



Strengthening strategies
and skills for health
promoting systems

Annual report
June 2022 - May 2023

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President's Foreword

Acute crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic, the current war in Ukraine, as well as climate change not only aggravate the socioeconomic situation, but have also led to unprecedented attention to health.

In a very short time, people have had to learn how to behave in ways that protect and promote their own health. During the COVID-19 pandemic, discovering what regulations for healthy behaviour were currently in place was, for a long time, part of everyday life. Health promotion awareness has not only been nourished by our own actions in the sense of personal health, but also in the interest of those in society who need protection - evident in the considered decisions made regarding the environment and sustainability.

This is a call for public health to play its most important role in promoting health and wellbeing of the population, informing, educating and empowering people on health issues, creating healthier settings and applying innovative approaches to health promotion not only in times of crisis but also beyond.

EuroHealthNet and its Members will continue to work together to promote health and wellbeing by addressing the determinants of health and advocating in policymaking processes. I am pleased to support EuroHealthNet and its members in this important mission as President.



Prof. Dr. **Martin Dietrich** President of EuroHealthNet and Acting Director of the Federal Centre for Health Education (Bundeszentrale für gesundheitliche Aufklärung, BZgA)



Caroline Costongs Director EuroHealthNet

Director's Foreword

The world around us is changing. People are becoming more aware of the need to change their ways of living and consuming, to mitigate climate change as well as improve their own health. People are also more aware of the growing inequalities in our societies, socio-economic, as well as intergenerational inequalities. Behaviours of both companies and politicians need to change, and tackling the commercial determinants of health has become more urgent than ever.

The EuroHealthNet Partnership is well-placed to act amidst the various challenges. Our systemic approach to health promotion and disease prevention, as part of an Economy of Wellbeing will help move relevant EU, national and local policies forward. During 2022-23, our activities have contributed to effectively strengthening capacities and skills in areas such as caring communities, child wellbeing, food systems, health inequalities and improving mental health. Similarly, over the past year, we have acquired new EU co-funded projects and exchanged valuable experiences and good practices.

EuroHealthNet's continuous commitment to equity, inclusion, and social justice, as well as a recognition of the interconnectedness of social, environmental, economic, and health outcomes, will lead us to even new adventures, and important work in the year ahead of us!

A large, dark blue number '1' is positioned in the upper left quadrant. A thick blue line starts from the top edge, runs vertically down, then curves 90 degrees to the left, running horizontally across the middle of the page. Another thick blue line starts from the right edge, curves 90 degrees upwards, then runs vertically down towards the bottom of the page.

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WHO WE ARE

EuroHealthNet is a not-for-profit Partnership of organisations, institutes, and authorities working on public health, disease prevention, promoting health and wellbeing, and reducing inequalities.

We aim to tackle health inequalities within and between European States through action on the social determinants of health.

EuroHealthNet's activities take place across three platforms: policy, practice, and research. In addition, a core team unifies and builds connections between the platforms, sharing and supporting the exchange of knowledge and experience, including through communication activities.

The five priority areas and the two cross-cutting topics that are central to our work are laid out within our [Strategic Development Plan 2021-26](#).



The Partnership at the EuroHealthNet General Council Meeting in 2022

Our Partnership

Members of the EuroHealthNet Partnership are national and regional institutes, academic and research centres, national and regional authorities and government departments. We would not be able to deliver the results that help create healthier, fairer futures for all without them.

Members

EuroHealthNet Members are accountable public bodies with responsibilities and/or expertise in public health, health promotion, health inequalities, disease prevention, or other relevant fields. They set the direction of the Partnership and work together to achieve health equity.

- **Austria** - Austrian Health Promotion Fund, business unit of Austrian National Public Health Institute (FGÖ)
- **Belgium** - Flanders Institute for Healthy Living
- **Belgium** - Walloon Agency for a Life of Quality (AVIQ)
- **Bulgaria** - National Center of Public Health and Analyses (NCPHA)
- **England** - The Health and Europe Centre, NHS Kent & Medway
- **Finland** - Finnish Federation for Social Affairs and Health (SOSTE)
- **Finland** - National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL)
- **France** - French Public Health Agency (SpF)
- **Germany** - Federal Centre for Health Education (BZgA)
- **Greece** - Institute of Preventive Medicine, Environmental and Occupational Health (PROLEPSIS Institute)
- **Hungary** - National Public Health Center (NNK)
- **Ireland** - Institute of Public Health in Ireland (IPH)
- **Italy** - Regional Healthcare and Social Affairs Agency of Puglia (AReSS Puglia)
- **Italy** - Veneto Region
- **Italy** - Tuscany Region
- **Italy** - Federsanita ANCI
- **Italy** - Piedmont Regional Health Promotion Documentation Center (DoRS)
- **Italy** - National Institute of Health (ISS)
- **Italy** - 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 Socio-Economic Research (LISER)
- **Netherlands** - National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM)
- **Netherlands** - Netherlands Institute of Mental Health and Addiction (Trimbos Institute)**
- **Netherlands** - Pharos Dutch Centre of Expertise on Health Disparities
- **Norway** - Norwegian Directorate of Health
- **Poland** - National Institute of Public Health NIH – National Research Institute
- **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** – Andalusian Regional Ministry of Health and Consumer Affairs
- **Spain** - Ministry of Health, Spain
- **Spain** – Department of Health, Basque Government*
- **Sweden** - Public Health Agency of Sweden***
- **Sweden** - Public Health Committee – Region Västra Götaland
- **Wales** - Public Health Wales

Associate Members

Associate Members are universities, civil society organisations, and other organisations. They identify with EuroHealthNet's mission and take part in our work that is most relevant to them. Associate Members join one or more of the three EuroHealthNet platforms.

RESEARCH ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

- **Belgium** - Antwerp Health Law and Ethics Chair (AHLEC)**
- **England** - University of Brighton, School of Health Sciences
- **Germany** - Centre for Health and Society, Medical Faculty, Heinrich-Heine University Düsseldorf**
- **Germany** - German Alliance in Climate Change and Health (KLUG)**
- **Italy** - Venice's Social Community Cooperative Society
- **Netherlands** - Care and Public Health Research Institute (CAPHRI), Maastricht University**
- **Netherlands** - 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)
- **Portugal** - Egas Moniz Higher Education Cooperative
- **Spain** - Andalusian School of Public Health
- **Spain** - Foundation for the Promotion of Health and Biomedical Research of Valencia Region (FISABIO)
- **Spain** - Universidad de La Laguna
- **Sweden** - Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR)
- **Wales** - Cardiff Metropolitan University**

POLICY ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

- **Germany** - German Alliance in Climate Change and Health (KLUG)**
- **Netherlands** - Dutch Association of Mental Health and Addiction Care (GGZ Nederlands)
- **Netherlands** - FNO Zorg Voor Kansen
- **Sweden** - Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR)
- **Wales** - Cardiff Metropolitan University**

PRACTICE ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

- **Denmark** - Danish Committee for Health Education
- **Germany** - Centre for Health and Society, Medical Faculty, Heinrich-Heine University Düsseldorf**
- **Ireland** - Special Olympics Europe Eurasia
- **Netherlands** - Radboud University Medical Center
- **Portugal** - Egas Moniz Higher Education Cooperative
- **Portugal** - Nossa Senhora do Bom Sucesso Foundation
- **Wales** - Cardiff Metropolitan University**

Observers

Observers are mostly Ministries of Health. They play a specific, mutually agreed role. Observers join our Partnership by invitation only.

- **Austria** - Federal Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs, Health and Consumer Protection
- **Belgium** - Federal Public Service Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment
- **England** - Department of Health and Social Care
- **Lithuania** – Ministry of Health
- **Malta** - Public Health Regulation Department
- **Romania** – Ministry of Health

* Associate Members who have opted to become full members

** To be endorsed at the 2023 General Council Meeting

*** EuroHealthNet Partner

Executive Board



EuroHealthNet's Executive Board from L-R: Caroline Costongs (Director), Giovanni Gorgoni (Treasurer), Prof. Dr. Martin Dietrich (President), Lorna Renwick, Daniela Kállayová, Raffaella Bucciardini, Dr. Sumina Azam, Pia Sundell.



