



Building health promoting systems fit for the future.

EuroHealthNet Annual Report June 2020-June 2021



| | |
|--|-----------|
| Who we are | 4 |
| Editorial | 5 |
| Executive board..... | 6 |
| Our impact in numbers | 6 |
| Members..... | 7 |
| Research Associate Members | 8 |
| Policy Associate Members..... | 8 |
| Practice Associate Members | 8 |
| Observers | 8 |
| Fit for the future | 9 |
| The future of public health explored by public health experts | 10 |
| Analysis and tools to address health inequalities within and outside health systems | 10 |
| EuroHealthNet’s future directions | 11 |
| Policy | 12 |
| Providing expert analysis..... | 13 |
| Analysis for member organisations | 13 |
| Providing guidance to policymakers..... | 14 |
| Stronger together..... | 22 |
| Engaging with policy-makers..... | 25 |
| Practice | 29 |
| Building capacity to access financing for health promoting services | 30 |
| Webinar Series | 31 |
| Expanding knowledge on action for chronic disease prevention, health equity, and vaccination for all | 32 |
| JAHEE Joint Action on Health Equity | 36 |
| Vaccination and health equity..... | 36 |
| Outreach visits..... | 37 |
| Research | 38 |
| CHAIN: contributing to research on health inequalities worldwide..... | 39 |
| European funding for research: informing and building consortia with our members..... | 41 |
| RIVER-EU | 41 |
| World Public Health Conference: profiling the EuroHealthNet partnership and raising awareness of our work..... | 42 |

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Communication | 43 |
| Making connections and facilitating exchanges - EuroHealthNet’s communication network .. | 43 |
| Disseminating reliable, evidence-based and timely information | 44 |
| Telling the stories of public health | 45 |
| How we work | 48 |
| Members | 48 |
| Associate members | 48 |
| General Council | 48 |
| Executive Board | 48 |
| Observers | 49 |
| Online General Council Meeting | 49 |
| Online Conference Skills for Health | 49 |
| Extraordinary Policy and Strategy Meeting | 49 |
| Finance and Funding | 50 |
| Thematic Working Groups (TWiGs) | 51 |
| External Evaluation | 51 |
| Staff | 51 |
| Thank You | 51 |

1

Who we are

EuroHealthNet is the Partnership of public health bodies building a healthier future for all by addressing the determinants of health and reducing inequalities. Our focus is on preventing disease and promoting good health by looking within and beyond the health care system.

We work on public health and social equity for policy, practice, and research. We also explore and strengthen the links between them. Our approach focuses on health in all policies, reducing health inequalities gaps and gradients, working on determinants across the life course, contributing to sustainability and wellbeing of people and planet.

This annual report describes our activities between June 2020 and May 2021.

The EuroHealthNet partnership includes 64 members, associate members, and observers. They come from 25 European countries, including 22 EU Member States.

They steer the work of the Brussels office through three collaborating platforms: Practice, Policy, and Research. A core team works to unite and amplify the platforms' work. The partnership is governed by the General Council, which comprises all members, and the Executive Board.

Read more about our structure, areas of work, and finances in the [‘How we work’ section](#).

2 Editorial

In this last year we have seen how the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted the world. It put health and social policy front and centre of everybody's consciousness and lives. It became clear that the virus and the policy measures taken to contain it, were hitting the more and most vulnerable members of our societies the hardest. People with – in many cases preventable, underlying health conditions – were also more likely to suffer from COVID-19.

The pandemic, or syndemic, has clearly and dramatically exposed the issues that are at the core of EuroHealthNet's work; the centrality of health in our societies, the wide range of factors that affect health, and the pervasiveness of health inequalities. The pandemic came in the context of a more chronic environmental crisis, and amidst technological and demographic changes. The unprecedented recovery response, and the high number of proposals under the European 'Green Deal', the European Health Union, and the action plan for the European Pillar on Social Rights demonstrate that there are opportunities to "Build Back Better and Fairer". These developments also highlight the relevance of EuroHealthNet's 'Health Equity in All Policies' approach, and how working in a wide range of policy areas and across disciplines is vital to delivering health and reducing health inequities.

This Annual Report demonstrates EuroHealthNet played a crucial role and provided input, where possible and relevant, on how these policy initiatives could be designed and applied to maximise impact on health and wellbeing and reduce health inequities across the EU. We raised the awareness of EuroHealthNet members and broader stakeholders about new and/or relevant policies and tools and how they could be applied to address urgent, interrelated threats to health and social equity.

We are delighted to now present the full range of our activities, findings and impacts and look forward hearing back from you, or even better join us in our Partnership for working together, building health promoting health systems fit for the future!

Mojca Gabrijelcic – **President**

Caroline Costongs- **Director**

Executive board



*Mojca Gabrijelčič
Blenkuš (President)*



*Vertti Kiukas (Vice
President)*



*Giovanni Gorgoni
(Treasurer)*



Plamen Dimitrov



Mariana Dyakova



Frank Lehmann



Lorna Renwick



Paolo Stocco

Our impact in numbers

| | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| <p>760 Participants at EuroHealthNet events</p> | <p>92.5% Annual seminar participants rating the event as 'excellent' or 'good'</p> | <p>64 Members, associate members, and observers from 25 European countries in 22 Member States</p> | <p>120 Presentations made and events moderated in 2020</p> |
| <p>301 External meetings participated in 2020</p> | <p>19 Newsletters published sharing information about our Partners and our world of work</p> | <p>48% Increase in Magazine readership</p> | <p>10,875 Social media followers</p> |
| <p>28 Policy briefings & consultation responses</p> | <p>19 Statements</p> | <p>12 Press releases sent</p> | <p>223,082 Website views</p> |

Members

Austria - [Austrian Health Promotion Foundation \(FGOE\)](#)

Belgium - [Flanders Institute for Healthy Living, Walloon Agency for Quality of Life \(AVIQ\)](#)

Bulgaria - [National Center of Public Health and Analyses \(NCPHA\)](#)

England - [The Health and Europe Centre, NHS Kent & Medway](#)

Finland - [National Institute for Health and Welfare \(THL\), Finnish Federation for Social Affairs and Health \(SOSTE\)](#)

France - [French National Public Health Agency](#)

Germany - [Federal Centre for Health Education \(BZgA\)](#)

Greece - [Institute of Preventive Medicine Environmental and Occupational Health \(PROLEPSIS\)](#)

Hungary - [National Public Health Center](#)

Ireland - [Institute of Public Health in Ireland \(IPH\)](#)

Italy - [Regional Healthcare and Social Affairs Agency of Puglia, Veneto Region, Tuscany Region, Federsanita ANCI,](#)

[Piedmont Regional Health Promotion Documentation Center \(DoRS\) – ASL TO3, National Institute of Health \(ISS\)**,](#) [National Federation of Nursing Professions \(FNOPI\)](#)

Latvia - [The Centre for Disease Prevention and Control of Latvia](#)

Latvia - [Riga City Council Department of Welfare](#)

Luxembourg - [Luxembourg Institute of Health \(LIH\), Luxembourg Institute of Socio-Economic Research \(LISER\)](#)

Netherlands - [National Institute for Public Health and the Environment \(RIVM\), Pharos Dutch centre of expertise on health disparities](#)

Norway - [Norwegian Directorate of Health](#)

Poland - [National Institute of Public Health – National Institute of Hygiene](#)

Portugal - [National Institute of Health Doutor Ricardo Jorge](#)

Scotland - [Public Health Scotland](#)

Slovakia - [Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic](#)

Slovenia - [National Institute of Public Health \(NIJZ\)](#)

Spain - [Ministry of Health, Spain, Regional Ministry of Health and Families of Andalusia**](#)

Sweden - [Public Health Agency of Sweden*, Public Health Committee – Region Västra Götaland](#)

Wales/United Kingdom - [Public Health Wales](#)

Research Associate Members

England - [Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council Public Health Department, University of Brighton, School of Health Sciences](#)

Italy - [Comunità di Venezia Società Cooperativa Sociale](#)

Netherlands - [Netherlands Institute of Mental Health and Addiction \(Trimbos Institute\), Radboud University Medical Center](#)

North Macedonia - [Institute of Public Health of the Republic of North Macedonia](#)

Norway - [Norwegian University of Science and Technology \(NTNU\), Faculty of Social and Educational Sciences](#)

Norway - [Oslo Metropolitan University](#)

Portugal - [Centre for Social Research and Intervention – Lisbon University Institute \(ISCTE-IUL\), Egas Moniz Higher Education Cooperative**](#)

Spain - [Universidad de La Laguna](#)

Sweden - [Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions \(SALAR\)](#)

Policy Associate Members

England - [The Health Foundation](#)

Netherlands - [Dutch Association of Mental Health and Addiction Care \(GGZ Netherlands\), FNO zorg voor kansen](#)

Sweden - [Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions \(SALAR\)](#)

Practice Associate Members

England - [The Health Foundation](#)

Ireland - [Special Olympics Europe Eurasia**](#)

Italy - [Association Pianoterra](#)

Netherlands - [Radboud University Medical Center](#)

Portugal - [Egas Moniz Higher Education Cooperative**, Nossa Senhora do Bom Sucesso Foundation](#)

Observers

Austria - [Federal Ministry for Social Affairs, Health, Care and Consumer Protection**](#)

Belgium - [Federal Public Service Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment](#)

England - [Department of Health](#)

Lithuania - [Ministry of Health of the Republic of Lithuania](#)

Malta - [Public Health Regulation Department](#)

Romania - [Ministry of Health](#)

** Partner*

*** To be approved at General Council Meeting 2021*

3

Fit for the future

Like all health organisations, our work and the daily life of EuroHealthNet has been greatly changed by the COVID-19 pandemic. Our focus has been on addressing the unequal effects of the pandemic. We also looked at the wider and long-term consequences on social and economic life, and how they will interact with health in the future.

EuroHealthNet's approach and philosophy – a focus on health determinants and health inequalities – has equipped the organisation with the expertise for this analysis. For a number of years, we have examined how to make health systems more sustainable by strengthening health promotion and prevention and anticipating future developments. This has helped prepare us to analyse the changes being brought about now by the pandemic, and support members prepare for the changes to come.

