

## Targeted Stakeholders' Consultation about EU4Health Annual Work Programme 2026

Fields marked with \* are mandatory.

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### Stakeholders' Targeted Consultation EU4Health Annual Work Programme 2026

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The EU4Health Programme, adopted in March 2021, 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. Health is a vital investment and the EU4Health programme represents an unprecedented level of EU financial support in the health area, with an initial budget of €5.3 billion for the 2021-27 period, subsequently adjusted to €4.4 billion following the revision of the 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF).

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 on key health needs to be addressed through the EU4Health Annual Work Programme 2026, providing inputs for reflection on the 2026 programme and beyond. The results will be compiled in a summary stakeholders' consultation report (see the report on the 2025 Work Programme's consultation – [link](#)).

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

**This targeted consultation will be available from 04.08.2025.**

Please read carefully the privacy statement before proceeding.

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

## About your organisation

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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
- ☐ Bosnia and Herzegovina
- ☐ 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)
- ☐ 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.

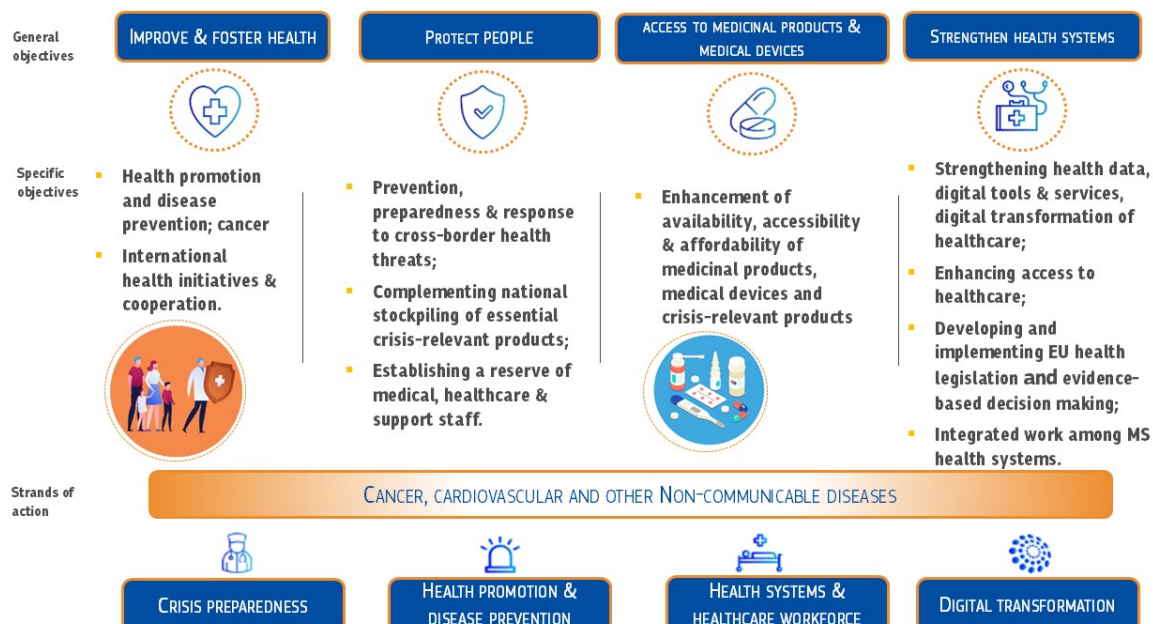
\* 3. Has your organisation been a beneficiary of the EU4Health Programme so far?

- ☒ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Do not know/Not relevant

## EU4Health work programme 2026 – strategic orientations and priorities

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The EU4Health Programme (Regulation (EU) 2021/522) was adopted in March 2021. So far, five Annual Work Programmes have been adopted between 2021 - 2025. These Annual Work Programmes have covered 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”. **In your view, how effectively does each strand allocate resources to address both current and future health needs while maintaining balance across priorities?** 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 type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Strand of action 02: Health promotion & disease prevention	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Strand of action 03: Health systems & healthcare workforce	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Strand of action 04: Digital Transformation	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
* Strand of action 05: Cancer, cardiovascular and other NCDs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>

\* 5. In your opinion, in which area of prevention, preparedness & response to cross-border health threats there is a need for action through EU4Health?

- ☐ Respiratory or contact-based viruses with pandemic potential
- ☐ Vector-borne or animal-reservoir viruses with epidemic potential
- ☐ Antimicrobial resistance
- ☐ Armed conflict related threats and chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) threats
- ☒ Other

Please specify if "Other"

100 character(s) maximum

**\* 6. In which area there is a need for action by EU4Health for improving health promotion and disease prevention?**

- ☒ Mental health initiatives
- ☐ Prevention and reduction of tobacco use
- ☐ Vaccination
- ☐ Reducing harmful use of alcohol
- ☐ Other

**\* 7. How can EU4Health strengthen healthcare systems and healthcare workforce to better respond to patients' needs?**

- ☐ Enhancing healthcare workforce training
- ☐ Increasing cross-border collaborations (e.g. patients accessing healthcare in another EU Member State)
- ☐ Ensuring available and affordable medicinal products, medical devices and crisis-relevant products
- ☐ Improving accessibility of healthcare
- ☒ Other

Please specify if "Other"

100 character(s) maximum

Taking a lifecycle and equity approach and non-medical intervention such as social prescription