Prof. Dr. Martin Dietrich

President - Acting Director of the German Federal Centre for Health Education (BZgA)



Dr. Sumina Azam

Vice President - Policy Lead, Public Health Wales, United Kingdom



Pia Sundell

Vice President - Executive Director for the Finnish Children's Welfare Association



Giovanni Gorgoni

Treasurer - CEO of the Regional Healthcare and Social Affairs Agency of Puglia (AReSS Puglia), Italy



Dr. Mojca Gabrijelčič Blenkuš

Honorary Advisor - Healthy Lifestyle Department Head at the National Institute of Public Health (NIJZ) in Slovenia



Raffaella Bucciardini

Head of Operative Unit Health Equity ISS – HEISS, of the Italian Institute of Health



Prof. Plamen Dimitrov

Director of the Bulgarian National Center of Public Health and Analyses



Lorna Renwick

Service Manager – Economy and Poverty, Public Health Scotland



Daniela Kállayová

Senior Public Health Officer at the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic

Our year in numbers

448 Participants at EuroHealthNet events

65 Members, Associate Members,
and Observers from **28** European countries in **23** EU Member States

64 Occasions of being speakers, panellists or moderators in 2022

340 External events & strategic meetings participated in in 2022

4 EuroHealthNet capacity-building events in 2022

18 Newsletters published

14 Press releases sent

14,502 Social media followers

24 Policy briefings & consultation responses

48,000 Magazine readers

436,795 Website views



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**INVESTING IN
PREVENTION AND
HEALTH PROMOTION
IN TIMES OF CRISES**

Building skills for prevention and health promotion

The COVID-19 pandemic disrupted our daily lives and put health at the forefront of everyone's minds. As a result of this pandemic (or syndemic) we observed increased anxiety and mental health problems, worsened inequalities, and an overburdened health system. Since then, other crises have emerged, such as war on the continent, a [cost-of-living crisis](#), and emergencies linked to climate and demographic change.

Our way of life also continues to destabilise the very environmental systems that sustain us, shaped by an economic logic that encourages us to constantly produce and consume, regardless of the impact on our health and wellbeing. At the same time, technological developments are transforming life as we know it, bringing benefits as well as new challenges.

This is now the new context in which public health professionals and policy makers are operating. The various events, thematic working groups and briefings undertaken by EuroHealthNet over the past year, have allowed us to revisit our methodologies, skills, and capacities, and reflect on whether they are still fit for purpose. As these polycrises are interrelated, we argue for new systemic approaches, such as the [Economy of Wellbeing](#), which aims to boost prevention and address root causes in the first instance rather than attempting to fix the (health) problems at a later stage.

2023 is the [European Year of Skills](#). In this context, EuroHealthNet is supporting lifelong learning in public health, health promotion and disease prevention, to empower people and the Partnership to contribute to fair green and digital transitions, to build resilience and improve health equity. We are doing this by making the case for more investments in skills and capacities, and for stronger mandates and accountabilities to act in the field of prevention.

Strengthening this field by building skills for prevention and health promotion can help us navigate these troubled times. In 2022 and 2023, we have continued to seize the unprecedented opportunities available in the field of health, as the pandemic and polycrises made the relevance of health promotion and our Partnership more apparent than ever. We contribute to broader, systemic approaches to change, to build stronger foundations for healthier, more sustainable, and just societies.

EuroHealthNet's Annual Seminar 2022



Toma Šutić, Cabinet of the European Commission
Vice-President for Democracy and Demography



Dr. Ülla-Karin Nurm, Northern Dimension Partnership in
Public Health and Social Well-being (NDPHS)



Caroline Costongs, EuroHealthNet



Marianne Takki, DG SANTE, European Commission

Our 2022 Annual Seminar, '[Growing strong in times of crisis – investing in wellbeing and health equity for young and old](#),' brought together more than 100 experts and policymakers from over 20 countries to discuss how societies can overcome the simultaneous crises that we are facing and come out stronger on the other side. Participants explored the conditions in which all members of society can feel capable and valued members of their immediate and wider communities, including both young and older people.

High-level speakers presented new and innovative approaches and investments, in the context of current European policy developments, with a critical focus on their impacts on health equity. Speakers included representatives from the European Commission, WHO/Europe and the UNESCO Chair on Global Health & Education. Discussions were centred on the following themes:

1. Securing conditions for health equity and wellbeing in childhood and adolescence in times of uncertainty.
2. Prioritising public investments for healthy and active ageing in the wake of multiple crises.
3. Exploring how we can turn our current uncertainties into opportunities for strength, through concepts such as the [Economy of Wellbeing](#).

The key messages of the Annual Seminar were summarised in an [outcome statement](#).

The EuroHealthNet General Council Meeting 2022



Members of the Partnership vote



EuroHealthNet's Programme Manager, Alison Maassen, presents the outcomes of the external evaluation

Our 2022 General Council Meeting convened 42 delegates from the Partnership to debate developments in public health, discuss activities and make progress on the Strategic Development Plan 2021-26. During this meeting our [Annual Report 2021/22 'Building resilience in times of change' was also approved.](#)

Members [elected a new President](#), Prof. Dr. Martin Dietrich, Acting Director of the German Federal Centre for Health Education (BZgA). The new EuroHealthNet Workplace Gender, Equality and Diversity Policy was also adopted, helping the EuroHealthNet Partnership build a diverse workforce and inclusive workplace.

Over the year, the Executive Board met seven times to steer the work of the Partnership and prepare the General Council Meeting.

I am grateful and pleased to have been elected as President of EuroHealthNet. EuroHealthNet provides an excellent opportunity for its members to learn from each other about effective and evidence-based health promotion. To meet the coming challenges for health and wellbeing, the experience and knowledge accumulated in Europe is a treasure that should be shared and expanded as a European response. This will also foster much needed social innovations that will benefit public health in Europe.

Prof. Dr. Martin Dietrich

President of EuroHealthNet and Acting Director of the German Federal Centre for Health Education (BZgA)

Previous President Dr. Mojca Gabrijelčič Blenkuš, Senior Advisor at the National Institute of Public Health (NIJZ) in Slovenia, transitioned to become an Honorary Advisor to the Executive Board. At EuroHealthNet, we are grateful she will continue to offer her expertise and counsel to the Partnership.

Setting out a strategy to build a diverse workforce and create an inclusive workplace, Members also adopted a new [Workplace Gender, Equality and Diversity Policy](#) in line with our objective.

Strategising the Partnership's work

Members and representatives of the EU and WHO gathered at our annual online [Policy and Strategy Meeting](#) in February 2023. Attendees had the opportunity to ensure health equity is at the heart of EU decision-making as they evaluated upcoming EU initiatives, set priorities, and explored effective ways to collaborate and respond to opportunities.

Topics on the agenda included:

- The EU's 'Healthier Together' NCD Initiative.
- Implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan.
- Follow-up on the European Care Strategy.
- Implementation of the Recovery and Resilience plans.
- WHO's work on the Wellbeing Economy.

Taking place in the context of the green, sustainability and digital transition, the above initiatives are at the heart of the partnership's policy-oriented work.

Thematic Working Groups

[Thematic Working Groups \(TWIGs\)](#) provide a space for EuroHealthNet Members, Associate Members, and external affiliated partners to exchange and work on strategies and build skills. TWIGs are Member-led. Members choose the topic, set the agenda, chair meetings and lead on jointly agreed activities.

The Social Marketing to Address Addictions TWIG



The Social Marketing to Address Addictions TWIG takes a dedicated focus on addressing social inequalities by exploring exposures linked to risk factors such as tobacco and alcohol use. It similarly looks at health determinants along the life course and how to reach vulnerable population groups.

[French Public Health Days, Santé publique France](#)



Throughout the course of the past year, the following topics were discussed:

- Reducing tobacco and nicotine use and campaign regulation.
- Tailored approaches to reach specific populations.

In 2022, a successful workshop was organised in the context of the annual [French Public Health Days](#). In addition, alcohol-related harm reduction initiatives, also linked to drug use and gambling practices were discussed.

The Social Marketing to Address Addictions TWIG involves ten Member and several affiliated partners across Europe, and is led by the [French Public Health Agency](#) and the [Trimbos Institute](#) in the Netherlands.

Healthy Living Environments TWIG

The Healthy Living Environments (HLE) TWIG came into fruition as a result of the [EU Joint Action on Health Equity Europe \(JAHEE\)](#) - which ended in 2021. Participants of the Joint Action wished to continue to exchange discussions on developments within their countries related to this area. This TWIG also investigates and pursues opportunities to further disseminate and implement JAHEE recommendations.

A new work package on HLE in the new EU Joint Action on NCDs and Social Determinants will be led by TWIG members, and an exchange platform on the design of these instruments has subsequently been created. In addition, TWIG members have also explored a joint response to relevant Horizon Europe research calls, as well as collaborating on academic articles and workshops.

Many of the participants of this TWIG are EuroHealthNet Members. It includes 12 Member institutions, led by the [German Federal Centre for Health Education \(BZgA\)](#), the [Italian National Institute of Health \(ISS\)](#), as well as the [Piedmont Regional Health Promotion Documentation Center \(DoRS\) in Italy](#).

Best Practice Portals TWIG

The Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Programme Registers (Best Practice Portals) TWIG is a knowledge exchange platform between existing portals. Members share experience, identify, and further develop common topics of relevance, initiate joint projects, and share findings through publications and at conferences. The aim of this TWIG is to become the competence engine for best practice portals across Europe.