EuroHealthNet is helping to build health and care systems fit for the future. Those systems will be sustainable, equitable, community-based and health promoting and connected. They value and prioritise creating and maintaining good health as much as treating disease. Health, social, education, employment and environmental systems are connected to allow people to live healthily and independently for longer.

What do health and care systems fit for the future look like? [Watch to learn more.](#)

The future of public health explored by public health experts

In 2020, a group of senior public health officials from national and regional public health agencies across Europe came together to discuss current developments in public health and implications for the future. This foresight exercise was led by EuroHealthNet and the Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM).

This work resulted in recommendations and pathways for national and regional public health institutes, governments, the European Commission, international agencies and organisations, and EuroHealthNet's strategic direction. The report is being used as a resource by member organisations to develop their own strategies.

The group discussed challenges connected to the COVID-19 pandemic such as the rise in social and health inequalities, the increasing pressure on health systems, and negative impacts on population mental health. They reflect both direct as well as indirect impacts of the crisis on health, such as for instance unemployment and its pathways to ill-health. Climate change and (further) environmental degradation were highlighted as key long-term challenges. The group concluded that "building back better" from the pandemic could provide an opportunity to strengthen health promotion and disease prevention, to bring more sectors together around the topic of health, including mental health and to enable citizens to adopt healthier, more sustainable behaviours. The importance of community action and social cohesion during the pandemic also provides opportunities to boost local level initiatives and networks.

[Read the report here](#)

Analysis and tools to address health inequalities within and outside health systems

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed health inequalities in Europe, and shown that action can no longer be delayed. In early 2021, EuroHealthNet published the new European resource hub on health inequalities, health-inequalities.eu. Available in all EU languages, the portal brings together Health inequalities research, data, public health practices and projects, EU initiatives, financing, tools, publications, and information about international, national, regional policy.

The portal hosts a health equity map of Europe, and a database of more than 800 resources which will continue to grow in coming years to incorporate new research, publications, practices, and organisations. It is also home to EuroHealthNet's eGuide to financing health-promoting services.

Health-inequalities.eu is designed to provide information for public health professionals as well as civil servants, educators, and urban planners. In the first 10 weeks of publication, it reached more than 7000 of them.

[Visit health-inequalities.eu](https://health-inequalities.eu)

EuroHealthNet's future directions

Over the last two years, a new strategic direction for EuroHealthNet for the next 5 years has been under development. The Strategic Development Plan (2021-2026) covers three areas:

- 'Building on Foundations' – taking forward effective and successful structures, tools and mechanisms and developing them further.
- Looking at the Future – building on the foresight exercise and identifying five priority areas for EuroHealthNet action over the next five years.
- 'Achieving Change' – the impacts of COVID-19 and how to transform into an agile and responsible organisation and respond best to current crises and contribute solutions.

We aim to lead and act on health equity and wellbeing and monitor, analyse, propose, build capacity, advise, lead and act on:

- Health equity and systematic application of the equity lens across health and other sector policies and measures; supporting the 'economy of wellbeing' and 'whole of society' approach.
- Novel ways to promote health and prevent diseases, make solutions more attractive, and contribute to the transformation of health systems.
- The social, economic, environmental, commercial, behavioural and political determinants of health, which allows us to be agile and responsive to the diverse threats to health equity.



We will have five areas of focus:

1. Health Equity,
2. NCDs,
3. Climate Crisis,
4. Prevention & Promotion,
5. Life Course.

Mental health, digital health literacy, and digital exclusion are cross cutting themes.

4 Policy

EuroHealthNet's Policy Platform provides policy monitoring and analysis for its partners and international bodies, in line with the health in all policies approach. Our aim is to help partners shape, prepare for and respond to policy changes, and to make sure European policies meet their needs.

Our work this year covered:

- Providing expert analysis to partners: Analysing the changing policy landscape on topics as diverse as education, skills agenda, social protection, digital health literacy, children's rights and fight against child poverty, cohesion policy, and economic policy
- Engaging with and providing guidance to policy makers
- Partnerships and networking for expertise to promote effective child policy, mental health at work, and more

Over the last 12 months, our work has focused on reforming and building health, social (including social protection) and care systems as a wellbeing economy to create systems fit for the future.

We covered changes in digital, education and skills policy, the European Pillar of Social Rights, new opportunities of European budgetary frameworks, and the post-pandemic recovery processes. We continued our work on equal opportunities and rights for children and young people. We exchanged on disability strategies, cancer prevention, and mental health.

Changing realities of work and an increase in teleworking, online presence and related psychosocial consequences all require rapid adjustments both in labour, up- and re-skilling and health ecosystems. The links between employment and health continue to be core to our work.

EuroHealthNet advocates, enables, and mediates to make sure that health and social equity are fully included in processes and programmes put forward by the EU and WHO. This is particularly relevant in the context of the post-pandemic recovery, future crisis preparedness, and more resilient societies and economies of wellbeing.

This work is crucial now as EU institutions set up proposals for a European Health Union, begin new EU programmes, and introduce a set of actions for the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights (including health).

Providing expert analysis

We provide expert analysis and insight on contemporary issues for the public health community and for our members. Our aim is to help people and organisations prepare for future changes, and support action on health equity.

This year we published analyses on:

Gender, inequalities, and health

[Making the Link: Gender Equality and Health](#) examines the pathways in which systematic disparities, such as the employment gap and the digital gender divide, lead to inequalities in health and social and economic wellbeing across the life course.

Recovering from the Covid-19 Pandemic and ensuring Health Equity – The Role of the European Semester

[The analysis of the European Semester process 2020 by EuroHealthNet](#), in cooperation with the Joint Action on Health Equity (JAHEE) highlighted the potentially severe impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on health inequalities.

The analysis was a major exercise which focused on assessing health equity impacts of COVID-19. We assessed, in collaboration with JAHEE, inequalities on the basis of a selection of specific common indicators. We gathered quantitative evidence from selected Member agencies on how the pandemic was affecting their situation and specific needs. Specific in-depth interviews and analysis were conducted in seven countries: Finland, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Romania, Slovenia, and Spain. We provided feedback to the Commission on our recommendations and on how the Semester process overall could be strengthened further.

Analysis for member organisations

We publish briefings for members to help them stay informed and prepared for changes within the public health community. This year, we published members- only briefings on:

WHO European Programme of Work (EPW)

The WHO Europe Regional committee has adopted the WHO European Programme of Work (EPW) for the next five years. The EuroHealthNet office and Executive Board have begun negotiation with the WHO Europe Regional Office about a Memorandum of Understanding to support mutual activities. This briefing informed members about the EPW and what it can mean for them in the future.

What does the ‘European Health Union’ mean for health promoting agencies?

In Summer 2020, European Commission (EC) President von der Leyen announced an initiative for a new ‘European Health Union’ (EHU) in the State of the Union address in September. This briefing gave members an overview of the plans, how they could be affected, and opportunities to engage in the process.

A healthy EU budget for a healthy recovery? – Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027

The COVID-19 pandemic led to a substantial revision of the initial proposal of the EU’s long-term budget, (the ‘Multi-Annual Financial Framework’ (MFF)) and the EU’s overall budget during 2020. This was reflected in the creation of the new and ambitious EU4Health Programme. EuroHealthNet published a public briefing on what the MFF means for health which was publicly available, but a preview was made available to Members in advance.

2021 Annual Sustainable Growth Strategy unveils ties between European Semester and Recovery and Resilience Facility

We provided members with a briefing on the new Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF). The RRF is at the core of the NextGenerationEU, the €750 billion recovery financial plan put in place by the European Commission to withstand the COVID-19 crisis and raise additional financing on the financial markets.

Providing guidance to policymakers

The European Commission and other stakeholders regularly organise and invite EuroHealthNet to take part and provide feedback on possible future policy and actions. EuroHealthNet collects evidence, opinions and practices on specific issues from its partnership, and compiles these into collective and coherent responses. In doing so, it strengthens their position at the policy-making environment at EU, national, and local levels. From June 2020 – May 2021, EuroHealthNet responded to 23 consultations.

Consultation responses

Contribution to the Action plan to implement the European Pillar of Social Right

The European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR) sets out principles and rights to support fair and well-functioning labour markets as well as social protection and inclusion everywhere in Europe.

EuroHealthNet has shown the need for a stronger Action Plan to be implemented from 2021. The current fragility of many social rights has been exposed by the pandemic of infectious and non-communicable diseases, in the context of persistent and growing social and health inequalities. EuroHealthNet gave recommendations and evidence in the most relevant aspects from our perspective.

[Read the feedback in full \(pdf\)](#)

EuroHealthNet also worked on a joint response with the Alliance EU Alliance for Investing in children, which stressed the need to imbed actions to reduce child poverty throughout the social pillars. [Find the joint response here.](#)

The European Commission (EC) Roadmap consultation on the 8th progress report on economic, social and regional cohesion

EuroHealthNet believes that the 8th report on economic, social and territorial disparities should include a greater focus on health inequalities. Health equity should be a key indicator of whether the investments being made to improve cohesion are truly benefiting the health of people and generating more well-being across societies. [Find our response to the consultation here.](#)

The Horizon Europe First Strategic Plan 2021-2024

EuroHealthNet continues to help shape the next EU Research & Innovation programme, 'Horizon Europe', through replying to a survey on the first Horizon Europe Strategic Plan.

We highlighted that "behavioural transformations" need to be encouraged with a solid understanding of the underlying socioeconomic determinants, and that research funding for health should not just support biomedical sciences, but also prioritise research that focuses on a psycho-social model of health, helping to generate specialist knowledge able to embrace the social determinants of health inequalities and place people at the centre.

The response in full can be found [here](#).

The future of the European Research Area

COVID-19 has demonstrated all too clearly the central role that public health plays in our societies, and of how economic growth depends on good health and wellbeing.

The European Research Area (ERA) was set up to boost EU coordination and competitiveness in medical, environmental and other types of research. It should therefore also include and coordinate research in the area of public health, prevention and health promotion as a crucial factor in and indicator of the effectiveness of measures to transition to more sustainable and inclusive societies.

Read our full response [here](#).

The EU Strategy on the Rights of the Child (2021 – 24)

Avoidable inequities are likely to grow in the context of the COVID-19 crisis; a more substantial and ambitious focus and investments in children and their living conditions is urgently needed.

