

## Targeted Stakeholders' Consultation about EU4Health Annual Work Programme 2025

Fields marked with \* are mandatory.

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### Stakeholders' Targeted Consultation EU4Health Annual Work Programme 2025

The EU4Health Programme is the response to the COVID-19 pandemic and aims to build a strong European Health Union by supporting legislative and non-legislative Union health priorities. The EU4Health Programme was adopted in March 2021 and represents the largest financial commitment by the Union in the field of health.

The European Commission is building a strong European Health Union, in which all EU countries prepare and respond together to health crises, medical supplies are available, affordable and innovative, and countries work together to improve prevention, treatment and aftercare for diseases such as cancer.

This targeted consultation is intended to seek the opinion of stakeholders about current and future Union health priorities and strategic orientations and on key health needs to be addressed through the EU4Health Annual Work Programme 2025, providing inputs for reflection on the 2025 programme and beyond. Its results will be used for drafting a consultation report (see the report on the 2024 Work Programme's consultation – [link](#)). They will also feed into the EU4Health stakeholders' conference on 19 June 2024.

For further information please read the consultation strategy. ([link](#))

**This targeted consultation will be available from 22 April to 10 June 2024.**

Please read carefully the privacy statement before proceeding.

Stakeholders targeted consultation – Data Protection ([link](#))

### About your organisation

1. Please indicate the Member State or associated country you are located in, if applicable.  
If not applicable, please select "Other non-EU country"

\* Select the country

- Austria
- Belgium
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Czechia
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary
- Ireland
- Italy
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Malta
- Netherlands
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Slovak Republic
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Sweden
- Norway
- Iceland
- Ukraine
- Moldova
- Montenegro
- Other non-EU country

If you are located in a non-EU country, please specify the country.

2. These comments represent the views of:

\* Please choose only one from the list below.

- Academia or education establishments
-

Civil society organisations (associations, foundations, NGOs, professional organisations and similar entities)

- Established networks in the field of health (e.g., one of the European Reference Networks)
- Expert networks in the field of health or related area (e.g., digital)
- Healthcare professional
- Hospitals
- Individual
- Member States' authorities (national, regional, local)
- Patient organisations
- Primary care delivery organisation
- Private entities (profit or non-profit)
- Research institutes
- Other

If you have chosen 'Other', please specify.

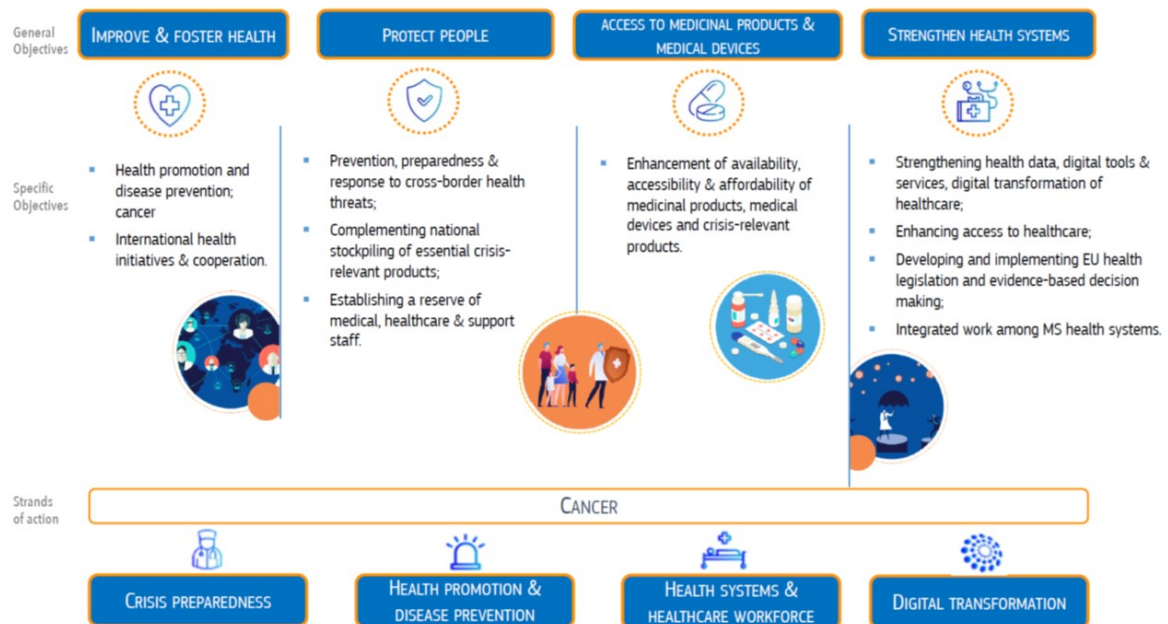
\* Please indicate the full name of the organisation.

