

# Euro Health Net

A graphic consisting of a cluster of small dots in shades of green and yellow, arranged in a pattern that suggests a network or a stylized sunburst.

European partnership for  
health, equity & wellbeing

**United for health equity**  
**Staying anchored in**  
**challenging times**

**Annual report**  
June 2024 – May 2025

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## EDITORIAL

This past year, as the Executive Board reflected on our achievements and the value EuroHealthNet brings to public health across Europe, one truth stood out: in a time of rapid change and uncertainty, the EuroHealthNet Partnership has remained a steady, guiding force.

Across Europe and beyond, the world around us has shifted. The new European political agenda for 2024–2029 has moved focus toward competitiveness and defence, stepping back from a vision centred on sustainability and wellbeing. Cuts to health, social, and development funding—both in Europe and globally—have added new pressures on organisations like ours. Yet, despite these challenges, the EuroHealthNet Partnership has stood firm, making the case, time and again, that investments in health and wellbeing are not costs, but cornerstones of a resilient, thriving Europe.

Over the past year, our activities have demonstrated this more clearly than ever, for example:

- We strengthened the link between tackling child poverty and building healthier communities during our Country Exchange Visit with Public Health Scotland.
- We showed that the problem is not ageing itself but ageing in poor health, as highlighted in our recent policy brief.
- We demonstrated how low-cost, regulatory interventions—like alcohol labelling and taxing (novel) tobacco products—can make a big impact, through collaboration with Santé Publique France and our Hungarian member, the National Center for Public Health and Pharmacy (NNGYK).

Our ability to remain a stable, pan-European force is thanks in part to the invaluable core operating grant from the European Social Fund+. But above all, it is the strength of our growing Partnership—now almost 90 members and observers—that gives us our resilience. This year, we were particularly proud to welcome the Ministry of Health and the Public Health Centre of Ukraine into our EuroHealthNet family.

Standing together, sharing knowledge, and driving action, we are proving that a healthier, fairer, and more sustainable Europe is within reach. Our new ethical framework reaffirms the values that guide us: equity, fairness, solidarity, integrity, transparency, professionalism, environmental sustainability, and evidence-based action.

We are proud of our achievements and successes, and know much remains to be done. Looking ahead to next year, we are energised by the possibilities ahead. Thank you for supporting us—your commitment strengthens our collective impact and fuels our shared vision for a healthier future for all.



**Suzanne Costello**  
President EuroHealthNet



**Caroline Costongs**  
Director EuroHealthNet

# EUROHEALTHNET

EuroHealthNet is a not-for-profit partnership of organisations, institutes, and authorities working on public health, disease prevention, promoting health and wellbeing, as well as reducing inequalities.

We aim to tackle health inequalities within and between European States through action on the social determinants of health.

EuroHealthNet activities take place across three platforms: Policy, Practice, and Research. In addition, a core team unifies and builds connections between the platforms, sharing and supporting the exchange of knowledge and experience, including through communication activities.

The five priority areas and the two cross-cutting topics that are central to our work are laid out within our [Strategic Development Plan 2021-26](#).

EuroHealthNet's Partnership brings together 83 organisations, agencies, and statutory bodies working on public health, disease prevention, promoting health, and reducing inequalities. It covers 32 European countries, including 25 EU Member States. A detailed list of all members can be found in section 6.1.

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## OUR EXECUTIVE BOARD



**Suzanne Costello**

President - CEO for the  
Institute of Public Health in  
Ireland



**Dr Sumina Azam**

Vice President - National  
Director of Policy and  
International Health at  
Public Health Wales, United  
Kingdom



**Pia Sundell**

Vice President - Member of  
the board for the Finnish  
Federation for Social Affairs  
and Health (SOSTE)



**Lorna Renwick**

Treasurer - Service  
Manager, Health Equity and  
Inclusion at Public Health  
Scotland, United Kingdom



**Dr Mojca Gabrijelčič**

Honorary Advisor - Head of  
the Healthy Lifestyle  
Department for the  
National Institute of Public  
Health (NIJZ), Slovenia



**Raffaella Bucciardini**

Head of Operative Unit  
Health Equity at the Italian  
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**Prof Plamen Dimitrov**

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Health and Social Manager  
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Senior Health Expert and  
health promotion  
professional for the  
Austrian Health Promotion  
Fund (FGÖ), unit of the  
Austrian National Public  
Health Institute



**Yvette Shajanian Zarneh**

Head of the Unit for  
planning, strategy,  
knowledge transfer, and  
international relations at  
the German Federal  
Institute of Public Health  
(BfÖG)

## OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS

**83**

Members, associate members, and observers from 32 European countries, of which 25 EU Member States

**95%**

of participants rating the 2024 Annual Seminars 'excellent' or 'good'

**624**

Participations at EuroHealthNet's nine key events in 2024

**101**

Occasions of being speakers, panellists or moderators at key events in 2024

**22**

Newsletters published

**4**

EuroHealthNet capacity-building workshops in 2024

**15,617**

Social media followers

**12**

Press releases sent

**14**

Policy briefings & consultation responses

**2**

editions of EuroHealthNet Magazine

**1**

interactive flipzine

**347,505**

Website views

# 1

## **STABLE LEADERSHIP, SHARED CHALLENGES: ADVANCING PUBLIC HEALTH TOGETHER**

The past year has been a pivotal one for public health in Europe and globally. It was marked by a wave of elections, shifting political landscapes, and the start of a new EU legislative period and second mandate for the WHO Regional Office for Europe's Regional Director. During this period, EuroHealthNet and our growing Partnership remained steadfast, offering a clear, united vision for a more sustainable, inclusive, and healthy Europe. At a time when health no longer tops the political agenda, we continue to lead on health equity as well as remind leaders and institutions that health is not a luxury—it is a foundation for economic security and competitiveness, innovation and productivity, and democratic resilience. Health equity underpins our social contract, enhances trust in institutions, and helps us better weather crises.

Throughout 2024-2025, our commitment and collective strength were demonstrated through tangible outputs and impacts. We delivered our messages of support to the new European Commissioners for health and social policy and called for solidarity for public health. Further, we contributed to the Belgian Presidency of the European Council's work towards a comprehensive vision of the European Health Union. We also worked effectively with the World Health Organization (WHO) and partners on addressing the commercial determinants of health in the areas of food, tobacco, and alcohol.

Following over a year of dialogue with the Partnership, we approved our Ethical Framework in June 2025, offering essential guidance to principled action in uncertain times. We continued to advocate for a transition toward Wellbeing Economies and analysed the use of EU instruments like the European Semester to integrate health and determinants of health into economic governance. We promoted the European Pillar of Social Rights, which helps create a social, fair, and healthy Europe and supported member-driven Thematic Working Groups (TWIGs) in four strategic priority areas. A new, fifth TWIG will focus on health promoting schools.

Our events, publications, projects, and policy intelligence enabled members to exchange knowledge and enhance their readiness to respond to evolving needs. Such investments in public health systems and skills are essential to achieving the objectives set out in our [Strategic Development Plan 2021-2026](#), as well as wider shared commitments, such as the Sustainable Development Goals.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to staying the course, guided by our values, shaped by science and evidence, and serving as a convener and catalyst for collaborative action within our Partnership and beyond. This year has reminded us that stability is not about standing still but rather moving forward with purpose—together.

## 1.1 EuroHealthNet Annual Seminar 2024

Recent crises reaffirmed the importance of mental health and psychosocial wellbeing and the persistence of inequalities that keep people from enjoying healthy lives. Health behaviours are increasingly influenced by structural and systemic factors beyond people's control, raising questions of social justice.

In June 2024, EuroHealthNet's Annual Seminar '[Navigating times of change for public health](#)' offered a forum to explore the latest policy and research in mental wellbeing and health behaviours to support healthier, more inclusive, and sustainable societies, even in times of change.

The hybrid seminar was co-hosted by EuroHealthNet's members the [Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment \(RIVM\)](#) and the [Trimbos Institute for Mental Health and Addiction](#). It brought together over 400 policymakers, experts, and senior officials from national and regional public health bodies, welcoming high-level speakers from the Dutch Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sports, the WHO, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Mental Health Europe, United Nations University-MERIT, and King's College London.

The 2024 Annual Seminar [recording](#) as well as the [outcome statement](#) and [report](#) are all available online.



Marith Volp highlighted the need for public health institutions to reach out and work with other sectors.



Marjolijn Sonnema highlighted the Dutch Action Plan 'Good Mental Health for All'.



European Commissioner Schmit addressed participants, laying out EU initiatives to protect mental health.



Session 1 concluded that better mental health requires a clear, joint vision of what our societies should look like.



In session 2, the panel and audience discussed current work and development in the use of BCIs.



Prof Arjan Bos concluded that the structural factors impacting mental health on the individual level need addressing.



Caroline Costongs closed the seminar by sharing her key takeaways and making the link with wellbeing economies.

## 1.2 General Council meeting 2024

In times of shifting priorities, health and social wellbeing can easily slide down the list of priorities for decision-makers. EuroHealthNet's Partnership unites public health institutes from across Europe, playing a crucial role in keeping public health and health equity a priority on both national and EU agendas. By enabling the exchange of knowledge and best practices, it further helps public health actors make the best use of limited funding, as well as make the case for investments in health.

On 4 and 5 June 2024, over 50 delegates from 26 member and associate member organisations met in Utrecht, the Netherlands, to debate developments in public health, discuss EuroHealthNet's

activities, and make progress on the [Strategic Development Plan 2021-26](#). The General Council meeting took place on the premises of our members, the [Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment \(RIVM\)](#) and the [Trimbos Institute for Mental Health and Addiction](#).

Various key discussions took place, such as on strategies to tackle the commercial determinants of health, and initiatives were presented. One initiative took forward the [WHO Global Framework](#) for integrating wellbeing into public health, utilising a health promotion approach. This collaboration resulted in concrete recommendations and examples for health ministries on the six topical areas covered in the framework.

Participants also discussed the development of a new Ethical Framework that will guide the EuroHealthNet Partnership in upholding these principles in its actions and decisions, and they unanimously adopted the [Annual Report 2023-2024](#).



The EuroHealthNet Partnership met in the Netherlands to debate developments in public health, discuss EuroHealthNet's activities, and make progress on the [Strategic Development Plan 2021-26](#).



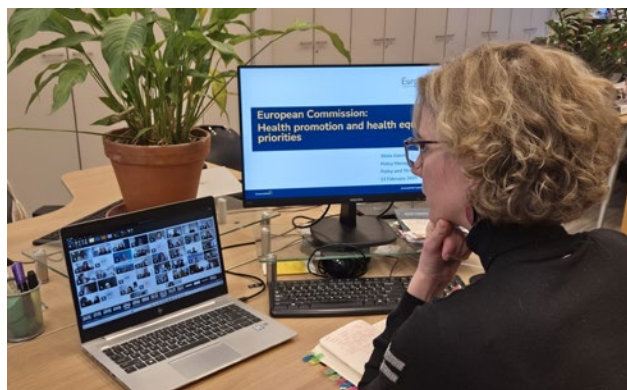
EuroHealthNet welcomed 13 new Ministries of Health, authorities, institutions, and universities to its Partnership.



Caroline Costongs presented the 2023-24 annual report, which was unanimously approved by the General Council.

## 1.3 Strategising the Partnership's work

Following the European elections in June 2024, a new European Commission was formed along with a new policy agenda. At EuroHealthNet's annual online Policy and Strategy Meeting in February 2025, over 70 representatives from the Partnership gathered to discuss the new European and international policy landscape, its implications for public health and strategies for joint work in the year ahead.



Over 70 participants took part in the Policy and Strategy Meeting, strategising EuroHealthNet's work for 2025.

EU representatives shared upcoming health and social priorities at the European level, while WHO/Europe presented its evolving strategy on child and adolescent health. Thematic breakout sessions allowed participants to share their work and create specific proposals for EuroHealthNet's Policy Advocacy and Action Plan for 2025.

The agenda was designed to produce concrete policy proposals through focused sessions. Key topics discussed included:

- The impact of the new European Commission's priorities on health, equity, and wellbeing, particularly in light of the shift towards competitiveness, deregulation, and economic resilience.
- Strengthening the case for public health as essential to economic productivity and resilience within the EU's policy agenda.
- Advancing policies to prevent cardiovascular diseases, the leading cause of mortality in Europe.
- Addressing mental health challenges, with a specific focus on the impact of digitalisation on young people's wellbeing, the need for a life course approach, and further developing the evidence base for policy action.
- Strengthening the integration of health into social and environmental policies, with particular attention to housing, financial protection, and healthy living environments.

## 1.4 Thematic Working Groups

The EuroHealthNet Partnership contains a wealth of knowledge and experiences. EuroHealthNet's [Thematic Working Groups \(TWIGs\)](#) provide a platform for members, associate members, and external affiliated partners to share that expertise, work on joint strategies, build skills, and make public health budgets reach further. TWIGs are member-led: members choose the topic, set the agenda, chair meetings, and steer jointly agreed activities.

### 1.4.1 Best Practice Portals

The Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Programme Registers ('Best Practice Portals') TWIG is a knowledge exchange platform between existing portals and portals under development. Members share experiences, identify and further develop common topics of

relevance, initiate joint projects, and share findings through publications and conferences. This TWIG aims to become the competence engine for best practice portals across Europe.

In June 2024, the TWIG delivered its first workshop at the [12th European Conference on Health Promotion](#) in Lodz, Poland, titled 'Best practice portals and their role in addressing health inequalities'.

In September 2024, the TWIG launched a collaboration with the Joint Action Prevent Non-Communicable Diseases (JA PreventNCD). Facilitating the Joint Action's development of a 'repository of existing public health portals' across Europe, TWIG members have served as a pilot group for the development and implementation of this task.

The Best Practice Portals TWIG is co-led by the [Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment \(RIVM\)](#) and the [German Federal Institute of Public Health \(BfÖG\)](#), and currently has nine participating EuroHealthNet members.

*The TWIG on Best Practice Portals went from building knowledge to sharing its wealth of expertise with the wider public health community. Most recently, we were proud to organise a workshop on Best Practice Portals for health equity and advise the new EU Joint Action PreventNCD.*

”

**Yvette Shajanian Zarneh**

EuroHealthNet Executive Board Member, Head of the Unit for planning, strategy, knowledge transfer, and international relations at the German Federal Institute of Public Health (BfÖG)



The TWIG delivered a workshop at the European Conference on Health Promotion, titled 'Best practice portals and their role in addressing health inequalities'.

