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## **EuroHealthNet replies to the European Commission consultation on a common strategic framework for EU research and Innovation Funding**

Responding to the European Commission (EC) consultation on a common strategic framework for EU research and Innovation funding, EuroHealthNet highlights that EU research and innovation funding is public money and should be used to benefit EU society as a whole rather than be applied primarily to foster economic growth and stimulate market demand.

EuroHealthNet calls on the EC to fulfill its Treaty obligations in relation to protecting and promoting the health of EU citizens: *“The TEU Article 168 is clear in requiring health to be taken into account in all EU policies, including research. Improving the health of the EU population by improving knowledge about social determinants of health (socio-economic elements that shape the health status of individuals) is a key public good. Failure to recognise and act on this by the European Commission would negate against its Treaty obligations and risk undermining social cohesion at a time when financial pressures are most threatening.”*

The full position of EuroHealthNet is available [here](#).

Moreover, EuroHealthNet further stressed that mainstreaming health in future EU research and innovation structures is fundamental not only to achieve a socially cohesive and equitable society, it also makes good economic sense. For example, research from Sweden estimates that unhealthy living habits cost society 120 billion SEK (13.3 billion euro) per year. These costs can be reduced, in part by investing in public health research and innovative solutions to promote healthier eating habits, more physical activity and the consumption of less alcohol and tobacco and injury prevention. This evidence should continue to be improved and applied in policies.

EuroHealthNet stresses the importance of a distinctive European approach that can lead world class research, not follow inappropriate models from other continents. Innovation may be a current “buzz word”, but health promotion and approaches based on social determinants of health with associated studies and evidence are intrinsically new and innovative concepts with emerging multiple benefits.

Director Clive Needle said *“States where our members work to build knowledge have been clear in their EU treaty decisions. Wellbeing is a stated objective. Health must be included in all policies. That makes strategic, economic, social and moral sense. We look forward to the EC proposing fair, transparent and accountable public research programmes designed to contribute to exactly those commitments”.*

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*EuroHealthNet is a not-for-profit network of regional and national agencies responsible and accountable for health promotion, public health and disease prevention in Europe. Its aim is to improve the health of European citizens by striving for a healthier Europe with greater health equity between and within countries. EuroHealthNet does that by supporting projects and policy development together with its members and the EU institutions; by exchanging information and by communication in and beyond its network.*

*More information available at:*

[www.eurohealthnet.eu](http://www.eurohealthnet.eu)

[www.health-inequalities.eu](http://www.health-inequalities.eu)

[www.health-gradient.eu](http://www.health-gradient.eu)

[www.equitychannel.net](http://www.equitychannel.net)