

## Overview

The JoinUs4Health platform enables citizens, scientists and other societal groups (Figure 1) to make health-related suggestions, vote on suggestions of others and offer to coordinate interactions by facilitating a topic (community-level interactions). Platform users can then contribute time to interact on selected suggestions that are promoted as topics. Topics result in team level interactions. Teams have the option to post tasks to the platform community (blue arrow). Furthermore, teams have the option to apply for results from three population-based research projects in Germany (Mecklenburg-Pomerania; since 1997), Poland (Bialystok; since 2020) or the Netherlands (Rotterdam; since 1989) – see Figure 2.

**Note:** The minimum age to register on the JoinUs4Health platform is 16 years.



Figure 1. Examples of societal groups targeted by the JoinUs4Health project.

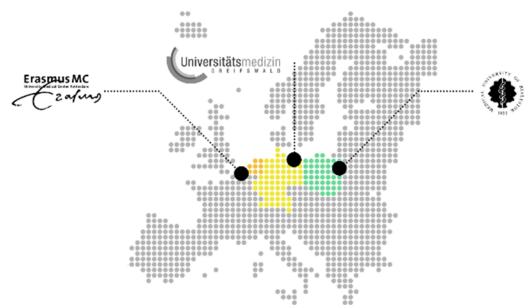


Figure 2. Map showing the location of the three JoinUs4Health partners implementing population-based health (cohort) research for up to three decades

## Suggestions

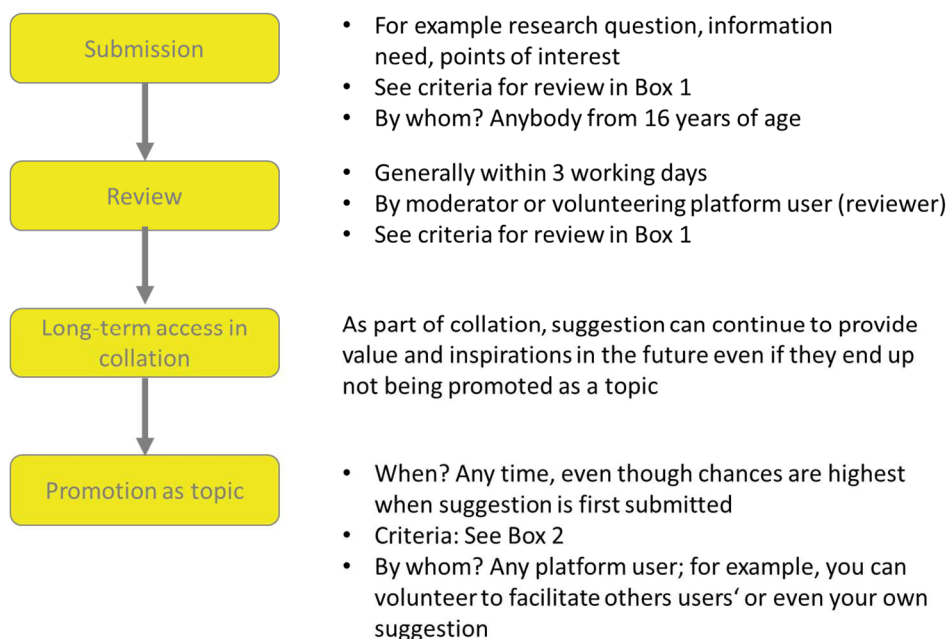


Figure 3. Overview of the process when submitting Suggestions

You can submit your own suggestion related to health, for example a research questions, information need, general point of interest or an offer. A moderator or reviewer will check your suggestion to ensure that it complies with our rules of conduct and is clearly formulated (Box 1).

Once the suggestion is visible on the platform, registered users can up-vote (like), comment, follow, share or volunteer to contribute to your suggestion.

### **Box 1: Criteria considered during the review of suggestions**

- The suggestion complies with basic rules, such as the Terms of Use<sup>1</sup> as well as further rules (for example data privacy, intellectual property)
- The suggestion is clearly formulated (adjustments may be suggested)

Your suggestion can be promoted as a topic if key criteria and at least one of the two additional criteria in Box 2 are fulfilled. The facilitator defines preliminary questions as well as a stepwise plan to answer the questions.

### **Box 2: Criteria applied when deciding if a suggestion is promoted as a topic**

Key criteria:

- a facilitator (this can be you) agrees to coordinate interactions and
- a moderator agrees to provide feedback and support and
- the facilitator and moderator agree on a (preliminary) plan for first interactions or request for input to be posted as part of the topic

Additional criteria:

- suggestion has received high-level of interest (action buttons “like” and “contribute”) or
- plan is perceived as particularly relevant for society or science based on feedback of moderators, JoinUs4Health partners, the platform and/ or advisory boards.

<sup>1</sup> <https://platform.joinus4health.eu/terms-of-use/>

## **Topics**

Once criteria in Box 2 are fulfilled, the Suggestion is promoted as a topic with details on the planned first interactions or input. The topic remains open for at least two weeks before interactions (Teams or Tasks) can start. This time allows collection of users' feedback to the plan and recruitment of volunteers. Based on the input, the preliminary plan is updated and then serves as basis for first interactions.

During those two weeks, recruitment of volunteers can already start. Let us know if you are willing to contribute time to a topic by clicking "Contribute". The facilitator will then contact you via direct messaging with further details.

If you are interested in a topic, but don't want to participate actively, you can also follow a topic to receive updates on the discussion and results.

## **Teams**

If enough contributors volunteer to make interactions worthwhile, one or more teams can be established to implement (parts of) the plan outlined in the topic. For each team, a facilitator and moderator need to be assigned.

Special offer: Three of the JoinUs4Health partners carry out population-based health research for up to three decades. Team members have the option to apply (generally) aggregated results to support their interactions.

## **Tasks**

The facilitator of the Topic or linked Teams can create tasks to gather additional input from the platform community. For example, a team could post a task asking for certain information or the summary of existing literature.

Tasks may then be addressed by the platform community. If specific input is needed, which cannot be sourced via the platform community, moderators may reach out to specific stakeholders, groups or networks to promote contributions via the platform.

If you have any comments, questions or problems feel free to contact us via [contact@joinus4health.eu](mailto:contact@joinus4health.eu).

Thank you for your interest and (future) contributions!