In 2022-23, the TWIG had its first [scientific article published](#) and hosted a workshop at the European Public Health Conference in Berlin. It also established collaboration with the Netherlands Institute of Health Services Research (Nivel) - which supports a study, led by the European Commission, on the European Best Practice Portal and how to improve its submission procedures.

Co-led by the [Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment \(RIVM\)](#) and the [German Federal Center for Health Education \(BZgA\)](#), this TWIG currently has 8 EuroHealthNet Members participating.

3

POLICY

In line with the 'health in all policies' approach, EuroHealthNet's Policy Platform provides policy monitoring and analysis for the EuroHealthNet Partnership. It aims to ensure that WHO/Europe and EU initiatives contribute to health equity now, and in the future.

Inspired by the Wellbeing Economy approach, over the past year, its work has focused on efforts to reform and rebuild health, social and care systems, and strengthen prevention and health promotion. As European Union (EU) institutions roll out new initiatives in the context of a European Health Union, it is important that our Partnership acts to implement the European Pillar of Social Rights, and link up with green, sustainable, and digital transitions.

Analysing the European Semester from a health equity perspective

As Europe deals with the aftermath of the pandemic, climate crisis, global conflict, demographic change and technological revolution, people with the fewest resources are less able to cope and adapt, and inequalities are widening. The EU Recovery and Resilience Facility helps EU Member States to mitigate these multiple crises, facilitate a green and digital transition, and promote wellbeing and equality.

EuroHealthNet's [2022 analysis of the European Semester](#) – a report that explores the annual cycle of EU policy coordination – investigated the use of the EU Recovery and Resilience Facility and its impact on health equity and wellbeing in collaboration with 24 public health experts across 8 EU Member States.



Members we worked with for the 2022 European Semester analysis:

- [Austrian National Public Health Institute \(GÖG\)](#)
- [Walloon Agency for a Life of Quality \(AViQ\)](#)
- [Finnish Federation for Social Affairs and Health \(SOSTE\)](#)
- [Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare \(THL\)](#)
- [Italian region of Tuscany](#)
- [Regional Healthcare and Social Affairs Agency of Puglia, Italy \(AReSS\)](#)
- [Spanish Ministry of Health](#)
- [Andalusian Regional Ministry of Health and Consumer Affairs in Spain](#)
- [Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions](#)

The analysis identified inspiring initiatives undertaken by public health actors that are contributing more resilient future societies. This led to a set of recommendations being created for EU institutions and Member States to look at how they can improve health equity and wellbeing in Europe.

EuroHealthNet also explored how the Semester process can contribute to reforms in other key areas of health and wellbeing, such as:

- Housing
- Early childhood development and care
- Social inclusion via skill building and literacy
- The digital transition and climate adaptation
- Food system sustainability

“ The EuroHealthNet Partnership will continue to closely monitor and analyse the implementation of the national Recovery and Resilience Plans, the European Semester and subsequent contribution to achieving Economies of Wellbeing. Facilitating the international exchange of good practice and experience in this area can generate learning and build the competencies of policymakers, investors, and professionals for a fair and inclusive Europe. ”

Caroline Costongs
Director of EuroHealthNet

The European Pillar of Social Rights: an opportunity for public health action

Addressing the key determinants of health and wellbeing, the [European Pillar of Social Rights \(EPSR\)](#) outlines a key set of rights and principles to create European societies that are more sustainable and inclusive. In line with this, EuroHealthNet launched its [EPSR Flashcard Tool](#) - an interactive resource to help public health professionals and decision-makers translate social principles into concrete actions.



Each flashcard explores the relevance of specific EPSR principles and their relation to public health. Setting the scene within the current EU policy landscape, the tool shares available resources to help implement individual principles. Co-developed with EuroHealthNet Members, the flashcards include a key feature that spotlights what approaches public health authorities are taking to implement each principle.

To date four flashcards have been published:

- [Principle 9](#) on promoting a healthy work-life balance
- [Principle 11](#) on ensuring childcare and support to children
- [Principle 14](#) on minimum income
- [Principle 18](#) on the affordability of long-term care

Examples of best practices were featured from the following Members:

- [Bulgarian National Center of Public Health and Analyses \(NCPHA\)](#)
- [French Public Health Agency](#)
- [Public Health Wales](#)
- [Portuguese National Institute of Health Doutor Ricardo Jorge \(INSA\)](#)
- [Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare \(THL\)](#)

NB: The European Pillar of Social Right Flashcard Tool is available in all EU languages, thanks to a machine translation feature on the website.

Providing expert analysis

The Policy Platform provides expert analysis and insights on contemporary and emerging issues for the public health community as well as for our Members. By building skills and capacities, we aim to help public health professionals and organisations prepare for future change and take timely and well-informed action on health equity.

Policy Précis

Our Policy Précis aim to translate and digest high-level, technical, and complex EU policy developments into narratives that are easy to grasp and apply. Within these publications, practical examples, and pathways for progress by public health actors are exemplified.

REDUCING INEQUALITIES BY INVESTING IN HEALTH-PROMOTING CARE



People expect governments to provide high quality and easy to access care. However, throughout the EU, there are differences in system structure and by what means care and service providers interact.

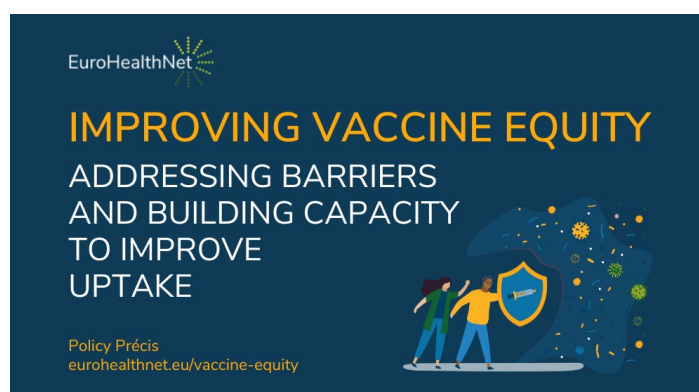
In anticipation of the [European Care Strategy](#), our [Policy Précis on health-promoting care systems](#), explored the challenges associated with existing care models across the EU, and explored how those challenges are being addressed through projects and legislation at both national and EU level.

Demonstrating how care throughout the life course can be redefined to bring equitable health and wellbeing across our societies, the Andalusian Model for Early (Childhood) Intervention, the Austrian Care Reform Strategy and the Slovenian umbrella bill on long-term care presented strong examples of how to achieve this.

NB: This specific Policy Précis has been translated into [German](#) and [Italian](#).

ADDRESSING BARRIERS AND BUILDING CAPACITY TO IMPROVE VACCINE UPTAKE

Vaccination has been directly responsible for saving millions of lives throughout the world and is a cornerstone of primary and preventive health care. However, not everyone has equal access to vaccines and reliable vaccine information. Suboptimal vaccination coverage leads to preventable illness and death, and increased health inequalities.



Setting out key issues underlying vaccine inequalities, as well as policies and initiatives that help identify and remove barriers to improve vaccine equity, EuroHealthNet developed a [Policy Précis](#). This Policy Précis drew on the research undertaken by two EU-funded projects, [IMMUNION](#) and [RIVER-EU](#) (in which EuroHealthNet is a project partner) and profiled the EuroHealthNet Members involved in these initiatives.

As a result of this publication, online publication platform, [Vaccines Today](#), invited EuroHealthNet to write a guest editorial on how to improve vaccine equity and reframe the conversation around vaccine hesitancy.

PROMOTING HEALTH AND WELLBEING AMIDST THE COST-OF-LIVING CRISIS

In the wake of the pandemic and the war in Ukraine, Europe has witnessed a significant rise in food and fuel costs. Subsequently, governments have made stark cutbacks in social protection and inclusion measures. As a result, poverty and social exclusion in the EU risks to increase by 1-5%.

EuroHealthNet's [Policy Précis on promoting health and wellbeing amidst the cost-of-living crisis](#) explores the challenges shrinking disposable incomes pose to health and wellbeing, including limited access to essential care and nutrition, increased financial stress, and exposure to energy poverty.

This Policy Précis sets out EU measures and tools that help mitigate the negative economic, social and health consequences of the crisis, and draws upon good practice examples from Wales, OECD, and WHO and EU initiatives.

“
The impact of the rising costs of living is so significant because it pushes on existing vulnerabilities. It requires a public health response that tackles the underlying causes of inequalities, including by guaranteeing an adequate minimum income, boosting mental health support, reducing fuel poverty, preventing homelessness and promoting healthy eating. By setting out the pathways through which rising costs of living affect health equity and offering an overview of international tools, best practices and recommendations, EuroHealthNet helps public health professionals develop such a response.
”

Dr. Sumina Azam

EuroHealthNet Vice-President and Consultant in Public Health, Policy Lead, Deputy Director
– Policy and International Health, WHO Collaborating Centre on
Investment for Health and Wellbeing, Public Health Wales

BUILDING ON THE ECONOMY OF WELLBEING TO DRIVE SUSTAINABLE CHANGE

Over the past year, EuroHealthNet has continued to promote its [Policy Précis on the Economy of Wellbeing](#). This Policy Précis was translated into [German](#), which led to further visibility as Members shared the publication within their local networks.