\* 3. Has your organisation been a beneficiary of EU4Health Programme's so far?

- Yes
- No
- Do not know/Not relevant

## EU4Health work programme 2025 – strategic orientations and priorities

The EU4Health Programme (Regulation (EU) 2021/522) was adopted in March 2021. So far, four Annual Work Programmes have been adopted for 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024. These Annual Work Programmes cover relevant areas of interventions for achieving the general and specific objectives of the EU4Health Regulation.



4. For simplification and to provide a high level framing, the actions in the annual work programme have been clustered in “strand of actions”. **Which strand, in your view, effectively allocates resources to address both current and future health needs without neglecting any particular aspect?** Please see the consultation strategy ([link](#)) for the description of the strands.

Please score from one to five : 1 = Least effective to 5 = Most effective. Each score can only be used once

	1	2	3	4	5
* Strand of action 01: Crisis preparedness	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Strand of action 02: Disease prevention & health promotion	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>
* Strand of action 03: Health systems & healthcare workforce	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Strand of action 04: Digital Health	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Strand of action (transversal) 05: Cancer	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

\* 5. In your opinion, which areas of prevention, preparedness & response to cross-border health threats can be prioritised through EU4Health?

1000 character(s) maximum

Crisis preparedness and response plans have still not fully considered the relationship between the underlying systemic determinants of health and inequalities. Priority areas should include:

- Supporting the integration of behavioural & cultural insights into these plans to better embed wellbeing in policies and interventions
- Better stakeholder engagement and participatory approaches for policymaking.
- Providing a wider view of cross-border health threats – this should also include stronger cross-border action against non-communicable diseases and their determinants (particularly commercial determinants and the currently lacking cross-border regulation in e.g. marketing, advertising & promotion of alcohol and tobacco products). Climate change and environmental degradation should also fall under the umbrella of

cross-border health threats.

- Making stronger links to equity by supporting tools such as health equity impact assessments and audits.

**\* 6. What aspects of health promotion and disease prevention could be prioritised to tackle the current and future needs of the European population?**

*1000 character(s) maximum*

- Actions should focus on financial models and investments for health promotion/disease prevention (HPDP), by transitioning to health-promoting systems, continuing best practice exchange & facilitating better collaboration with non-health sectors
- Better incorporate social, environmental & commercial determinants in HPDP actions, reducing health inequalities as a core objective.
- Reduce obesogenic environments by supporting pilot schemes & clarifying legal measures for local authorities to regulate unhealthy food outlets, as well as advertising and marketing on health grounds.
- Invest in school settings by creating better policy frameworks for health promoting approaches, to encourage healthier eating, physical activity, access to green areas & psychosocial wellbeing. Investments in workplace and community-based settings are also essential.
- Boost capacity-building for MS to use cost benefits/ROIs approach to drive investments in effective HPDP which support health equity

**\* 7. How can EU4Health prioritise the actions in the field of strengthening of healthcare systems to better respond to current and future health threats?**

*1000 character(s) maximum*

Biomedical approaches to healthcare, in terms of treatment and disease management, are still being given priority, despite lessons from COVID-19. To strengthen our systems, investments are strongly needed in prevention and health promotion via primary, integrated and community-based care – through systems-oriented reforms and not lifestyle-focused interventions. Also, supporting programmes to develop comprehensive health and care workforce strategy (addressing also the needs of the public health workforce) with dedicated indicators and links to funding mechanisms would be an important step in providing support to Member States to improve their health and care systems. One of the pillars of this strategy should be to create the right conditions for health and care professionals to engage in continuous professional development and lifelong learning, particularly within the context of the digital and green transition.