### 1.4.2 Prevention of mental ill-health and promotion of mental wellbeing

Launched in mid-2023, the TWIG on prevention of mental ill-health and promotion of mental wellbeing aims to foster sustained international collaboration between public health institutions and professionals. The TWIG facilitates exchange on mental health, with a particular focus on its social determinants.

The TWIG was founded by the Dutch [Trimbos Institute for Mental Health and Addiction](#) (TWIG lead), [Cardiff Metropolitan University](#) in the United Kingdom, the [German Federal Institute of Public Health \(BIÖG\)](#), and the [National Institute of Public Health \(NIJZ\)](#) in Slovenia. With a spirit of inclusivity and collaboration, the TWIG welcomed five more members since its creation, amplifying its collective impact. Over the last year, the TWIG has facilitated exchanges between its members and the OECD's WISE Centre and jointly supported work on mental health in the workplace.

### 1.4.3 Using social marketing to address addictions

Members of the 'Social Marketing to Address Addictions' TWIG work together to build skills and knowledge on organising and carrying out public health campaigns for reducing smoking and alcohol use among the general public, youth, and vulnerable population groups. Led by [Santé publique France \(SpF\)](#) and the Dutch [Trimbos Institute for Mental Health and Addiction](#), the TWIG on Social Marketing to Address Addictions brings together a consortium of 11 members, plus invited guests from Denmark, Ireland, and Canada.

Recently, the TWIG developed a policy brief on alcohol control policies in EU Member States. Based on the brief, TWIG members organised a workshop during the 2024 French Prevention Days and Santé publique France and EuroHealthNet organised an ['International Scientific Symposium – Reducing the burden of alcohol'](#) in Brussels in December 2024.

### 1.4.4 Creating healthy living environments

The 'Healthy Living Environments' TWIG includes 11 member institutions and is co-led by the [German Federal Institute of Public Health \(BIÖG\)](#).

In 2024-2025, they invited external speakers such as the Building Performance Institute Europe and Housing Europe to the TWIG meetings to discuss topics like healthy indoor/built environments, Wellbeing Economies and the 'supersetting' approach as a holistic, cross sectoral method to create sustainable, inclusive and health promoting environments.

TWIG participants also raised and pursued EU-funding opportunities in the area of healthy living environments. Some TWIG participants are, for example, involved in a new Erasmus+ project, PST (Place Standard Tool) for Youth. The project focuses on engaging youth in improving the places they live, and on supporting youth work through collaboration with the public health sector.

TWIG members now lead a work package on healthy living environments in the new EU Joint Action Prevent Non-Communicable Diseases ([JA PreventNCD](#)). The TWIG links the JA PreventNCD to relevant initiatives within EuroHealthNet's Partnership that are not directly involved in the Joint Action.

### 1.4.5 A new TWIG on health promoting schools

A Thematic Working Group on Health Promoting Schools (HPS) is currently being formed to continue building on the efforts of [Schools4Health](#)—an EU-funded initiative coordinated by EuroHealthNet. Led by the [Flanders Institute for Healthy Living](#) in Belgium, with support from the [Danish Committee for Health Education](#) and the [Regional Ministry for Health and Consumer Affairs of Andalusia](#), the group aims to identify HPS resources and engage key stakeholders and experts across the health and education sectors in Europe to strengthen policy support.

In addition, the TWIG will host online sessions to share promising practices, strengthen knowledge and capacity around HPS, and seek funding opportunities for future initiatives. Ultimately, these efforts aim to support the revitalisation of a WHO-associated European Network of Health Promoting Schools.

## 1.5 Advancing the Wellbeing Economy

EuroHealthNet's work is underpinned by the notion that our current economic system is not working: while certain commercial actors make huge profits, the general public is left with the costs of growing inequalities, worsening health, and climate breakdown. The success of our economies and societies is measured through economic growth without regard for the costs to health and the environment.

Throughout its activities, EuroHealthNet works towards a vision of a society that works for all. The [Wellbeing Economy](#) model aims to put the economy at the service of what should be our ultimate objective: our wellbeing and that of the planet. The model reduces environmental, work-related, and economic stressors by focusing on health and wellbeing in all policies, contributing to better health outcomes and disease prevention.

In EuroHealthNet's 2024 annual analysis of the European Semester – the EU's tool for aligning Member States' policies and reforms with the EU's common strategic goals and initiatives – the focus was on whether the Semester is delivering a Wellbeing Economy. In another highlight, EuroHealthNet published a joint report with the [Irish Institute of Public Health](#) on [creating an impactful and sustainable Wellbeing Economy for better public health](#).

*Our health is largely an outcome of the systems in which we live. By taking a whole-system approach to health and striving for an economy that works for everyone, EuroHealthNet helps create a society in which everyone can reach their full potential.*

”

**Suzanne Costello**

President of EuroHealthNet and Chief Executive for the Institute of Public Health in Ireland

# 2

## POLICY

EuroHealthNet's Policy Platform monitors regional, national and European policies by looking at a broad spectrum of social, environmental, and commercial determinants that affect people's wellbeing. The Platform represents our members' expertise in policy dialogues to promote health equity across the European Union (EU).

Our work at the EU level focuses on various processes and initiatives. These include the European Pillar of Social Rights, the European Semester, the EU budget post-2027, initiatives on food and agriculture, as well as the green, demographic and digital transitions. Our ultimate goal is to highlight the core principles of health, equity, and wellbeing at all governance levels.

## 2.1 The European elections and our advocacy with the new Commission

EU policymaking has major implications for people's health and wellbeing all over Europe by influencing the economic and social aspects of life. In the ramp-up to the EU elections, the EuroHealthNet Partnership raised awareness of the need for action on current challenges to health and wellbeing, such as poverty and increasing inequalities.



Ahead of European Parliament elections in June 2024, EuroHealthNet published a [joint statement from the Partnership](#) to express concerns that national and EU policymakers were not doing enough to improve health and reduce inequalities. EuroHealthNet also responded to the publication of the EU Strategic Agenda 2024-2029, [commenting](#) that health is not receiving the priority it needs.

The statements built on EuroHealthNet's [policy paper](#) on priorities for the 2024-2029 EU policy landscape, which emphasised the need to keep health promotion, health equity, and the Wellbeing Economy at the heart of EU policymaking.

### 2.1.1 Working with the new European Parliament and Commission



EuroHealthNet sent letters to the new Commissioners for health and social rights to underline the importance of health promotion and health equity in all EU policies and initiatives.

As the new European Parliament took its seat, the formation of the new European Commission took off. In a [video message](#), EuroHealthNet urged Ursula von der Leyen — the re-elected President of the European Commission — to prioritise health in her new mandate and prevent EU priorities from being dominated by defence and competitiveness. As part of the EU4Health Civil Society Alliance, EuroHealthNet issued a [joint statement](#) asking the European Commission President to appoint a Vice-President for Health, Wellbeing, and Social Rights.

To raise its profile with the new European Commission leadership and ask for a strong commitment to health equity, EuroHealthNet sent letters to [Commissioner Olivér Várhelyi](#), responsible for health, and [Executive Vice President Roxana Mînzatu](#), responsible for social rights, skills, preparedness and job quality.

EuroHealthNet also reached out to the new Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) through a [letter introducing its Partnership and its policy priorities for public health](#). Following up on the letters, colleagues met with various MEP assistants to discuss, among other things, the need for a comprehensive European policy on mental health and to convey the importance of addressing health inequalities and investing in health promotion.

EuroHealthNet further worked with Eurocare and EUPHA to [launch a new Interest Group on Health Inequalities, Prevention, and Risk Factors in the European Parliament](#), providing MEPs from various political groups with technical expertise on health inequalities, disease prevention policies, and addressing risk factors such as commercial determinants of health.



The Interest Group builds the know-how to embed action on the determinants of health throughout the work of the Members of the European Parliament.

## 2.1.2 Setting the Partnership's course in a new political landscape

In an informal, members-only online policy chat, EuroHealthNet analysed and discussed the preliminary policy developments following the EU elections and their consequences for public health with the Partnership. The chat introduced the new European Commission and its priorities and policy objectives, including the Draghi Report on European Competitiveness. Participants

stressed that the new Commissioners should [adopt a participatory approach to policymaking](#), giving citizens a voice in decisions that affect them.



The discussion was taken further in at EuroHealthNet's annual Policy and Strategy Meeting 2025. The 70+ participants heard directly from EU and WHO/Europe representatives about upcoming developments and opportunities, and the exchange fed into EuroHealthNet's Policy and Strategy Plan for 2025. The outcomes also kicked off the development of the Partnership's new Strategic Development Plan for 2026-2031.

*EuroHealthNet's policy monitoring was more valuable than ever following the EU election. As a new European Commission and policy agenda were being rolled out, EuroHealthNet translated what this meant for members on the national and regional levels and developed a strategy to use upcoming opportunities to put public health high on the EU policy agenda.*

”

**Pia Sundell**

Vice President of EuroHealthNet and Member of the board for  
SOSTE Finnish Federation for Social Affairs and Health

## 2.2 The potential of the European Semester to achieve Wellbeing Economies

As a tool for aligning national policies with the EU's economic and social objectives, the European Semester touches upon many topics related to health and wellbeing, such as healthcare, education, and poverty. The European Semester could thus be a tool for improving health equity and advancing a Wellbeing Economy that prioritises social inclusion, health equity, and environmental sustainability, alongside economic stability.

### What is the European Semester?

The European Semester is the EU's annual cycle of economic and social policy coordination. The Semester affects social policies, such as those on healthcare, early childhood education, unemployment, as well as social transfer and pension systems.

As the Semester evaluates progress on social, health, and environmental goals, as well as fiscal and economic goals, it could be a tool to move towards a Wellbeing Economy.

The EuroHealthNet Partnership has been [analysing the European Semester process from a health equity and wellbeing perspective](#) since its inception in 2011, determining whether its outcomes have resulted in more equitable, resilient, 'better' societies, and how.

EuroHealthNet's report '[A European Semester for the Wellbeing of People and the Planet](#)' evaluates the extent to which the 2024 European Semester process supported a transition towards a Wellbeing Economy. The report found that the 2024 Semester cycle saw progress in integrating wellbeing-related policies, particularly through the Social Convergence Framework and increased recognition of sustainable investments. However, economic and fiscal priorities continue to dominate, limiting the full implementation of a Wellbeing Economy approach.

EuroHealthNet's analysis highlights the need to further align the Semester with long-term wellbeing objectives. Its key policy recommendations include:

- Developing a European Wellbeing Economy Strategy, aligning with the Green Deal, the European Pillar of Social Rights, and the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Reinforcing wellbeing indicators in the Social Scoreboard to better track social and health inequalities.
- Embedding Return on Investment (ROI) assessments in economic governance to justify and protect long-term investments in social, health and environmental wellbeing.
- Strengthening the Social Convergence Framework, ensuring that identified social risks translate into concrete policy actions and Country-Specific Recommendations.
- Protecting social and health investments within the new Economic Governance Framework to prevent budget constraints from undermining essential public services.



While progress has been made, fully integrating wellbeing into the Semester remains a challenge. Aligning economic policies with social inclusion, health equity, and environmental sustainability is essential to preserving Europe's social model and building a more equitable and resilient society.

In September 2024, EuroHealthNet was invited by the European Economic and Social Committee to present its work on the Semester at the [Annual European Semester Group Conference](#). The intervention focused on supporting the role of civil society organisations in the Semester process.

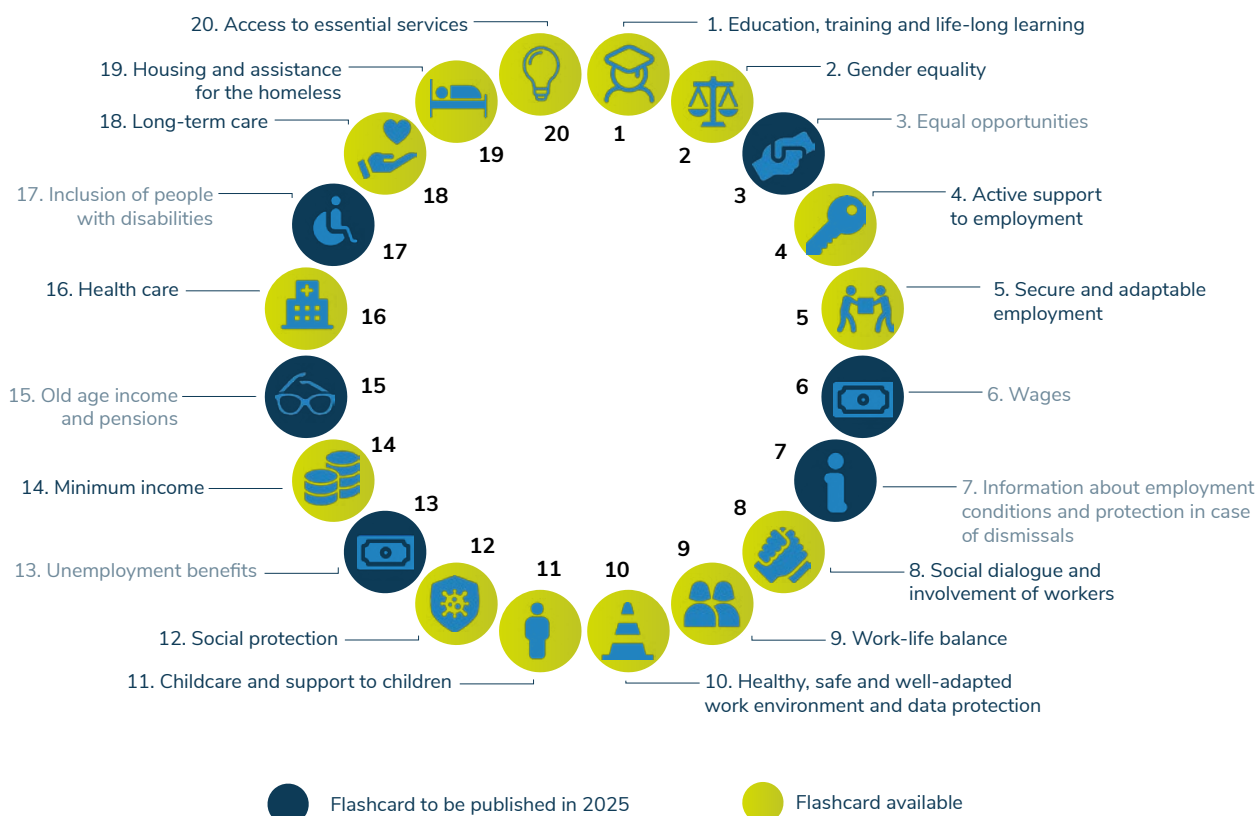
## 2.3 The European Pillar of Social Rights: an opportunity for public health action

The [European Pillar of Social Rights Flashcard Tool](#) helps public health professionals and decision-makers contribute to the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR). The EPSR is highly relevant for promoting health equity and reducing health inequalities, as it addresses the key determinants of health and wellbeing.

