



Press Release
Brussels, Tuesday September 13, 2022

CALL FOR PROJECTS TO IMPLEMENT DIGITAL INNOVATION IN BELGIAN HOSPITALS AND HOME CARE ORGANISATIONS

Coalition Next Belgium is launching a call for solutions focusing on digital innovation in Belgian hospitals and home care organisations. Coalition Next Belgium is an initiative by and for Belgian healthcare institutions, associations and pharmaceutical companies that together want to accelerate the implementation of digital innovations in healthcare. The selected projects will be rolled out at an accelerated pace in 2023 so that these innovations benefit patients and healthcare providers.

Coalition Next Belgium is building on the success of Coalition Next France, which launched such a call for the third time at the beginning of this year. Previous calls and selections have already accelerated the implementation of 30 projects in more than 80 French healthcare institutions. CEO of Digital Pharma Lab and founder of Coalition Next, **Pascal Bécache**, put it this way: *“Coalition Next is a real accelerator for start-ups that want to present their eHealth solutions to healthcare institutions, industry and investors. It is a unique opportunity to gain direct access to the market.”*

With this call for applications, Coalition Next Belgium mainly wants to look for projects around three social needs in healthcare and our healthcare system:

- 1. Enabling prevention and/or an accurate access to healthcare**
- 2. Accelerating the diagnosis and/or optimising the treatment pathways**
- 3. Smoothing the process of remote care**

Azèle Mathieu, Innovation Lead at MSD and President of Coalition Next Belgium: *“With Coalition Next, we are jointly executing a robust co-creation process. We start with the needs of care institutions in the country to define the themes of the call for projects. This iterative process turns out to be very instructive for everyone: we understand the reality of everyone better.”*

Because there is support from all interested parties, digital solutions can immediately aim for exponential growth. **Christophe Jauquet**, Ecosystem Lead for Coalition Next Belgium, expects many applications: *“For companies with digital healthcare solutions, the implementation is not always easy. But Coalition Next Belgium offers the opportunity to suddenly reach the right person in charge in a hospital just looking for their solution.”*

The care institutions also evaluate all projects themselves. After selecting the projects, an invitation will follow to roll out the projects together with all interested parties. **The focus of Coalition Next Belgium is on the accelerated implementation of projects.**

Coalition Next offers a significant advantage for healthcare institutions, according to **Dieter De Court**, Innovation Lead at UZ Brussel and Vice-President of Coalition Next Belgium: *“By participating in Coalition Next, we, as a hospital, get a broader view of the innovative range of*

solutions from start-ups and innovative companies, to make our services future-proof. In addition, it is an opportunity to explore further collaboration with private companies, such as from the pharmaceutical industry.”

Start-ups and innovative companies can apply until noon on October 31, 2022.

All references for more information:

For more information and to submit applications, please visit:

<https://www.coalitionnext.com/coalition-next-belgium-2022>

For an overview of Coalition Next Belgium and the different aspects of this call, register for the online press conference on October 11 at 4 pm.

(Register here: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_NQ-vXdqhRtafTVzOCJpJhw)

Press contacts:

- **David Desmet** (DDPA): david.desmet@ddpa.eu, +32491233000
- **Christophe Jauquet** (Lead Coalition Next Belgium): cjauquet@digitalpharmalab.com, +32495619960
- **Azèle Mathieu** (President Coalition Next Belgium): azele.mathieu@merck.com

About Digital Pharma Lab:

Digital Pharma Lab's mission is to unite health professionals, manufacturers, start-ups and institutions around digital innovation and collective intelligence. Its unique approach in Europe, combining Consulting, Innovation and Investment, helps you transform and innovate to improve the health system and create a model of abundance for the patient. Today, Digital Pharma Lab is the partner of more than 40 pharma companies thanks to a committed and progressive team that always accompanies you with passion!

About Coalition Next Belgium:

Coalition Next Belgium was founded by more than 20 different parties from the Belgian health sector. Healthcare actors who wish to join this founding committee can still apply to Christophe Jauquet: cjauquet@digitalpharmalab.com