The EU strategy on children's rights (2021 – 24) will provide the framework for EU action to better promote and protect children's rights. We indicated that improving in particular mothers' educational levels and employment status, as well as targeted programmes offering intensive support to develop parenting skills have led to the best outcomes for children.

Find our full response to the consultation [here](#).

The Child Guarantee Targeted Consultations Questionnaire

The European Commission will adopt a proposal for a Council Recommendation on a Child Guarantee in 2021. In the area of health, action should be enlarged by including mental health support services to children and their parents/caregivers. Find our feedback [here](#).

The provision of food information to consumers

EuroHealthNet welcomes the EC's commitment to establishing harmonised mandatory front-of-pack nutrition labelling and nutrient profiles in the context of the EU Farm to Fork Strategy.

EuroHealthNet counsels however against a disproportionate focus on 'downstream' behaviour-change and lifestyle-oriented measures alone without a genuine appreciation of the underlying causes of poor nutritional choices, the socio-economic determinants. Issues of social fairness and deprivation, affordability, health- and digital literacy will be key in this transition.

More information is available [here](#).

The EC Roadmap consultation on EU farm and food product promotion

Today's food systems are perpetuating and driving up health inequalities.

To this end, a pivotal role for a modern, fit-for-purpose EU promotion policy for agricultural products will be in supporting food environments where “a healthy and sustainable choice is an easy choice” for all, and where the agricultural sector is sufficiently geared towards this transition in line with the EU Green Deal's ambitions. EuroHealthNet made key recommendations.

[More information is available here.](#)

The 2030 Digital Targets

EuroHealthNet provided input on the European Commission's Communication on Europe's digital decade – 2030 digital targets.

Health and social inequalities are prevalent in most European societies, and the digital transformation offers an opportunity to tackle them. However, should challenges and barriers to inclusion not be addressed today, the digitisation process could exacerbate pre-existing inequalities and their manifestations among various population groups. In its response, EuroHealthNet sets out 7 recommendations to ensure that the strategy helps reduce rather than increase inequalities. Find the response [here](#).

The European Commission's Feedback to the European Health Data Space

The aim of the European Health Data Space (EHDS) is “making the most of the potential of digital health to provide high-quality healthcare and reduce inequalities”.

Improved safe health data collection and use could certainly improve monitoring and prevention systems, as well as enhance the ability of people to better understand and engage in their own wellbeing via multiple applications and tools. However, EuroHealthNet remarked that there are significant challenges to be addressed and safeguards to be ensured.

Find the response [here](#).

Green paper on ageing consultation – Demographic change in Europe

With demographic change causing Europe's population to age, the European Commission plans to launch a green paper which will set out the key issues related to ageing.

In giving feedback on the plans for the green paper, EuroHealthNet highlighted that health promotion and prevention should be central to European and national efforts to assess, prepare and act in a timely way to keep people healthy. An assessment of the effects on equity and different groups of people should be central to all future actions and proposals

Read our full response on [Green Paper on Ageing – Roadmap consultation](#)

The EC proposal on Empowering the consumer for the green transition

In its feedback, EuroHealthNet highlighted that the green transition is an area in which we need to strive for and can deliver a 'triple-win', promoting not just environmental sustainability but also health and health equity.

"Business as usual" is not an option, and EuroHealthNet highlighted the urgent need to enforce existing and amended legislations, rather than relying on self-regulation. Policymakers have a duty to facilitate the efforts of front-runner businesses, and to hold accountable those that harm the environment and public health.

Read the full response to the proposal [here](#).

The European Climate Pact

The European Climate Pact was one of the initiatives launched by the Commission in early 2020 as part of the European Green Deal.

It aims to engage citizens and stakeholders, build on existing initiatives, and encourage societal engagement through three main activity strands: talking about climate change; triggering action; and working together. EuroHealthNet provided input into the public consultation, helping to shape the final version of the Pact.

Find EuroHealthNet's response to the EU Climate Pact consultation [here](#).

The EU Action Plan Towards a Zero Pollution Ambition For Air, Water And Soil

EuroHealthNet drew on its recent H2020 INHERIT initiative to provide feedback on the Zero Pollution action plan.

We welcomed the Commission's recognition of the inextricable links between a healthy planet and healthy people, and of the fact that "pollution often affects the most vulnerable people most seriously". EuroHealthNet suggested a focus away from economic growth, and towards a regenerative and redistributive economy of "wellbeing", which is good for people and good for the planet. We highlighted Kate Raworth's Doughnut Economy as an essential model, which the

Commission could use to further build on the Finnish Presidency's Council Conclusions on the Economy of Wellbeing.

The feedback in full can be found [here](#).

The EU Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work

Most people spend a very large proportion of their lives at work, therefore workplaces are key settings to safeguard mental health and that doing so and investing in the workplace as health-enhancing settings can generate large returns on productivity and, reduce health and social costs.

The new EU OSH strategy will need to align with a number of other EU initiatives to amplify impacts, notably EU Pact for Skills, EU Digital Targets 2030, work on platform economy, but also with measures supporting the green transition.

A joint statement with the EU MH Alliance (The European Alliance for Mental Health – Employment & Work), is available [here](#).

The Roadmap for the EU Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work (2021-2027)

EuroHealthNet, in the name of The EU Mental Health Alliance for Work and Employment, welcomes the European Commission's proposal for the new EU Strategic Framework on Health and Safety at Work (OHS) (2021-2027) as a necessary step in improving the working conditions across the EU.

We however regret seeing no reference made to psychosocial factors behind work-related illnesses. Mental health of workers across different categories requires protection especially given the realities of the changing world of work (e.g. platform workers, gig economy).

Good mental health and wellbeing at work is fundamental to ensure quality of life for every worker – and their family – as well as positive economic outcomes for society as a whole.

Read the full response [here](#).

The EU Pact for Skills

EuroHealthNet [responded to a consultation on the EU Pact for Skills](#) and about different options to strengthen it. Skills anticipation should also include equity and wellbeing needs, including health literacy and preparedness. [EuroHealthNet also joined the Pact for Skills](#).

Contribution to the draft opinion on the Organisation of Resilient Health and Social Care following the COVID-19 Pandemic by the Expert Panel on Effective Ways of Investing in Health (EXPH)

While social care is explicitly mentioned in the Opinion, EuroHealthNet recommended to broaden its strategic focus onto education, social protection, employment and housing. These sectors can

also play supportive and integrative roles in delivery of health and social care in modern public policy systems. The feedback in full can be found [here](#).

The EU strategy on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-2030

Plans for the post-pandemic recovery and resilience of health and social care systems in Europe should fully include the rights of people with disabilities.

This can be linked with the EU investments and technical support within the EU Recovery and Resilience Facility, the European Semester process, and plans for the European Health Union in the making. Furthermore, considering the recent speed of transition and transformation of the delivery of health and care towards one that's increasingly digital and commercial, we urge stepping up investments in digital and health literacy, skills and competences needed for healthy lives.

The feedback in full can be found [here](#).

Revision of Directive 2011/64/EU on the structure and rates of excise duty applied to manufactured tobacco: Inception Impact Assessment

EuroHealthNet responded to the Commission consultation on the Revision of Directive 2011/64/EU on the structure and rates of excise duty applied to manufactured tobacco: Inception Impact Assessment.

EuroHealthNet supports comprehensive and effective regulatory and taxation measures that reduce the consumption of manufactured tobacco and novel tobacco products as a matter of health equity in Europe.

[The feedback in full can be found here.](#)

The draft WHO European Programme of Work 2020-2025

EuroHealthNet has responded to the draft WHO European Programme of Work 2020-2025 – United action for better health in Europe.

In the response, EuroHealthNet has highlighted the need to strengthen health promotion, to invest in the social side of health crisis preparedness, and to work better together toward ambitious outcomes by 2025.

[Read our full response here.](#)

The EU debates and consultations on the expanded mandate of the ECDC

[Our contribution](#) to the ongoing debate on the revised ECDC's mandate stresses that its future remit should extend to prevention and surveillance of chronic and non-communicable diseases (NCDs), as well as respond to our long-standing calls for comparable disaggregated data and

indicators to monitor, inform and promote evidence-based policies and act on health inequalities and determinants of health across the EU. [Read the contribution in full](#)

The European Commission's consultation on the European Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA).

In its response to the Commission's consultation, EuroHealthNet mainly focused on the new Agency's activities which could be potentially relevant for addressing health inequalities, supporting activities in Member States in NCDs prevention and addressing psychosocial aspects of the future preparedness and response approaches. We also highlighted issues of strengthening capacities of public health systems in Member States. [Read the response in full](#)

Stronger together

Partnerships and Alliances

EuroHealthNet concentrates on building alliances that help us get results. We prioritise those partnerships that have common goals, as well as those where our involvement adds value for the 'greater good' of improved health and wellbeing.

WHO Europe

EuroHealthNet is an accredited non-state partner to WHO Europe

- In 2020, EuroHealthNet presented two statements to the 70th WHO Regional committee meeting, one on [*the state of health in the WHO European Region, including lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic*](#) and the [*European Programme of Work, 2020–2025 – “United Action for Better Health in Europe”*](#).
- A key meeting took place between WHO Europe Senior Leadership, including Regional Director Hans Kluge, and EuroHealthNet Senior Leaders and Executive Board Members in September 2020, to discuss a potential Memorandum of Understanding to strengthen a strategic partnership.
- EuroHealthNet further engages with the various WHO Europe offices in Copenhagen, Venice, Bonn and Brussels (Observatory). We coordinated a joint workshop with the WHO Collaborating Centre for Investment in Health in Wales and the WHO Office on Investment for Health Equity in Venice at a IANPHI event.

EU Alliance for Investing in Children

The European Alliance for Investing in Children promotes effective, child-centred policies and practice to tackle child poverty and promote child wellbeing.

In the last year we contributed towards a process of developing an EU Child Guarantee, as well as the European Child Rights Strategy. This would help ensure that every child in Europe at risk of poverty or social exclusion has access to:

- free healthcare,
- free education,
- free early childhood education and care,
- decent housing,
- adequate nutrition.

EuroHealthNet argued that the EU Child Guarantee should encourage community-based primary care, with strong prevention and health promotion measures for children especially. Not only vaccination and screening, but also measures that help healthy nutrition, sports and physical activity, healthy and accessible physical environments, and social and emotional support. It should invest in health literacy among families and children and support Member States in exploring how to achieve universal health coverage, free health care for all children, including dental care and of mental health services.