Each flashcard explores a different principle from a health equity lens, shares available resources, and provides concrete examples of actions.

Over the last year, EuroHealthNet continued to add to the number of flashcards, which now cover:

### The 20 principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights



The flashcards feature practice examples from EuroHealthNet members, including:

- Bulgarian National Center of Public Health and Analyses (NCPHA)
- French Public Health Agency
- Public Health Wales
- Portuguese National Institute of Health Doutor Ricardo Jorge
- Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare (THL)
- Austrian Health Promotion Fund
- Trimbos Institute, the Netherlands
- Norwegian Directorate of Health
- Regional Ministry of Health and Consumer Affairs of Andalusia (CSCJA), Spain
- University of Brighton, School of Health Sciences
- Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM)

## 2.4 Providing expert analysis

The Policy Platform delivers expert analysis and insights on current and emerging issues, informing both the public health community and our members. By focusing on skill development and capacity building, our goal is to help public health professionals and their organisations prepare for future policy changes and related challenges.

### 2.4.1 Policy Précis and Policy Briefings

EuroHealthNet's Policy Précis aim to summarise and explain high-level, technical, and complex EU policy developments in a simple and accessible way. Practice examples and pathways for progress by public health actors are exemplified to inspire action at the EU, national, and regional level.

#### HOW CAN PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND PARTICIPATORY PROCESSES HELP IMPROVE HEALTH EQUITY?

Involving citizens in policymaking helps create policies that reflect real needs, have community endorsement, and are sustainable. It is especially powerful in public health: dialogue can reduce health inequalities, improve the efficiency of health interventions, and increase transparency in health-related decisions.

The EuroHealthNet [Policy Précis](#) explores the potential of social participation and citizen engagement for improving health, equity and wellbeing. It provides an overview of EU, WHO, and international initiatives and shares recommendations for embedding social participation and citizen engagement in local, national and international decision-making.

The Policy Précis highlights the expertise of our Partnership by showcasing practice examples from our members, the Austrian Health Promotion Fund, the Swedish Västra Götaland region, and the Tuscany Region in Italy. The publication was launched with a [press release](#) calling on the new European Commission to systematically involve citizens in formulating and implementing its policy agenda.



In June 2025, a [EuroHealthNet Country Exchange Visit](#) will gather senior experts and junior colleagues from the Partnership to further explore the potential of social participation and youth engagement for better health and learn from each other's experiences in organising participatory decision-making processes.

*Giving NGOs and citizens a seat at the table makes sure that policies are supported by the community and civil society. In addition, social participation is particularly important for responsive, inclusive and participatory decision-making. After all, people know what they need to lead healthy lives, and their input helps decision-makers meet those needs.*

**Dr Mojca Gabrijelčič Blenkuš**

Honorary Advisor of EuroHealthNet and Head of the Healthy Lifestyle Department at the National Institute of Public Health (NIJZ), Slovenia

## TACKLING ULTRA-PROCESSED FOOD FOR A HEALTHIER AND JUST FOOD SYSTEM

The consumption of ultra-processed foods (UPFs) — food made with ingredients not typically found at home, such as preservatives, artificial sweeteners, or flavour enhancers — is growing. These foods are often high in sugar, fats, and salt, making them a key driver of obesity and a risk factor for a range of health conditions.

Europeans now obtain an average of 27% of their daily calorie intake from UPFs, but there are inequalities in their consumption. As UPFs are often inexpensive and easily accessible, they are consumed more frequently by those with limited financial resources or time to prepare healthy meals.

EuroHealthNet's [Policy Précis on ultra-processed food](#) explores UPFs as a determinant of health, setting out policies needed to reduce their availability and consumption to protect individuals' health. The Policy Précis builds on the work of [FEAST](#), a European initiative which promotes a delicious, healthier, and more sustainable diet for everyone. Practice examples from the United Kingdom and Slovenia further demonstrate how the proposed measures are already being implemented.

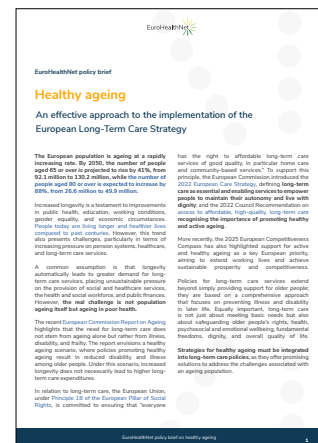
The Policy Précis was released when the EU launched its Vision on Food and Agriculture. The [press release](#) advocated for a strong health component, which the Vision, unfortunately, lacked.



## HEALTHY AGEING: AN INVESTMENT IN RESILIENT HEALTHCARE SYSTEMS AND SOCIETIES

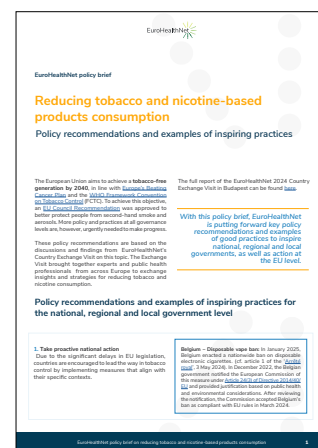
EuroHealthNet's [policy brief on healthy ageing](#) was designed to draw attention to the need for healthy ageing policies in the implementation of the EU Council Recommendation on long-term care. The brief elaborates on the rationale for investing in healthy ageing by taking a strong preventive and life-cycle approach and highlights all dimensions of integrated and comprehensive healthy ageing policies.

The brief was first presented during a meeting with national long-term care coordinators, organised by the European Commission Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion. In April 2025, it was [released](#) to the wider public.



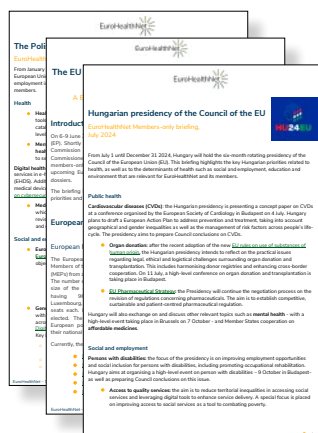
## REDUCING THE CONSUMPTION OF TOBACCO AND NICOTINE-CONTAINING PRODUCTS

Building on a successful Country Exchange Visit in Budapest in November 2024, EuroHealthNet published a [policy brief on addressing tobacco and nicotine-based products consumption](#). The brief calls for an urgent review of the EU's Tobacco Directives to account for novel products, including vapes and nicotine pouches, and to restrict the consumption of cigarettes and nicotine-containing products in general. It argues that this review should be paired with action at the regional and national levels to account for countries' specific contexts. To spur progress, EuroHealthNet's policy brief offers key recommendations for the EU, national, and regional levels as well as practice examples from authorities that are leading the way.



The brief was [released](#) in March 2025 in response to a joint letter by 12 EU health ministers to Commissioner for health Várhelyi calling for swift EU action to reduce the use of vapes and nicotine pouches, especially among youth.

### 2.4.2 Delivering intelligence to members



EuroHealthNet's members-only briefings are an exclusive service, providing timely insights into key policy topics. The briefings help strengthen advocacy efforts and engagement in political debates. The topics covered over the last 12 months include:

- The Wellbeing Economy for public health
- The Hungarian Presidency of the Council of the EU – public health aspects
- The EU institutional renewal and its implications for public health actors
- The Polish Presidency of the Council of the EU – public health aspects

EuroHealthNet has also started organising members-only Policy Chats. In these informal meetings, colleagues from the Policy Platform briefly present new developments at the EU and WHO levels, and participants have opportunities to ask questions and engage in discussion.

### 2.4.3 Raising the Wellbeing Economy's profile in health ministries

The transformative approach of the Wellbeing Economy moves the focus away from an economic system that is structurally dependent on GDP growth. Instead, it values human health, environmental sustainability, social equity, and wellbeing as core indicators of success.

Upon request of the Institute for Public Health in Ireland, EuroHealthNet prepared a policy brief and a policy report on the [Wellbeing Economy for the public health sector](#). While the brief has been shared exclusively with Ireland's Chief Medical Officer and their staff, the report was made publicly available. It explores definitions and approaches to establishing a Wellbeing Economy, its significance for health and the healthcare sector, global success stories, and practical recommendations, with a particular focus on Ireland and Northern Ireland.



In October 2024, EuroHealthNet co-organised a [webinar on a Wellbeing Economy for inclusion](#) with the European Platform for Rehabilitation. The event also featured a presentation from EuroHealthNet's member, the Finnish Federation for Social Affairs and Health (SOSTE). In May 2025, EuroHealthNet co-hosted and presented its work at the [Wellbeing Economy Forum](#) in Iceland.

## 2.5 Engaging with policymakers

A key part of EuroHealthNet's policy work is engaging with EU-level decision-makers. This includes facilitating dialogue between policymakers and our members, disseminating the latest evidence, and helping to shape new policy initiatives, both through one-on-one meetings and policy forums.

EuroHealthNet frequently provides input and feedback on proposed policy frameworks and actions through [consultations](#) held by the European Commission, WHO, and other institutional stakeholders. By harnessing the collective expertise, insights, and best practices within the Partnership, EuroHealthNet sets out to strengthen policy responses and contribute to informed decision-making processes.

### 2.5.1 Meetings with European policymakers

Throughout the year, EuroHealthNet engaged in strategic meetings with key policymakers from across EU institutions, as well as officials from the Hungarian and Polish Presidencies of the Council of the European Union. EuroHealthNet works particularly closely with the European Commission Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (DG EMPL), representing the Partnership's policy messages on the social determinants of health. In July 2024, colleagues met with the new Director General of DG Employment, Mario Nava, to present the Partnership's policy priorities.

Against the backdrop of the European elections and the formation of new EU institutions, our meetings with the EU institutions played a crucial role in shaping the future policy agenda. Topics of collaboration included the EU Child Guarantee, the European Care Strategy, long-term care,

cardiovascular diseases, and the commercial determinants of health. EuroHealthNet actively contributed to debates on the new EU agenda, advocating for a stronger focus on health equity and prevention within the next institutional cycle.

EuroHealthNet also engaged in prominent European events, such as a high-level conference on long-term care, where EuroHealthNet presented on healthy ageing policies. Similarly, in January 2025, EuroHealthNet joined a panel with health ministries and several workshops at a Polish Presidency event on public health capacity. EuroHealthNet also took the stage at a European Economic and Social Committee's (EESC) hearing on the rising cost of living in February 2025. A key highlight of the year was the meeting between EuroHealthNet members and European Parliament Member Vytenis Andriukaitis as part of the Brussels study visit on EU policymaking in September 2024. Discussions focused on strengthening alcohol prevention measures in the EU, and EuroHealthNet emphasised the need for stronger policies to address alcohol-related harm and ensure public health remains at the forefront of European decision-making.



EuroHealthNet participated in the EU Alliance for Investing in Children's annual meeting with the Commission.



EuroHealthNet presented its work on healthy ageing at a high-level EU conference on long-term care.



Our members met with MEP Vytenis Andriukaitis at the capacity-building visit on EU policymaking.

## 2.5.2 Reducing the burden of alcohol consumption: turning research into action

Alcohol consumption has a significant impact on both morbidity and mortality in Europe and represents a considerable economic and social burden on society. While strategies to reduce the burden of alcohol consumption are now well established, their implementation remains complex.

EuroHealthNet collaborated with its member Santé publique France to organise a [scientific symposium](#) in Brussels on overcoming policy challenges for alcohol prevention in December 2024. The event, called 'Reducing the burden of alcohol: focus on two scientific and public policy challenges' brought together public health stakeholders, policymakers, and researchers, and addressed two key scientific challenges towards the prevention of alcohol consumption:

- How to take into account the latest scientific evidence to develop and promote low-risk drinking guidelines to reduce alcohol consumption?
- The commercial determinants of health: impact on alcohol prevention policies and levers for public health action.

The event was paired with an [exhibition on alcohol labelling](#) in the European Parliament, organised in collaboration with Eurocare. The exposition centred around a crucial issue: why are citizens not provided with basic information about what is in their alcoholic drinks? Because of its position in the common areas of the Parliament, the exhibition attracted the attention of many Members of the European Parliament.



EuroHealthNet and Santé publique France's symposium examined the challenges of reducing alcohol consumption.



EuroHealthNet's President, Suzanne Costello, opened the exhibition on alcohol labelling in the European Parliament.

### 2.5.3 Our partnerships and alliances

EuroHealthNet has continued to build on existing collaborations and cultivate new opportunities by joining new platforms or alliances over the past year.

#### **EUROHEALTHNET'S STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP WITH WHO/EUROPE**

EuroHealthNet continues to strengthen its dynamic partnership with WHO/Europe under the framework of the 2021 Memorandum of Understanding. This enduring collaboration cuts across multiple domains, involving close work with WHO technical units, regional and country offices, and collaborating centres. Together, we are advancing the four flagship priorities of the WHO/Europe European Programme of Work 2020–2025.

Over the past year, EuroHealthNet has played a pivotal role in several key WHO/Europe events, initiatives, and consultations. At the 74th Regional Committee meeting in Copenhagen, we proudly moderated the first-ever 'NSA Day' for non-state actors—launching WHO/Europe's new Engagement Plan with Non-State Actors. We also contributed to crucial health dialogues by delivering a joint oral statement on the Health Emergency Preparedness, Response and Resilience Action Plan ('Preparedness 2.0'), and submitted two written statements to help shape resilient, inclusive policies.



