



European Health Union - challenges and priorities

Artur Furtado – Acting Head of Unit

Unit C1 Health promotion, disease prevention, financial instruments

Directorate Public Health, DG SANTE

European Health Union

- *Better preparedness and response to health crises*
- *Available, affordable and innovative supplies*
- *Improved prevention, treatment and aftercare (cancer)*

- *Health of our citizens*
- *Resilience of health systems*

- *Lessons from the pandemic*

Key initiatives

- *Health threats*
- *Pharmaceutical strategy*
- *Europe's Beating Cancer Plan*

Health threats

- *Strengthening coordination*
- *Mandates of ECDC and EMA*
(stronger surveillance, scientific analysis and guidance)
- *HERA*
(biomedical preparedness)

Pharmaceutical strategy

- *Regulatory framework*
- *Research*
- *Competitive and innovative industry*
- *Diversified supply chains, environmental sustainability*

Europe's Beating Cancer Plan

- *Prevention*
- *Early detection*
- *Diagnosis and treatment*
- *Quality of life for cancer patients and survivors*



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Non-communicable diseases

- *7 of the 10 leading causes of death attributable to NCDs; 80% of health burden*
- *61% of deaths attributed to alcohol-related harm, smoking, physical inactivity, diet and overweight and obesity*
- *All of these are largely preventable, but expenditure on preventive care is 2.8%*
- *A fair amount should go to health promotion and disease prevention*

- *Via SGPP, Member States have prioritized*
 - *Reducing the use of **tobacco** products*
 - *Improving the **environmental determinants***
 - *Reducing overweight and **obesity***
 - *Reducing **alcohol**-related harm*
- *Best Practice call published end 2020*
- *WHO best practices may complement*
- *Disease Knowledge Platform*

Cancer

- *Plan adopted 3 February*
- *Supports fighting other NCDs*
- *Coordination of priorities (digital, research, inequalities), actions (Pharma, Farm2Fork), and funding*
- *Pillars: prevention; early detection; diagnosis and treatment; quality of life of patients and survivors*

Antimicrobial resistance

- *Implementation of 2017 EU AMR Action Plan*
- *Lessons learned from COVID*

Vaccination

- *COVID-19 pandemic* → *importance of vaccination*
- Vaccination challenges:
 - 2018 Council Recommendation for cooperation on vaccine-preventable diseases
 - Promote vaccine uptake - better monitoring
 - Support neighbouring countries – diseases do not respect borders!
 - Fight vaccine hesitancy, promote trust
 - Vaccine production - better forecasting and planning
 - ECDC - EMA platform for monitoring of safety and effectiveness of vaccines
 - Share scientific evidence and implement research findings

Preparedness and response

- *Regulation on serious cross-border threats*
Strengthen preparedness, surveillance, reporting; declaration of an EU emergency situation
- *Stronger and more operational agencies*
- *HERA*
Reinforced in EU Pharmaceutical strategy
Proposal and preparatory actions in 2021; operational in 2023

Health information and data

- *Robust, timely and comparable data for policy-making and research*
- *Sustainable health information infrastructure*

International cooperation

- *Support to global commitments*
- *EU4Health will be open to third countries; specific provisions apply*