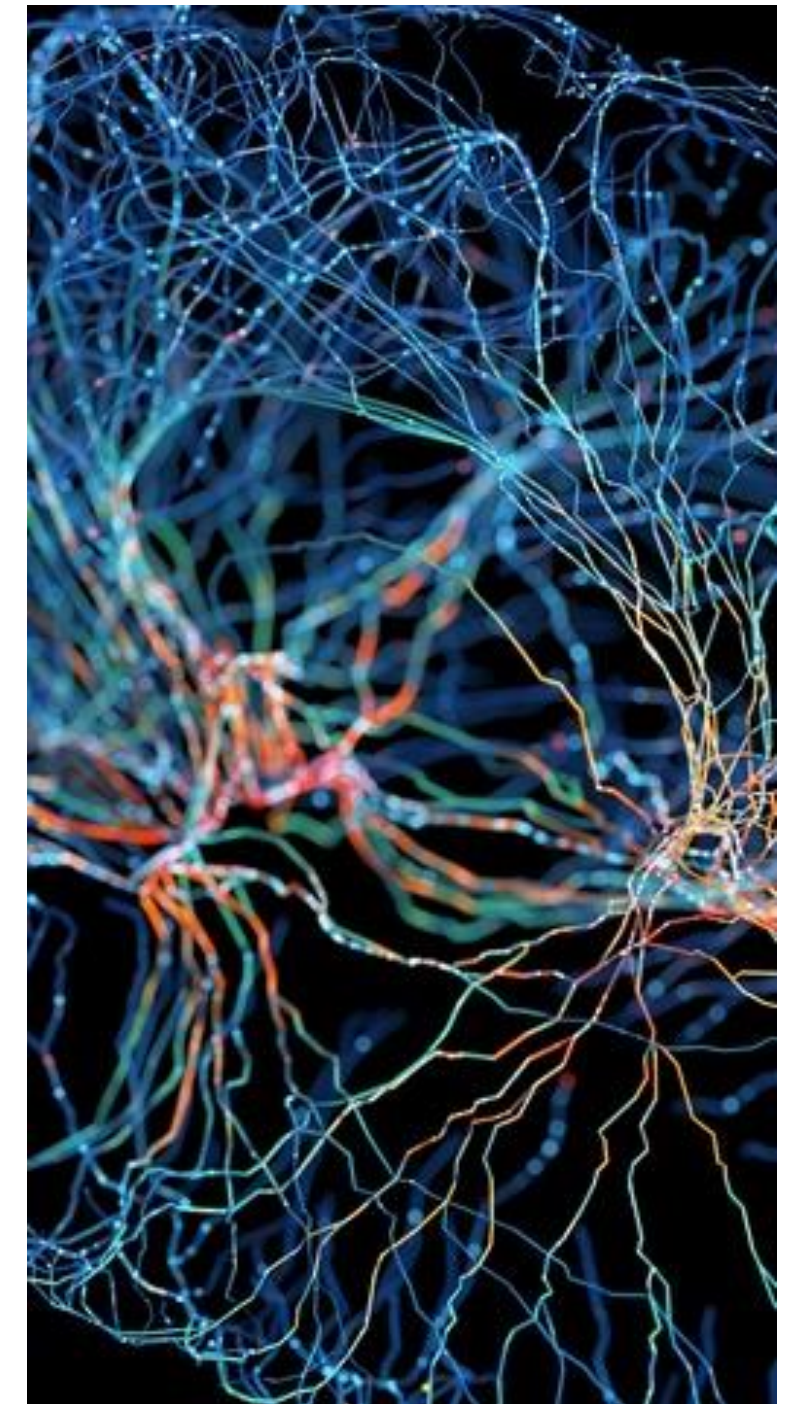
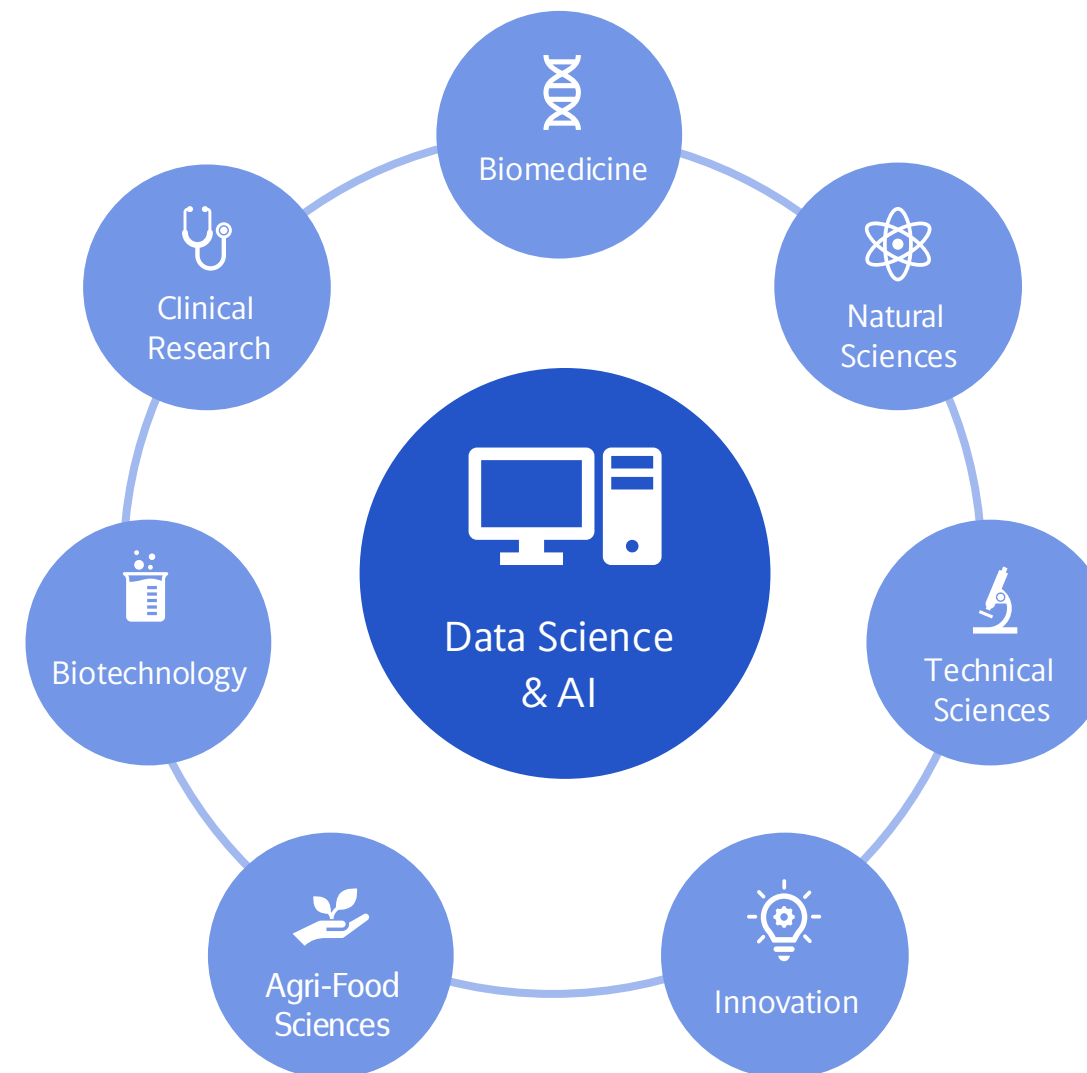
- Research **collaborations between data scientists and domain experts** (medical doctors, basic scientists, etc.)
- Consortia with 2 - 6 partners
- Main applicant anchored in Denmark, **co-applicants may be international**
- At least one applicant must be from a Danish-based data science group