Expressing their appreciation for EuroHealthNet's thought-leadership on the Economy of Wellbeing, several members, including the [Norwegian University of Science and Technology \(NTNU\)](#) and the [Dutch Association of Mental Health and Addiction Care](#) invited EuroHealthNet to speak at events on this topic. In addition, in March 2023, EuroHealthNet was also invited to speak at the [WHO/ Europe High-Level Forum on Health in the Well-Being Economy](#).

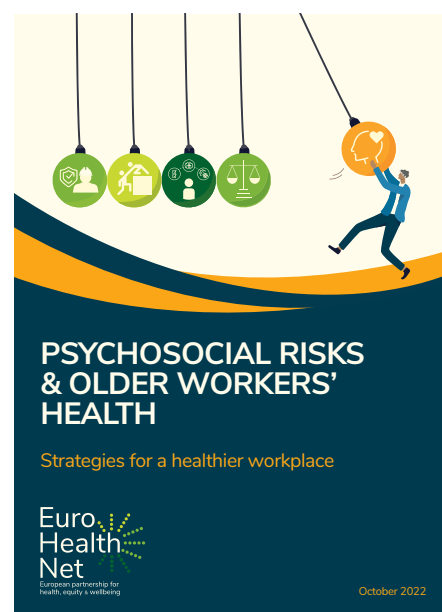
As a member of the EU Wellbeing Economy Coalition, EuroHealthNet continues to contribute to the International High-Level Group on the Economy of Wellbeing set up by Finland. Being involved in such activities help to build alliances and position EuroHealthNet as a 'frontrunner' on this topic area within the public health space.

Protecting older workers from psychosocial risks: a policy brief

Older workers tend to experience more psychosocial risks than any other age group. This leads to an increase in work-related health risks and rates of sickness absence. However, when adequately supported, older workers are an asset to an organisation and society.

EuroHealthNet's policy brief '[Psychosocial risks and older workers' health: strategies for a healthier workplace](#)' dives into common challenges to the psychosocial wellbeing of older employees and offers employers and policymakers recommendations for mitigating psychosocial risks at work.

Launched in the context of our [Country Exchange on addressing psychosocial risks and supporting mental health of older workers](#), the brief was translated into [German](#) for further dissemination.



Delivering intelligence to members

An exclusive service offered to EuroHealthNet Members, 'Member Briefings' help Members to better understand various policy topics and strengthen their capacities to advocate and contribute to different political debates. Over the past 12 months, EuroHealthNet policy briefings covered the following topics:

- The 'EU 'Healthier Together' NCDs Initiative' (September 2022)
- The 'WHO Regional Committee (RC72) - Outcomes and areas for engagement' (September 2022)
- The 'EU4Health 2023 Work Programme' (December 2022)
- The Swedish Presidency January-June 2023 health and social priorities (January 2023)

EuroHealthNet also published a [briefing and set of recommendations on the European Health Data Space](#) and other data information and surveillance developments. Released in October 2022, the briefing supported members and other stakeholders to better understand the European Health Data Space and contribute to the debate. EuroHealthNet also had the opportunity to advocate within the European Commission's eHealth Stakeholder Group and vis-a-vis relevant Members of the European Parliament.

EuroHealthNet builds bridges between national, regional, and European policymakers. It informs its Members about opportunities and developments at the international level, while feeding back the Partnership's expertise and concerns to international decision-makers and into policymaking processes.

Prof. Dr. Plamen Dimitrov

EuroHealthNet Executive Board Member and Director of the National Centre of Public Health and Analyses in Bulgaria

Bringing together national experts to optimise support to Ukrainian refugees

EuroHealthNet and SEEHN call for integrated, coordinated and forward-looking action on recovery-oriented mental health of Ukrainian refugees as the war continues



Drawing by Marko Pogačnik, UNESCO Artist for Peace

In March 2023, EuroHealthNet collaborated with the South-Eastern European Health Network (SEEHN), to organise a policy roundtable. This meeting provided the chance to discuss common and specific challenges related to mental health and psychosocial support mechanisms for Ukrainian refugees in neighbouring and host countries.

With over 20 years of recent experience addressing the mental health needs of the population that went through the war, representatives from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Slovenia, and North Macedonia discussed their approaches. Additionally, Bulgaria, Hungary, and Moldova also took part in and shared their experiences and learned from others who had knowledge from experience.

Based on the findings of the [policy roundtable](#), EuroHealthNet and SEEHN published a [statement calling for integrated, coordinated and forward-looking action on recovery-oriented mental health of Ukrainian refugees](#).

Engaging with policymakers

An important aspect of EuroHealthNet's work is to engage with EU-level policymakers to discuss our Members' priorities, share evidence and help influence critical policy dossiers. Through bilateral meetings or EU events, we meet directly with policymakers.

On occasion, EuroHealthNet is asked to directly provide feedback on possible future policy and actions during consultation processes organised by the European Commission and other EU-level policy stakeholders. EuroHealthNet helps strengthen policy responses by creating collective responses from evidence, opinions, and practices on specific issues from its Partnership.



Programme Manager Alison Maassen with ECDC Director Dr Andrea Ammon at the WHO Regional Committee for Europe



Pasi Moisio, Member of the HLG, and Research Professor at the Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare, with EuroHealthNet Director Caroline Costongs and Policy Manager Dorota Sienkiewicz



Policy Assistant Emilia Lindquist with Commissioner Stella Kyriakides at the European Commission's Youth Policy Dialogue

Meetings with European policymakers

Holding strategic meetings throughout the year, EuroHealthNet met with representatives from various European Commission Directorate Generals, cabinets of European Commissioners, Members of the European Parliaments, and Presidencies of the European Council.

During these meetings, topics such as the European Child Guarantee, the European Care Strategy, occupational mental health, the green transition, minimum income, and prevention of chronic diseases were discussed.

EuroHealthNet highlighted the need to maintain a specific policy focus on health inequalities, and how to take a social-determinants approach alongside a biomedical one. Considerations were taken to understand how to best invest in EU Recovery and Resilience Funds (RRFs), boost health systems on health equity, health promotion and disease prevention and living conditions across the EU.

Feeding evidence into policy making

EuroHealthNet has responded to 18 EU and WHO policy consultations in the past year. Focusing on what is needed to reduce health inequalities, we presented recommendations so that policies contribute to the overall resilience of people and their wellbeing.

Our consultation responses covered topics such as the digital transition, the use of EU funds for post-COVID-19 recovery, mental health, sustainable food systems and healthy nutrition, prevention of chronic disease and cancer.

Our partnerships and alliances

EuroHealthNet has continued to build on existing collaborations, as well as cultivate new opportunities by joining new platforms or alliances over the past year.

WORKING WITH WHO/EUROPE

In 2021, EuroHealthNet signed [a Memorandum of Understanding with WHO Europe](#), furthering our collaboration on the four flagships of the WHO/Europe European Programme of Work for 2020-2025:

- The Pan-European Mental Health Coalition
- Empowerment through Digital Health
- The European Immunization Agenda 2030
- Healthier behaviours: incorporating behavioural and cultural insights

Across these flagships, EuroHealthNet has engaged in the WHO Pan-European Mental Health Coalition, work on the Wellbeing Economy, linking NCDs with climate change mitigation and in initiatives on behavioural and cultural insights. EuroHealthNet also addressed the [72nd session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe](#), calling for an equitable digital health transition.

CONTRIBUTING TO THE EU HEALTH POLICY PLATFORM

EuroHealthNet actively contributed to several stakeholder networks and meetings hosted on the European Commission's EU Health Policy Platform, including:

- In the Beating Cancer Stakeholder Contact Group, EuroHealthNet provided input on the Cancer Inequalities Registry.
- EuroHealthNet supported the [final statement produced by the network on climate and health education in Europe](#), on the importance of public health in protecting the planet.
- EuroHealthNet supported the network on profiling and training the healthcare workforce of the future by validating the [final report on essential skills for health](#).
- EuroHealthNet is also a contributing partner to two thematic networks of the 2022 cycle 'DisQo anti-discrimination & health equity' and 'Mental health in all policies', providing input on their respective Joint Statements.

COLLABORATION WITH EU ORGANISATIONS

Developing and co-launching policy and advocacy papers, EuroHealthNet collaborated with other EU networks including:

- [EU Alliance for Investing in Children](#)
- [Wellbeing Economy Alliance](#)
- [EU4Health Civil Society Alliance](#)
- EU Campaign group on Regulating Unhealthy Marketing to Children
- EU ad-hoc CSO group (working on long-term care)
- [Smoke Free Partnership](#) (developing and co-launching policy and advocacy papers).