We contributed to the 74th WHO/Europe Regional Committee meeting as a recognised non-state actor.



EuroHealthNet spoke at the WHO European Forum on Commercial Determinants of NCDs in June 2024.

EuroHealthNet and other non-state actors bring vital perspectives to WHO processes—complementing institutional views and enriching policy outcomes.

### **Championing health equity and systemic change**

EuroHealthNet actively contributed to the WHO European Forum on Commercial Determinants of NCDs, held in Brussels in June 2024. This high-level event fostered dialogue on how to confront and regulate the commercial influences driving non-communicable diseases, providing a powerful platform for policy innovation and strategic foresight.

At the 29th Annual Meeting of the Regions for Health Network, EuroHealthNet delivered key insights on enhancing community wellbeing—reinforcing our commitment to health equity at the regional level.

WHO /Europe representatives also contributed to EuroHealthNet-led events. Notably, Director Natasha Azzopardi Muscat joined our annual Policy and Strategy Meeting, and WHO experts shared their expertise during our Country Exchange Visit on tobacco control. Katrine Bach Habersaat from the Behavioural and Cultural Insights Unit spoke at our 2024 Seminar, highlighting the power of behavioural insights in tackling both climate change and mental health challenges.

### **Advocating for Children and Young People**

Children's health remains at the heart of our agenda. EuroHealthNet released a formal statement on WHO's new Child and Adolescent Health and Wellbeing Strategy and actively contributed to the public consultation on School Health Services implementation guidance. We were the sole non-state actor invited to the 2nd Member State consultation on the strategy in Istanbul, where we presented our flagship Schools4Health initiative and advocated for reviving a pan-European network of health-promoting schools.

### **Shaping the Future of European Public Health**

Looking ahead, EuroHealthNet is making a robust contribution to the development of the next European Programme of Work (EPW2). Through public hearings and bilateral dialogues, we are helping to evaluate EPW1 and co-shape the emerging priorities of EPW2, ensuring that equity, inclusion, and innovation remain at the core of Europe's health agenda.



EuroHealthNet presented its work on child wellbeing at the WHO Child Health Strategy Meeting.



EuroHealthNet met with Dr Hans Kluge, Director of WHO/Europe, at the 2024 Regional Committee meeting.

Many of today's health challenges are universal across countries, whether it is rising rates of non-communicable diseases, widening inequalities, or ageing populations. WHO/Europe offers invaluable support by generating knowledge and providing guidance, helping countries face these challenges. As EuroHealthNet, we are proud of our long-standing work with WHO to promote health equity throughout Europe.

”

**Prof Plamen Dimitrov**

EuroHealthNet Executive Board member, member of the World Health Organization Executive Board,  
Director of the Bulgarian National Center of Public Health and Analyses (NCPHA)

## CONTRIBUTING TO THE EU HEALTH POLICY PLATFORM

EuroHealthNet regularly uploads news and shows leadership at the European Commission's EU Health Policy Platform, contributing to key stakeholder networks, including the 'NCDs Healthier Together' initiative, the 'Beating Cancer Stakeholder Contact Group,' and the 'Climate and Health Education in Europe' network. By offering an online forum for discussion, the Health Policy Platform fosters online collaboration between civil society actors across Europe to strengthen their policy impact.

## TAKING PART IN THE CIVIL SOCIETY DIALOGUES

As a EU civil society stakeholder, EuroHealthNet regularly engages in the Civil Society Structural Dialogue, led by DG EMPL. These are opportunities to gain insights into EU policy development on employment, social, and skills dossiers. It also allows us to provide our views, inputs, and evidence to the policymaking process, both by engaging in the discussion and by providing written inputs.

Over the last year, for example, we provided input to strengthen the European Child Guarantee, the Fair Transition, and the European Pillar of Social Rights. We called for these initiatives to adopt a Wellbeing Economy approach and put health equity and health promotion at their centre.

## COLLABORATION WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS AND EUROPEAN NETWORKS

EuroHealthNet partners with leading organisations and European networks to develop impactful policy and advocacy papers. These collaborations reinforce the link between public health, social inclusion, and poverty reduction, driving progress at both EU and Member State levels. Our most prominent collaborations include:

- The [EU4Health Civil Society Alliance](#)
- The [EU Alliance for Investing in Children](#)
- The [Wellbeing Economy Alliance \(WEAll\)](#)
- [Advisory Board of European Health Forum Gastein](#)
- [International Conference Council of the European Public Health Conference](#)
- [Mental Health Policy Hub](#)
- The European Care Advocacy group
- The [Smoke Free Partnership](#)
- The Alliance for Digital Rights and Health
- The [Global Climate and Health Alliance](#)
- The European Commission e-health stakeholder group
- The [Mission Board on Vaccination in Europe](#)

We leverage these alliances to share intelligence on policymaking as well as raise awareness with joint statements and initiatives. Over the last year, our collaboration has covered topics such as the implementation of the [EU Child Guarantee](#), [mental health](#), the [EU Strategic Agenda 2024-2029](#), and the [European Care Strategy](#). As discussions on the new European long-term budget 2028-2035 started, EuroHealthNet joined 66 other organisations in a call for a [strong Social Fund](#) and supported the EU Alliance for investing in children asking to align EU policies and budget to [eradicate child poverty](#).

## 2.6 Significant external policy events

In 2024, EuroHealthNet actively participated in key health and social policy events across Europe, strengthening its engagement with policymakers and stakeholders.



### 24 September 2024: European Semester Group Conference, the European Economic and Social Committee

EuroHealthNet contributed to discussions on strengthening the European Semester's social dimension and addressing territorial imbalances. We highlighted the importance of embedding health and social equity in economic governance and improving civil society engagement in policymaking.



### 24-27 September 2024: European Health Forum Gastein

EuroHealthNet spoke at a [WHO/Europe session](#) on the commercial determinants and barriers to achieving NCD targets by focusing on tobacco, alcohol, and nutrition. We also co-organised a [session on food system inequities](#), stressing the need for policies that tackle ultra-processed foods and improve access to healthy nutrition, and we spoke at a European Semester session.



### 4-6 November 2024: 7th OECD World Forum on Well-being in Rome

EuroHealthNet spoke on practice examples and research related to the integration of wellbeing evidence in policy decision making and design, [presenting the work of its BEST-COST project](#).



### 12-15 November 2024: 17th European Public Health Conference

EuroHealthNet exhibited its work, fostering new connections and increasing visibility. It chaired a EuroHealthNet plenary on 'Tackling health inequalities in times of crisis,' featuring INSA, UNESCO, and the European Commission. A [dedicated webpage](#) highlights key sessions and shares the [recording](#) of the plenary session.



### 19 November 2024: POLITICO Health Care Summit 2024

The 2024 summit probed a pivotal question: what does the future hold for Europe's Health Union under a new EU leadership? As one of the speakers, EuroHealthNet stressed that health inequalities are persistent in Europe and that the Commission and Member States need to step up addressing them.



### 27-29 November 2024: Regions for Health Network (RHN) Annual Meeting

The [Annual Meeting](#) addressed health challenges in a 'permacrisis' era, covering chronic diseases, climate change, and pandemic preparedness. EuroHealthNet participated in a working group on the Wellbeing Economy and engaged with several regions on potential collaborations and membership.



### 16 January & 7 April 2025: Polish Presidency of the EU Conferences on Public Health

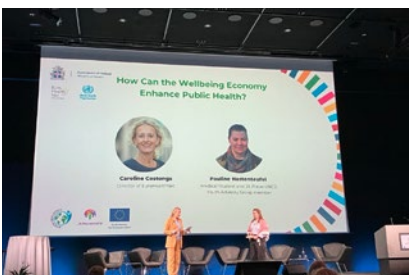
EuroHealthNet [joined](#) the very first conference of the Polish EU Presidency on 16 January, focused on putting public health on the EU agenda. We spoke at a panel with health ministers and the OECD to discuss how health can be made relevant across policy areas. EuroHealthNet also chaired a session on improving the effectiveness of public health measures.



In addition, EuroHealthNet spoke at the Polish Presidency Conference 'Promotion and protection of mental health of children and adolescents in the digital era' on 7 April 2025 in Krakow, presenting key findings from its mental health projects.



**14 March 2025: European Commission Civil Society Dialogue**  
EuroHealthNet made a keynote intervention presenting findings from our [2024 European Semester report](#) focused on whether the Semester is delivering a Wellbeing Economy.



### 7-8 May 2025: Wellbeing Economy Forum in Iceland

The [Wellbeing Economy Forum](#) is a global platform for dialogue, collaboration, and exchange, committed to reshaping our economic systems to operate within environmental limits and prioritise the wellbeing of all generations. EuroHealthNet co-moderated a session on cross-sector collaboration and inclusivity as key to driving systems change.

# 3

## PRACTICE

The Practice Platform supports members by fostering expertise, inspiring professionals, as well as leveraging the latest evidence to advance health promotion and reduce health inequalities. EuroHealthNet organises capacity-building opportunities, informational sessions, and international exchanges to empower experts with enhanced skills and knowledge.

We collaborate with stakeholders across social, digital, educational, environmental, and financial sectors to foster cross-sectoral synergies. Our active participation in European projects enables us to effectively support initiatives that enhance societal resilience and wellbeing.

## 3.1 Building capacity to address societal challenges

### 3.1.1 Preventing child poverty to reduce health inequalities



Members were hosted by Public Health Scotland to learn about Scotland's intersectional approach to reducing child poverty.

On 19-20 June 2024, EuroHealthNet and Public Health Scotland (PHS) hosted a Country Exchange Visit (CEV) in Glasgow, Scotland, to discuss strategies for mitigating child poverty. Participants explored innovative approaches, such as Scotland's intersectoral collaboration model exemplified by the [Child Poverty \(Scotland\) Act 2017](#), emphasising the need to address economic determinants of health and poverty prevention as part of the work of public health professionals. Tackling intergenerational poverty and overcoming stigma emerged as fundamental elements of successful approaches.

Moreover, clear communication and consistent messaging are essential for keeping poverty reduction and structural inequalities at the forefront. Participants also highlighted the importance of legal frameworks, coalition-building, and the integration of the Wellbeing Economy approach in driving systemic change.

A comprehensive [report](#) details the programmes, activities, and key discussion points from the visit.

#### Members involved:

- National Public Health Institute (GÖG), Austria
- National Institute of Public Health (SZU), Czech Republic
- Institute for Health and Welfare (THL), Finland
- Institute of Preventive Medicine, Environmental and Occupational Health (PROLEPSIS), Greece
- National Center for Public Health and Pharmacy (NNGYK), Hungary
- Trimbos Institute, the Netherlands
- Medical University of Silesia, Poland
- Public Health Scotland (PHS), Scotland
- Regional Ministry of Health and Consumer Affairs of Andalusia (CSCJA), Spain
- University of La Laguna, Spain

### 3.1.2 Reducing the consumption of tobacco and nicotine-based products in Europe



Hosted by the National Center for Public Health and Pharmacy in Hungary, participants exchanged on best practices for reducing tobacco and nicotine-use.

Tobacco use remains the largest preventable health risk in the European Union, causing nearly 700,000 deaths annually. Half of all smokers face premature death, losing an average of 14 years of life.

On 20 and 21 November 2024, EuroHealthNet, in collaboration with its member, the National Center for Public Health and Pharmacy (NNGYK) in Hungary, organised a [Country Exchange Visit on reducing tobacco and nicotine consumption](#) in Budapest during the Hungarian EU Council Presidency. The event provided a platform for experts and public health professionals to exchange insights and strategies. The focus was on identifying effective policies and practices while addressing the challenges countries face in this domain.

A [report](#) from this exchange summarises key insights, challenges and calls for action.

#### Members involved:

- National Center of Public Health and Analyses of Bulgaria NCPHA, Bulgaria
- National Institute of Public Health of the Czech Republic (SZU)
- Santé publique France, France
- National Center for Public Health and Pharmacy of Hungary (NNGYK), Hungary
- Semmelweis University, Hungary
- Institute of Public Health in Ireland (IPH), Ireland
- Riga City Council Department of Welfare, Latvia
- Centre for Disease Prevention and Control, Latvia
- Trimbos Institute, the Netherlands
- National Institute of Public Health of Slovenia (NIJZ)
- Public Health Agency of Sweden
- Public Health Scotland

### 3.1.3 Building capacity to engage in EU policymaking

Following the European elections in June 2024, EuroHealthNet was keen to organise a [members-only capacity-building study visit](#). From 2-3 September 2024, 15 participants joined in Brussels to deepen their understanding of EU decision-making and how to engage. Lessons learned will help them drive meaningful change in public health.

This study visit offered invaluable opportunities, including a guided visit to the European Parliament, an exchange of views with European Parliament Member and former Commissioner for Health Vytenis Andriukaitis, and an engaging role-play simulation of the EU decision-making process. Participants also gained expert insights into effective advocacy strategies, the power of strategic framing, and the inner workings of the EU – equipping them to champion policies that reduce health and social inequalities across Europe.

#### Members involved:

- National Public Health Institute (GÖG), Austria
- Flanders Institute for Healthy Living, Belgium
- Institute for Health and Welfare of Finland (THL), Finland
- Federal Institute of Public Health (BfÖG), Germany
- Institute of Preventive Medicine, Environmental and Occupational Health (PROLEPSIS), Greece
- Ministry of Health of Moldova
- National Institute for Public Health and the Environment of the Netherlands (RIVM)
- Avans University of Applied Sciences, the Netherlands
- Directorate of Health of Norway
- National Institute of Public Health – National Research Institute of Poland (NIPH-NIH)
- National Institute of Health Doutor Ricardo Jorge of Portugal (INSA)
- National Institute of Public Health of Slovenia (NIJZ)
- Ministry of Health of Spain
- The Regional Ministry of Health and Consumer Affairs of Andalusia (CSCJA), Spain



During the capacity-building visit on EU policymaking, members visited the European Parliament and Commission, engaged in simulations of EU decision-making, and met with EU officials and decision-makers.

### 3.1.4 Helping to ensure good ethics in health promotion

Public health and health promotion are inherently ethical endeavours, requiring careful navigation of individual rights, social responsibilities, and collective wellbeing. Health promotion, particularly, is concerned with equitable social arrangements that empower individuals to achieve better health outcomes. Further, public health institutions operate in complex environments where emergency preparedness and response and long-term health promotion efforts must align with ethical principles of proportionality, precaution, non-partisanship and inclusivity.

