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# Public consultation on EU funds in the area of investment, research & innovation, SMEs and single market

Fields marked with \* are mandatory.

# Public consultation on EU funds in the area of of investment, research & innovation, SMEs and single market

#### Introduction

'A stronger Union needs to be equipped with appropriate financial means to continue to deliver its policies. The Union has changed fundamentally in recent years, as have the challenges it faces. Our Union needs a budget that can help us achieve our ambitions. The Multiannual Financial Framework for the period after 2020 must reflect this.' (Commission Work Programme 2018)

The EU budget currently amounts to less than 1 euro per citizen per day. Although a modest budget, at around 1 % of the EU's gross national income or 2 % of all EU public spending, it supports the EU's shared goals by delivering essential public goods and tangible results for EU citizens. These include: investing in skills, innovation and infrastructure; ensuring sustainable food systems and developing rural areas; ensuring a clean and healthy environment and the protection of natural resources; promoting joint research and industrial projects; funding shared activities in the field of migration and security; and supporting development and humanitarian aid.

The current Multiannual Financial Framework — the EU's long-term budget — runs until the end of 2020. In 2018, the Commission will put forth comprehensive proposals for the post-2020 Multiannual Financial Framework and for the next generation of financial programmes that will receive funding. These programmes/funds provide financial support to hundreds of thousands of beneficiaries such as regions, towns, NGOs, businesses, farmers, students, scientists, and many others.

The Commission's proposals will be designed to make it possible for the EU to deliver on the things that matter most, in areas where it can achieve more than Member States acting alone. This requires a careful assessment both of what has worked well in the past and what could be improved in the future. What should the priorities be for future policies and programmes/funds? And how can they be designed to best deliver results on the ground?

As an integral part of this process and following on from the <u>Reflection Paper on the Future of EU Finances</u>, the Commission is launching a series of public consultations covering all the major spending areas to gather views from all interested parties on how to make the very most of every euro of the EU budget.

The EU has developed a variety of instruments to stimulate investment and entrepreneurship to create jobs and growth. The Investment Plan for Europe, the so-called Juncker Plan, aims to unlock investment throughout Europe through to the European Fund for Strategic Investments (EFSI), which provides a EU guarantee to mobilise investment. The EFSI also complements other existing instruments like COSME that make it easier for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to access finance in all phases of their lifecycle – creation, expansion, or business transfer. Through EU support, businesses have easier access to guarantees, loans and equity capital.

Research and innovation are instrumental for addressing the EU's productivity gap and play a crucial role in providing solutions to many global challenges the EU and its citizens are facing today. In that context, the EU has made a major contribution with the Horizon 2020 programme.

The European Single Market is one of the EU's greatest achievements. It has fuelled economic growth and made the everyday life of European businesses and consumers easier. A well-functioning Single Market, including in its digital dimension, stimulates competition and trade, improves efficiency, raises quality, and helps cut prices. In that context, the EU has set up several programmes in a wide range of areas (health, food safety, customs...) to facilitate the free circulation of goods, services, capital and persons across the European continent.

Recent consultations already covered several policy areas, including on current performance and future challenges. The views already expressed by stakeholders in these consultations will be taken into account as part of the current process for the future MFF.

Link to portal for recent consultations: https://ec.europa.eu/info/consultations en

Interim evaluation of the programme for the competitiveness of enterprises and small and medium-sized enterprises (COSME) (2014-2020)

https://ec.europa.eu/info/consultations/interim-evaluation-programme-competitiveness-enterprises-and-small-and-medium-sized-enterprises-cosme-2014-2020\_en

Consultation on modernising and simplifying the common agricultural policy (CAP) <a href="https://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/consultations/cap-modernising/2017\_en">https://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/consultations/cap-modernising/2017\_en</a>

Public stakeholder consultation – interim evaluation of Horizon 2020 https://ec.europa.eu/research/consultations/interim h2020 2016/consultation en.htm