**\* 8. In what ways can EU4Health define priorities in digital health solutions including utilisation of health data and emerging technologies to improve patient care and outcomes?**

*1000 character(s) maximum*

- Embed (health) equity into the digital transformation and digital policymaking, for instance by monitoring equity impacts of digital policies.
- Ensure digital access and inclusion and make links between digital and social innovation.
- Put prevention approaches upfront in activities supporting the digital transformation of healthcare, public health and broader care systems and health-promoting environments
- Promote digital health literacy and build a public health workforce that has digital and AI competences.
- Support the EU wide harmonisation of data collection practices and access to the necessary technologies, consider the expansion of such digital databases and tools in the field of the NCDs and their population-wide risk factors for smart data-informed preventive measures;
- Support the implementation of the European Health Data Space by collaborating with EU institutions and across European borders, identifying challenges and opportunities.

**\* 9. How can EU4Health define priorities for improving access to affordable and innovative medicines, medical devices and other crisis-relevant products across the EU?**

1000 character(s) maximum

- A stronger focus is needed on health inequalities in access to medicines, devices and products which are affordable and of good quality. This includes the transparency of pharmaceutical pricing and added therapeutic value of (new) medicines and therapeutics.
- Furthermore, the negative environmental implications of certain medicinal products (e.g. anti-microbials) should be more strongly considered

**\* 10. In your opinion, in which areas covered by the EU4Health work programme there is the highest potential for synergies in the scope of actions between the European level and the national level?**

- Actions on disease prevention, health promotion and for addressing health determinants (including cancer)
- Supporting global commitments and health initiatives
- Strengthening the capability for prevention, preparedness, and response to cross-border health threats
- Complementing national stockpiling on essential crisis relevant products
- Training a reserve of medical, healthcare and support staff
- Improve the availability, accessibility & affordability of medicinal products, medical devices and crisis-relevant products.
- Improving health data and promote the uptake of digital tools and services and the digital transformation of healthcare systems
- Improving access to quality, patient-centered, outcome-based healthcare and related care services
- Developing and implementing EU health legislation and evidence-based decision making
- Integrated work among Member States' health systems
- Other

Please specify if "Other"

100 character(s) maximum

**\* 11. In your opinion, where does the EU4Health programme showcase its effectiveness by fostering additional positive outcomes?**

- Promoting collaboration between member states (e.g., via Joint Actions)
- Enabling the preparedness and response to serious-cross border health threats
- Tackling current and future health priorities (e.g. mental health, cancer, aging, etc.)
- Implementing actions on health legislation (e.g. European health data space, Health technology assessment)
- Support to European Reference Networks
- Other

Please specify if "Other"

100 character(s) maximum

**12. In which areas can EU4Health programme bring the most EU added value for innovation?**

\* 1000 character(s) maximum

The added value of EU4Health lies in the mutual learning and exchange between Member States, to discuss key health priorities, challenges and good practices as well as participate in cross-learning. This is important for HPDP actions, which continue to face under-investments. For EuroHealthNet, innovation does not only mean technological innovation, but rather and more importantly, innovation in the way we work together to solve common issues. This is what the EU4Health programme can deliver, when fostering a platform for exchange and knowledge transfer. EuroHealthNet joins the EU4Health Civil Society Alliance to reiterate its concerns over foreseen budget cuts, and the uncertainty around EU4Health:<https://eu4health.eu/for-a-strong-and-stable-eu4healthprogramme/>. This consideration is critically important given the 20% budgetary allocation for health promotion and disease prevention in EU4Health, which has been extremely beneficial to advance better policies and programmes.

