



Feedback from:

EuroHealthNet

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Organisation

EuroHealthNet

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Country of origin

Belgium

Initiative

[Multiannual Financial Framework: Rights and Values programme 2021-2027](#)

EuroHealthNet welcomes the proposed Rights and Values Programme aimed to fund actions to protect and promote rights and values as enshrined in the EU Treaties. The concepts of equality, non-discrimination and human rights are at the heart of EuroHealthNets work. Article 2 of the TEU stipulates that human dignity, freedom, equality, and respect for human rights, tolerance, and solidarity are values on which the Union is founded. Article 3 further specifies that the “Union’s aim is to promote ... wellbeing of its people”. EuroHealthNet’s mission, namely to help build healthier communities and tackle health inequalities within and between European Member States is rooted in these aims and values.

Differences in the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age give rise to inequalities in health. The more favourable a person’s social circumstances in terms of e.g. income or education level, the better their chance of enjoying good health and a longer life, leading to a

'social gradient in health' that can be observed in all countries with the relevant data. Health inequities are preventable and therefore unjust. Health is an enabler of social and economic participation in daily life, the "motor" behind our economies, and a key determinant of a person's well-being, happiness and satisfaction[1]. It is therefore imperative to tackle the key underlying factors that undermine people's right to good health, like lower resource and income levels, education levels, lack of social and family support, an unhealthy living environment and limited access to preventative care [2].

A wide range of decisions and actions taken across sectors, at different levels of government, shape the conditions in which people find themselves. Through initiatives funded through e.g. the EU EaSI, Health and Research Programmes, EuroHealthNet brings together and contributes to the evidence base on what works to reduce health inequities, thereby also supporting the objectives and priorities of the Rights and Values Programme.

PRIORITISE ACTIONS FOR THOSE IN GREATEST NEED:

A key approach to strengthening all EU citizen's right to health and to reducing health inequalities is the application of the 'principle of proportionate universalism' to ensure that universal services are resourced and delivered at a scale and intensity proportionate to the degree of need. The Rights and Values Programme should therefore contribute to encouraging governments to apply this principle. The Programme should also encourage actions that improve conditions in early childhood, since health inequities often manifest themselves in early life and have adverse life-long consequences.[3] It should, furthermore, focus on tackling discrimination. Many groups, like LGBTI people[4], people with mental health conditions[5], marginalised and socially excluded groups (for instance migrants[6], young NEET people[7], older people [8] etc.) face high levels of explicit and implicit discrimination, with grave consequences to their health.

The Rights and Values Programme offers a welcome opportunity to redress injustice, through investments that can tackle harmful cultural and social norms, discrimination, stigma and other barriers to good health and wellbeing. It can help the EU profile itself as a global leader. To have a real impact however, it is vital that the provisions of the Programme are also integrated in key EU policies and programmes like ESF+, Horizon Europe and InvestEU, and not least those linked to the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights and the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Please find the sources in the attachment.



Feedback from: EuroHealthNet

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