## Research area

- Data science + applications

## Grant budget

- Grant budget: up to **DKK 14-40 million (EUR 1.9-5.3 million) over 5 years** - scales with #partners
- Call opens in December 2026
- Expected application deadline: **Spring 2027**



# Tandem Programme

Translational research collaboration between basic and clinical researchers

## Key Information

- Projects should be clinically relevant, cross-disciplinary, and have a translational scope
- For catalysing improved patient treatment/diagnosis or understanding of disease mechanisms
- **One basic scientist and one clinician apply together** (equal part)
- Main applicant anchored in Denmark while **co-applicant may be international**
- Clinical researcher must have clinic responsibilities

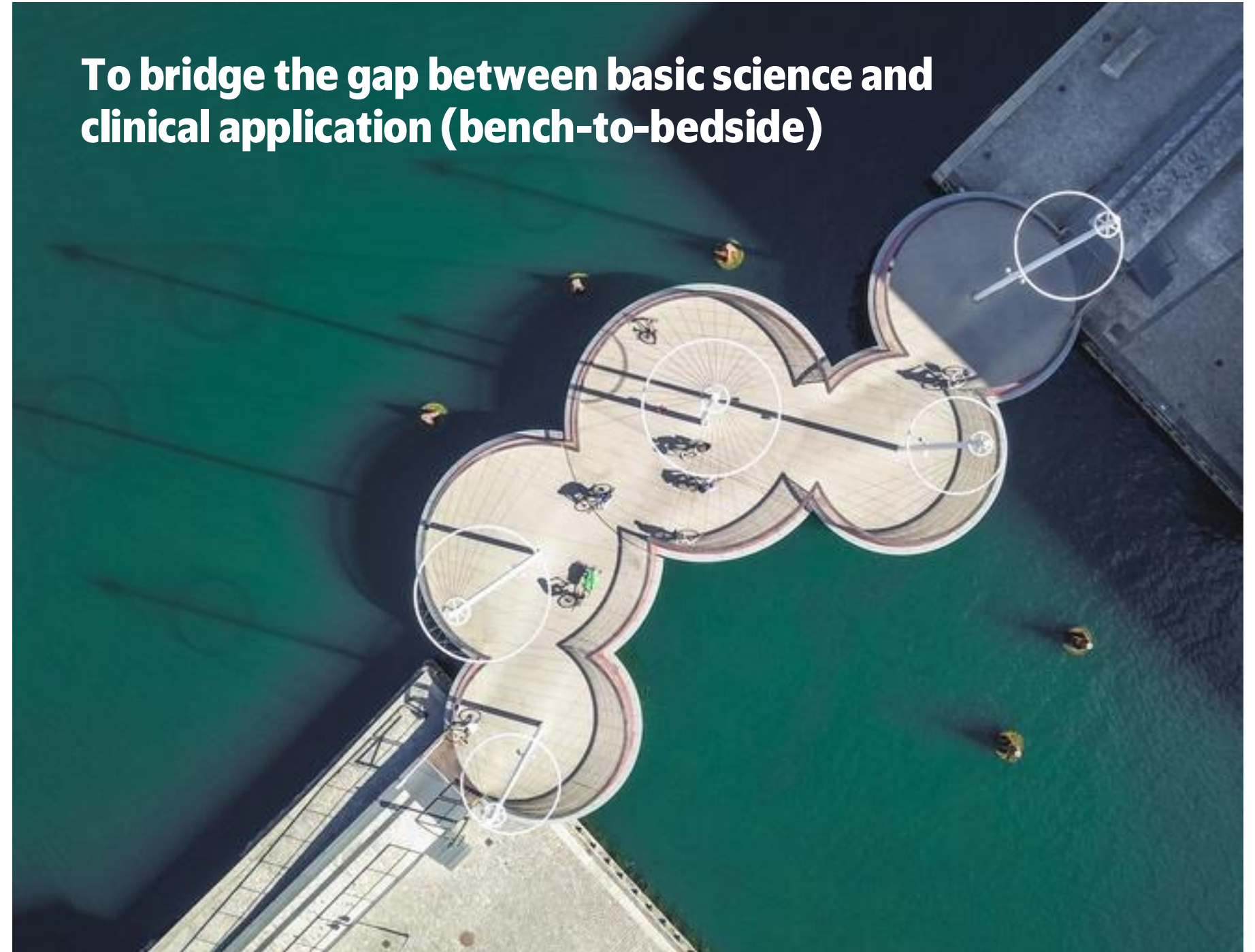
## Research areas

- Clinical & Translational Medicine
- Bioscience and Basic Biomedicine
- Endocrinology and Metabolism