**\* 8. In your opinion, in which area of digital health there is a need for action through EU4Health?**

- ☐ Rights of patients under the European Health Data Space
- ☐ Application/ Use of Artificial Intelligence in healthcare
- ☐ Uptake of the European Health Record exchange Format
- ☐ Use of health data by researchers and innovators
- ☒ Other

Please specify if "Other"

100 character(s) maximum

Address digital divide & literacy to ensure equitable and effective use of digital health solutions

**\* 9. In your opinion, in which area of cancer, cardiovascular and other non-communicable diseases there is a need for action through EU4Health?**

- ☐ Support the uptake of cancer screening activities
- ☐ Support cancer treatment activities
- ☒ Support cardiovascular disease prevention
- ☐ Support cardiovascular disease treatment
- ☐ Other

**\* 10. In your opinion, which areas covered by the EU4Health work programme support best Europe's competitiveness?**

*between 2 and 3 choices*

- ☒ 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
- ☐ Improving the availability, accessibility & affordability of medicinal products, medical devices and crisis-relevant products
- ☒ Improving health data and promoting the uptake of digital tools and services and the digital transformation of healthcare systems (including through Artificial Intelligence)
- ☐ Improving access to quality, patient-centred, outcome-based healthcare and related care services
- ☒ Other

Please specify if "Other"

*100 character(s) maximum*

Taking a lifecycle approach, addressing environmental and commercial determinant of health

**\* 11. In your view, which areas of innovation requires priority action under EU4Health to foster health advancements?**

*between 2 and 3 choices*

- ☐ Biotechnology applications
- ☐ Digital health technologies
- ☐ Personalised medicine
- ☒ Health system integration
- ☐ Advanced therapeutics
- ☐ Digital health & AI
- ☒ Other

Please specify if "Other"

*100 character(s) maximum*

Addressing health inequalities and stepping up prevention with a lifecycle approach

**\* 12. In your opinion, where does the EU4Health programme bring the most added value for European citizens?**

- ☐ 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

Foster collaboration between health agencies, civil society, and research on health promotion

**\* 13. What do you consider the most pressing unmet health needs that the EU4Health programme should address?**

*between 2 and 3 choices*

- ☐ Chronic disease management
- ☐ Access to healthcare services
- ☒ Health inequalities
- ☐ New & emerging diseases
- ☐ Rare diseases
- ☒ Mental health
- ☐ Cardiovascular diseases
- ☐ Antimicrobial resistance
- ☐ Access to medical countermeasures
- ☐ Pandemic preparedness
- ☐ Chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) threats
- ☒ Other

Please specify if "Other"

100 character(s) maximum

Ensure that 20% of EU4health is actually allocated to health promotion/disease prevention

**\* 14. What (would have) happened to your action/ project, without European-level funding through the EU4Health programme?**

- ☐ 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

**\* 15. What should be the primary focus of the EU4Health programme in 2026?**

*2000 character(s) maximum*

The EU4Health programme in 2026 should prioritise strengthening health promotion, disease prevention, and action on the wider determinants of health. Despite being mandated, the 20% allocation for health promotion and disease prevention has not been met, leaving essential prevention-oriented activities scattered across different envelopes. A dedicated strand for prevention and health promotion exists under EU4Health, but its allocation does not adequately reflect health promotion and disease prevention needs. Key areas such as health education and communication, physical activity, healthy environments, nutrition, health equity, vaccination, and climate change are either missing or only partially addressed in other strands, often with less emphasis on prevention. At the same time, EU4Health should address health inequalities across Member States, supporting investment where national budgets fall short. Resources must be directed towards building resilient, equitable health systems that prioritise people's long-term health and wellbeing. Greater attention should be given to funding models that enable collaboration between public actors, civil society organisations, and Member States, including the reinstatement of operating grants and fairer allocation of funds for Joint Actions. The programme should strengthen the EU's capacity to address the social and economic drivers of health, recognising that healthier populations are a prerequisite for sustainable competitiveness. The programme should strengthen the EU's capacity to address social and economic drivers of health, recognising that healthier populations are essential for competitiveness. Investments in health promotion and reducing inequalities enhance labour market participation, productivity and innovation, while lowering long-term system costs.

**\* 16. From your point of view, what are the major priorities not yet addressed by EU4Health work programmes?**

*2000 character(s) maximum*

One important opportunity for future EU4Health work programmes is to give stronger attention to the health impact of climate change. While there are already some measures related to vector-borne diseases and surveillance systems, climate and health are not yet treated as a core strategic priority. Expanding this focus would help address the growing risks posed by extreme weather events, air pollution, environmental degradation, and their unequal impacts on vulnerable groups. Environment and climate change should become a central dimension of public health policy. Another area with strong potential is health equity. Although inequalities are mentioned in some actions, they are not consistently integrated as a core pillar. The wider social determinants of health (such as education, income, housing, employment, and environment), commercial determinants (such as alcohol, tobacco and food) as well as environmental determinants also deserve greater funding. These factors have a decisive impact on health outcomes, yet they remain only partially reflected in the programme. A stronger focus on social determinants would improve wellbeing, reduce long-term costs, and connect EU4Health more closely with EU objectives on productivity, competitiveness and social fairness.

## **Background Documents**

[Consultation Strategy](#)

[Data Protection](#)

## **Contact**