In April 2025, EuroHealthNet organised a [members-only capacity-building workshop on ethics in health promotion](#), to equip public health professionals with frameworks and guidance. Santé publique France and Public Health Scotland presented their institutions' work on ethics. The workshop fostered dialogue on ethics and current ethical challenges, explored the interplay between ethics and public health policymaking, and provided practical approaches to addressing ethical dilemmas.

The insights gained from members helped EuroHealthNet develop implementation guidance to complement EuroHealthNet's upcoming Ethical Framework.

### 3.1.5 Encouraging members to access EU technical support

EuroHealthNet supports its members in applying for the EU's Technical Support Instrument (TSI), a programme that offers tailored technical expertise to help EU Member States design and implement reforms.

This year, EuroHealthNet assisted its member, the Institute of Health of Italy (ISS), to submit a TSI application on the 'Support for the Italian Network of Cities for Health Equity inspired by Marmot's principles' to the Italian government in September 2024. Its objective is to reduce health inequalities among communities at city or sub-area level in terms of health outcomes and inequities in access to health and other services covering the social determinants of health.

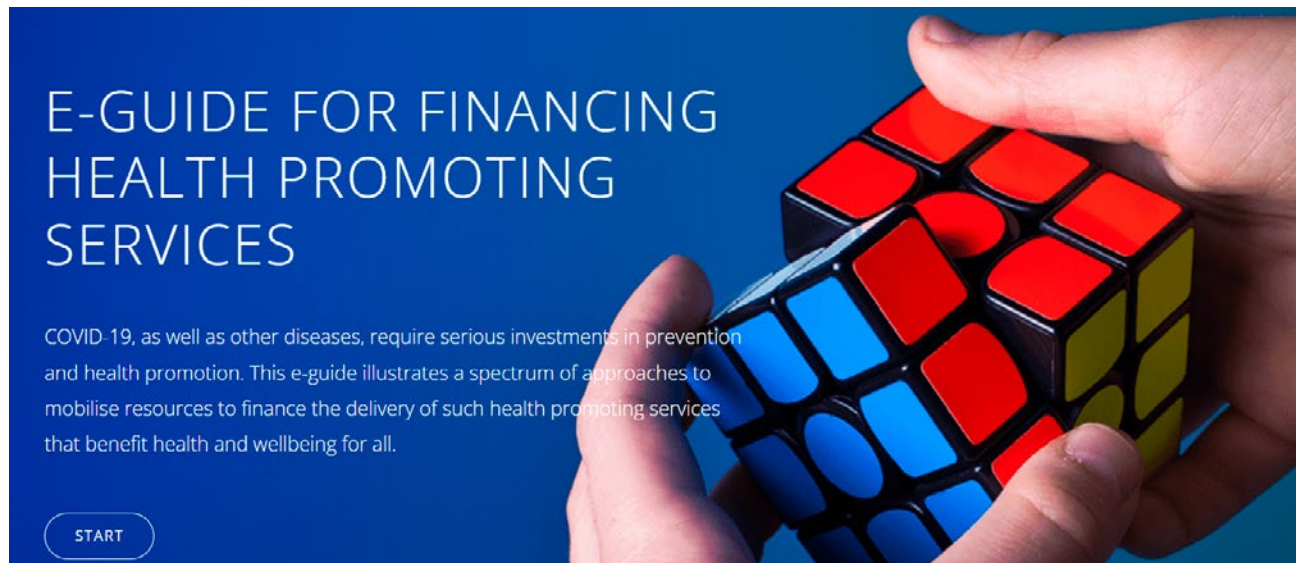
### 3.1.6 Connecting public health professionals with experts on EU funding and tools

In 2024, five categories of national focal points (NFPs) were added to EuroHealthNet's [Guide of National Focal Points](#) for EU programmes, instruments and networks:

1. The EU school fruit, vegetables and milk scheme
2. National Long-term care coordinators
3. The Focal Points of the European Agency for Health and Safety at Work
4. The National focal points for the European Economic Area (EEA) and Norway Grants
5. Contacts of the National Offices of the European Investment Bank.

The guide is a tool for public health authorities and health Ministries to identify possible funding opportunities supporting health and social priorities. Each funding programme links to an online database of national contact points, allowing public health officials to access and search for national technical expertise. Additionally, EuroHealthNet also provides support to its members by reaching out to EU or WHO/Europe national focal points when contact information is not publicly accessible.

### 3.1.7 Offering expertise on financing health promotion



EuroHealthNet continuously aids its members and the broader public health community in exploring innovative finance models for health promotion and disease prevention. Our online helpdesk remains a platform for members seeking funding and financing guidance.

Furthermore, we have enhanced our [e-Guide on financing health-promoting services](#) and added nine new case studies in 2024. Each case study follows a standardised template with three main sections, to ensure consistency and make it easier for the reader to follow. Six case studies were added in the section 'Social impact financing', one in the section 'Social outcome contracting' and two in the section 'Beyond the healthcare sector'

## 3.2 Schools4Health: paving the way towards health-promoting schools

Led by EuroHealthNet, [Schools4Health](#) is a 3-year initiative which aims to strengthen and sustain health-promoting school approaches (HPS) in 16 schools across Europe. With the support of 11 partner organisations, these schools are implementing good practices in healthy nutrition, physical activity, and mental health and undergoing efforts to strengthen the HPS framework in their settings.



A recent highlight was a 5-day training visit in Cluj-Napoca for the Romanian schools participating in Schools4Health by implementing mental health and physical activity practices. The training helped strengthen the schools' capacity to integrate the HPS framework into their structures. The visit also included meetings with the Romanian Ministries of Health and Education, where participants showcased Schools4Health and ongoing efforts to advance the HPS approach.

The Schools4Health final conference will take place in December 2025 in Brussels. Leading up to the conference, five policy briefs will capture the knowledge and expertise gathered throughout the initiative to provide actionable policy recommendations to take the HPS approach further throughout Europe. The first Schools4Health policy brief '[Why invest in health-promoting schools](#)' has been published in April 2025.

### Members involved:

- Flanders Institute for Healthy Living, Belgium
- National Public Health Centre of Hungary (NNGYK), Hungary
- Slovenian National Institute of Public Health (NIJZ), Slovenia
- Institute of Preventive Medicine, Environmental and Occupational Health (PROLEPSIS), Greece
- Regional Ministry of Health and Consumer Affairs of Andalusia (CSCJA), Spain
- Riga City Council Department of Welfare, Latvia
- Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM), the Netherlands



Schools4Health aims to strengthen and sustain health-promoting school approaches in 16 schools across Europe.



In February, partners discussed progress so far and how to ensure the sustainability after the project ends in 2025.

### 3.3 Stepping up health promotion through collaboration on equity, investments, and intersectoral approaches

#### 3.3.1 RIVER-EU: reducing inequalities in vaccine uptake

Funded by the Horizon Europe 2020 programme, [RIVER-EU](#) aims to address [system barriers to vaccination](#) to improve MMR and HPV vaccine equity for underserved communities across Europe. The project began in 2021 and is set to conclude in 2026.



The implementation of RIVER-EU interventions across its [five project communities](#) is nearing completion, with evaluations now in progress. At the same time, EuroHealthNet, which leads the communication and dissemination activities, is developing the exploitation plan to ensure the project's outcomes and impact remain sustainable beyond its duration. In its final year, RIVER-EU will focus on developing and sustaining the [Strengthening Education and Knowledge on Immunization platform](#) (SEKI) and finalising policy guidelines.

During the 17th European Public Health Conference in Lisbon, RIVER-EU held a [preconference](#), together with two other EU-funded projects ([RISE-Vac](#) and [AcToVax4NAM](#)). Titled '[From Insight to Impact: Advancing Equitable Vaccination Across Europe](#)', the event discussed proven ways to address the systematic barriers to vaccine uptake in underserved communities.

Sharing lessons learned so far, RIVER-EU contributed to a [report](#) by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) on tools and methods to promote vaccination acceptance and uptake. The report focuses especially on what can be achieved using social and behavioural science approaches.

##### Members involved:

- Finnish National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL), Finland
- Institute of Preventive Medicine, Environmental and Occupational Health (PROLEPSIS), Greece



RIVER-EU aims to address system barriers to vaccination to improve vaccine equity for underserved communities.



RIVER-EU's preconference at the EPHC highlighted proven ways to address systematic vaccine barriers.

### 3.3.2 Joint Action PERCH: promoting the uptake of HPV vaccinations

The [EU Joint Action PERCH](#) brings together 18 European countries to enhance efforts in increasing HPV vaccination rates. It focuses on strengthening national vaccination campaigns, providing training activities for health professionals on vaccination communication, and improving data monitoring and surveillance.



EuroHealthNet's role is to support the sustainability and integration of the project by identifying determinants of vaccine inequity as well as successful strategies that increase the HPV vaccination coverage in underserved communities.

#### Members involved:

- National Institute of Health of Italy (ISS)
- German Federal Institute of Public Health (BfÖG)
- National Public Health Centre of Hungary
- National Institute of Public Health of Slovenia (NIJZ)
- Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic
- Public Health Agency of Sweden

*HPV vaccination is an excellent example of how an investment in health promotion can lead to a big return in terms of good health and reduced healthcare costs throughout life. EuroHealthNet's work to reduce vaccine barriers makes a major contribution to vaccine equity throughout Europe.*

”

**Daniela Kállayová**

EuroHealthNet Executive Board member and Senior Public Health Officer  
at the Ministry of Health, Slovak Republic

### 3.3.3 Joint Action PreventNCD

The [European Joint Action Prevent Non-Communicable Diseases](#) (JA PreventNCD) is designed to support European countries in implementing strategies and policies to reduce the burden of cancer and non-communicable diseases (NCDs), focusing on both personal and societal risk factors.



The project's primary goal is to develop a coordinated approach to enhance the impact of actions taken, which aligns with the objectives of Europe's Beating Cancer Plan and the EU's 'Healthier Together' initiative of NCDs. A significant aspect is the rigorous evaluation of these actions to assist authorities in prioritising the most effective prevention strategies. Tackling social inequalities by addressing the root causes of NCD risk factors and adopting a life course approach is a key objective.

Since September 2025, EuroHealthNet has been involved in different activities, supporting the establishment of the EU Consortium on NCD Prevention, work around healthy living environments and super-setting approaches, and the transfer and sustainable integration of the results and outcomes of the Joint Action PreventNCD into national and European policies.

### 3.3.4 Invest4Health: novel finance models for health

[Invest4Health](#) is redefining health promotion financing through Smart Capacitating Investment (SCI) and innovative governance models. Over the past year, the initiative has made significant progress in developing investment strategies for health promotion and disease prevention. Key achievements include the development of a conceptual framework for SCI-compatible financing and business models, and the preparation to test them in Galicia (Spain), North Rhine-Westphalia (Germany), Skåne (Sweden), and Wales (United Kingdom).



Invest4Health has launched a comprehensive training programme to equip regional authorities with the knowledge and tools to implement SCI effectively. An open call invited new regions to join and benefit from capacity-building support to further expand the project's impact. The consortium provided a [public overview of research findings](#) and real-world applications during the [mid-term workshop](#) in December 2024, led by EuroHealthNet. By integrating health promotion into long-term investment strategies, Invest4Health is helping reshape public health financing for a more sustainable and equitable future.

Invest4Health published a [protocol](#) for mobilising novel finance models for collaborative health promotion and disease prevention initiatives: taking a smart capacitating investment approach in the Invest4Health project.

EuroHealthNet associate member the Research Institutes of Sweden (RISE) is a partner in Invest4Health.

### 3.3.5 SP-EU: using social prescribing to promote and improve access to health

Social prescribing allows GPs, nurses, and other health and care professionals to refer people to a range of local, non-clinical services such as art and cooking classes, supportive peer networks, and volunteering roles. It strengthens community-focused and health-promoting aspects of healthcare, addressing social determinants of health and reducing the demand for treatment. By doing so, social prescribing improves the sustainability of health services.



[SP-EU](#) is a new initiative that explores how social prescribing can enhance access to health and care services for vulnerable groups, focusing on LGBTIQ individuals, refugees, first-generation immigrants, and older adults living alone. Using a mixed-methods approach, social participation interventions will be co-created with target groups to ensure they meet specific needs. A pragmatic randomised controlled trial across 8 EU countries involving 1,776 patients will assess the effectiveness of social prescribing.

EuroHealthNet will lead SP-EU's policy work, organising eight national policy dialogues to explore and foster the transition towards more sustainable health systems.

The Austrian National Public Health Institute (GÖG) is part of the SP-EU consortium.

### 3.3.6 Dialogical Work: facilitating interprofessional cooperation

EuroHealthNet was an evaluator of the Erasmus+-funded initiative [Dialogical Work](#) (2022-2024). The project, which concluded with its final conference in July 2024, promoted integrated approaches in governance models within public settings. It helped professionals in the health, educational, and social sectors develop the necessary skills to work in an intersectoral environment, allowing them to address societal challenges in a coordinated way.



The Dialogical Work final conference in July 2024 summarised the project's work to promote intersectoral approaches to societal challenges.

### 3.3.7 BeWell: building digital and green skills in the health workforce

[BeWell](#) aims to promote the upskilling and reskilling of the European health workforce within the context of the digital and green transition.



To support this objective, EuroHealthNet has been closely involved in the open public consultation of the [first version of the BeWell skills strategy](#). A SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) analysis of the BeWell project was also carried out during the BeWell General Assembly Meeting in June 2024, by applying the 'Theory of Change' evaluative framework – a tool developed by EuroHealthNet in a year-long co-creative process with the consortium.

EuroHealthNet's members, the [Italian National Institute of Health](#), the [Norwegian Directorates of Health](#) and [e-Health](#), and the [Austrian Health Promotion Fund](#) provided national insights into public health-driven initiatives and training programmes to develop health professionals' [green](#) and [digital](#) skills, captured in two dedicated policy briefs developed by the [European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies](#).

## 3.4 Mental health as the foundation of wellbeing

### 3.4.1 MENTALITY: piloting and transferring good practices

[MENTALITY](#) aimed to address the need for positive mental health and wellbeing for all by piloting four established practices for promoting mental wellbeing in five participating EU countries. The project concluded in February 2025.