## Grant budget

- Grant budget: **up to DKK 13 million (EUR 1.7 million) over 4 years, with total grant capital of DKK 52 million (EUR 7 million)**
- Application deadline: **20 January 2027**

**To bridge the gap between basic science and clinical application (bench-to-bedside)**



# RECRUIT - Sabbatical grants

Sabbaticals to advance a researcher's continuous development and benefit the Danish research ecosystem

## Key Information

- Supports university faculty in a time-unlimited positions
- Researchers **from abroad** going to Denmark or **from Denmark** wishing to visit a foreign research group
- Grant can cover applicant's own salary
- Applicants must be endorsed by the Danish universities according to a **nomination quota**

## Research areas

- Natural and Technical Sciences incl. data science
- Sustainability and biotechnology

## Grant budget

- Up to DKK 1 million (EUR 134k) over 1 year
- Application deadline: Spring 2027 (biannual)



# NNF Innovation Grants

**Aim:** To accelerate translation and thereby commercialisation of research findings and the development of novel solutions and technologies

## About innovation grants

**Project maturation:** Project activities up to Proof-of-Concept (pre-CVR)

**Eligibility:** Faculty members & researchers employed at Nordic universities, hospitals or other research institutions

## Pioneer Innovator

### Key Information

Emphasis on project and impact - less focus on PI and team

### Grant budget

- **Up to DKK 1.1 mill (EUR 137k) over 1 year**
- Grant cycles per year: **2**
- Expected application deadline: **March & August**

## Distinguished Innovator

### Key Information

Emphasis on the main applicant's proven track record within innovation, *i.e.* experience with innovation projects / establishing spin-outs

### Grant budget

- **Up to DKK 6.8 mill (EUR 909k) over 3 years**
- Grant cycles per year: **1**
- Expected application deadline: **August**

## Research Areas

- **Pharma, Medtech & Healthtech (particular focus on CMD and Infectious diseases)**
- Industrial/environmental biotechnology
- Sustainable agriculture and food
- Carbon capture (CC+U+S)
- N<sub>2</sub>O and methane emissions
- Quantum technologies



# The BioInnovation Institute (BII) brings science to life by supporting early-stage start-ups in translating research onto innovative solutions



BII turns research into start-ups, and accelerates innovation by providing **Knowledge, Network, Infrastructure, and Funding**



BII is **funded by the Novo Nordisk Foundation** and supports +35 projects and start-ups with +€30M per year



BII's supports early-stage start-ups within **Human Health, Planetary Health, and AI & Quantum**

## 1 YEAR PROGRAM FOR EARLY-STAGE START-UPS

**DEADLINE FOR NEXT EVAL: OCT 30<sup>TH</sup> 2026**

### International Venture Lab

- Accelerator program for early-stage start-ups within focus areas Human Health (Therapeutics) or Planetary Health.
- Must be incorporated/HQed/operating from EEA, Switzerland, or UK.
- 12 months access to dedicated support, network, and infrastructure, with physical touchpoints in CPH, DK.
- Convertible loan funding of EUR 0.5M, potential for progress-based follow-on funding.



**Novo Nordisk Foundation**

## 1 YEAR PROGRAM FOR EARLY-STAGE START-UPS

**OPEN CALL: contact [ailab@bii.dk](mailto:ailab@bii.dk)**

### AI Lab

- Designed to strengthen the Danish and Nordic AI ecosystem as a place where AI companies are built, scaled, and commercialized.
- Start-ups must be AI-first ventures i.e. AI is central to product and business model.
- Provides tailored venture-building support, technical infrastructure, industry expertise, and investor connections.
- Benefits package worth DKK 1M (EUR 130K) and potential eligibility for AI Fund pre-seed investments.

For more details: <https://bii.dk/programs>

## 3 YEAR PROGRAM FOR PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATORS

**NEXT CALL OPENS FALL 2026**

### Bio Studio\*

- For experienced PIs with a strong academic track record and at 3+ years experience as a group leader.
- Project team is established at BII facility and led by an Entrepreneur in Residence. The PI stays in their home institution as project advisor.
- Up to DKK 5.35M (EUR 0.7 M) per year in grants/convertible loan (per program / spin-out status).
- Thematic, challenge-based calls twice a year