The Alliance has also published several joint statements on the proposed EU Child Guarantee in [April 2021](#) on the European Commission's proposal for a Council Recommendation establishing the Child Guarantee, [March 2021 on](#) the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan, [February 2021](#) on the ESF+ political agreement, [July 2020](#) on Prioritisation of child poverty reduction in the European Parliament's Resolution on the Recovery Package and the 2021-2027 EU MFF. We also participated in two meetings with EPSCO Council social attachés presenting our calls for an ambitious EU action on child poverty, as a social determinant of child health. They also welcome the European Social Fund+ allocations for the fight against child poverty, prioritisation of the issue in the new EU budgetary programmes and the Recovery Funds.

As part of the EU Alliance for Investing in Children, EuroHealthNet [welcomed the Trio Presidency \(Portugal, Slovenia, Germany\) and the Joint Declaration on overcoming child and family poverty and social exclusion](#) that was signed by the EPSCO Ministers. In particular, we welcome the acknowledgement of the dramatic impact the COVID-19 pandemic is having on children, the commitment expressed by the Member States to urgently prioritise the fight against child poverty and the call for the European Commission to propose a comprehensive and holistic approach in tackling child poverty through the European Child Guarantee. Finally, we welcome the Ministers' call for a strong social dimension in the Europe 2030 Strategy, which is demanded from the European Commission to be put forward.

On 4 May 2021, ahead of the EU Porto Social Summit the European Parliament's Child Rights Intergroup and the EU Alliance for Investing in Children launch a Manifesto on Child Poverty and Social Exclusion in the EU. EuroHealthNet contributed to the development of the manifesto with public health and health equity-added value messages.

[EuroHealthNet Stakeholder exchange on principle 16 of the European Pillar on Social Rights](#)

In 2020 we hosted a policy-practice dialogue for members and public health experts on how to make better use of the 16th Principle of the European Pillar of Social Rights and its Action Plan – on access to health care. The aim was to bring out the views of a range of health stakeholders in the 'ecosystem', to increase ownership of this process and reflect real needs, including understanding the views of officials from the European Commission's DG SANTE and DG EMPL. Thirty professionals attended the consultative dialogue. This was also an opportunity to work with networks like EPF, EPHA, CPME, AGE, etc. EuroHealthNet used the input to refine our response to the Commission's public consultation on the EPSR Action Plan.

[EU4Health Civil Society Alliance](#)

In our collaboration within the EU4Health Civil Society Alliance we supported the work around a manifesto for a [European Health Union](#), and called for an [ambitious EU4Health Programme](#).

[Cooperation with other networks](#)

We have collaborated, supported and exchanged information with:

- European Forum for Primary Care – EFPC
- Smoke Free Partnership – SFP
- South-Eastern European Health Network – SEEHN

- International Union for Health Promotion and Prevention – IUHPE
- Wellbeing Economy Alliance – WEALL
- EU4Health Civil Society Alliance

EuroHealthNet supported the [European Accreditation Agency for Public Health – APHEA](#) as an advisor

Engaging with policy-makers

Throughout the year, EuroHealthNet held strategic meetings with European Commission officials, including from Directorate General for Employment, Social Affairs & Inclusion (DG EMPL), the Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE), the cabinet of the Commissioner for Jobs and Social Rights and of the Commissioner for Health and Food Safety. Those meetings served to exchange on core priorities and areas of complementary activity. Discussions with DG EMPL, for example, focused on the EU Skills agenda, especially health literacy and digital transitions, as well as the future of work and mental health aspects.

Discussions with DG SANTE focused mainly on the design of the EU4Health Programme, and the importance of a specific focus on the social determinants of health and health inequalities, as well as on mental health and psychosocial issues (in addition to largely predominant focus on biomedical issues, in the face of and following the COVID-19 pandemic.) Other important points included the further capacity building needs of public health authorities to implement actions that address health inequalities. At the EU4Health workshop 'potential solutions for a healthier European Union', Director Caroline Costongs [presented what can be done to enable national health authorities to invest more and better in prevention and health promotion.](#)

We were active, *inter alia*, in the DG EMPL Strategic Dialogues on the Action plan to implement the European Pillar of Social Rights (EPSR). EuroHealthNet also met with officials from DG ECFIN in the framework of the Steering Board for Social Investment, and with the Directorate General for Structural Reform Support (DG REFORM).

We engaged with the EU Health Policy Platform, the Steering Group on Health Promotion, Disease Prevention and Management of Non-Communicable Diseases (SGHPP), the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work, and the Expert Panel on Effective Ways of Investing in Health. We also met with a number of MEPs over the year, and health attaches.

[We spoke at the European Economic and Social Committee working \(EESC\) group meeting on the European Health Union](#)

Events

EuroHealthNet staff and members actively contributed to strategic dialogues, reviews and experts' exchanges, spoke at and moderated several important events.

June 2020

- EuroHealthNet General Council meeting
- CHES Event on Health and Wellbeing as Drivers of Social Prosperity
- EP rapporteur on EU4Health programme hearing
- EuroHealthNet/RIVM foresight workshop
- EU level policy dialogue on funding health promotion and disease prevention
- Europarc webinar: nature and health in a COVID-19 world

July 2020

- EuroHealthNet/Mindmap Urban Ageing and Health Webinar
- PROMIS webinar on mental health

September 2020

- EuroParc Annual Conference
- WHO Europe Regional Committee Meeting
- 2020 Roger Jowell Memorial lecture – Michael Marmot
- Cohesion policy and health preparatory call with Euregha and CoR
- EHFG and OBS High level Policy Dialogue

October 2020

- German presidency event on resilient health systems

- Closing the evidence-practice gap on NCDs
- EHFG Session: Mitigating COVID-19's impact on health inequalities (EuroHealthNet, The Health Foundation, Trimbos)
Call with Katarina Ivankovic-Knezevic (DG EMPL)
- Call with ASPHER
- EuroHealthNet communication network meeting
- World Congress on Public Health (WCPH)
- Cohesion Policy and Health event EU Regions Week
- WCPH: Countries Combatting health Inequalities WLD (JAHEE)
- COVID-19 in Marginalised Groups – Challenges, actions and voices
- DG EMPL consultative dialogue on EPSR
- ENOS and IGOT event: the power of the outdoors
- IANPHI Meeting and Workshop with PHW and WHO Venice Office: Investment for Wellbeing and Health Equity in the Context of COVID-19
- Funding Health Promotion and Health Promoting Services? Unpackaging new EU Funds and Exploring Other Financing Solutions
- JA CHRODIS PLUS final conference

November 2020

- Presentation for European Regions Research and Innov Network (ERRIN)
- EuroHealthNet/RIVM foresight workshop
- European Policy Centre and FPI Consulting
- POLITICO Health Summit
- EuroHealthNet webinar on European Semester

- EuroHealthnet consultative meeting on EPSR Action Plan principle 16 on access to health Prevention – Dialogue and Workshop, England
- Financing Prevention in the Netherlands – Conference

December 2020

- Skills for health: up- and re-skilling for healthy recovery
- Second eHealth Stakeholder Group meeting
- National Public Health Meeting, Slovenia (NIJZ)
- UNESCO Global Chair Webinar with CHAIN (social vaccine)

January 2021

- SmokeFreePartnership annual planning meeting 2021
- DG SANTE webinar on EU4Health
- Swedish national Conference on health and sustainability with SALER and Federal Public Health Agency
- BZgA symposium on Facts and Fake news

February 2021

- DG SANTE webinar Building a European Health Union for stronger EU preparedness and response for health crises
- DG SANTE HSPA Policy focus group - Patient Vignette
- Launch event HorizonEurope by the Portuguese Presidency
- Launch of the EU's Beating Cancer Plan
- DG EMPL online conference closing the second phase of the Preparatory Action for a Child Guarantee

- DG Sante, DG EMPL, DG GROW High Level Roundtable on skills for health workforce
- Innovative Partnership for Action Against Cancer (iPAAC joint action), conference on Cancer Prevention in the 2020s finding sustainable solutions
- EuroHealthNet Policy & Strategy meeting
- EUFIC Food Systems Summit dialogue
- EIP healthy and active ageing and digital solutions NESTORE final project event

March 2021

- Expert workshop of KNAW/ALLEA on evaluating policies and interventions to reduce health inequalities
- EU Health Policy Platform Annual Meeting (EU Health award and thematic networks)
- High Level Conference PT Presidency – Future of Work; Remote Work: Challenges, Risks and Opportunities
- APHEA stakeholders platform meeting
- Digital Days
- DG SANTE workshop EU4Health
- EESC Public hearing on Building a European Health Union
- High Level Conference on the protection of vulnerable adults within the EU – the way forward, PT Presidency

April 2021

- EU Social Attaches meeting on the EU Child Guarantee
- Mental health and COVID-19 health emergency: needs and opportunities

emerging in the second phase of the pandemic

- Strategic Dialogue online meeting on the 2021 Work Programme of the ESF+ EaSI strand
- RCPE Symposium: The Public's Health after COVID: science and social justice
- High-level conference on the European Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- EIGE expert consultation Gender and Health Inequalities
- Global Health Summit civil society consultation
- Strategic Dialogue online meeting on the Strategy for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2021-30
- DG EMPL strategic dialogue European Child Guarantee
- Strategic Dialogue on the European Child Guarantee

May 2021

- Ehealth stakeholder meeting DG Connect
- CoE Development Bank webinar: Health and Climate Change

- Porto Social Summit/launch EPSR Implementation Action Plan
- Mental health and the pandemic: living, caring, acting!
- European networks in the social-health sector: structure, objectives and activities
- EUPHA PH week webinar: COVID-19 and Health Inequalities: applying the lessons to deliver change
- ProMIS webinar: Gender, health and inequalities before and during the Covid-19 pandemic
- EuroHealthnet Communication's Network meeting
- ICF/DG EMPL Civil Society seminar on the European Semester
- EPALE Discussion: developing skills for a healthy life in the COVID era
- COVID-19 and Health Inequalities: applying the lessons to deliver change Webinar
- RIVM workshop on Foresight methodologies
- Exploring how the Recovery Plans can contribute to health equity and sustainability objectives

5 Practice

The work of the practice platform is to develop knowledge and build capacity for the implementation of effective strategies, programmes, and initiatives to promote health and reduce health inequalities. Our work is about international exchange, putting research into practice, and understanding and improving the relationship between policy and 'real world' conditions.