\* **13. Which toolboxes can best foster innovation in the areas covered by the European Health Union? (e.g. sandboxes, living labs,...)**

1000 character(s) maximum

The European Health Union should focus on independent evidence-based toolboxes which set the foundation for participatory approaches - encouraging the meaningful participation of different stakeholders, sectors and settings in the design, implementation and evaluation of policies and interventions. This is necessary to address the varying needs of the population, build consensus and trust, and foster better collaboration, which in themselves are the 'innovations' needed to stimulate better health outcomes. Secondly, to institutionalise and build capacity for health equity impact assessments as an innovation to better policy-making processes to adequately and effectively counter-balance economic concerns dominating legislative scrutiny at the EU level. Equity-driven review of EU health legislation should also include strong and transparent accountability frameworks.

\* **14. How can EU4Health facilitate partnerships & collaboration between public authorities, industry, academia, and civil society to address complex health challenges?**

1000 character(s) maximum

- EU4Health can facilitate partnerships by clarifying and reinforcing the EU legal potential to leverage different policies (incl. fiscal, pricing, income, education, employment, social, environmental, digital) to improve key underlying determinants, especially the socio-economic and commercial drivers of ill-health.
- Boost health, equity, wellbeing and socioeconomic determinants of health research capacities - consider support toward creating EU (research) Mission on Health Promotion and Disease Prevention, and Health Inequalities & EU (research) Mission on Mental Health in All Policies.
- Cooperation between MS and civil society - nurture a high-level governance by means of consultation and exchange activities between EU Health Policy Platform (HPP) members and MS authorities, supporting cross-country thematic exchange- beyond the Expert Group on Public Health and its various sub-groups.

\* **15. What (would have) happened to your action/ project, without European-level funding through the EU4Health programme?**

The action/ project would be:

Maximum 1 selection(s)

- Likely funded by a public source at national or regional level, without any major changes in scope, duration or level of ambition

- Likely funded by a private source at national or regional level, without any major changes in scope, duration or level of ambition
- Likely funded (by either a public or private source), but with a substantial reduction in scope, duration or level of ambition
- No funding secured (by either a public or private source), but would have taken place later
- No funding secured, and would not have taken place at all
- Likely funded by another EU programme, without any major changes in scope, duration or level of ambition
- Other

Please specify if "Other"

*100 character(s) maximum*

**\* 16. How do you perceive the effectiveness and/ or efficiency of Direct Grants (e.g., joint actions or other direct grants) to address the key challenges in building the European Health Union? [\(link\)](#)**

*1000 character(s) maximum*

Direct Grants are an important mechanism to stimulate joint efforts at Member State level. The Joint Action PreventNCD is a stellar example of Member State cooperation on health determinants, which are key in building a European Health Union.

**\* 17. How do you perceive the effectiveness and/ or efficiency of open calls (e.g., action grants, procurement initiatives, and operating grants) to address the key challenges in building the European Health Union? [\(link\)](#)**

*1000 character(s) maximum*

Action grants (particularly those that focus investments on health promotion and disease prevention) importantly contribute to the European Health Union. In our experience leading on the EU4Health-funded project Schools4Health, we have the opportunity to make the connection between education and health within and around school settings - both interdependent determinants that impact the wellbeing of children and adolescents. In terms of efficiency, we feel that certain administrative aspects could be improved, as indicated in our input on the mid-term evaluation study of the programme: <https://eurohealthnet.eu/wp-content/uploads/eu4health-interim-evaluation-survey.pdf>

**\* 18. How do you perceive the effectiveness and/ or efficiency of actions implemented by indirect management (e.g. contribution agreements) to address the key challenges in building the European Health Union? [\(link\)](#)**

*1000 character(s) maximum*

Not applicable



Consultation Strategy

Data protection

**Contact**

[Contact Form](#)