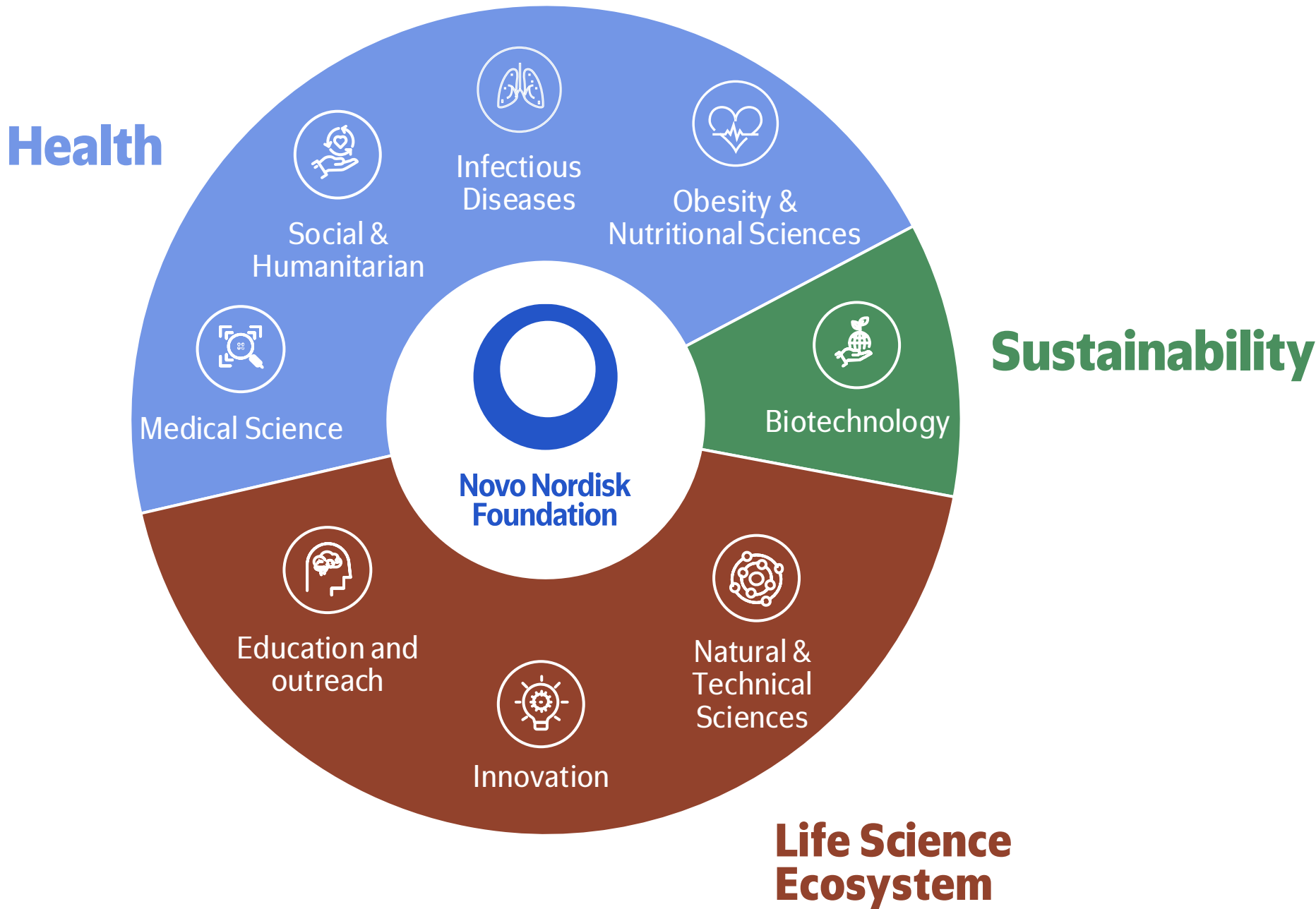
**NEW CardioMetabolic Bridge Program to mature CMD research and accelerate company creation – facilities in UK, DE, IT as well as DK HQ**