Through such collaborations, we aim to facilitate the necessary links between public health and the social inclusion and poverty reduction objectives at both EU and Member states levels.

Significant external events

21 June 2022: FGÖ Conference 'Promoting Health – Protecting the Climate'

- The [annual health promotion conference of the Austrian Health Promotion Fund \(FGÖ\)](#) in Linz made a significant contribution to collaboration and knowledge transfer between various actors on the topic of climate protection and health promotion. EuroHealthNet Director Caroline Costongs [spoke about triple win actions](#).

12-14 September 2022: 72nd session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe

- EuroHealthNet addressed the WHO Regional Committee for Europe at its 72nd meeting in Tel Aviv, Israel, delivering a Joint Statement on the draft Regional digital health action plan. As a recognised Non-State Actor, EuroHealthNet expressed support for the digital health action plan, and offered recommendations to further promote successful and equitable uptake and diffusion of digital health systems and solutions.

EuroHealthNet co-developed a [statement on the European regional action framework for behavioural and cultural insights for health](#), and co-signed two other statements on [alcohol prevention](#) and the [elimination of cervical cancer](#).

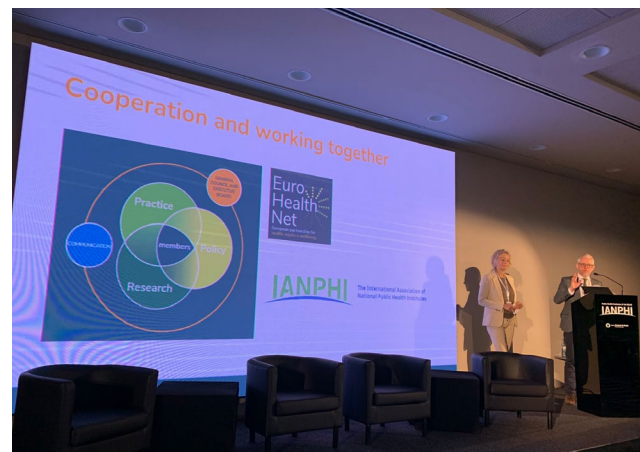
26-29 September 2022: 25th European Health Forum Gastein

- At the [25th European Health Forum Gastein](#), EuroHealthNet attended and spoke at 3 different programme sessions:
 - Co-creating better food systems in Europe
 - Delivering EU health equity
 - Co-benefits through health promotion

20-21 April 2023

IANPHI Europe Annual Meeting

- At the [2023 IANPHI Europe Annual Meeting](#), EuroHealthNet's President, Prof. Dr. Martin Dietrich, and Director Caroline Costongs gave a joint input on "Public health and wellbeing in the next 10 years - How do we address the new challenges and responses as a European family of institutions and organisations?". Hosted by EuroHealthNet's Member, the [Portuguese National Institute of Health Doutor Ricardo Jorge \(INSA\)](#), the meeting took place in Lisbon, Portugal.



President Prof. Dr. Martin Dietrich and Director Caroline Costongs present at the 2023 IANPHI Europe Annual Meeting

26 April 2023

EuroHealthNet European Semester event in the European Parliament.

- Hosted by MEP István Ujhelyi, the event brought together policymakers, national experts, and EU stakeholders (both online and in person) to stimulate a dynamic discussion and exchange perspectives on the potential of strengthening health, equity, and wellbeing in the European Semester. [Discover our 2022 European Semester analysis.](#)



European Semester event, European Parliament.

4

PRACTICE

The Practice Platform aims to boost capacities of public health bodies by building skills to improve knowledge and inspire professionals to promote health and reduce health inequalities using new and best available evidence. EuroHealthNet organises opportunities for capacity building, information days and international exchange.

Establishing new links and capitalising on existing experiences, we worked with organisations in social, digital, educational, and environmental sectors to create further synergies between these areas. Our participation in European project consortia, project coordination and implementation, enables us to contribute to initiatives that can improve societal wellbeing and build resilience.

Building capacity to address societal challenges

Country Exchange Visit 'Investing in a caring community to meet the rising demand for care'

NB: Country Exchange Visits (CEV) are open to experts and senior colleagues from EuroHealthNet Member organisations.

'[Caring communities](#)' promote social participation, and help cities and municipalities meet the increasing demands for care and create age(ing)-friendly environments. This Country Exchange Visit focused on establishing caring communities, simultaneously uncovering the interrelated issues such as how to sustain finances that are experienced by such initiatives. The impact of care in the community initiatives were also monitored and evaluated by attendees.

Participants also had the opportunity to meet with Viennese representatives from the [Caring Community Initiative](#) and a [Community Nursing Initiative](#) - all of whom were either health promotion experts or community service providers.

This CEV took place from the 29-30 March 2023 and was kindly hosted by our Member the [Austrian Health Promotion Fund \(FGÖ\)](#) and Austrian partners.



EuroHealthNet Members attend the Country Exchange Visit in Austria.

The two-day Country Exchange Visit was hosted by the Austrian Health Promotion Fund and welcomed participants from:

- [French National Public Health Agency \(SpF\)](#)
- [German Federal Centre for Health Education \(BZgA\)](#)
- [Hungarian National Public Health Center](#)
- [Italian National Institute of Health \(ISS\)](#)
- [Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment \(RIVM\)](#)
- [North-Macedonian Institute of Public Health](#)
- [Portuguese National Institute of Health \(INSA\)](#)
- [National Institute of Public Health \(NIJZ\)](#)

EuroHealthNet's Country Exchange Visits (CEVs) not only provide the opportunity to engage with individuals directly affected by public health practices but offers the chance to collaborate and exchange ideas with organisations and community practitioners working on common topics of interest. Having the opportunity to learn about social prescribing and its impact on people's lives has completely changed my understanding about the urgency to shift into a new paradigm of practice with the transformational power to deliver a biopsychosocial model of care.

Luciana Costa

Researcher in the Department of Health Promotion and Prevention of Noncommunicable Diseases at the National Institute of Health Dr Ricardo Jorge (INSA), Portugal.

Addressing psychosocial risks and supporting mental health of older workers: policy and practice in action

As health and care workforces grow older and subsequently workforces themselves shrink, meeting the demand for care is increasingly difficult. Consequently, the healthy ageing of older employees is an urgent cause of concern in ageing societies.

Through multi-sectoral collaboration, the health and employment sector cannot only protect the psychosocial health and wellbeing of its older workforce but can also contribute to more resilient and agile business, economies, and societies.



EuroHealthNet's Policy and Practice Officer, Gabriella Sutton, speaks at the 4th Mental health Forum in the Workplace

In October last year, EuroHealthNet brought together 66 participants to discuss how best to collaborate across sectors to mitigate psychosocial risks and support the health of older worker. This [online exchange](#) marked the launch of EuroHealthNet's Policy Brief: '[Psychosocial risks and older workers' health – Strategies for a healthier workplace](#)'.

Building capacity to design inclusive participatory processes



EuroHealthNet's capacity building workshop, which took place in September 2022, brought together 34 Members to discuss '[inclusive participatory processes to design and implement initiatives to improve public health and reduce health inequalities](#)'.

Members heard from external experts from WHO, as well as from fellow Members such as [Public Health Scotland](#) and the [Tuscany Region](#) on a citizens council. All Members actively participated in breakout sessions designed to share their experiences, initiatives, and challenges regarding participatory processes, enabling members to learn from each other.

Connecting members to experts on EU funding and tools

National Focal Points (NFPs) help to implement EU funds and programmes in targeted countries, disseminate results, and provide information about country-specific impacts. Over the past year, EuroHealthNet connected with NFPs to demonstrate how EU financial tools and processes are relevant for health and social equity across the EU.

On 6 September 2022, EuroHealthNet organised a tailored dialogue, connecting Member organisations from Spain ([Andalusian Regional Ministry of Health and Consumer Affairs and the National Ministry of Health](#)) and Slovenia ([National Institute of Public Health \(NIJZ\)](#)) with their respective national coordinators of the [European Child Guarantee](#).

EuroHealthNet also started work on a targeted NFP Directory for the main EU programmes that are relevant to its Partnership.

Offering expertise on financing health promotion

EuroHealthNet continued to support its Members and the wider public health community to consider innovative ways to finance health promoting systems and services. This included EuroHealthNet's online helpdesk – a platform for Members to receive funding/financing support – as well as updates to our [e-Guide on Financing Health Promoting Services](#), which now includes a new chapter on [crowdfunding](#).



Working with Members to access EU support for reforms

EuroHealthNet supported members with the application to the EU's Technical Support Instrument (TSI) - an EU programme that provides tailor-made technical expertise to EU Member States to design and implement reforms.