#### Members involved:

- PROLEPSIS Institute, Greece
- Riga City Council Department of Welfare, Latvia

EuroHealthNet analysed the implementation process across all five countries, gathering insights for future practitioners. This work concluded in [capacity-building materials](#) detailing all four practices, as well as guidance on barriers, facilitators, benefits, and other key insights. A [concluding report](#) features insights for policy on the regional, national, and supranational levels, derived from the work conducted throughout the project.



The MENTALITY final conference summarised the project to pilot and transfer four established practices for promoting mental health in five participating countries.

### 3.4.2 Icehearts Europe: team sports as a tool for social wellbeing

[Icehearts Europe](#) aims to contribute to policy changes at the national and EU levels by scaling up the [Finnish Icehearts model](#) to the European level. The model uses team sports to engage children in social work. To scale up the model, the project brings together five grassroots sports partners alongside stakeholders from the sports, health, and educational sectors.

In the first year of the project, EuroHealthNet and its member, the Finnish National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL), conducted a situation analysis and needs assessment that was used by project partners to implement the programme.



EuroHealthNet is now supporting the implementation phase, disseminating the project's outputs via its channels and in relevant conferences and policy events. Additionally, EuroHealthNet supports consortium partners by connecting them to relevant members who can further disseminate the project's model and by contributing to disseminating the best practices developed at the local level. Finally, EuroHealthNet supports new adopters of Icehearts Europe by offering expertise on the Situation Analysis and Needs Assessment (SANA) model. Icehearts Europe will end in October 2025.

### 3.4.3 SPRING 3.0: sports for resilience

Two years after earthquakes struck southeast Turkey and northwest Syria, EuroHealthNet started a new EU project called [SPRING 3.0](#) launched in January 2025, which aims to promote wellbeing and mental health for children, adolescents, and caregivers in Southern Turkey.



The consequences of the earthquakes have been dramatic. It has left more than 50,000 dead, 120,000 injured, and homes, hospitals, roads and infrastructure destroyed. Many people have lost their livelihoods. Focusing on recovery following the earthquake and the war in Syria, SPRING 3.0 will use play and sport to build inclusive, resilient communities.

The project will:

- Promote inclusion through socio-sport methodology
- Develop socioemotional skills and resilience in children, adolescents, and caregivers
- Measure impact, advocate, and disseminate results for future scalability

EuroHealthNet's role will be to pave the way towards successful implementation by conducting a situation and needs analysis, followed by an evaluation. The model could be used in other contexts such as in Ukraine.



SPRING 3.0 aims to promote the wellbeing and mental health for children, adolescents, and caregivers in Southern Turkey, a region struck by earthquakes in 2023.

# 4

## RESEARCH

EuroHealthNet's Research Platform works to provide and build on cutting-edge evidence to support the development of health-promoting, equitable policies and practices.

The platform takes part in various EU-funded research projects across areas of thematic relevance to the Partnership. It collaborates with universities across Europe to identify and address some key questions, enabling a transition towards a greener, healthier, more equitable future for people and the planet.

Our Research Platform closely follows the EU research landscape, informing members of funding opportunities and promoting the sharing of good practices.

## 4.1 Providing a space to learn about funding opportunities and form consortia

EuroHealthNet's annual [Information and match-making day](#) equips our Partnership with insights about European funding opportunities and provides a platform to form consortia among members or other stakeholders. This year's event brought together 29 participants.

The session offered an overview of the current EU4Health Work Programme, key messages from the European Commission's EU4Health Info Day, and tips for developing applications. Participants engaged in matchmaking discussions, covering a selection of the most relevant calls for health promotion and health equity. EuroHealthNet's member GÖG delivered a dedicated presentation on the Joint Action on Increasing Capacity Building of National Focal Points (JA NFP4Health), highlighting how the focal points can be an important asset in preparing project proposals.

## 4.2 Mapping social inequalities in health in Europe

EuroHealthNet is developing a report on social inequalities in health, examining trends, challenges, and policy responses across Europe. In collaboration with the [Centre for Global Health Inequalities Research \(CHAIN\)](#), the report will combine quantitative data from the European Social Survey with qualitative evidence and case studies from the EuroHealthNet Partnership. It will offer insights into how inequalities in health have evolved over the past decade and how they vary across European countries. Aimed to reach policymakers of all levels, the report will support more effective, evidence-based responses to reduce health inequalities across Europe.

## 4.3 Generating evidence and tools to mitigate the health impact of climate change

### 4.3.1 PSLifestyle: positive, sustainable, and healthier lifestyles

[PSLifestyle](#) aims to inspire individuals to adopt positive, sustainable, and healthier lifestyles while reducing their climate impact. It has developed a [Lifestyle Test](#), available in 8 countries as well as at the EU level, helping people reflect on their daily habits and discover simple, impactful changes they can make.



The final PSLifestyle event captured the project's work to develop a test that lets people reflect on their habits and make small changes to reduce their environmental impact, EuroHealthNet presented its work and moderated two sessions.

In the project's final year, EuroHealthNet has developed [four policy briefs](#), focusing on transport, food, housing, and consumption. Each brief provides recommendations to address structural barriers to meeting Europe's climate-neutral goals and help make sustainable, healthy choices easier and more accessible to all. EuroHealthNet presented these briefs during PSLifestyle's [final conference](#) on 13 May 2025.



To further amplify the impact of the project, the team is compiling learnings into the PSLifestyle Cookbook. This aims to help scale up the impacts of the Lifestyle Test.

### 4.3.2 BEST-COST: estimating the socioeconomic costs of air and noise pollution

[BEST-COST](#) sets out to improve methodologies to measure the socioeconomic cost of environmental stressors, focusing on air and noise pollution. Results from this project will help to harmonise the socioeconomic assessments of pollution across Europe and reduce the health impacts of pollution and the resulting inequalities through policy initiatives. EuroHealthNet maintains the [BEST-COST website](#) and [social media](#) and writes and disseminates the [BEST-COST newsletter](#).



EuroHealthNet also worked on METEOR, the cluster of five Horizon Europe projects to which BEST-COST belongs, leading the updates to the METEOR [website](#) and [social media](#), including disseminating its [policy brief](#) on the EU's Ambient Air Quality Directive.

For deeper engagement with stakeholders, EuroHealthNet supported the organisation of a stakeholder meeting on measuring the socioeconomic impacts of environmental stressors on health in October 2024. EuroHealthNet also [presented the work of BEST-COST](#) on measuring health inequalities at the OECD World Forum on Wellbeing in November 2024.

#### Members involved:

- Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM)
- Finnish National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL)
- Egas Moniz Higher Education Cooperative in Portugal
- Santé publique France
- Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU)

### 4.3.3 BlueAdapt: reducing climate-based risks in blue environments

[BlueAdapt](#) assesses and quantifies the risks for human health posed by the effects of climate change on coastal waters. Through seven national-level case studies investigating the potential facilitators and barriers to actions, BlueAdapt will develop tools for policymakers and citizens, such as early warning systems and safe swimming apps.



EuroHealthNet supports the development of policy and communication tools based on BlueAdapt research. In 2024, this included a policy brief on '[Integrating Human Health in Climate Change Policies](#)', as part of the Climate-Health cluster and supporting the creation of a [video](#) on coastal pollution and climate change. EuroHealthNet is also developing a policy brief on a One Health Framework to connect existing models of ecological public health, with health equity as a central component, to be disseminated in 2025.

EuroHealthNet's member, the Italian National Institute of Health (ISS), is one of the partners in the consortium

*EuroHealthNet is a valuable partner in research projects like BlueAdapt because of its extensive experience in bridging research and policy and its wide reach to the public health and non-health community.*

”

**Raffaella Bucciardini**

EuroHealthNet Executive Board member and Head of Operative Unit Health Equity  
at the Italian Institute of Health (ISS)



BlueAdapt helps policymakers and citizens better understand and respond to risks to human health posed by the effects of climate change on coastal waters.

### 4.3.4 RESONATE: resilience through nature-based solutions

[RESONATE](#) examines how to build resilience among individuals and communities through Nature-based Therapies (NbTs). Focusing on nine case studies around Europe, RESONATE will analyse NbTs' health, environmental, economic, and social impacts.



EuroHealthNet's role is to assess the specific impacts on health equity through health impact assessments. The team started this work by conducting three workshops with local stakeholders in Barcelona, Padova, and Salzburg to understand the factors that can potentially support and limit an equitable implementation of NbTs in the local context.

In addition, EuroHealthNet also leads the research to map the perceptions of health and social care professionals on factors that influence whether they prescribe NbTs. So far, EuroHealthNet has conducted a literature review, the findings of which will be complemented with interviews to ultimately develop a guide for professionals on how to start or scale up the use of NbT prescriptions.



[RESONATE](#) aims to understand and scale up the use of Nature-based Therapies for individual health and societal resilience.

## 4.4 Improving food systems to prevent chronic diseases

### 4.4.1 FEAST: facilitating a transition to healthy and sustainable diets

[FEAST](#) supports the transition towards healthier and more sustainable European food systems by replicating best practices and co-designing novel solutions with food system stakeholders, including diverse vulnerable groups. FEAST facilitates this transition across all levels of the food system—micro, meso-, and macro—and engages all sectors, from producers and distributors to retailers and consumers.



EuroHealthNet leads the project's co-design of policy recommendations through policy dialogues, facilitating stakeholder engagement. EuroHealthNet has focused on the compilation of evidence on how the framing of the narrative around food system topics affects policy implementation. Analysis focused on four main topics, namely the Wegovy obesity drug, the debate in the Farm to Fork strategy about Nutri-Score and pesticide regulation, and finally, on zoning laws in several cities. The results of the analysis will be published in June 2025. Interviews are also being conducted to analyse related policy barriers and facilitators.

On top of this, EuroHealthNet leads a series of policy chats for FEAST to help all partners understand the current policy challenges related to food and nutrition. So far, the chats have explored (1) the often overlooked influence of food cultures, (2) the current competitiveness compass that dominates the EU policy debates and alternatives for its view on food policy, and (3) the new EU Vision for the Future of Agriculture and Food.

*Many people do not have access to healthy, affordable food, which we know is essential for physical and mental health. By supporting the transition to a healthy food system and improving the availability of healthy foods, EuroHealthNet helps Europeans eat a healthier diet and feel better overall.*

”

**Dr Sumina Azam**

Vice President of EuroHealthNet and National Director of Policy and International Health at Public Health Wales, United Kingdom



FEAST aims to make it easy for every person in Europe to eat a delicious, healthier and more sustainable diet.



EuroHealthNet presented FEAST's work on healthy and just food systems at the European Health Forum Gastein.

## 4.5 The European Public Health Conference

The European Public Health Conference is an annual high-profile event for researchers, attracting an average of 2,500 participants. In 2024, EuroHealthNet organised one of the event's plenary sessions in Lisbon. The plenary, called 'Tackling health inequalities in times of crisis', was chaired by EuroHealthNet's Director, Caroline Costongs, and Cristina Abreu Santos, Vice-President of the Instituto Nacional de Saúde Doutor Ricardo Jorge (INSA). A panel of high-level speakers contributed to a lively discussion:

- Professor Fran Baum from the University of Adelaide shared insights on health equity in times of crisis.
- Katarina Ivanković Knežević from the European Commission discussed EU initiatives on social rights and poverty reduction.
- Didier Jourdan from the UNESCO Chair on Global Health and Education presented education as a lever for action on child health and health equity throughout life.
- Professor Jill Litt from the Barcelona Institute for Global Health provided perspectives on environmental solutions for reducing inequalities.

The plenary also featured a surprise video address from Sir Michael Marmot, Professor of Epidemiology and Public Health at University College London and Director of the UCL Institute of Health Equity. Sir Marmot conveyed the importance of local, place-based action when national governments are reluctant to address health, poverty, and social wellbeing.

Besides the plenary, EuroHealthNet took the stage during several other sessions. This included a lunch session organised by the WHO European region on the [commercial determinants of non-communicable diseases](#) and a workshop on [shifting the focus of health and economic policies](#) to enable investments for sustainable health and wellbeing. As part of a scientific session on the use of foresight studies to inform policymaking, EuroHealthNet presented its [recent Foresight report](#), which asked, 'what will public health look like in 2035?'

EuroHealthNet presented its project work at sessions hosted by the RIVER-EU project about [using insights on vaccine barriers to take concrete action](#) and on the transferability of vaccine interventions, as well as a session hosted by BEST-COST about [measuring the true health cost of pollution](#).

At its exhibition booth, EuroHealthNet provided an accessible and personal way for visitors to learn about the Partnership, connect with stakeholders from the European public health community, and profiled itself as an expert in public health, health promotion, and health equity.



EuroHealthNet's 2024 EPHC plenary was co-moderated by Cristina Abreu Santos, Vice-President of EuroHealthNet's member, the Portuguese Instituto Nacional de Saúde Doutor Ricardo Jorge, and Caroline Costongs, Director of EuroHealthNet



Speakers focused on health equity during crises and solutions lying in EU tools, climate action, and education.



Sir Michael Marmot made a surprise appearance to underline the importance of local place-based action.



The plenary filled the large room, and the livestream allowed others to join online.



We thank our speakers from the University of Adelaide, the European Commission, UNESCO, and ISGlobal.

# 5

## COMMUNICATION

The EuroHealthNet communications team amplifies the Partnership's messages and expertise. It disseminates reliable, evidence-based, and timely information to the community working on public health, social equity, and determinants of health and beyond. It similarly creates connections between people, resources, and initiatives to facilitate advocacy for a healthier and fairer Europe.

## 5.1 Connecting experts and facilitating exchange

### 5.1.1 Facilitating international exchange between communication professionals



The EuroHealthNet Communications Network offers a platform for exchange of resources and expertise.

EuroHealthNet's Communications Network brings together communication professionals working in member organisations. The group provides a platform for exchange of resources and experiences between the EuroHealthNet office and its members, as well as among members themselves.

Besides learning about the work of members, the meetings of the Network also provide an opportunity to share EuroHealthNet's latest work and outputs with the communication specialists from the Partnership, supporting further dissemination and amplification of messages within EU Member States. As well as being a knowledge-exchange platform, the Communications Network also provides the opportunity for members to strengthen their communication knowledge through the dissemination of practice-oriented and capacity-building material and by organising tailor-made training.