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# Health data and the NNF



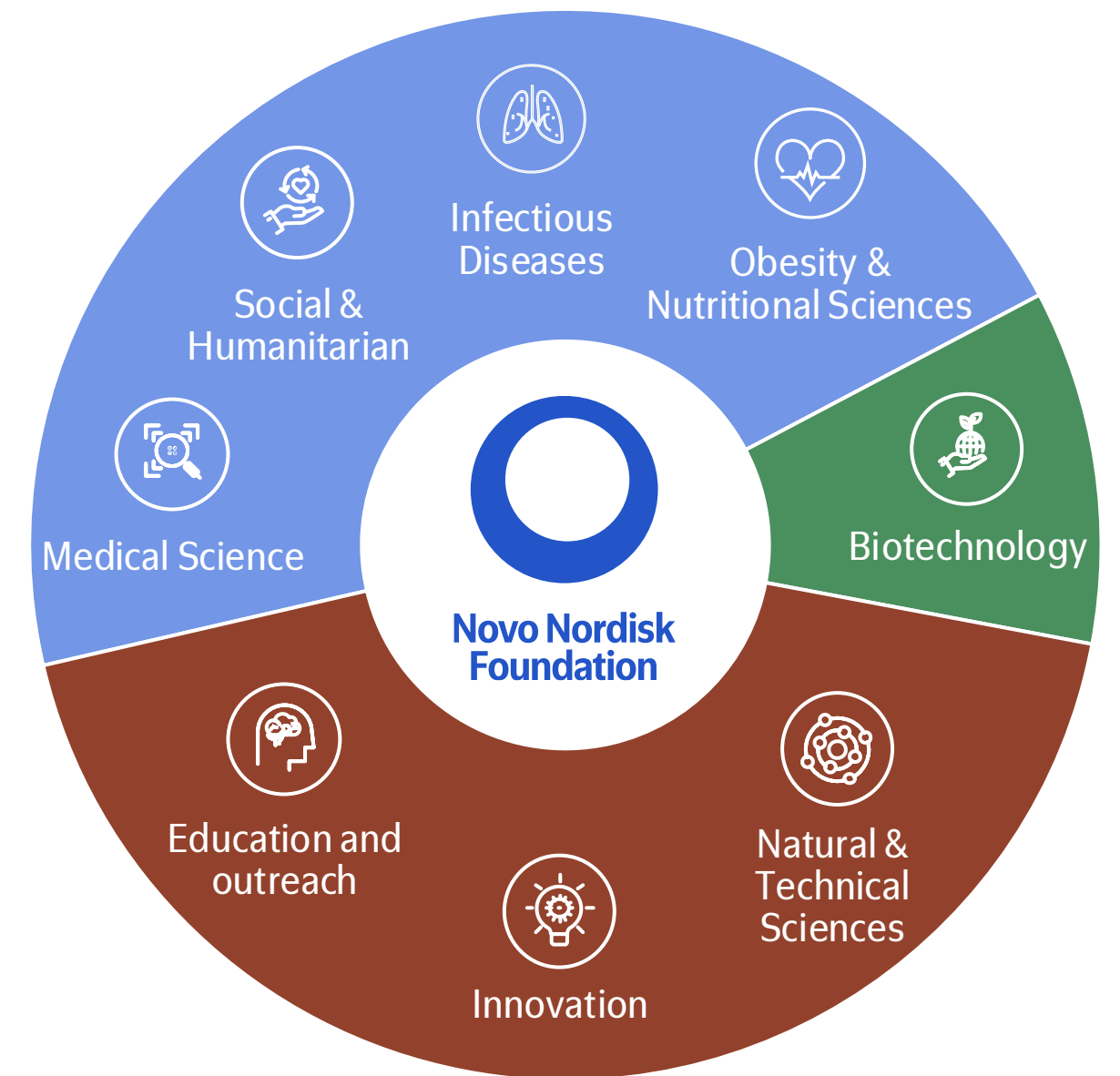
Covering the life science value chain



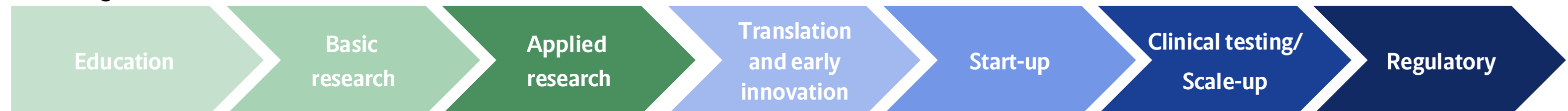
# Health data and the NNF

## Key Nordic Opportunities

- **World-class data from well-established public health systems** stays competitive through harmonization and integration
- Nordic-scale patient cohorts strengthen **cross-border scientific collaboration** and research outcomes
- Integrated infrastructure is critical to robust adoption of **AI/ML solutions for healthcare**
- Nordic data is a **major innovation platform** – if we create a path for clinical adoption / start-ups



Covering the life science value chain



# Supporting health data access and use

Data science initiatives where projects use privacy enhancing technologies

- Health data science sandboxes for training
- Synthetic health data via generative models
- Federated learning for secure multi-site data science

Data management initiatives to improve organization, quality and reach

- Inter-SUSTAIN for improving FAIRification, visibility, and managed data access of Nordic health databases (linked to cardiometabolic and infectious disease)
- One point of entry to health data (+ EHDS infrastructure)



## Inter-SUSTAIN programme model

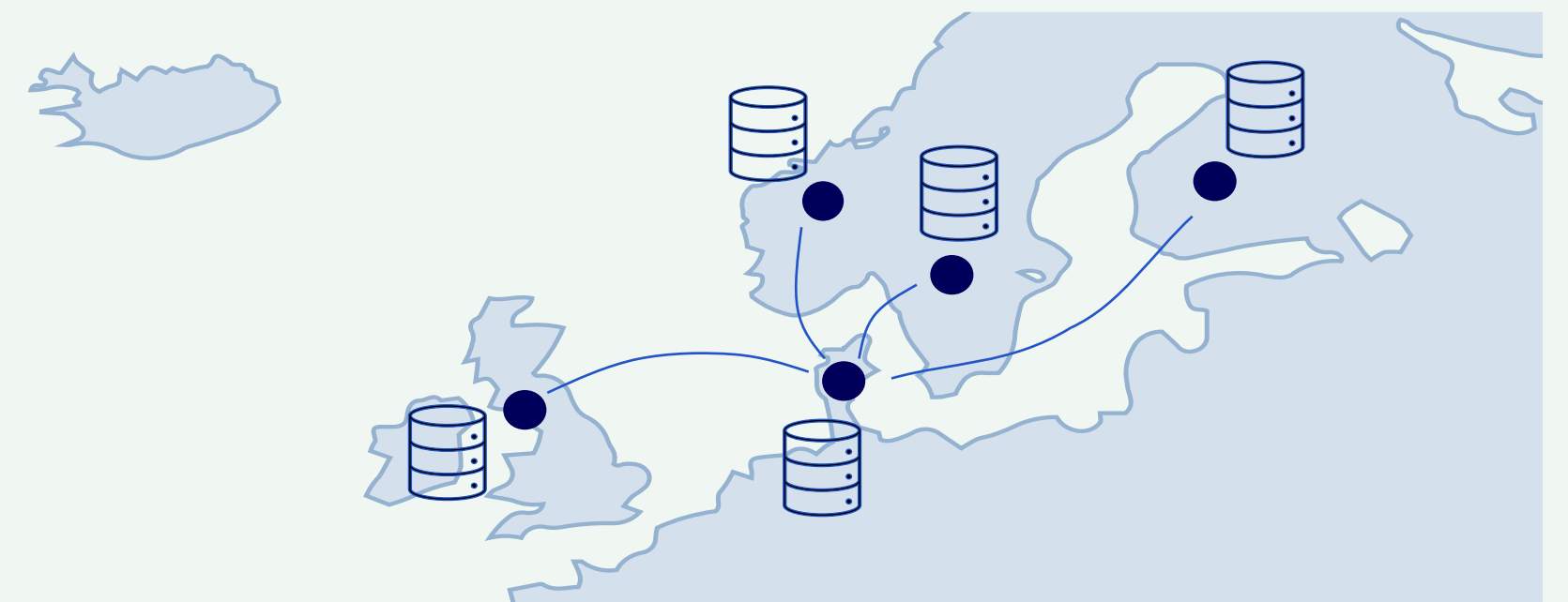
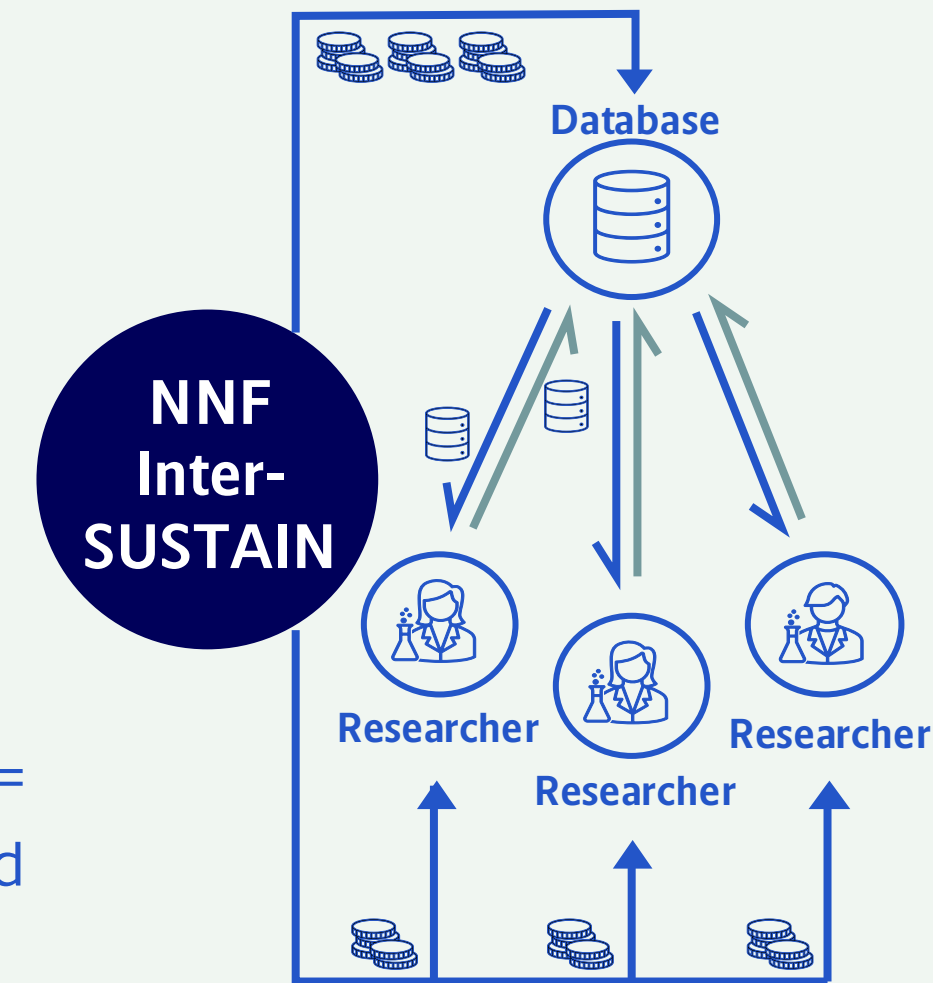
**Part 1:** Databases apply for screening and shortlisting