A TSI application submitted by Slovenia, in 2022 focused on 'Youth FIRST: Supporting children and youth wellbeing, education, training, social protection and labour prospects.' It responded to unique opportunities related to the 2022 European Year of Youth and the implementation of the EU Child Guarantee.

Italy submitted a TSI application on integrated care and liaised with EuroHealthNet during the submission process. In addition, another TSI application from our Andalusian Member was accepted.

Stepping up health promotion through collaboration on vaccine equity, investments and intersectoral approaches



IMMUNION: improving immunisation cooperation in the EU

EuroHealthNet coordinated the [IMMUNION](#) project, which worked to deliver better vaccine education to health professionals and better information to the public. The project was funded by the European Commission's 3rd Health Programme and ran from March 2021 until March 2023.

The project worked in close collaboration with the co-chairs from the Coalition for Vaccination, as well as with several EuroHealthNet Members and observers.

The IMMUNION consortium included the following EuroHealthNet members: the [Romanian National Institute of Public Health](#), the [Latvian Center for Disease Prevention and Control](#) and the [PROLEPSIS Institute](#) in Greece.

Key outputs and project recommendations are brought together in a final Project Booklet. They include:

- [Education and training materials](#) to help healthcare professionals discussed vaccination with their patients and increase trust in vaccines.
- A [toolbox of communication and community engagement tools](#) to increase vaccine uptake in four EU Member States (Italy, Greece, Latvia, Romania), and reports on the process of piloting a selection of tools in the four countries.
- The results of a [survey of over 3,300 healthcare professionals](#) from across Europe concerning their training and education needs on vaccination.

RIVER-EU: reducing inequalities in vaccine uptake

With the objective to improve access to MMR and HPV vaccines amongst specific underserved populations, the [RIVER-EU](#) project is funded by Horizon Europe and runs from 2021 until 2026.

Over the past year, the project focused on collecting evidence on health system determinants of low vaccine uptake (barriers) and high vaccine uptake (enablers) among underserved groups in Europe. To engage and connect community leaders and staff carrying out the field work, 4 communication workshops were organised. Initial findings from the [project helped Polish policymakers and provided national guidance](#) regarding vaccination-related issues affecting Ukrainian refugees to general practitioners.



First General Assembly of RIVER-EU

EuroHealthNet leads the project's communication and dissemination activities, ensuring visibility, effective exploitation and sustainability of results and learnings.

Two Members from the EuroHealthNet Partnership were part of the consortium: the [Finnish National Institute for Health and Welfare \(THL\)](#) and the [PROLEPSIS Institute](#) in Greece.

Despite vaccines' proven potential to save millions of lives, vulnerable groups continue to experience inequalities in access to vaccines and reliable information. Through its participation in several European projects that address vaccine inequities, EuroHealthNet makes a real difference for underserved communities throughout Europe.

Daniela Kállayová

EuroHealthNet Executive Board Member and Senior Public Health Officer
at the Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic

Joint Action PERCH: promoting the uptake of HPV vaccinations

The EU Joint Action PERCH contributes to European efforts to improve the uptake of the HPV vaccine across the European Union. This Joint Action will provide training activities for health professionals on vaccination communication and will promote national vaccination campaigns.

EuroHealthNet's role is to support the Joint Action in the understanding of health inequalities related to the uptake of HPV vaccination.

Several EuroHealthNet Members are part of the Joint Action PERCH:

- [Italian National Institute of Health](#)
- [German Federal Centre for Health Education \(BZgA\)](#)
- [National Public Health Centre of Hungary](#)
- [Slovenian National Institute of Public Health \(NIJZ\)](#)
- [Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic](#)
- [Public Health Agency of Sweden](#)

Invest4Health: novel finance models for health

Launched in January 2023, the new Horizon Europe project '[Invest4Health](#)' aims to incentivise new ways of financing health promotion and disease prevention. It uses a model called 'smart capacitating investment', in which long-term financial benefits to health and related sectors outweigh initial costs and deliver a sustainable return on investment.

EuroHealthNet will lead work on operational readiness and capacity building, with the aim of

1. Achieving stronger cooperation between health systems, public health entities, and other key actors.
2. Supporting integration of locally run and financially sustainable interventions.
3. Mobilising change among policymakers around financing health promotion.



[Invest4Health](#) kick-off meeting, Malmö, Sweden.

“

The scale of investments needed to maintain health services and achieve health equity requires us to act smartly and differently, to create new partnerships and to liaise better with other sectors. We aim to mobilise health policy makers and managers to explore new investment structures and we welcome the opportunity to further work on these challenges within the Invest4Health project.

”

Caroline Costongs

Director of EuroHealthNet

Dialogical+-Work: facilitating interprofessional cooperation

EuroHealthNet is an evaluator of the new Erasmus+ funded project, ‘Dialogical+-Work’ (2022-2024). Promoting integrated approaches in governance models within public settings, the project will provide professionals in the health, educational and social sectors with the necessary skills to work in an inter-sectoral environment to face multiple societal challenges in a coordinated way.

Ensuring the conditions for good health throughout the life course

Schools4Health: paving the way towards health-promoting schools

Launched in January 2023, ‘[Schools4Health](#)’ is a 3-year initiative funded under the EU4Health programme, which aims to raise awareness, strengthen and sustain the health promoting school (HPS) model or other whole school approaches to health.



Transferring and implementing best practices on healthy nutrition, physical activity, and mental health, the aim is to engage with approximately 16 schools. Schools4Health strives to improve health literacy and equity, with special consideration given to school settings in deprived areas.

Led by EuroHealthNet, this 13-partner consortium has a strong representation of public health institutes from the Partnership, including several Members of the Partnership.

[Schools4Health kick-off meeting, Seville, Spain.](#)

Led by EuroHealthNet, this 13-partner consortium has a strong representation of public health institutes from the Partnership, including:

- [Flanders Institute for Healthy Living in Belgium](#)
- [PROLEPSIS Institute in Greece](#)
- [National Public Health Centre of Hungary](#)
- [Riga City Council Department of Welfare in Latvia](#)
- [Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment](#)
- [Romanian National Institute of Public Health](#)
- [Slovenian National Institute of Public Health](#)
- [Andalusian Regional Ministry of Health and Consumer Affairs and the National Ministry of Health](#)

Turning digitalisation into an asset for public health

Label2Enable: developing a quality label for health apps

'[Label2Enable](#)' supports the development and implementation of the EU quality label for health apps. The project builds on the ISO 82304-2 label – a label created for health professionals and patients/citizens, it defines the requirements for producing high quality health and wellness apps. The project is funded through Horizon Europe, and will run between May 2022 and 2024.



Throughout 2022, EuroHealthNet and [PHAROS](#) carried out trainings with various Members so that product testing of the label could be undertaken with individuals who have low digital health literacy. EuroHealthNet Members [Hungarian National Public Health Institute](#), [the Italian National Institute of Health](#), and the [Danish Committee for Health Education participated in the trainings](#).

Testing the label with the target audience will help improve its understandability and access, contributing to better digital health literacy.

The Label2Enable consortium includes 4 Members from the EuroHealthNet Partnership:

- [Pharos Dutch Centre of Expertise on Health Disparities in the Netherlands](#)
- [Hungarian National Public Health Institute](#)
- [Italian National Institute of Health \(ISS\)](#)
- [Danish Committee for Health Education](#)

BeWell: building digital and green skills in the health workforce

The '[BeWell Erasmus+ project](#)' contributes to an upskilling and reskilling strategy of the European health workforce by building a health stakeholder movement. To help future-proof the workforce in an ever-evolving societal context, BeWell considers the health ecosystem to assess the skills needs in a digital and green transition.

EuroHealthNet is currently working on a 'Theory of Change' evaluation framework, as part of the strategy development. In its contribution, EuroHealthNet draws on the important work of the Partnership, advocating for the inclusion of skills in health promotion, disease prevention and health literacy in the blueprint strategy. It is also part of the [large-scale partnership for the health ecosystem](#) launched under the BeWell initiative, as part of its commitment to the [EU Pact for Skills](#).

“ The digital transition can be both the ultimate lever to reach social groups with limited access to healthcare services and the worst accelerator of pre-existing health gaps leaving some groups behind if we are not mindful of inequalities in access to digital technology and varying levels of digital skills. Through its involvement in European projects on digital health and skills, EuroHealthNet ensures that such considerations are at the heart of digital initiative, founding the real transformation on user needs and profile and unlocking their potential for improving health equity. ”

Giovanni Gorgoni

Treasurer of EuroHealthNet and CEO of Apulia Agency for Health and Social Care, Italy



Mental health as the foundation of wellbeing

MENTALITY: piloting and transferring good practices

The COVID-19 pandemic has created lasting challenges for people's mental health and while certain groups are more likely to bear an unequal burden, they are less likely to receive tailored mental health support.



