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EuroHealthNet

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Submitted by

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[Multiannual Financial Framework: Specific Programme implementing the 9th Framework Programme for Research and Innovation](#)

The following provides EuroHealthNet's response to the proposals on establishing HorizonEurope and laying down the rules for participation and dissemination as well its Annexes setting out the Framework Programme on Research and Innovation.

Overall, we welcome the proposals and their premise that Horizon Europe must deliver on citizen's priorities, boost productivity and competitiveness and is crucial for sustaining our socio-economic models and values and enabling solutions that address these challenges in a more systemic way. We commend the proposal's strong focus on health within the Pillar II 'Global Challenges and Industrial Competitiveness', as a cluster and as a theme that appears in the other clusters, where actions will also impact strongly on health and health inequities. We are pleased that the proposal places the lack of sound health promotion and disease prevention, the rise of non-communicable

diseases and the persistence of health inequalities at the top of the list of the major health challenges facing the EU. It also recognises that these complex challenges cannot be addressed by health systems alone and that they are interlinked, global in nature and require multidisciplinary, cross-sectoral and transnational collaborations. We also find the concept of 'missions' promising and trust that civil society representatives and end users will be adequately included in all relevant processes. However, we urge consideration for the following points:

- ▶ The link must be made between this and the cluster on 'inclusive and secure society', that aims to generate action leading to 'social and economic transformation': The proposal, under the health cluster, calls for actions that 'render health systems accessible, cost-effective, resilient, sustainable and trusted and designed to reduce health inequalities'. A key way of reorienting health systems and to make them more health promoting is to improve the awareness of leaders as well as of relevant professionals across sectors of the importance of taking holistic approaches for health and well-being for all, and to improve their capacities to deliver this.
- ▶ Social innovation is put on an equal footing to technological and industrial innovation: We would like to stress and see that a sufficient emphasis is put on the social dimension of health and well-being. We also hope to see a stronger prioritisation in the proposals objectives; the measures that are financed should first and foremost address health and social challenges in ways that subsequently boost productivity and competitiveness. Health technologies undoubtedly play an important role in strengthening health systems delivering health. Yet it is important to ensure that technologies support, but do not drive the development of health systems and thereby widen digital, social and health divides.
- ▶ Those designing and implementing HorizonEurope must prioritise measures that truly address core challenges in a systemic way: Health systems will not become more sustainable and they will not contribute to greater health equity through investments in expensive, person-centred technologies that simply redress problems generated at the systems level. The action area on food systems for example mentions 'personalised nutrition especially for vulnerable groups, to mitigate the risk factors for diet-related and non-communicable diseases.' While personalised medicine can certainly be important to improving individual well-being, it is more cost effective to focus on population-based approaches that make sustainably grown and nutritious food available to everyone.
- ▶ Budgets that have been proposed for the health strand under Horizon Europe do not reflect its high ambitions: We are concerned that the budget for health under the proposal is almost 1% lower than under Horizon2020. This is worrying, given that Horizon2020 was cut by more than €10 billion from the time of the proposal to its establishment.

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