



Feedback from:

EuroHealthNet

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Submitted by

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Other

Organisation

EuroHealthNet

Organisation size

Small (10 to 49 employees)

Transparency register number

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Country of origin

Belgium

Initiative

[Multiannual Financial Framework-Draft legislative proposal on the InvestEU Programme and EFSI evaluation SWD](#)

EuroHealthNet welcomes the proposed InvestEU Programme and EFSI evaluation. This is a promising initiative, now comprising a dedicated window on social investment and skills, including health, education and housing, with potential to help reduce inequalities and stimulate appropriate leadership from investors and health stakeholders. The 4 billion EUR assigned, and the budget to support capacity-building and locally-oriented technical assistance, are welcome. The desire to connect public and private finance is cautiously welcomed, if carefully monitored. The successful implementation of this endeavor necessitates the full involvement of the relevant public stakeholders as well as civil society. The InvestEU represents an opportunity for the EU to foreground social measures, including health promotion and facilitate sustainable funding to reduce health inequalities. It must not reduce the public responsibility of state authorities to sufficiently fund social sectors.

► A “health in all finances” agenda through integrated governance would help to fully embed health benefits throughout decision making: The need for new and innovative financial impetus for reducing health inequalities is clear. The High-Level Task-Force on Investing in Social Infrastructure in Europe concluded that the investment gap in social infrastructure and services has reached EUR 150 billion[1], while the cost of chronic disease is estimated for EU economies at 115 billion EUR or 0.8% of GDP annually.[2] However, a recent systematic review found that for every 1 EUR spent on health promotion 14 EUR was returned to the economy[3]. Integrated approaches are the most efficient way to address social, economic, and environmental determinants of health and inequalities. Smart EU investment on social, health, and research programmes and funds should be linked to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and implementing the EU Pillar of Social Rights[4] (EPSR) that include social investments, health, and support for the EPSR offers potentially improved opportunities for coherent, connected work, on the ground in Member States and communities. The InvestEU has promising potential if a “health in all policies” approach is incorporated; but funding should be linked to outcomes and have strategic health promotion orientated aims.

► Sustainable finance is key for health improvements: A key concern is the issue of sustainability of projects and results. There is a clear need to maintain access to different types of funding and different sources of funding for health promotion. This goes hand in hand with the need to maintain connections with all stakeholders, authorities, and ministries. At present, the project focused requirements of funds are a good mechanism to get health promotion initiatives developed and started. However, this ultimately creates a strict and short timescale to deliver recognisable results. The ‘life-span’ of the funding needs to be radically re-thought. The InvestEU should initiate this by envisioning sustainable long-term health promotion measures. This will create a clear European added value beyond national capacities.

Sources:

[1] Fransen, L. et al (2018) Boosting Investment in Social Infrastructure in Europe: Report of the High-Level Task Force on Investing in Social Infrastructure in Europe (doi:10.2765/794497/Discussion Paper 074).

[2] OECD/EU. (2016). Health at a Glance: Europe 2016: State of Health in the EU Cycle.

[3] Masters, R. et al (2017), Return on investment of public health interventions: a systematic review, Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health (DOI: 10.1136/jech-2016-208141).

[4] Dyakova, M et al (2017) Investment for health and well-being: a review of the social return on investment from public health policies to support implementing the Sustainable Development Goals by building on Health 2020. (9789289052597/WHO Regional Office for Europe).

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