**Part 2:** Researchers submit proposals based on data from shortlisted databases



**Decision:** Approved matches = funding to both researcher and database



# Supporting major infrastructure for AI and quantum computing

## Objectives

Build close partnerships with leading global partners to develop AI and quantum technologies

Build a leading innovation hub in Denmark and EU-focused investment funds together with Novo Holdings

Utilise AI and quantum technologies in the Nordics to progress understanding, diagnosis and treatment of disease and accelerate the green transition

## Gefion AI supercomputer



### Establishment of a national AI Supercomputer in Denmark

Providing researchers with access to state-of-the-art AI GPU-based supercomputer, NVIDIA software platforms, training, and expertise.

## Magne quantum computer

# QuNorth<sup>®</sup>

**Establishing world's first commercial Level 2 quantum computer with logical qubits, based in Denmark**

Growing ecosystem (skills, knowledge, investments) while anchoring and co-developing critical technologies locally



# One point of entry to health data in Denmark

A new gateway to health data is being built that will bolster health research and drive personalised medicine and innovative health solutions



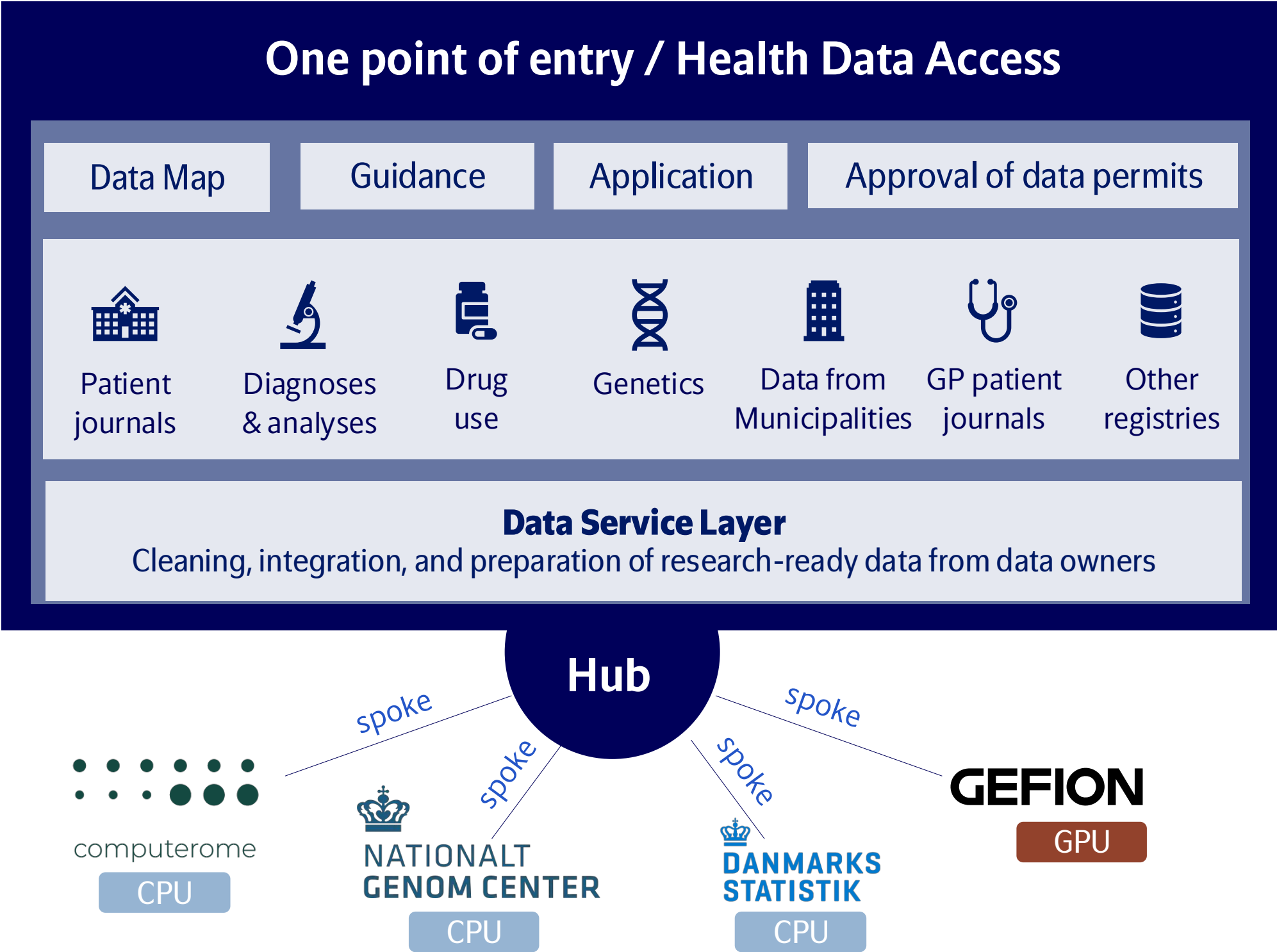
Funding from NNF  
EUR 26.8 million /  
DKK 200 million