### 5.1.2 Sharing the latest opportunities with members

EuroHealthNet's Network Intelligence newsletter offers members key EU engagement opportunities, policy updates, and calls for action. This members-only resource helps members to make connections across Europe, strengthen competencies, and integrate EU action into daily work.

Each edition of the newsletter presents ongoing calls and opportunities for members' expert input and demonstrates how current EU developments are relevant to their work through timely member-only policy briefings. Doing so helps members contribute to policymaking processes and engage effectively with decision-making at the EU level.

In December 2024, Network Intelligence had 1,368 subscribers.



## 5.2 Sharing the stories behind the developments in health equity, public health & healthcare

[EuroHealthNet Magazine](#) facilitates the exchange of international experiences, best practices, and perspectives, uncovering key health and social challenges across Europe. As a bi-annual publication with an annual circulation of 50,000 readers in Europe and worldwide, it is accessible in all EU languages through the site's in-built translation tool.

In 2024, two editions of EuroHealthNet Magazine were released, featuring contributions from both members and external contributors, including those from outside the EU Member States. The wide variety of authors and stories underscores the magazine's role as a key tool for EuroHealthNet, offering valuable insights into the real-life impact of policy, practice, and research.

- The spring/summer edition (edition 23), released in July 2024, featured articles on mental health.
- In November 2024, edition 24 was published, focusing on the commercial determinants of health.

To boost engagement with our primary (health and social professionals, policymakers, decision-makers, and researchers) and secondary audiences (grassroots initiatives and the public), the editorial team made edition 24 more interactive. A significant development was the introduction of the [Flipzine](#), a visually engaging, interactive digital extension of the full magazine. It offers a more concise, reader-friendly version of the full magazine, presenting articles in a more dynamic, editorial-style layout. This approach has increased engagement on the website as well as on social media, doing particularly well on LinkedIn. The Flipzine received positive feedback from health professionals, with users praising its readability and relevance.

We continued to utilise social media for promotion, namely, [LinkedIn](#) and [Instagram](#). Edition 24's top-performing articles indicate that readers are drawn to content challenging existing norms and exploring the intersection of public health, industry, and social issues.

Released in May 2025, edition 25 of the Magazine focuses on the Wellbeing Economy and health, aligning with the [Wellbeing Economy Forum in Iceland](#).



*EuroHealthNet Magazine captures the success stories of people who put health promotion in practice. By lifting up their stories, it gives well-deserved credit to those working on the ground and inspires professionals throughout Europe to innovate and continue their invaluable work.*

**Lisa Leonardini**

EuroHealthNet Executive Board member and Health and Social Manager for the Veneto Region, Italy

## 5.3 Disseminating reliable, evidence-based, and timely information

### 5.3.1 The European information hub on health inequalities

EuroHealthNet's [Health Inequalities Portal](#) remains a key platform for advancing health equity, offering a continuously expanding collection of scientific evidence, effective good practices, and policy initiatives. In 2024, our the website received 116,000 views.

Health Inequalities  
Portal

In 2024, EuroHealthNet added 79 new resources to the portal, bringing the total of 1,081 publications, reports, best practices, and policies. This growing repository supports professionals and policymakers by providing up-to-date knowledge and tools to address health inequalities. With a built-in machine translation feature, the portal is accessible in all EU languages, ensuring wider reach and usability. By continuously updating its content, EuroHealthNet strives to strengthen knowledge-sharing and action towards a fairer, healthier Europe.

### 5.3.2 Sharing the latest on health equity, wellbeing, and their determinants

EuroHealthNet's [Health Highlights](#) is a monthly public newsletter providing key updates on health equity, wellbeing, and the social determinants of health. It covers the most important developments for public health, as well as the latest from within the EuroHealthNet Partnership, news from the EU institutions, and the most relevant new publications.



In 2024, EuroHealthNet published 11 newsletters. These were distributed to an expanding database and shared on the website as well as social media, helping to reach a broader audience.

Since 2022, the number of Health Highlight subscribers more than doubled from 6,383 to 14,165 in December 2024.

### 5.3.3 Expanding our reach

The impact of EuroHealthNet's outputs ultimately depends on its reach and dissemination. To widen its reach, EuroHealthNet has strategically mapped its stakeholders and the media landscape while strengthening its contact database. These efforts resulted in a 26% growth of our contact base, from 14,286 in 2023 to 19,408 in 2024.

EuroHealthNet maintained an active presence on social media, namely [LinkedIn](#), [BlueSky](#), [YouTube](#) and [Instagram](#). In December 2024, EuroHealthNet had 15,617 social media followers in 2024 representing a growth of 19.7% relative to 2023.

### 5.3.4 Making our work accessible to all

EuroHealthNet is committed to ensuring that information and resources are accessible to all, as this is fundamental to building fair and inclusive societies. To support this, EuroHealthNet continually enhances the machine translation feature on its websites, offering content in all EU languages and Ukrainian to reach broader and more diverse audiences.

We also assess the readability and clarity of our publications, using simpler language and explaining key concepts to ensure our work is accessible to non-native English speakers and those unfamiliar with public health.

Accessibility goes beyond language. EuroHealthNet also works to accommodate people with sensory impairments through features on our websites that let users customise how information is presented. We carefully consider design elements such as colour contrast and font size in all our publications to ensure our publications are easy to read.

## 5.4 Videos on health, equity, and the built environment

In 2025, EuroHealthNet launched a new project with funding from the European Climate Foundation (ECF) to create and disseminate a series of videos on the health threats from built environments caused by different climate change factors. Working with members, EuroHealthNet is producing four videos, featuring examples from Austria, Bulgaria, Ireland and Spain of different innovative solutions to mitigate these threats and improve people's wellbeing. The topics include:

- Sustainable healthcare facilities, with the Austrian National Public Health Institute (GÖG)
- Heatwaves in schools, with the Ministry of Health of Spain
- Transition from solid fuels to more climate and health-friendly alternatives, with the Institute of Public Health of Ireland
- Energy poverty, with the National Center of Public Health and Analyses (Bulgaria) (NCPHA)

So far, three videos have been recorded, covering stories from Austria, Ireland and Spain. The fourth video will be recorded in June 2025.

*Austria's work to reduce the climate impact of the healthcare sector serves as an example of what is possible. We were very happy to work with EuroHealthNet to showcase the excellent work done by the Barmherzige Brüder hospital in Vienna to achieve climate-neutrality.*

”

**Petra Plunger**

EuroHealthNet Executive Board member and Senior Health Expert and health promotion professional at the Austrian Health Promotion Fund (FGÖ), unit of the Austrian National Public Health Institute



The Austrian video captures measures taken by the Barmherzige Brüder hospital to minimise its environmental impact.



EuroHealthNet went to Ireland to cover the ban on burning solid fuels to heat buildings, which improved air quality.



In Spain, the video featured IES Los Castillos, a school in Alcorcón taking measures to mitigate the impact of heat waves.

## 5.5 Working with the media

Over the last year, EuroHealthNet's work has featured on platforms such as [POLITICO](#), [DODS](#), the [EU Health Policy Platform](#), as well as national and regional media. EuroHealthNet proactive approach towards the media means going beyond sending [press releases](#) to share our positions to also proactively approach media with quotes commenting on policy developments. The results have been two-fold: not only were these quotes regularly featured in news items, but they also raised our profile with journalists, leading them to contact us for input more often.

EuroHealthNet further strengthened its relationship with the media by meeting with journalists for informal chats at conferences and other events.

# 6

## HOW WE WORK

EuroHealthNet is a not-for-profit partnership of organisations, institutes, and authorities working on public health, disease prevention, promoting health and wellbeing, as well as reducing inequalities.

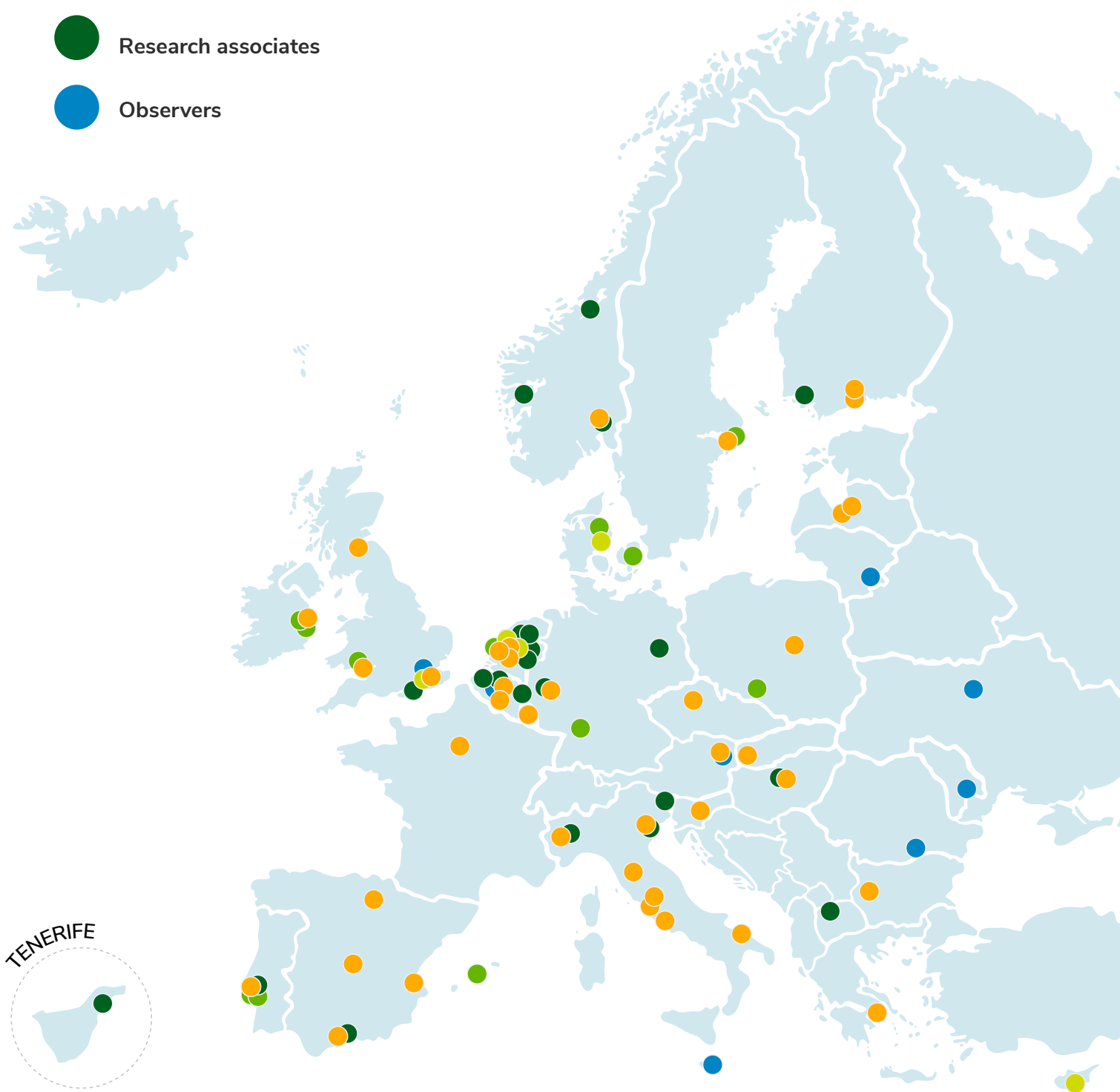
We aim to tackle health inequalities within and between European States through action on the social determinants of health.

EuroHealthNet activities take place across three platforms: Policy, Practice, and Research. In addition, a core team unifies and builds connections between the platforms, sharing and supporting the exchange of knowledge and experience, including through communication activities.

The five priority areas and the two cross-cutting topics that are central to our work are laid out within our [Strategic Development Plan 2021-26](#).

# The EuroHealthNet Partnership

- Members
- Policy associates
- Practice associates
- Research associates
- Observers



## 6.1 The EuroHealthNet Partnership

Members of the EuroHealthNet Partnership are national public health institutes, academic and research centres, national and regional health authorities and government departments. We would not be able to deliver results that help create healthier, fairer futures for all without them.



### 6.1.1 Members

EuroHealthNet Members are accountable public bodies with responsibilities and/or expertise in public health, health promotion, health inequalities, disease prevention, or other relevant fields. They set the direction of the Partnership and work together to achieve health equity.

- **Austria** – Austrian Health Promotion Fund (FGÖ)
- **Belgium** – Flanders Institute for Healthy Living
- **Belgium** – Walloon Agency for a Life of Quality (AViQ)
- **Bulgaria** – National Center of Public Health and Analyses (NCPHA)
- **Czechia** – National Institute of Public Health (SZU)
- **England** – Health and Europe Centre, NHS Kent & Medway
- **Finland** – Finnish Federation for Social Affairs and Health (SOSTE)
- **Finland** – National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL)
- **France** – French Public Health Agency (SpF)
- **Germany** – Federal Institute of Public Health (BIÖG)
- **Greece** – Prolepsis Institute
- **Hungary** – National Center for Public Health and Pharmacy (NNGYK)
- **Ireland** – Institute of Public Health in Ireland (IPH)
- **Italy** – Federsanita ANCI
- **Italy** – National Federation of Nursing Professions (FNOPI)
- **Italy** – National Institute of Health (ISS)
- **Italy** – Piedmont Regional Health Promotion Documentation Center (DoRS) – ASL TO3
- **Italy** – Tuscany Region
- **Italy** – Veneto Region
- **Latvia** – Centre for Disease Prevention and Control of Latvia
- **Latvia** – Riga City Council Department of Welfare
- **Luxembourg** – Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research (LISER)
- **Netherlands** – National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM)
- **Netherlands** – Pharos Dutch Centre of Expertise on Health Disparities
- **Netherlands** – Trimbos Institute
- **Norway** – Norwegian Directorate of Health
- **Poland** – National Institute of Public Health NIH – National Research Institute

- **Portugal** – National Institute of Health Doutor Ricardo Jorge
- **Scotland** – Public Health Scotland
- **Slovakia** – Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic
- **Slovenia** – National Institute of Public Health (NIJZ)
- **Spain** – Regional Ministry of Health and Consumer Affairs of Andalusia (CSCJA)
- **Spain** – Department of Health, Basque Government
- **Spain** – Foundation for the Promotion of Health and Biomedical Research of Valencia Region (FISABIO)
- **Spain** – Ministry of Health
- **Sweden** – Public Health Agency of Sweden\*
- **Wales** – Public Health Wales

## 6.1.2 Associate members and observers

Associate members are universities, civil society organisations, foundations and other bodies. They identify with EuroHealthNet's mission and take part in our work that is most relevant to them. Associate members join one or more of the three EuroHealthNet platforms.