'[MENTALITY](#)' addresses the immediate need for positive mental health and wellbeing support for all. Financed by EU4Health, the project will pilot established European practices that have shown to promote mental wellbeing in certain target audiences in five participating EU countries.

EuroHealthNet Members, the [PROLEPSIS Institute](#) in Greece and the [Riga City Council Department of Welfare](#) in Latvia, will lead pilots in the context of MENTALITY in each respective country.

As a key partner in the project, EuroHealthNet will work to establish a path for the successful and sustainable transfer and adaptation of practices that will help in-country upscale and progress implementation in other EU countries in the future.

IceHearts Europe: team sports as a tool for social wellbeing

'[IceHearts Europe](#)' aims to contribute to policy changes at national and EU level by scaling up at European level the [Finnish IceHearts model](#) – a model which uses team sports as a tool for engaging children with social work. This scale up will be achieved by bringing together five grassroots sport partners as well as stakeholders from the sport, health, and educational sectors.

EuroHealthNet, together with its Member the [Finnish National Institute for Health and Welfare \(THL\)](#), will involve relevant stakeholders to facilitate more substantial implementation as well as effective advocacy efforts and policy changes in the national settings.



5

RESEARCH

EuroHealthNet's Research Platform aims to provide the evidence base needed to develop policies and practices that promote health, equity and wellbeing.

It analyses the EU research landscape and helps Members identify funding opportunities. In addition, it organises Member info-days and match-making events and collaborates on research proposals. The platform also partake in research consortia to address our strategic development priorities and through its capacity-building events it shares findings from research projects.

The EuroHealthNet Research Platform facilitates the translation of research into policy and practice and is closely linked with our work across all our platforms. Our outputs are further enhanced through strong communicative support.

Providing a space to learn about funding opportunities and form consortia

EuroHealthNet hosted its first [Information and Match-making Day](#) on 21 October 2022, which brought together 79 participants from 28 Member organisations. Focussing on the Horizon Europe research and innovation programme, the online session gave participants the opportunity to gain an overview of the 2023-2024 Horizon Europe work programme and learn tips and tricks for submitting Horizon Europe proposals. It also provided a knowledge-exchange platform through matchmaking sessions to discuss selected Horizon Europe opportunities.

A full meeting report was created and made available to all the participants.



Disseminating research on health inequalities

CHAIN: The Centre for Health Inequalities Research

[CHAIN](#) brings together academia from all research disciplines, the United Nations system, civil society, and the private sector to take action to reduce global health inequalities. The Centre is hosted by the [Norwegian University of Science and Technology \(NTNU\)](#) - an Associate Member of EuroHealthNet's Research Platform.



CHAIN's flagship initiatives include:

- Assessing the impact of social inequalities on COVID-19 mortality.
- Integrating socioeconomic inequalities into the Global Burden of Disease study and the European Social Survey.
- Identifying the role of education in inequalities in mortality rates.

Through monitoring and providing input to EU policy, networking, presentations, newsletter, and press releases, EuroHealthNet leads efforts to feed research findings into policymaking processes and disseminate results. Findings from CHAIN are used in its statements and consultation responses, and project partners participate and speak at our events, including our Annual Seminar last year.

“EuroHealthNet is a very valuable partner of CHAIN. With its extensive knowledge of health promotion and determinants of health, connections throughout Europe and its reputation as a trusted source of information and expertise, it has been able to feed our results into European policy initiatives, share research with the public health community and created opportunities to present our findings on the international stage.”

Terje Andreas Eikemo, Leader of CHAIN

Generating evidence and tools to mitigate the health impact of climate change – four Horizon Europe research projects



Project consortium at the PSLifestyle meeting in Berlin in June 2022.

PSLifestyle: positive, sustainable, and healthier lifestyles



'[PSLifestyle](#)' aims to help close the action gap between climate awareness and individual action and increase citizen participation on topics on sustainability. EuroHealthNet is a partner of this project.

In June 2023, the project will launch its main output: an easy-to-use online tool co-created with citizens from 8 European countries. The tool will help individuals understand the effects their daily lifestyles can have upon the environment whilst inspiring thought-provoking discussions on how current habits could change through smart everyday actions.

EuroHealthNet supported local partners to organise inclusive living labs by drafting a [Participant Recruitment and Engagement Strategy](#), and developed a [video to launch the online tool](#).

BEST-COST: estimating the socioeconomic costs of air and noise pollution

'[BEST-COST](#)' sets out to improve methodologies to measure the socioeconomic cost of air and noise pollution. Results from this project will help to harmonise the socioeconomic assessments of pollution across Europe and reduce health impacts of pollution and resulting inequalities through curated policy initiatives.



To ensure targeted outreach and maximum impact, EuroHealthNet delivers communication, dissemination, and exploitation tools and strategies.

Supporting the research methods to quantify the burden of disease caused by pollution, consortium partners include Members from EuroHealthNet

- [Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment \(RIVM\)](#)
- [Finnish National Institute for Health and Welfare \(THL\)](#)
- [Egas Moniz Higher Education Cooperative in Portugal](#)
- [CHAIN – The Centre for Global Health Inequalities Research](#)

“The urgency of action against climate change can no longer be denied. While we see more and more initiatives to mitigate climate change, its consequences for health, wellbeing and health equity are still underacknowledged. EuroHealthNet helps generate knowledge and tools to measure and alleviate its public health impact through its involvement in European projects that address the climate emergency.”

Lorna Renwick

EuroHealthNet Executive Board Member and Organisational Lead for NHS Leadership,
Health Equity, Public Health Scotland

BlueAdapt: reducing climate-based risks in blue environments



'BlueAdapt' investigates the impacts of climate change on coastal waters and the subsequent impacts on human health. Through work that will assess and quantify the associated risks, an extended One Health conceptual framework will be developed to connect existing models of ecological public health with health equity as a central component.

This project will investigate the potential facilitators and barriers to actions through the creation of 7 national European case studies. Based on these results, BlueAdapt will develop useful tools such as early warning systems and safe swimming apps for policy-makers and citizens.

EuroHealthNet will support the policy and communications work to shape the outcomes on the risks of coastal pathogens and climate change into policy tools. The [Italian National Institute of Health \(ISS\)](#), a EuroHealthNet Member, is part of the consortium.

Improving food systems to prevent chronic diseases

FEAST: facilitating a transition to healthy and sustainable diets

The Horizon Europe research project [FEAST](#) supports the transition towards healthier and more sustainable European food systems by replicating best practices and co-designing novel solutions with food system stakeholders, including diverse vulnerable groups. FEAST facilitates this transition at all levels of the food system (micro, meso and macro) and in all sectors (producers, distributors, retailers, and consumers).



EuroHealthNet leads the project's policy work to co-design policy recommendations by using a policy dialogue methodology to facilitate stakeholder engagement. The policy recommendations will focus on how to overcome policy constraints to innovation, and it will involve different food system actors, as well as public health actors.

Healthy food for a healthy future - Joint Action Best-ReMaP

'[Best-ReMaP](#)' is a European-wide Joint Action that seeks to improve the quality of food supplied to European citizens. Funded by the European Union's Health Programme, and implemented by 36 partners in 24 countries, it facilitates the exchange and testing of good practices concerning:

- Food reformulation
- Marketing of food and beverages to children
- Public procurement of food



Best-ReMaP

Healthy Food for a Healthy Future

EuroHealthNet supports the [Italian National Institute of Health \(ISS\)](#) transfer and integrate Best-ReMaP's results into EU policies and has published and presented a [paper that advocates for the creation of a food system sustainability scoreboard in the EU Semester](#). Working with ISS and the [Slovenian National Institute of Public Health \(NIJZ\)](#), EuroHealthNet organises regional and European policy dialogues aimed to facilitate the implementation of Best-ReMaP outcomes into European and national legislation.

“

Healthy food promotes the health of our next generation and protects the planet. Sustainable food system actions are at the core of Best-ReMaP, where EuroHealthNet policy intelligence supports the implementation efforts of 24 EU and accessing countries, exploring together the sustainable policy measures for improving EU food environment. By participating in Best-ReMaP and FEAST consortia, EuroHealthNet helps create the building blocks for EU action to drive a transition towards more healthier and sustainable food systems.

”

Dr. Mojca Gabrijelčič

Honorary Advisor of EuroHealthNet and Healthy Lifestyle Department Head
at the National Institute of Public Health (NIJZ) in Slovenia.

- The Best-ReMaP consortium includes EuroHealthNet Members the [Italian National Institute of Health \(ISS\)](#) and the [Slovenian National Institute of Public Health \(NIJZ\)](#).

The European Public Health Conference

The 15th European Public Health Conference took place in Berlin in November 2022. This annual high-profile event for researchers attracts an average of 2,000 participants. Six staff representatives from EuroHealthNet were in attendance.