## Barriers to unlocking the value of Danish health data

Lack of overview of data and databases and dispersed data sources

Complex legal conditions and requirements

Limited computational and storage capacity for sensitive data



## VISION

To support care and treatment of patients in Europe by accelerating time to market for health tech research and innovation

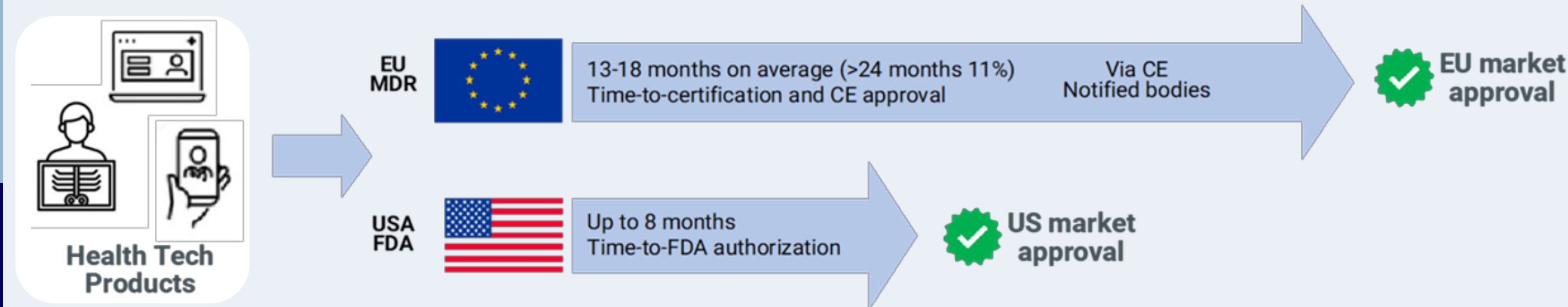
## MISSION

To develop and implement a self-service digital regulatory support platform that enables spinouts and startups to navigate regulatory approvals more efficiently and at lower cost across European and global markets

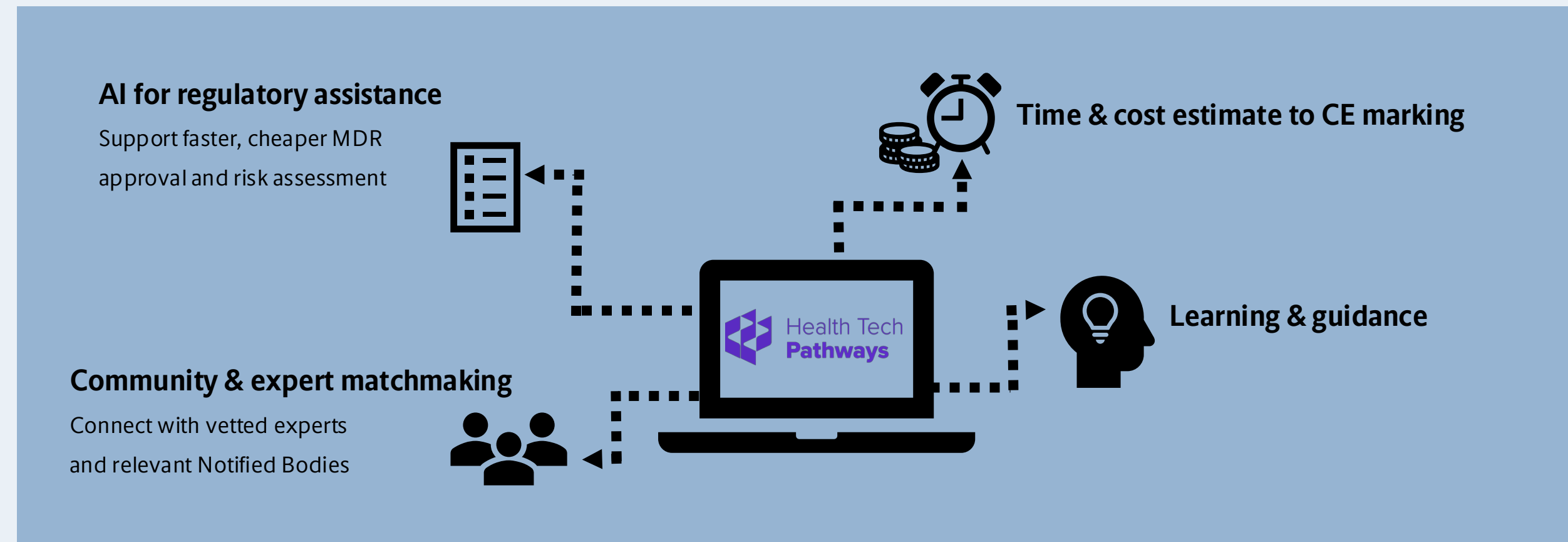
## FUNDING (NNF):