Public health bodies and professionals benefit from collaboration, exchange, and shared thinking as many issues are shared across borders. The platform provides an opportunity to understand the effects of different factors, and how to transfer practices across settings.

In the practice platform we strive to be at the forefront of developments within the field of public health, health promotion and disease prevention. We also seek to explore new avenues of opportunity where we can strengthen knowledge and capacity.

Addressing finance and funding for health equity has been a key part of our work this year, with the launch of an online guide into financing health promoting systems, as well as analyses of the next EU budget and its effects on health, and the interaction between health impacts and post-pandemic economic recovery measures.

Our work this year has included:

- Building capacity to access funding and financing for public health, health promotion and disease prevention
- A Series of Webinars
- Expanding knowledge on action for chronic disease prevention, health equity, and vaccination for all.

Building capacity to access financing for health promoting services

EuroHealthNet launches an online guide for financing health promoting services

Good health and wellbeing is a value in itself but also arguably our greatest social and economic asset. Relatively few resources however, go into fostering this asset by promoting health and preventing illness across the population. The e-guide encourages health and social planners and policy makers at all levels to address this issue, and to find innovative ways to invest in health and wellbeing. It includes case studies and examples that can provide inspiration, and the latest developments on potential new sources and novel approaches to finance health and social measures that tackle the underlying causes of ill-health and disease.



[The e-guide](#) is especially relevant now, as the economic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic may lead to a further increase in chronic diseases and exacerbate health inequalities. Dedicated investments in prevention and health promotion at national, regional and local levels will be needed to strengthen the resilience of communities and to increase the sustainability of our health systems.

[Go to the financing eguide](#)

Seizing the opportunities for a healthy recovery – Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027 and NextGenerationEU

In April 2021, we published a comprehensive overview of funds and programmes in the new EU budget and their relevance for health. The publication 'Seizing the opportunities for a healthy recovery – Multiannual Financial Framework 2021-2027 and NextGenerationEU' not only covers health funding, but also social, environmental, economic recovery, and other mechanisms. The analysis explains how different areas of the budget can be used to improve health, tackle health inequalities, and build resilience to future health crises while enabling a sustainable recovery.

[Read the publication](#)

Available EU funding and financing to respond to COVID-19

To respond to an enormous impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has on health and wellbeing of communities, the European Union has made funding and financing available to mitigate direct and indirect impacts of the crisis. In June 2020, we produced a rapid member briefing to provide

a quick overview of the available funding and financing some of which could be directly used for strengthening health promoting services.

[Read the rapid briefing](#)

Webinar Series

Ageing, Health and the City in Times of COVID-19

The urbanisation and the ageing of our populations are interlinked – our cities are becoming older, too. This has important implications for public health, both in terms of physical as well as mental health. EuroHealthNet and the MINDMAP project organised a this webinar which concluded:

- Addressing health inequalities related to ageing at urban level requires an intersectoral and systems approach, as well as the commitment of all stakeholders involved, including policymakers and communities.
- It is crucial to tackle the narrative on ageing (ageism) through messaging and communication, and avoid older people being perceived homogeneously as ‘vulnerable’.
- In the recovery from the pandemic, it is important that social and economic considerations go hand-in-hand, and that older people are included in the digital and green transitions.

[Read the webinar report](#)

Funding health promotion and health promoting services? Unpackaging new EU funds and exploring other financing solutions

In light of proposed important changes to the EU’s Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) 2021-2027 (the EU’s long-term budget) to help the European economy recover from the COVID-19 crisis, EuroHealthNet organised an interactive, members-only capacity building online meeting. The main purpose of the meeting was to uncover together new opportunities to fund health promoting activities.

The conclusions were:

- The EU funding instruments offer a key opportunity to offset shortcomings in national budgets and to fill some of the investment gap in social infrastructure such as housing, education and health.
- ‘Innovative’ financing solutions, such as social outcomes contracting models, can also help fund health promoting services.
- The key to accessing new funds lies in improving communication and collaboration between health actors and other social sectors (within and between EU countries) to raise awareness of mutually relevant funding opportunities.

[Read the webinar report](#)

Expanding knowledge on action for chronic disease prevention, health equity, and vaccination for all

Promoting proven policies and practices to reduce the burden of chronic diseases: Joint Action CHRODIS PLUS

EuroHealthNet was a partner in the EU Joint Action on Chronic Diseases, 'CHRODIS PLUS', helping countries address the growing burden of chronic diseases since 2017. The Joint Action has implemented 21 pilot projects to test tools and good practices in addressing chronic diseases. To promote long-term sustainability and integration of good practices into policy, 16 policy dialogues were organised. The Joint Action CHRODIS-PLUS brought together 50 partners from 21 European countries. It was co-funded by the European Commission health programme. EuroHealthNet lead work on Health Promotion and policy dialogues.

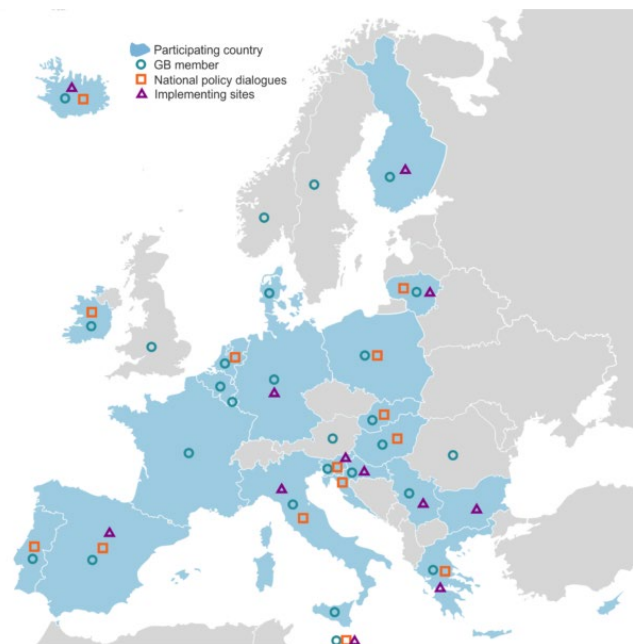
CHRODIS-PLUS has demonstrated that we must take further action towards systemic solutions to tackle chronic diseases. Some ways to do this include linking NCD strategies to existing targets for health and sustainable development, and ensuring adequate economic, technical and human resources for the transfer, implementation and sustainability of good practices.

[Results can be found at chrodis.eu](https://chrodis.eu)

International collaboration on preventing and managing chronic diseases: what is the added value of the EU

EuroHealthNet has produced a summary of available CHRODIS-PLUS resources, the vision for exchanging good practices, and recommendations for integrating these good practices into national policies. It is now available in 20 languages.

This summary is part of a larger 'consensus statement' concerning the EU added value of cross-country collaboration to prevent and manage chronic diseases beyond 2020. It was developed by CHRODIS-PLUS partners,



along with members of the CHRODIS-PLUS Governing Board and representatives of the European Commission's Steering Group for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention (SGPP).

[Read the consensus statement](#)

How to instigate a change towards health promoting communities?

CHRODIS-PLUS transferred and implemented five good practices to tackle chronic diseases to eight new settings across the EU. The five practices involved working across sectors and focused on improving physical activity and/or diet and nutrition amongst different groups (children, employees, and older people). Two were set in schools, one in the workplace, and two in the community, with a focus on ensuring a 'whole of community' approach to health promotion and disease prevention.

EuroHealthNet, along with our member, the Finnish National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL) has drawn common lessons from the implementation reports on the process of transferring and implementing interventions in the field of health promotion and disease prevention and summarised them in the recommendations for all those interested in strengthening this field of work. Overall, the report summarises the transfer and implementation processes, the approaches taken, the facilitators and barriers encountered, and the outcomes.

Transfer and Implementation Process of a Good Practice in Workplace Health Promotion

EuroHealthNet collaborated with Andalusian Regional Ministry of Health on a scientific article Transfer and Implementation Process of a Good Practice in Workplace Health Promotion. The article reports on the transfer and implementation of certain elements of a Workplace Health Promotion (WHP) good practice (originated in Lombardy, Italy) in two organisations in Andalusia (Spain), within the framework of the European Joint Action CHRODIS PLUS. [Read the article.](#)

[Read the recommendations](#)

[Watch a video compilation of some of the transfer and implementation experiences](#)

Intra- and inter-sectoral collaboration for health promotion and chronic disease prevention

Twenty good practices from fourteen countries were identified and investigated via surveys, workshops, and interviews. Mechanisms underlying identified success factors were examined.

EuroHealthNet supported our member National Institute for Public Health in the Netherlands (RIVM) in drawing a set of **seven recommendations considered to be essential for fostering effective intersectoral collaboration within and outside of health care to strengthen health promotion activities.**

- Connect collaboration goals with existing key policies, while actively advocating for political support.
- Define a shared vision of the problem to be solved aligned with organisational goals.
- Create an effective mix of different partners with diverse background and skills.
- Build bridges between sectors and disciplines through effective leadership.
- Keep collaboration partners engaged.
- Use a planned/systematic approach suitable for all partners.
- Ensure there are sufficient resources to sustain the collaboration

The summary is available in [English](#), [Italian](#), [Bulgarian](#), [Hungarian](#), [Spanish](#), [Finnish](#), [Dutch](#) and in [Serbian](#).

Six additional recommendations were developed for either the organisation of policy dialogues or issues to be picked up by policy makers and addressed national and/or European level governance:

- The CHRODIS PLUS Policy Dialogue Methodology is useful and transferable to other policy research fields and policy dialogues can serve as a key step in the policy making process.
- Health promotion and disease prevention are central to policy efforts to reduce chronic disease.
- An inter-sectoral approach to health promotion and disease prevention is key to addressing chronic diseases.
- Adequate human and financial resources are necessary to accomplish objectives set out during the policy dialogues.
- Addressing socio-economic and environmental determinants of health through effective policies and practices becomes even more urgent in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Health is an increasing priority at all levels which brings new opportunities but also a need for more communication and coordination across all sectors and all levels, particularly by policy makers.