Open Public Consultation of the mid-term evaluation of the 3rd Health Programme 2014-2020 <a href="https://ec.europa.eu/health/programme/consultations/midterm\_evaluation\_fr">https://ec.europa.eu/health/programme/consultations/midterm\_evaluation\_fr</a>

Public stakeholder consultation – Interim evaluation of Joint Undertakings operating under Horizon 2020. http://ec.europa.eu/research/consultations/interim\_joint-undertakings\_h2020/consultation\_en.htm Public Consultation – Evaluation of Public-Public Partnerships (Art.185 initiatives) in the context of the Horizon 2020 Interim Evaluation.

http://ec.europa.eu/research/consultations/pp\_partnerships\_art185/consultation\_en.htm

Public consultation on Transformation of Health and Care in the Digital Single Market <a href="https://ec.europa.eu/info/consultations/public-consultation-transformation-health-and-care-digital-single-market\_en">https://ec.europa.eu/info/consultations/public-consultation-transformation-health-and-care-digital-single-market\_en</a>

## About you

*1 You are replying
as an individual in your personal capacity
in your professional capacity or on behalf of an organisation
*8 Respondent's first name
Dorota
*9 Respondent's last name
Sienkiewicz
*10 Respondent's professional email address
D.Sienkiewicz@eurohealthnet.eu
*11 Name of the organisation
EuroHealthNet
*12 Postal address of the organisation
67, Rue de la Loi, 1040 Brussels, Belgium
*13 Type of organisation
Please select the answer option that fits best.
Private enterprise
Professional consultancy, law firm, self-employed consultant
<ul> <li>Trade, business or professional association</li> <li>Non-governmental organisation, platform or network</li> </ul>
Research and academia  Churches and religious communities
<ul> <li>Churches and religious communities</li> <li>Regional or local authority (public or mixed)</li> </ul>
- regional of local authority (public of mixed)

0	Other
If your	s your organisation included in the Transparency Register? organisation is not registered, we invite you to register <a href="here">here</a> , although it is not compulsory to be registered to reply to this tation. Why a transparency register?
•	Yes
	No
0	Not applicable
*23 I	so, please indicate your Register ID number.
48	3562122691-12
*24 (	Country of organisation's headquarters
_	Austria
•	Belgium
	Bulgaria
	Croatia
	Cyprus
	Czech Republic
	Denmark
	Estonia
	Finland
	France
	Germany
	Greece
	Hungary
	Ireland
	Italy
	Latvia
	Lithuania
	Luxembourg
	Malta
	Netherlands
	Poland
	Portugal
	Romania
	Slovak Republic
	Slovenia
	Spain
	Sweden
	United Kingdom
	Other

International or national public authority

Note that, whatever option chosen, your answers may be subject to a request for public access to documents under Regulation (EC) N°1049/2001

- can be published with your organisation's information (I consent the publication of all information in my contribution in whole or in part including the name of my organisation, and I declare that nothing within my response is unlawful or would infringe the rights of any third party in a manner that would prevent publication)
- can be published provided that your organisation remains anonymous (I consent to the publication of any information in my contribution in whole or in part (which may include quotes or opinions I express) provided that it is done anonymously. I declare that nothing within my response is unlawful or would infringe the rights of any third party in a manner that would prevent the publication.
- \* 2 pro

*27 Please let us know whether you have experience with one or more of the following funds and
programmes.
at least 1 choice(s)
European Fund for Strategic Investments (Investment Plan for Europe)
✓ Horizon 2020
European Structural and Investment funds
COSME
☑ EU Health Programme
EU Food and Feed Programme
Customs 2020
Fiscalis
Anti-Fraud Information System
✓ EURES
Employment and Social Innovation Programme
Standards in the field of financial reporting Programme
Implementation of single market for financial services
Enhancing consumers involvement in EU policy-making in the field of financial services
Consumer Programme
European statistical programme
Interoperability solutions and common frameworks for European public administrations, businesses an
citizens (ISA2 programme) as a means for modernising the public sector
Support for the functioning of various aspects of the single market (including goods, services, taxation, company law) – standardisation, assistance to citizens and businesses, enforcement
☐ Digital Single Market support programme
EEEF (European energy efficiency fund)
PF4EE (private finance for energy efficiency)
None of the above
*28 Please let us know to which of the following topics your replies to this questionnaire will refer.
EU support for Investment
■ EU support for research and innovation