EUR 4.3 million / DKK 32 million over 5 years

## CHALLENGE - Complexity in the EU regulatory process slows time to market



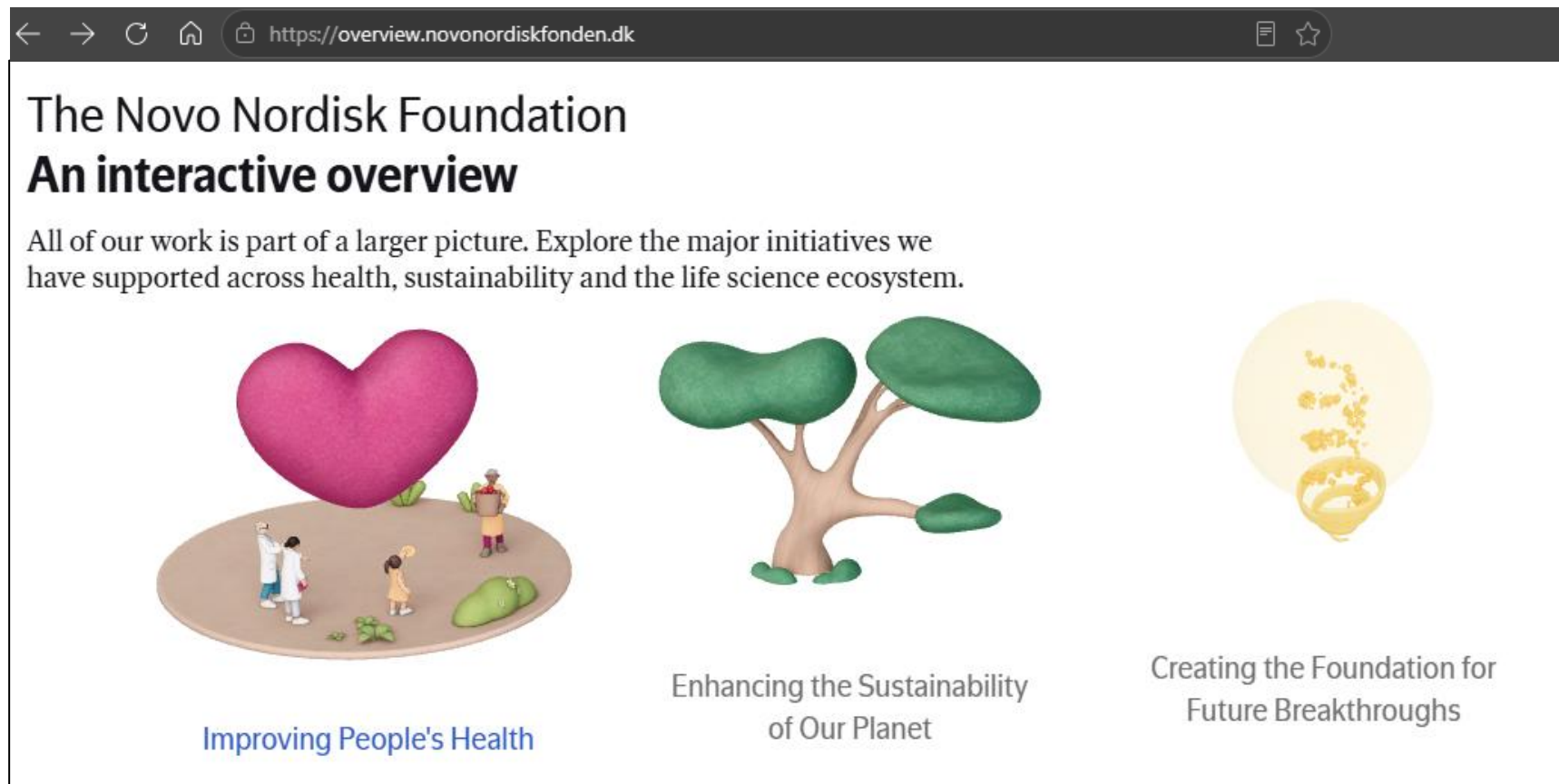
## SOLUTION - A user-friendly digital regulatory support platform



# NNF opportunities wrap-up

<https://novonordiskfonden.dk/en/grant/>

For all open competition grants with specific guidelines, application portal links, etc



<https://novonordiskfonden.dk/en/how-we-work/unsolicited-inquiries/>

Tips: be brief, strategic, and realistic – best to reach out to NNF staff first (not a fast-track option)



Novo Nordisk Foundation

Please reach out if you have questions / ideas – I can field them (in brief) or connect you to relevant NNF teams as appropriate

- Find me and NNF colleagues at the Nordic Health Data Summit on 23 September!

**We see significant potential in Nordic research and innovation collaboration and the benefits it can produce for our broader society**

- We're exploring new tools and opportunities to support health data collaboration (i.e. Inter-SUSTAIN)
- VALO's work and this network of expertise is of huge benefit!

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# Needs, challenges, and opportunities within Nordic health data – what next?

## Harmonization

- What will have most impact – open-source automation tools, harmonizing a core data domain, OMOP-Nordic, tenure for research data managers? Something else?
- Are there data domains where data models (OMOP) are more/less effective such that harmonization efforts can be prioritized? Experience with maintenance burden and solutions?
- What are the best examples of successful harmonization efforts (to learn from) beyond VALO?

## Webinar discussion review...

Primary vs secondary use

National vs joint priorities/efforts/leadership

Centralization vs federation

Maintaining focus on individual patients and their process engagement / personal outcomes and benefits

Use cases to demonstrate value



# Needs, challenges, and opportunities within Nordic health data – what next?

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## Governance

- What access process updates should be prioritized to have the quickest or biggest impact?
- Are requirements for openness and sharing paired with fair motivation (i.e. fair credit/cost/value distribution models)? What is a new policy / model that might have a big impact?



# Needs, challenges, and opportunities within Nordic health data – what next?

## **Operational needs of infrastructure managers**

- Is the biggest challenge funding, know-how, or alignment?
- What staff resources and training are the hardest to obtain – for now and future needs?