### RESEARCH ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

- **Belgium** – Antwerp Health Law and Ethics Chair (AHLEC)
- **Belgium** – University of Applied Sciences VIVES
- **Cyprus** – Health Services Research Centre
- **Denmark** – DEFACTUM Department of the Central Denmark Region
- **England** – University of Brighton, School of Health Sciences
- **England** – London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), Commercial Determinants Research Group
- **Finland** – Faculty of Medicine at the University of Turku
- **Germany** – Centre for Health and Society, Medical Faculty, Heinrich-Heine University Düsseldorf
- **Germany** – German Alliance in Climate Change and Health (KLUG)
- **Hungary** – Centre for Epidemiology and Surveillance, Semmelweis University
- **Italy** – LINKS Foundation
- **Italy** – University of Trieste, Department of Medicine, Surgery, and Health Sciences
- **Italy** – Venice's Social Community Cooperative Society
- **Netherlands** – Avans University of Applied Sciences, Centre of Expertise Perspective in Health
- **Netherlands** – Maastricht University, Care and Public Health Research Institute (CAPHRI)
- **Netherlands** – Radboud University Medical Center
- **Netherlands** – University of Applied Sciences Arnhem and Nijmegen, School of Sports And Exercise
- **North Macedonia** – Institute of Public Health of the Republic of North Macedonia
- **Norway** – Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), Faculty of Social and Educational Sciences
- **Norway** – Oslo Metropolitan University
- **Norway** – Western Norway University of Applied Sciences
- **Poland** – Medical University of Silesia
- **Portugal** – Egas Moniz Higher Education Cooperative
- **Portugal** – Lisbon University Institute, Centre for Social Research and Intervention (ISCTE-IUL)
- **Spain** – Andalusian School of Public Health
- **Spain** – Balearic Islands Public Health Department
- **Spain** – University of La Laguna
- **Sweden** – RISE Research Institutes of Sweden, Business and Innovation Area Health and Life Science
- **Wales** – Cardiff Metropolitan University, Centre for Health, Activity and Wellbeing Research (CAWR)

**POLICY ASSOCIATE MEMBERS**

- **Cyprus** – Health Services Research Centre
- **Denmark** – DEFACTUM Department of the Central Denmark Region
- **England** – London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), Commercial Determinants Research Group
- **Europe** – Council of Occupational Therapists for the European Countries (COTEC)
- **Europe** – European Institute of Women's Health (EIWH)
- **Germany** – German Alliance in Climate Change and Health (KLUG)
- **Netherlands** – Dutch Association of Mental Health and Addiction Care (De Nederlandse ggz)
- **Netherlands** – FNO Provide Opportunities
- **Spain** – Balearic Islands Public Health Department
- **Sweden** – Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR)
- **Wales** – Cardiff Metropolitan University, Centre for Health, Activity and Wellbeing Research (CAWR)
- **Spain** – Balearic Islands Public Health Department
- **Sweden** – Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR)
- **Wales** – Cardiff Metropolitan University, Centre for Health, Activity and Wellbeing Research (CAWR)

**OBSERVERS**

- **Austria** – Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection
- **Belgium** – Federal Public Service Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment
- **England** – Department of Health and Social Care
- **Lithuania** – Ministry of Health
- **Malta** – Public Health Regulation Department
- **Moldova** – Ministry of Health
- **Romania** – The National Institute of Public Health
- **Ukraine** – Ministry of Health

\* EuroHealthNet Partner

**PRACTICE ASSOCIATE MEMBERS**

- **Denmark** – Danish Committee for Health Education
- **Denmark** – Nordic Wellbeing Academy
- **England** – London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), Commercial Determinants Research Group
- **Europe** – Council of Occupational Therapists for the European Countries (COTEC)
- **Europe** – European Public Health Nutrition Alliance (EPHNA)
- **Europe** – Special Olympics Europe Eurasia
- **Finland** – Faculty of Medicine at the University of Turku
- **Germany** – Centre for Health and Society, Medical Faculty, Heinrich-Heine University Düsseldorf
- **Netherlands** – Radboud University Medical Center
- **Poland** – Medical University of Silesia
- **Portugal** – Egas Moniz Higher Education Cooperative
- **Portugal** – Nossa Senhora do Bom Sucesso Foundation

## 6.2 Financing and funding

EuroHealthNet’s funding comes from the following three sources:

- Member and associate member fees
- A core operating grant from the European Social Fund+ (ESF+)
- Co-funded EU project grants or specific funded work

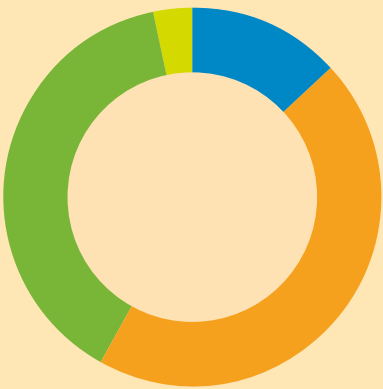
We continue to make efforts to increase the share of funding from direct participation. We do not accept funding from ‘for profit’ bodies.

In addition to internal financial management and planning, an external accountant prepares the annual financial and balance reports, which are then certified by a separate auditing firm. The General Council approves the financial reports at its annual meeting.

EuroHealthNet works in a transparent, ethical, and independent way. We have adopted a code of conduct for the organisation and membership, and ethical guidelines for partnership building. Procurement, risk management, human resource, and financial rules are set out in EuroHealthNet’s ‘How We Work’ document, available upon request. We consider environmental impacts of all actions and procurement decisions.

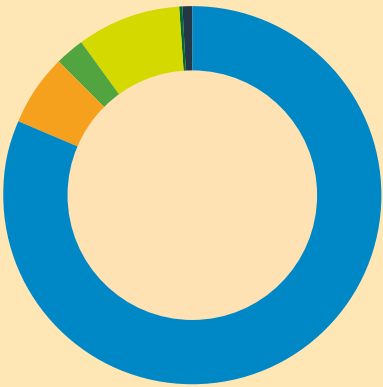
### Income 2024

Members & partners fees:	€ 249,500
ESF core grant:	€ 851,290
Other project grants:	€ 727,110
Tenders & misc:	€ 60,100
<b>Total</b>	<b>€ 1,880,000</b>



### Expenditure 2024

Employees:	€ 1,501,500
General operations:	€ 112,800
External services:	€ 44,700
Project deliverables:	€ 162,600
Depreciation:	€ 5,400
Misc:	€ 14,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>€ 1,841,000</b>



## 6.3 Building a diverse workforce and inclusive workplace

Since its adoption by EuroHealthNet's General Council on 1 June 2022, the office took forward its [Workplace Gender, Equality and Diversity \(GED\) Policy](#).

EuroHealthNet further disseminated its [video](#) on the Partnership's 'Workplace Gender, Equality and Diversity (GED) Policy' and spoke about its efforts and ambitions for inclusive workplaces at events. Applicants to our Partnership are required to confirm that they respect EuroHealthNet's GED policy.

The insights from a 2024 EuroHealthNet staff training and [members-only capacity-building workshop](#) on 'Gender, Equity and Diversity' were included in the development of EuroHealthNet's new Ethical Framework, which shall be adopted at the General Council meeting in June 2025.

## 6.4 Using external evaluation to make our Partnership thrive

The year 2022 saw the introduction of a 4-year external evaluation period (2022-2025). The independent evaluation and impact assessment of EuroHealthNet programming and activities is conducted by Dominique Danau of SAGO Research, in close cooperation with senior management and the Executive Board. The external evaluation contributes to better-informed decision-making, monitors the implementation of the [Strategic Development Plan 2021-2026](#), and promotes greater accountability for performance in the coming period.

EuroHealthNet's 2024 evaluation report shows a well-established and recognised organisation in the health community and beyond. In addition to the vital advocacy work undertaken by EuroHealthNet, members particularly appreciate having opportunities to exchange knowledge, expertise, and experiences. Similarly, it shows that the Partnership values the informative resources regarding EU-level developments, policies and (financial) instruments, including the work of other members and projects, that the EuroHealthNet office provides.

## 6.5 Join us

EuroHealthNet's mission is to help build a sustainable, fair, and inclusive Europe through healthier communities by tackling health inequalities within and between European States.

If you share our vision of a fairer, healthier, and sustainable future and are working on the determinants of health and/or social and health inequalities, join us!

### 6.5.1 Who can become a member?

Full membership is open to accountable public bodies with responsibilities and/or expertise in public health, health promotion, health inequalities, disease prevention, or other relevant fields. They are mostly national, regional, or local institutes, authorities, and government departments.

Non-statutory bodies, such as universities, non-governmental and civil society organisations, and other international networks, can join the EuroHealthNet Partnership as associate members.

Associate members can become part of one or more of our three platforms (Policy, Practice and Research).

To find out how you can become a [member](#) and the [benefits](#) of being one, or if you have any further questions, please contact David Hargitt via [d.hargitt@eurohealthnet.eu](mailto:d.hargitt@eurohealthnet.eu).

Together, we can help build a sustainable, fair, and inclusive Europe.

## 6.6 It wouldn't be possible without you

Our work would not be possible without the continued commitment and support of our members and associate members and the European Commission's ESF+ Operating Grant (2022-2025). Thanks to you, we continue to deliver results that will create healthier and fairer futures for all.

Our team has continued to expand over the past year as we welcomed our new team members, Dr Afsaneh Nejat, Emmi Weller, and Simina Peterfi, who will work across practice and communications. We said goodbye to our dear colleagues Max Tscheltzoff and Sebastian Lindt, who we wish all the best in their future endeavours. Finally, we thank our interns, Majani Vinod Kumar and Sana Seddiki, who enriched our team with enthusiasm and fresh perspective.

EuroHealthNet also worked with consultants and external suppliers, and we continue to be extremely grateful for their support. We thank Paul Belcher and Dorota Sienkiewicz for their support to EuroHealthNet's policy work. Thanks also to our financial support, accountant, Frédéric Demaude and financial auditors, Vandelanotte. In addition, we express our gratitude to our technical support, Connectis, and our external design consultants, graphic designers Wim Vandersleyen and Jan Omer Fack, web designer PurplePlanet, and videographers FlanCaramel and IzzyWorks.

It would not be possible without you, and we thank you all for your support .



## OUR YEAR IN PICTURES



Colleagues from our member, the Trimbos Institute, visited the office.



Caroline and Sir Michael Marmot, a pioneer in the field of health equity and determinants of health.



Caroline and Laura from the Trimbos Institute during the Country Exchange Visit on preventing child poverty.



Caroline and Alison met with Dr Kluge, WHO Regional Director for Europe, at the Regional Committee meeting.



While in Warsaw for an event, Alison met with our member, the National Institute of Public Health in Poland.



Alison and Samuele met with colleagues from our Portuguese associate, Nossa Senhora do Bom Sucesso.



EuroHealthNet chaired a press briefing on Ukraine's health system in times of war.



An in-person Executive Board meeting in Brussels.



EuroHealthNet welcomed a delegation from Cuba to the office to exchange on shared challenges.



Chantal visited colleagues from the Austrian Health Promotion Fund (FGÖ) while in Vienna.



The team at the annual Christmas dinner.



Gabriella and Schools4Health partners met with the Romanian Minister of Health and Secretary of Education.



The speakers of the EuroHealthNet EPHC plenary, prepping for the big event.



Alba and Dorota at the 7th OECD World Forum on Well-being in Rome.



Representatives from our new observer, the Ministry of Health of Ukraine, visited to meet our team.



For the 2024 Team Away Day, we spent the day with City to Ocean to remove trash from the Brussels' canal.



David monitored the livestream of EuroHealthNet's EPHC plenary.



Our special advisor, Mojca, presenting plans for an 'EU Consortium on Cancer Prevention'.



Anne, Silvia, and David, enjoying the Grand Place in Brussels during Christmas time.



The team during one of its monthly team meetings.



Visiting Lisbon for the European Public Health Conference, colleagues took the opportunity to enjoy pastéis de nata.



Caroline and our President Suzanne with MEP Vytenis Andriukaitis at our symposium on alcohol reduction.



Alison went to Santiago de Compostela to moderate a workshop on foresight exercises.



Sofia visited Canada to learn about its pioneering nature prescription programme.



Vania and Sofia met with MEP Maravillas Abadía Jover to discuss the European Semester as a tool for wellbeing.



Our colleagues Afsaneh and Alison, as they prepped for the RIVER-EU pre-conference at EPHC.



We met with Kremlin Wickramasing, the acting head of WHO/Europe's Office for prevention and control of NCDs.



Alison spoke at an event on youth, mental health, and sports in the Spanish senate.



Hannes presented his PhD work on mental health measurement at the University of Vienna.



Alison went to Berlin for the launch of the new project on social prescribing for health equity, named SP-EU.



Caroline and colleagues from the Joint Action PreventNCD for reducing the burden of cancer and NCDs.

# EuroHealthNet

European partnership for  
health, equity & wellbeing

EuroHealthNet's mission is to help build healthier communities and tackle health inequalities within and between European States.

We are a not-for-profit partnership of organisations, agencies and statutory bodies working on public health, promoting health, preventing disease, and reducing inequalities.

EuroHealthNet supports members' work through policy and project development, knowledge and expertise exchange, research, networking, and communications.

Our work is spread across three collaborating platforms that focus on practice, policy, and research. Core and cross-cutting activities unite and amplify the partnership's activities. The Partnership is made up of members, associate members, and observers. It is governed by a General Council and Executive Board.

[eurohealthnet.eu](https://eurohealthnet.eu)

[health-inequalities.eu](https://health-inequalities.eu)

[eurohealthnet-magazine.eu](https://eurohealthnet-magazine.eu)



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[@EuroHealthNet](https://www.youtube.com/eurohealthnet)



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