EU funds in the area of investment, research & innovation, SMEs and single market

EU support for SME and entrepreneurship

EU support for the Single Market

29 The Commission has preliminarily identified a number of policy challenges which programmes/funds in this area of investment, research & innovation, SMEs and single market could address. How important are these policy challenges in your view?

	Very important	Rather important	Neither important nor unimportant	Rather not important	Not important at all	No opinion
Facilitate transition to low carbon and circular economy and resilience to climate change, support security of supply	0	•	©	•	0	0
Foster research and innovation across the EU	•	0	0	0	0	0
Support industrial development	0	0	0	0	0	0
Support education, skills and training	•	0	0	0	0	0
Ensure a clean and healthy environment and the protection of natural resources	•	•	0	•	0	•
Facilitate digital transition of the economy, industry, services and society	0	•	0	0	0	•

Ensure that existing rules are applied and enforced consistently across the EU	©	©	©	©	©	•
Ensure smooth circulation of goods both within EU and at EU borders	0	0	•	0	0	•
Ensure fair conditions of competition in the EU	0	0	0	0	0	•
Promote security of citizens	0	0	0	0	0	•
Support labour mobility	0	0	0	0	0	•
Support capital flows and investment	0	0	0	0	0	•
Facilitate access to finance, in particular to SMEs	0	0	0	0	0	•
Promote financial stability	0	0	0	0	0	•
Improve quality of public institutions (including digitalisation)	0	0	0	0	0	•
Reduce unemployment and social disparities	•	0	0	0	0	0

Ensure safe, sustainable transport and mobility	©	•	0	0	0	0
Promote and protect public health	•	0	0	0	0	0
Promote a safe and sustainable food chain	•	0	0	0	0	0
Support social investment and social innovation	•	0	0	0	0	0
Ensure a high level of consumer protection and effective redress	•	0	0	0	0	0
Provide reliable and comparable statistics	0	•	0	0	0	0
Other (Please specify below)	0	0	0	0	0	0

## 31 To what extent do the current policies successfully address these challenges?

	Fully addressed	Fairly well addressed	Addressed to some extent only	Not addressed at all	No opinion
Facilitate transition to low carbon and circular economy and resilience to climate change; support security of supply	0	•	•	0	0
Foster research and innovation across the EU	0	•	0	0	0
Support industrial development	0	0	0	0	•
Support education, skills and training	0	•	0	0	0
Ensure a clean and healthy environment and the protection of natural resources	0	0	•	0	0
Facilitate digital transition of the economy, industry, services and society	0	•	0	0	0
Ensure that existing rules are applied and enforced consistently across the EU	0	0	0	0	•
Ensure smooth circulation of goods both within EU and at EU borders	0	0	0	0	•
Ensure fair conditions of competition in the EU	0	0	0	0	•
Promote security of citizens	0	0	0	0	•
Support labour mobility	0	0	0	0	•
Support capital flows and investment	0	0	0	0	•
Facilitate access to finance, in particular to SMEs	0	0	0	0	•
Promote financial stability	0	0	0	0	•
Improve quality of public institutions (including digitalisation)	0	0	0	0	•
Reduce unemployment and social disparities	0	0	•	0	0

Ensure safe, sustainable transport and mobility	0	•	0	0	0
Promote and protect public health	0	•	0	0	0
Promote a safe and sustainable food chain	0	0	•	0	0
Support social investment and social innovation	0	•	0	0	0
Ensure a high level of consumer protection and effective redress	0	0	0	0	•
Provide reliable and comparable statistics	0	•	0	0	0
Other (please specify below)	0	0	0	0	0

\*33 To what extent do the current programmes/funds add value, compared to what Member States could achieve at national, regional and/or local levels?