[Analysis of 16 action plans and associated recommendations](#)

In addition, EuroHealthNet, in collaboration with project partners, including the Institute of Public Health in Ireland, published a scientific article [*Shaping Policy on Chronic Diseases through National Policy Dialogues in CHRODIS PLUS*](#)

EU Level Policy Dialogue on Funding of Health Promotion and Prevention of Chronic Diseases

This conference focused on showing how the good practices, models and tools implemented by the Joint Action can be tailored to various national and local settings across Europe. The presentations and roundtable discussions were structured around key focus areas: In the framework of the final conference, EuroHealthNet organised and moderated two Roundtable discussions about:

- How to create environments and communities that promote health based on learning from the transfer, implementation and analysis of good practices across Europe.
- Designing and financing the future of European collaboration in Non-Communicable Diseases.

Most important conference materials including videos and background documents are available [here](#).

Making Europeans happier, healthier, and more active through implementation of good practices: JA CHRODIS PLUS final conference

EuroHealthNet has produced a summary of available CHRODIS-PLUS resources, the vision for exchanging good practices, and recommendations for integrating these good practices into national policies. It is now available in 20 languages.

This summary is part of a larger 'consensus statement' concerning the EU added value of cross-country collaboration to prevent and manage chronic diseases beyond 2020. It was developed by CHRODIS-PLUS partners, along with members of the CHRODIS-PLUS Governing Board and representatives of the European Commission's Steering Group for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention (SGPP).

[Read the consensus statement](#)

JAHEE Joint Action on Health Equity

The Joint Action Health Equity Europe (JAHEE) is a partnership of over 24 countries that came together with the goal to achieve greater equity in health outcomes across all groups in society. It aims to unify the diverse approaches taken by different countries.

EuroHealthNet is collaborating with JAHEE by contributing to their Policy and Communication activities. EuroHealthNet provides strategic advice to the JAHEE coordinators for work on Coordination, Communication, and Integration and Sustainability. Among the various activities, we organised [two policy dialogues related to the impact of COVID-19 from a health equity perspective](#).

One policy dialogue was organised during the 16th World Public Health Congress and focus on comparing responses from across the world to identify common challenges and potential best practices. The other focused on the role of the European Semester to mitigate the widening of health inequalities and support the sustainability of JAHEE's actions beyond its the collaboration. The meetings brought together public health experts, EU officials and Ministries of health. The audience counted with over 200 participants, mainly representatives from public health institutes and governmental stakeholders. We also supported JAHEE in the draft of associated policy briefings and dissemination of the outcomes.

Vaccination and health equity

IMMUNION

EuroHealthNet is coordinating a new project on vaccination funded by the European Commission's 3rd Health Programme, and managed by HaDEA, the new European Health and Digital Executive Agency. The Immunion project will:

- Strengthen the Coalition for Vaccination and its long-term sustainability and visibility;
- Improve the dissemination of validated vaccination training materials and resources to health professionals, including students, across Europe;
- Provide training opportunities for health professionals and students on vaccination communication;
- Enhance collaboration between public health institutions, health professionals and students, and the media; and
- Understand drivers of vaccine inequalities within countries and address vaccination coverage issues in vulnerable and underserved populations.

The IMMUNION project began on 1 April 2021, and will last for two years. It brings together twelve partners from across the EU, included several EuroHealthNet members and observers (the Italian National Institute of Health, the Romanian National Institute of Public Health, the Latvian Center for Disease Prevention and Control, and the PROLEPSIS Institute of Preventive Medicine, Environmental and Occupational Health in Greece).

IMMUNION aims to contribute to and complement wider European efforts to improve vaccine uptake by improving collaboration amongst key actors in the field of vaccination, in the ultimate

goal of delivering better vaccine education to health professionals and better information to the general public. It will support the work of the Coalition for Vaccination, of which EuroHealthNet is now a partner and the three Coalition co-chairs (the European associations of doctors, nurses and pharmacists) are project partners

Joint Action on Vaccination

Established in 2018 by 20 partners across Europe (including 6 EuroHealthNet members), the European Joint Action on Vaccination (EU-JAV) has five core aims: to more accurately monitor vaccination coverage, to ensure that everyone in the European Union has access to vaccination, to improve forecasting of vaccine stocks and systems for prevention of shortages, to set priorities for vaccine research and development, and to enhance public confidence in vaccination.

EuroHealthNet signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the consortium in 2018 to collaborate as part of the EU-JAV Stakeholders Forum. In September 2020, EuroHealthNet participated in the Annual Meeting and Conference, held virtually.

During the Annual Meeting, members of the Stakeholders Forum provided advice and made commitments to support dissemination of EU-JAV outputs during this final year of the Joint Action. EuroHealthNet's IMMUNION and RIVER-EU projects will also support the sustainability of EU-JAV actions over the next two years, particularly in relation to ensuring access to vaccination for all (particularly underserved communities), and enhancing public confidence in vaccination.

Outreach visits

In 2020, EuroHealthNet continued to expand its network and explore opportunities for outreach work, focused both on current members, as well as prospective members and wider European networks. The interviews that EuroHealthNet conducted with members in Finland, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Romania, Slovenia and Spain, in the context of the European Semester exercise provided an opportunity to gain a better contextual understanding of developments in those countries and members' needs. Early in the year, EuroHealthNet was able to participate in an in-country meeting with National Public Health Center in Hungary and hosted visits from SOSTE (Finland) and LISER (Luxembourg) at the EuroHealthNet office, where we exchanged on current activities and explored ways to support one-another. Throughout the year, bilateral calls were held with a number of member and prospective member organisations, including IPH (Ireland), PHAROS (Netherlands), NIJZ (Slovenia), Egas Moniz (Portugal), Research Institutes of Sweden (RISE), Nederlandse GGZ, and the National Institute for Public Health (Poland).

6 Research

EuroHealthNet's research platform identifies and promotes evidence-based approaches to understand and improve health, equity, and wellbeing. It provides the knowledge needed to develop policies and implement practices that tackle health inequalities. It helps our members to collaborate, identify funding opportunities and build consortia.

Our approach is intersectoral, bridging across interlinked health, environmental, social and economic considerations. As we look ahead to recovering from the pandemic and restructuring our health systems, it will be crucial to ensure that this intersectoral, interlinked nature of health and wellbeing is at the forefront of research and decision-making. Our approaches to tackling health challenges must also seek to address other pressing societal challenges, such as climate change and other forms of environmental degradation that impact health, and the persistent and growing levels of social and health inequalities.

The COVID-19 pandemic has put into a harsh spotlight the need for reliable information from trustworthy sources. EuroHealthNet and its partnership strive to identify and produce good, scientific evidence able to respond to the multifaceted challenges we are facing, and which highlight the effectiveness of approaches to promote health and prevent disease, and help ensure the sustainability of health systems.

Our work this year covered:

- **Contributing to research on health inequalities worldwide through our partnership with the Centre for Global Health Inequalities Research, CHAIN.**
- **European funding for research: informing and building consortia with our members.**
- **European fora and expert panels: ensuring health equity remains at the forefront of scientific debates.**

CHAIN: contributing to research on health inequalities worldwide

CHAIN, the Global Centre for Health Inequalities Research, brings together academia from all research disciplines, the UN system, civil society, and the private sector to identify and analyse the determinants of health inequalities and the policy and practice responses that are most effective in reducing them.



The pandemic has once again shown us that public health is inherently a global matter. Not only do viruses disregard borders, key lessons and patterns in public health tend to ring true across countries, with all nations struggling with inequalities in health outcomes between better- and worse-off groups. Recognising the need to work together to advance research and tackle common struggles, the Global Centre for Health Inequalities Research (CHAIN) brings together the world's leading health inequalities researchers, civil society and the UN society to advance health inequalities research and to enable evidence-driven policymaking and practices.

[Read more about chain](#)

Collecting data: Building a European and global database on health inequalities

Comparable and high-quality data is fundamental to monitor health inequalities and identify the pathways through which such inequalities originate. By building the world's first [Global Burden of Health Inequalities data warehouse](#) and by adding a health equity dimension to the [European Social Survey](#), CHAIN has taken the revolutionary step to collect such data and make it publicly available.

Using this data, CHAIN researchers have examined, among other things, how [working conditions](#) link to occupational inequalities in non-communicable diseases, and what role the [diffusion of technology](#) plays in creating and perpetuating health inequalities. Other CHAIN researchers focus on identifying what needs to happen to address such inequalities, for instance by examining the role of [civil society](#) in improving access to health services, or by setting out policy actions and good practices that help [improve gender equality](#) in the EU.

Bridging between research, and policy and practice

As a partner in CHAIN, EuroHealthNet leads the efforts to feed research findings into the policymaking process, and to disseminate the centre's results to other research institutes, policymakers, public health experts and the general public.

How are developments in data changing health inequalities research?

During the 2020 World Congress on Public Health we had the opportunity to present CHAIN to the global public health community when we organised a CHAIN World Leadership Dialogue on developments in the world of data and their implications for health inequalities research. A recording of the webinar is available on [EuroHealthNet's YouTube channel](#).

The COVID-19 Syndemic Pandemic

In June 2020, CHAIN researcher Clare Bamba published a very popular article on [COVID-19 as a syndemic pandemic](#), arguing that the current pandemic interacts with pre-existing pandemics of health inequalities and non-communicable diseases. EuroHealthNet and CHAIN created a [factsheet on COVID-19 and health inequalities](#) based on this article.

In [a webinar](#) that was part of the UNESCO Global Health & Education webinar series, Professor Clare Bamba joined CHAIN leader Terje Eikemo and EuroHealthNet Director Caroline Costongs to discuss the syndemic pandemic, and how education can be seen as a 'social vaccine'. Watch a recording of the webinar [here](#).

EuroHealthNet further disseminated CHAIN findings through statements, such as to the WHO Europe's General Assembly and a press release for the 2020 World Health Day. CHAIN's evidence on health inequalities was used during public presentations, such as the Healsy Conference on Resilient Health Systems, and in a number of consultation responses, for instance on the child rights strategy. CHAIN's results and developments were also shared with European public health community through [a newsletter](#).

Applying the lessons learnt from COVID-19

During the 2021 European Public Health Week, EuroHealthNet organised a webinar titled *COVID-19 and health inequalities: applying the lessons to deliver change*. The webinar aimed to identify strong examples of 'investable' solutions that can instigate change in the systems and structures that shape our lives, based on what we have learnt from the current pandemic.

