

# Future mandates/questions for the Expert Panel on effective ways of investing in health

Fields marked with \* are mandatory.

## Expert Panel on effective ways of investing in health

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The Expert Panel on effective ways of investing in health is an interdisciplinary and independent group established by the European Commission to provide non-binding advice on matters related to effective, accessible and resilient health systems. The Expert Panel supports DG SANTE in its efforts towards evidence-based policy-making and the development and availability of state of the art cross-country knowledge. The Panel issues opinions to inform national policy making in improving the quality and sustainability of their health systems and support EU level cooperation to improve information, expertise and the exchange of best practices.

After the appointment of the new members of the Panel by Director-General of DG SANTE in December 2019 the Panel should work on three mandates/questions in 2020. We would like to get an input from stakeholders - registered HPP members which questions the Panel should elaborate in their opinions.

\* Organisation you represent

EuroHealthNet

\* What question(s) should the Panel's opinion(s) address? (You can suggest more than one)

*1000 character(s) maximum*

- How can a 'socially-just' implementation of the European Green Deal (and earmarked funds) and the UN Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development mutually reinforce EU health systems for better health equity and wellbeing?
- How can we better use EU competencies in environmental, digital, commercial and fiscal determinants to boost health equity? Which indicators therein are useful to efficiently capture progress on health equity?
- Which domains, principles and targets of the European Pillar of Social Rights could have biggest impact on public health, equity and wellbeing if widely implemented? Conversely, how could gains in public health domain contribute to development and further implementation of the action plan for the Pillar (short, medium to long-term)?

\* What is the rationale for the proposed opinion(s), how is it linked to the EU health activities?

*4500 character(s) maximum*

Despite decades of steady improvements in terms of increased life expectancy, large gaps in health opportunities and outcomes between and within countries continue to exist. The latest WHO Health Equity Status report suggests that health inequalities can be explained only for 10% due to differences in quality and quantity of health services and systems. A much larger role is assigned to other factors such as income security and social protection (about 40%) and living conditions (30%). In addition, environmental, commercial and fiscal determinants of health (in which EU has a more pronounced legal competence than when it comes to health and social policies) are thought to offer big potential to improve conditions for healthy lives, including for the most vulnerable people in our societies - as also recommended by the WHO Best Buys for Beating NCDs initiative. Much has been achieved in the tobacco consumption area, now other underlying risk factors should be addressed as well. Taxation in the social protection field can also offer powerful boost to lifting people out of poor living and working conditions. Investments in social people-centred and community-based infrastructure also offer multiple ways of effectively investing in good health early and across one's life-course. Last but not least, quality living environments are key to people's good and equitable health and social outcomes.

\* What are the main issues to be covered by the Panel's opinion(s)?

*4500 character(s) maximum*

- evidence to support and monitor socially-just transition to sustainable and healthy societies;
- impact of environmental pollution and climate change on health and social issues, incl. urban health;
- digital transformation of health (incl. health promotion), and potential of AI with due diligence to health equity therein (to follow up on the EXPH's 2019 opinion 'Assessing the impact of digital transformation of health services');
- prevention and health promotion for the future of long-term care/resilient social protection and healthy ageing,
- the 'Economy of Wellbeing' approach for health equity, indicators, social sustainability domains within public health sphere.

Naturally, if EuroHealthNet can provide further information, be of assistance in completing the Expert Panel's opinions on any of the subjects selected, or for subsequently taking forward their Recommendations, our Partners and Brussels Office will be pleased to consider and contribute as appropriate. Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this helpful process.

## Contact

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