- To a large extent
- To a fairly good extent
- To some extent only
- Not at all
- Don't know

34 Please specify <u>how</u> the current programmes/funds add value compared to what Member States could achieve at national, regional and/or local levels. Please clearly indicate to which policies, programmes and funds your answer refer.

1500 character(s) maximum

Through successive health programmes the EU has supported Member States' actions that progress work tackling major cross border determinants of illness, diseases, risks and inequalities e.g. tobacco control; strengthened health systems and cross-border dimensions of health and care services, e.g. by EU Reference Networks and Joint Actions, showing important added value.

The Horizon 2020 addresses health and wellbeing research from a broader perspective, e.g. by world-class cross border research on key drivers of social determinants of wellbeing, social gradients and behaviour change towards achieving EU priorities and SDGs. Bio-medical models of health are being enhanced by innovative public health approaches and integrated societally and economically.

The TEU requirement for the highest level of human health to be protected in all EU programmes and policies is a global gold standard and reference point of great value. It empowers actors from countries to civil society to implement EU objectives of wellbeing on the ground through co-operation & development of policy measures, exchange of good practices, sharing of knowledge and capacity building of successful evidence-informed interventions, gathering comparative & transferable data. For some newer and smaller EU countries, many regions and communities, capacities wouldn't be sufficient to achieve health, social equity and sustainability without EU added value. It is existentially crucial for health progress.

35 Is there a need to modify or add to the objectives of the programmes/funds in this policy area? If yes, which changes would be necessary or desirable? Please clearly indicate to which policies, programmes and funds your answer refer.

1500 character(s) maximum

Health promotion is increasingly valid universally, as shown by various WHO Declarations and our REJUVENATE 2030 strategy, all urging sustainable re-orientation of investments to prevention rather than cure and care. The EU has levers and powers within programmes to better address causal social, economic and environmental determinants of health and wellbeing. The EU Pillar of Social Rights offers important opportunities, e.g. access to preventive, equitable health: it is time to back that with programme measures which respect competences but add value. The next research programme should equitably address biomedical, technological, public health and social innovations together.

The EC is right to anticipate the "challenges of tomorrow" to focus on sustainability, demographic and digital transformations for protection of health and wellbeing in the next MFF. Our Policy Precis on Health Information shows comparable data will be crucial: much can be done in programmes to add value, which should be more focused on systematic engagement with other policy areas to ensure that TEU objectives and priorities are equitably addressed across social gradients.

Ideally there will be a dedicated 4th Health Programme and DG on that basis. EuroHealthNet strongly supports an EC cluster around Investments in people: how they live and their behaviours. Health has a societal value beyond marketization, which incorporates its crucial role for people, economies, work & sustainability.

36 The Commission has preliminarily identified a number of possible obstacles, which could prevent the current programmes/funds from achieving their objectives. To what extent do possible obstacles prevent the current programme/funds from achieving their objectives?

	To a large extent	To a fairly large extent	To some extent only	Not at all	Don' t know
Too complex procedures leading to high administrative burden and delays	0	0	•	0	0
Insufficient administrative capacity to manage programmes	0	0	0	0	•
Lack of flexibility to react to unforeseen circumstances	0	•	0	0	0
Insufficient synergies between the EU programmes/funds	0	•	0	0	0
Difficulty of combining EU action with other public interventions and private finance	0	0	•	0	0
Insufficient critical mass	0	0	0	0	0
Insufficient use of financial instruments	0	0	0	0	•
Lack of information/communication	0	0	•	0	0

Insufficient scope	0	0	0		•
Lack of EU standards and EU rules	0	0	0	0	•
Inadequate facilities to support enhanced cooperation	0	0	©	0	•
Out of date and inadequate IT capabilities	0	0	0	0	•
Insufficient involvement of citizens	0	•	0	0	0
Other (Please specify below)	0	0	0	0	0

38 The Commission has preliminarily identified a number of steps that could help to further simplify and reduce administrative burdens for beneficiaries under current programmes/funds. To what extent would these steps be helpful in your view?