CHAIN researcher Professor Clare Bamba was one of the speakers. She set out the findings of her book, called *The unequal Pandemic: COVID-19 and health inequalities* (to be published in June 2021), which emphasises lessons learnt for a post-covid future. Other speakers built on these lessons and focused on practical measures such as improving the situation of vulnerable children and migrants, and making decision-making processes more representative.

European funding for research: informing and building consortia with our members

Throughout the course of the year, EuroHealthNet has actively kept our partnership updated of European funding opportunities for research. Members benefit from monthly 'Calls and Opportunities Alerts', as well as detailed briefings. We have closely followed developments and informed our members on new funding programmes launched by the European Commission, in particular Horizon Europe, and also produced a [comprehensive overview of funds and programmes in the new EU budget and their relevance for health](#).

EuroHealthNet led and took part in several applications for research funding on a variety of topics, involving members of the EuroHealthNet partnership as appropriate. Despite the highly competitive nature of EU funding calls, a number of these applications have been successful, and others are still pending. We continue to actively advocate for a European research landscape which prioritises health promotion and reducing inequalities, and which jointly considers interlinked environmental, health and societal factors, building on our Horizon 2020 research initiative [INHERIT](#).

RIVER-EU

EuroHealthNet is engaged in a new Horizon 2020 research project called RIVER-EU ('Reducing Inequalities in Vaccine uptake in the European Region – Engaging Underserved communities') which will run for the next 5-years (2021-2026). Along with EuroHealthNet – which will serve as the Communication and Dissemination Work Package lead – three EuroHealthNet members/observers are represented in the consortium: THL (Finland), PHE (England) and PROLEPSIS (Greece).

The project will work to improve access to MMR and HPV vaccines among specific underserved populations in Greece, the Netherlands, Poland, and Slovakia by identifying and removing health system barriers. RIVER-EU will identify and/or develop promising interventions that will be piloted. The results converted into evidence-based guidelines to address equitable access to vaccination across Europe.

World Public Health Conference: profiling the EuroHealthNet partnership and raising awareness of our work

In November 2020, EuroHealthNet and many of its members and partners took part in the World Public Health Conference, initially planned to take place in Rome, but moved online due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

EuroHealthNet organised and contributed to the following sessions:

- Co-organised and co-moderated the Plenary on “The Earth – A Strategy for Survival”
- CHAIN World Leadership Dialogue on developments in the world of data and their implications for health inequalities research
- JAHEE World Leadership Dialogue on comparing responses to the pandemic from across the world to identify common challenges and potential best practices
- EuroHealthNet Thematic Working Group (TWIG) on Best Practice Portals Workshop: How to Improve the Uptake of Best Practices?

The Plenary brought together a global panel of speakers to discuss whether and how we can work together to learn from COVID-19, and potentially to seize this moment as an opportunity to rebuild our societies and our economies in ways that are better for people and for the planet. Panellists included Stella Kyriakides (EU Commissioner for Health and Food Safety), Katherine Trebeck (Advocacy and Influencing Lead, Wellbeing Economy Alliance), Andy Haines, Professor of Environmental Change and Public Health, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, Carolina Urrutia (Secretary of Environment, City of Bogotá) and Desmond D’Sa (Environmental campaigner from South Africa).

7 Communication

EuroHealthNet's communications team amplifies the messages and expertise of the members of the partnership.

It disseminates reliable, evidence-based and timely information to public health and social equity communities and beyond, and makes connections between people, resources and initiatives to facilitate advocacy for a healthier and fairer Europe.

We tell the stories of the people, projects and ideas at the vanguard of health promotion, disease prevention, and the fight Our work focused on:

- Making connections and facilitating exchanges
- Disseminating reliable, evidence-based and timely information
- Sharing stories from Europe's public health community
- Delivering reliable information to the public health community

Making connections and facilitating exchanges - EuroHealthNet's communication network

EuroHealthNet's communication network brings together nearly 50 communications professionals across Europe from EuroHealthNet member organisations. The group is a space for exchange of expertise and resources, help members raise interests and concerns at an international level, and to increase awareness of initiatives at European, national, and regional levels.

During the pandemic, the group continued to work remotely. It specifically focused on how to communicate information about COVID-19 to people that experience inequalities, and about Covid-19 vaccination.

Calls and Opportunities Alerts

EuroHealthNet members receive exclusive updates about opportunities for funding, training and capacity building to staff in partner agencies through our Calls and Opportunities Alerts. This year 9 alerts were sent.

Disseminating reliable, evidence-based and timely information

Health Inequalities Portal

As European experts in health equity, part of our mission is to provide reliable and accessible information on the status of, and pathways to progress on health inequalities. In February 2021 we launched a new online portal for information and resources, health-inequalities.eu. It is a platform for international exchange including information, policies, research, and initiatives on health inequalities on EU, national, regional and local levels.

The Portal's [resource database](#) is continuously updated with new publications, initiatives, practices, and policies at European levels and on the ground. Today it includes more than 750 resources. Users are also able to submit their own work in order to contribute to growing and developing a common knowledge base.

The Health Inequalities Portal also includes the [e-Guide for Financing Health Promoting Services](#), where users can learn about different ways to design and implement health promoting services and find a range of case studies to inspire them.

An [interactive map](#) allows users to compare the level of health inequalities within and between different countries in Europe, and find out more about national organisations working on health equity.

Since its launch in February the portal has had over 5000 visitors, more than 100 subscribers, and numerous contributions to the database.

Health Highlights

Each month, EuroHealthNet gathers the most important news related to health promotion, determinants of health, and health inequalities to share with the European public health community. The newsletter, which goes out to 8,000 mailboxes, covers main public health developments, news from the EuroHealthNet partnership, developments at the EU institutions, as well as international developments and the newest publications. Over the last year, 10 newsletters have been sent.

Access to Public Health Information, a Key for Public Accountability and Health Equity in times of COVID-19: The Med-Dialogue Project

In December 2020, EuroHealthNet joined its first project under the [Med Dialogue for Rights and Equality Technical Assistance Programme](#). The project, 'Access to Public Health Information, a Key for Public Accountability and Health Equity in times of COVID-19' targets journalists, public health and medical students, national public health authorities, and civil society actors working in six countries in the Middle East and North Africa: Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco and Algeria.

The project aims to enhance the space for critical expression, access to information, and monitoring accountability of national public health measures.

The project consists of a series of webinars and roundtables on relevant topics, such as dis- and mis-information, effective public communication, balancing health security and civil liberties, and the role of investigative journalists in reporting on public health measures. These webinars will conclude with a policy briefing and advocacy campaign containing recommendations collected from each ‘digital dialogue.’

EuroHealthNet supports the project coordinator, the [Maharat Foundation](#) in Lebanon, by bringing an EU dimension to the project, identifying relevant EU participants for the webinar series and supporting communication and policy activities with relevant expertise. This ensures that it is a true cross-Mediterranean dialogue in which partners from various European and Arab countries can exchange ideas and recommendations.

Telling the stories of public health

Magazine

Across Europe, researchers, policymakers, planners, and practitioners are working and innovating to meet rising health challenges and gear our health and social systems towards the future. EuroHealthNet Magazine facilitates an exchange of their stories, allowing experts to share their experiences in addressing common challenges and learn from each other. The magazine highlights stories from the EuroHealthNet partnership and beyond, and has two themed editions per year. This year’s editions revolved around what is being done to ‘build back better’ after the pandemic and on health and the changing world of work.

The logo for EuroHealthNet magazine. The text 'EuroHealthNet' is in a dark grey, sans-serif font. Below it, the word 'magazine.' is written in a smaller, bold, yellow font.

[Read the latest edition of our magazine](#)

Video

As Europe looks towards the transition from a covid-19 pandemic to an endemic, questions about the future of health and social systems become more pressing. How can we move from health cure systems to health care systems? What does sustainability mean? What place is there for health promotion and prevention? What will future systems look like? To bring the concept to life, and to better illustrate the partnership’s vision of the future, we developed a video on [Health and Care Systems Built for the Future](#), which will soon be available in more languages.

Working with the media

EuroHealthNet helps shape the narrative around health, equity, and the determinants of health. It helps to unify and strengthen members' voices on the international stage.

- EuroHealthNet directs its expertise and advocates for greater health equity by issuing statements, joint letters and articles describing the partnership's position on legislative developments and other relevant matters. Over the last year, 17 such statements were issued. Topics covered included child rights and investing in children, building a European Health Union, recovery and resilience plans to support sustainable and fair health and social care systems, Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, and mental health.
- When important developments for health equity occur, news releases are used to inform the public. Over the last year, 12 releases were sent out to raise awareness on, among other things, the links between social protection and health, the European Pillar of Social Rights, and the effects of the New EU budgets on health spending and outcomes.
- As the EuroHealthNet partnership is widely-known for its expertise on health equity, its statements and news releases are regularly picked up by the media and other organisations. For instance this year our work appeared in the press and other publications at least 45 times. EuroHealthNet was frequently mentioned in Dods, Politico, and on the Health Policy Platform. EuroHealthNet's COVID-19 outputs, the financing e-Guide and the Health Inequalities Portal were mentioned most often. EuroHealthNet was referenced in at least five scientific articles in 2020, all related to inequalities and the sustainability of our health systems in times of COVID-19.
- Our statements this year, in addition to those listed throughout this report Included:
- A letter to the EPSCO Council: The need for more effective investments and reforms towards sustainable health and care systems. [Read in full.](#)
- A Joint Letter with the Alliance for Investing in Children on the prioritisation of child poverty reduction in the European Parliament's Resolution on the Recovery Package and the 2021-2027 EU MFF. [Read in full.](#)
- Five recommendations for European eHealth priorities, as a member of the eHealth Stakeholder Group. [Read in full.](#)
- Statements to the WHO Europe Regional Committee meeting on
- Provisional agenda item 4 The European Programme of Work, 2020–2025 – “United Action for Better Health in Europe”
- Provisional agenda Item 2b: The state of health in the WHO European Region, including lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic

- A Joint Statement on the use of the next European and structural investment funds for strategic investments in health and social services with EUREGHA (European Regional and Local Health Authorities). [Read in full.](#)
- An Open Letter on National Recovery and Resilience Plans to support sustainable and fair health and social care systems, addressed to the heads of the Permanent Representations of Member States to the European Union
- A joint letter to the Council of the EPSCO Ministers, welcoming the declaration on “Overcoming poverty and social exclusion – mitigating the impact of COVID-19 on families – working together to develop prospects for strong children” [Read in full here.](#)
- An open letter to EU states on National Recovery Plans (RRPs) to support sustainable and fair health and care systems. [Read in full.](#)
- A statement with the EU Alliance for Investing in Children on the ESF+ political agreement. [Read in full.](#)
- A statement with the EU Alliance for Investing in Children on the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan. [Read in full.](#)
- An Open letter to the Portuguese Presidency of the Council of the EU, all Ministers and Commissioners in the informal EPSCO meetings 15 – 16 March 2021. [Read in full.](#)
- A statement on health equity for world health day: building a fairer, healthier world. [Read in full.](#)
- A Joint Statement with the EU Alliance for Investing in Children statement on the European Commission’s proposal for a Council Recommendation establishing the Child Guarantee. [Read in full.](#)
- Statement to the Oslo Medicines Initiative: ‘better access to effective, novel, high-priced medicines – a new vision for collaboration between the public and private sectors’ [Read in full](#)
- A joint letter from health organisations on extending the mandate of the ECDC towards an integrated public health approach. [Read in full.](#)
- A Joint Position Paper led by the Smoke Free Partnership on the cross-border acquisition of excise goods, including alcohol and tobacco. [Read in full.](#)
- A Statement ahead of the EU’s social summit, the Conference on the Future of Europe and the Global Health summit on the need to use health equity as a compass for long-term recovery from the pandemic. [Read in full.](#)



How we work

EuroHealthNet members are accountable public bodies with responsibilities and/or expertise in public health, health promotion, health inequalities, disease prevention, or other relevant fields. [List of members](#)

Associate members

Associate Members are universities, civil society organisations, and others which are not necessarily statutory bodies but identify with EuroHealthNet's mission and want to take part in our work that is most relevant to them.

[List of associate members](#)

General Council

The General Council is one of EuroHealthNet's two governing bodies. It only comprises members. The General Council meets annually to discuss progress, and to approve annual reports and budgets. The General Council also elects the Executive Board.

Executive Board

Members of the Executive Board are elected from the General Council. They serve terms of two years, during which they develop annual strategies, work plans, and budgets. The Executive Board is informed by an external evaluator.

The Executive Board is made up of:

- Dr. Mojca Gabrijelčič Blenkuš (President)
- Vertti Kiukas (Vice President)
- Giovanni Gorgoni (Treasurer)
- Prof. Plamen Dimitrov
- Dr. Mariana Dyakova
- Dr. Frank Lehmann
- Lorna Renwick
- Dr. Paolo Stocco

[Read their profiles](#)

Observers

Observers are mostly Ministries of Health. They play a specific, mutually agreed role. Their status is reviewed and granted on an annual basis by the General Council and is by invitation only. They do not have a voting or governance role.

Online General Council Meeting

The 2020 General Council Meeting, an important annual event to bring together all EuroHealthNet members, was held in June. It was our first virtual General Council Meeting, due to pandemic travel restrictions. We were delighted with a keynote video of SANTE Commissioner Kyriakides as well as WHO Europe Regional Director, Dr Hans P. Kluge. We also heard an address by the Director of Social Affairs for the European Commission about the new ESF+, rapid transfers of resources through the COVID Response Initiatives and EU Multiannual Financial Framework, and healthy and active ageing, welfare systems and social protection.

Online Conference Skills for Health

On December 3, 2020, EuroHealthNet organised a high-level conference on “Skills for Health: Up- and Re-Skilling for a Sustainable Recovery” for members and other stakeholders from European, national and (sub) national levels.

Conference speakers and over 200 participants examined three aspects of skills for health: (1) changes to the world of work and new skills needed, (2) the skills for good health and wellbeing, and (3) the skills for tomorrow’s health and care systems. Speakers included Commissioner Nicolas Schmit, Vice-President and Minister for Ecological Transition and Demographic Challenge Teresa Ribera (Spain), and Dr Nino Berdzuli, Director of Country Health Programmes for the WHO Regional Office for Europe, amongst many others. With this conference we alerted members and the wider public health community on the EU Skills Agenda. It was a follow up to our expression of support towards the EU Pact for Skills in November 2020, where we delivered a video message.

[Watch the conference online](#)

[Read the conference report](#)

Extraordinary Policy and Strategy Meeting

Given the extraordinary impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on public health and the policy environment, the EuroHealthNet Executive Board requested an extraordinary Policy and Strategy Meeting with all EuroHealthNet members on February 24, 2021. The aim of the meeting was to inform EuroHealthNet members about the changes happening at European level and to seek input on how to shape our collaborative work.

[Read the meeting report](#)

Finance and Funding

EuroHealthNet’s funding comes from three main sources:

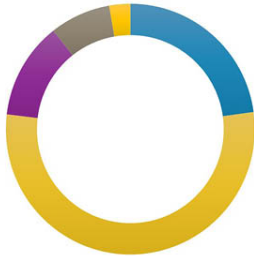
- 1) Member and associate member fees,
- 2) A core grant from the EU Programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI)
- 3) Co-funded EU project grants or specific funded work

We continue to make efforts to increase the share of funding from direct participation. We do not accept funding from for-profit bodies.

In addition to internal financial management and planning, an external accountant prepares the annual financial and balance reports, which are then certified by a separate auditing firm. The General Council approves the financial reports at its annual meeting.

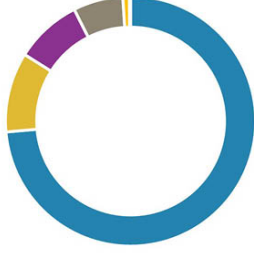
EuroHealthNet works in a transparent, ethical, and independent way. We have adopted a code of conduct for the organisation and membership, and ethical guidelines for partnership building. Procurement, risk management, human resource, and financial rules are set out in the EuroHealthNet ‘How We Work’ document, available on request. We consider and evaluate the environmental impacts of all actions and procurement decisions.

Income: €1,008,000



- Member & partners fees: 230,000
- EASI core grant: 545,000
- Other project grants: 126,000
- Tenders & misc: 79,500
- Use of reserve: 27,500

Expenditure: €1,008,000



- Employees: 742,000
- General operations: 104,000
- External services: 87,000
- Project deliverables: 65,000
- Depreciation: 8,500
- Miscellaneous: 1,500

Thematic Working Groups (TWiGs)

EuroHealthNet members, with support from the Brussels office, continued further developing the Thematic Working Group (TWiG) on Best Practice portals, established in 2019. The TWiG divided its activities in four major working areas in 2020.

External Evaluation

EuroHealthNet's work was carefully monitored and evaluated by an external evaluator, selected through a competitive tender process to deliver our a 4-year external evaluation plan. The 2020 evaluation investigated: a) EuroHealthNet's impact on the understanding of health inequalities at EU level; and b) its contribution to strengthening EU policy and funding initiatives related to issues of social equity and health promotion. It did so through interviews with key policy stakeholders and decision-makers at EU level, including the European Commission and Member State representations.

The evaluation broadly concluded that EuroHealthNet has been among the actors which have improved understanding of health and social inequalities – and of what works to reduce them. In addition, we can have confidence that EuroHealthNet has contributed to strengthening policy initiatives at EU level, where they are already underway, and to their implementation in practice.

Staff

EuroHealthNet's office is based in Brussels and staffed by a skilled team of 13 employees working in a diverse and dynamic environment with highly experienced leadership by Director Caroline Costongs.

Thank You

Our work would not be possible without the continued commitment and support of Members and Associate Members, and the European Commission's EaSI Programme 2018-2021. Thanks to you, we are delivering results that will create healthier, fairer futures.

At the General Council meeting in June 2020, Prof. Mirosław J. Wysocki (National Institute of Public Health of Poland), retired as a delegate and Executive Board member. He was thanked by all for his valuable contributions to EuroHealthNet and wished well for his future.

We are also immensely grateful for the hard work and commitment of our team in Brussels, without such skilled and enthusiastic colleagues we wouldn't have been able to deliver on all of the activities of this Annual Report.

In the past year, we have said fond farewell to two valued staff members: Dr Maria Romeo and Süheyla Ugurtas and welcomed a new colleague to our communications team, Katharina Yacoub. We have worked with several external suppliers over the last year and are very grateful for their support. Frédéric Demaude provides accountancy services and RSM carries out financial audits. Alka provides IT support. Kwitelle, Wim Vandersleyen, and ReBrand Studio provide graphic design

and publishing services. JordacheWD redeveloped and maintains our online magazine, online financing guide, and new health inequalities portal. Behived media developed our videos. BusinessAndCode manages our CRM database. Stephen Barnett is our external evaluator.

Join Us

EuroHealthNet welcomes organisations and bodies that share our vision of a fairer, healthier, and sustainable future and who are working on the determinants of health and/or inequalities.

Are you interested in working together?

Our work would not be possible without the continued commitment and support of Members and Associate Members, and the European Commission's EaSI Programme 2018-2021. Thanks to you, we are delivering results that will create healthier, fairer futures.

Full membership is open to accountable public bodies with responsibilities and/or expertise in public health, health promotion, health inequalities, disease prevention, or other relevant fields. They are mostly national, regional or local institutes, authorities, and government departments.

To allow non-statutory bodies such as universities, non-governmental and civil society organisations, and other international networks to become part of EuroHealthNet, the Associate Membership category was developed. Associate Members can become part of one or more platforms.

Our mission is to help build healthier communities and tackle health inequalities within and between European States.

EuroHealthNet is a not-for-profit partnership of organisations, agencies and statutory bodies working on public health, promoting health, preventing disease, and reducing inequalities.

EuroHealthNet supports members' work through policy and project development, knowledge and expertise exchange, research, networking, and communications.

EuroHealthNet's work is spread across three collaborating platforms that focus on practice, policy, and research. Core and cross-cutting activities unite and amplify the partnership's activities.

The partnership is made up of members, associate members, and observers. It is governed by a General Council and Executive Board.



www.EuroHealthNet.eu



EuroHealthNet is supported by the European Commission, through the EU Programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI 2014-2020)