	To a large extent	To a fairly large extent	To some extent only	Not at all	Don' t know
Alignment of rules between EU funds	0	•	0	0	0
Fewer, clearer, shorter rules	0	0	0	0	•
More reliance on national rules	0	0	0	0	•
A stable but flexible framework between programming periods	0	0	•	0	0
Extension of the single audit principle	0	0	0	0	•
Better feedback to applicants	0	•	0	0	0
More structured reporting	0	0	•	0	0
User-friendly IT tools	0	0	0	0	•
E-governance	0	0	0	0	•
Adequate administrative capacity	0	•	0	0	0
Other (Please specify below)	0	0	0	0	0

40 How could synergies among programmes/funds in this area be further strengthened to avoid possible overlaps/duplication? For example, would you consider grouping/merging some programmes? Please clearly indicate to which policies, programmes and funds your answer refer.

1500 character(s) maximum

A focus is needed for better governance and implementation of the 'health in all EU policies' approach around social sustainability, as EuroHealthNet argued in its submission for a European Pillar of Social Rights. The funds should lead to a systematic engagement with other policy areas to ensure health conducive conditions are in place and that good health is more equitably spread across socio-economic groups.

We work hard within EC Framework Programmes on health, research and social innovation to integrate across sectors, including on the ground, and in alignment with the EU Semester. Integrating programme objectives, conditions, governance and implementation would be a major step forward.

Therefore a clearer focus for social investment indicators and equitable approaches including health, within EU Semester and investment, innovation and implementation programmes is a precursor for achieving priority objectives.

It is vital those synergies are enhanced in the next MFF, with sufficient flexibility to address emerging threats, including antimicrobial resistance, food insecurity, infectious disease outbreaks, climate change, environmental degradation and air pollution - all requiring inter-sectoral co-operation with health improvement at the heart.

#### Document upload and final comments

41 Please feel free to upload a concise document, such as a position paper. The maximum file size is 1MB.

Please note that the uploaded document will be published alongside your response to the questionnaire which is the essential input to this public consultation. The document is optional and serves as additional background reading to better understand your position.

 $3a975e65-bae3-453d-935e-d4b9c2106c1e/EuroHealthNet\_summary\_in\_response\_to\_MFF\_Consultation.$  pdf

42 If you wish to add further information — within the scope of this questionnaire — please feel free to do so here.

1500 character(s) maximum

There is a need for a common strategic vision based on EU Treaty objectives on wellbeing and cohesion, taking forward the principles of the European Pillar on Social Rights and the Sustainable Development Goals. All future EC expenditure programmes should adhere to such a strategic vision and ensure that upcoming EU policies on e.g. the digital single markets for health, food chain policy, agricultural priorities and cohesion policy are aligned and broadly reinforce one another.

The EU has competencies in many areas which affect health. EuroHealthNet strongly recommends integrating health and social equity into newly proposed programmes to strengthen coherent and coordinated action on reducing health gaps, meeting needs on the ground. Activities on health should be linked to investments in people, in skills, literacy, culture, justice and sustainability.

Considerable health inequalities between and within Member States persist. By improving health and social equity and reducing inequalities, Europe can unlock unused potential for growth. Investing in health is investing in people. An EU budget and MFF which acknowledges the importance of health and approaches in a cohesive way is not a burden, but a solution to many challenges. It is an opportunity for the EU to tangibly improve the lives of people in Europe and contribute to more sustainable and resilient societies.

#### Contact

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