Each year, EuroHealthNet organises a plenary at the European Public Health Conference. The 2022 plenary, '[Reorienting health services: the transformational potential of health promotion](#)' included speakers from the WHO and the UCL Centre for Behaviour Change. The Expert Panel on Effective Ways of Investing in Health provided examples of ways in which health-promoting approaches can reorient health services, strengthen health-promoting and community oriented primary care and prevent chronic diseases.

EuroHealthNet also spoke at, chaired and moderated six other sessions, and showcased the work of the Partnership in its exhibition booth.



EuroHealthNet Members join the stand at EPHC 2022



EPHC Workshop: EuroHealthNet's Policy Manager, Dorota Sienkiewicz presents



EuroHealthNet President Prof. Dr. Martin Dietrich and Director Caroline Costongs open EuroHealthNet's Plenary session at the European Public Health Conference (EPHC) 2022

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COMMUNICATIONS

EuroHealthNet's communications team amplifies the Partnership's messages and expertise. It disseminates reliable, evidence-based, and timely information to the community working on public health, social equity, and determinants of health and beyond. It similarly creates connections between people, resources, and initiatives to facilitate advocacy for a healthier and fairer Europe.

Connecting experts and facilitating exchange

Facilitating international exchange between communications professionals

EuroHealthNet's Communications Network brings together communication professionals working in Member organisations. The group helps bring regional and national issues that Members experience to the European level, while providing information on European initiatives and updates to participants. The network fosters an international exchange on current communication related activities, common issues, solutions, and resources. These meetings also provide a prime opportunity to share EuroHealthNet's latest work and outputs with members from the Partnership.

As well as being a knowledge exchange platform, the Communications Network also provides the opportunity for Members to further their communication knowledge through tailor-made trainings. Last year, a podcast training day was organised which gave Members a detailed understanding of all the processes required to plan, create, and promote a high-quality podcast, including resources needed to get started.

Sharing the latest opportunities with Members

EuroHealthNet's Network Intelligence newsletter is a unique, Members-only mailing which includes Member-only event invitations. It also includes present calls for EU-funded projects and opportunities to engage with other Members working on the same topics. It is a crucial communication tool to gather and share intelligence from and with EuroHealthNet's Members.

Amongst other things, the newsletter also shares EuroHealthNet's Members-only policy briefings, which respond to and explain current policy developments in a rapid, timely and relevant way.

Additionally, feedback from Members in relation to calls for inputs helps to shape EuroHealthNet's publications. Similarly, such feedback which includes expert insights, concrete actions, and good practice examples aids EuroHealthNet's consultation responses to both the European Commission and WHO.

In December 2022, Network Intelligence had 860 subscribers.

Disseminating reliable, evidence-based, and timely information

“

EuroHealthNet has made a name for itself by being a point of expertise and reliable information regarding public health, health promotion, socioeconomic determinants, and health equity. Our Partnership can always rely on the office to inform us of opportunities and developments, as well as to share news of its Members with its wide audience throughout Europe.

”

Raffaella Bucciardini

EuroHealthNet Executive Board Member and Head of Operative Unit Health Equity ISS
at the Italian Institute of Health

The European information hub on health inequalities

EuroHealthNet's [Health Inequalities Portal](#) is a leading repository of scientific evidence, effective good practices, and policy initiatives to improve health equity. Information found within the Health Inequalities Portal is continuously kept up to date.



Striving to improve health equity in Europe, EuroHealthNet continued to collect and collate relevant scientific evidence, as well as effective good practices and policy initiatives over the past year. The portal is available in all EU languages, thanks to a machine translation feature on the website (which has been improved where possible with the support of native speakers).

In 2022, 94,756 people used the Health Inequalities Portal. The platform had 160,546 page views, with 121 new entries being added to its resource database.

Sharing the latest on health equity, wellbeing, and their determinants

Gathering the most important news related to health promotion, determinants of health, and health inequalities, EuroHealthNet disseminates the latest updates to the European public health community through its monthly [Health Highlights newsletter](#).

The newsletter reaches over 6,000 subscribers each month and is shared via our website and across our social media channels. Health

Highlights covers news from our Members as part of the EuroHealthNet Partnership, informing our Members and audience of the main public health advancements, developments at the EU institutions, as well as international developments and the newest publications. Over the past year, 10 newsletters have been sent.



Making our work accessible to all

EuroHealthNet aims to make all its resources available in an accessible format. As part of this effort, we aim to translate our online presence, as well as a selection of our publications into various European languages. Our websites already transcribe our content into all EU languages across our sites, and we are continuously working to improve this function. By offering this interpretation we aim to reach a more, diverse, and open European audience.

Aside from languages, EuroHealthNet also aims to make its work accessible to people who have sensory impairments. Accessibility features on our websites allow users to change how information on our website is presented. Similarly, we take into consideration graphical elements and typography when it comes to our publications including colour contrast and font size. In the same way, specific attention is paid to ensure technical data is easy to understand.

Having the opportunity to contribute to EuroHealthNet's Health Promotion and Disease Prevention TWIG as well as being able to translate the Policy Précis' into Italian, allows to inform Italian public health professionals about the current public health challenges being faced; in addition to providing international tools, examples and recommendations to help address them.

Claudio Tortone

Projects and Plans Area Directorat the Piedmont Regional Health Promotion
Documentation Center (DoRS), Italy

Sharing the stories behind the developments in health equity, public health & care

Facilitating an exchange of international experiences, best practices, and perspectives, [EuroHealthNet Magazine](#) uncovers the healthcare challenges being faced in Europe.

The Magazine targets professionals working in public health, social equity, determinants of health, and beyond, and collaboration is undertaken with both experts in the field and local community workers to highlight the real-life impacts of policy, research, and practice.

A bi-annual publication with an annual circulation of 50,000 readers in Europe and across the world, the latest releases, editions 19 and 20, were published in July and December 2022. In both editions the emphasis was on the human stories behind health equity, featuring timely topics including the cost-of-living crisis, COVID-19, and social prescribing.

The Magazine is available in all EU languages via the sites in-built translation tool.



“ Publishing an article about children's experiences of the cost-of-living crisis in EuroHealthNet Magazine helped explain how economic downturn impacts children to a wide European audience. The value of the Magazine lies in facilitating international exchange as well as raising awareness of determinants of health among professionals within and beyond the field of public health. ”

Pia Sundell

EuroHealthNet Vice-President and Executive Director for the Finnish Children's Welfare Association

Working with the media

Over the last 12 months, we have published 14 press releases. These featured topics included the launch of our [European Pillar of Social Rights Flashcard Tool](#), [our 2022 analysis of the EU Recovery and Resilience Plans](#), and the release of three Policy Précis.

All press releases are available [here](#).

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HOW WE WORK

Financing and funding

EuroHealthNet's funding comes from the following three sources:

1. Member and Associate Member fees
2. A core operating grant from the European Social Fund+ (ESF+)
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.

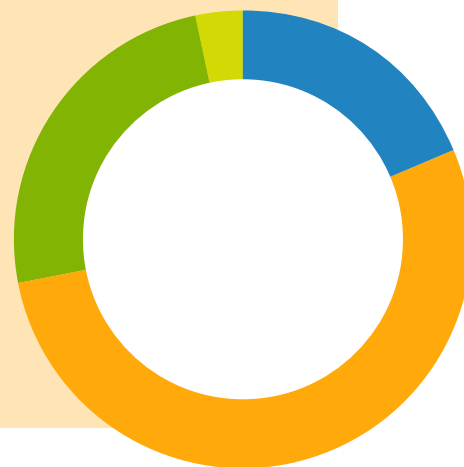
In addition to internal financial management and planning, an external accountant prepares the annual financial and balance reports, which are then certified by a separate auditing firm. The General Council approves the financial reports at its annual meeting.

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 resources, and financial rules are set out in EuroHealthNet's, 'How We Work' document, available upon request. We consider and evaluate the environmental impacts of all actions and procurement decisions.

Income 2022

● Members & Partners fees:	€ 229,000
● ESF core grant:	€ 648,000
● Other project grants:	€ 300,000
● Tenders & misc:	€ 38,000

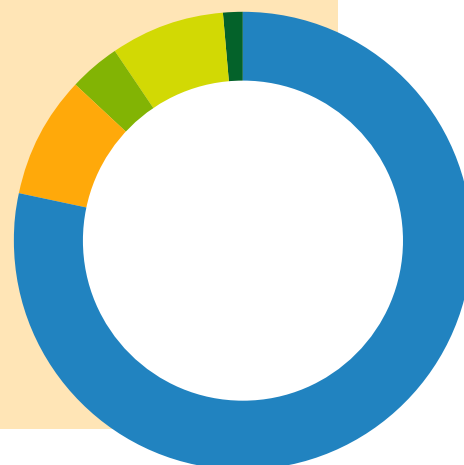
Total € 1,215,000



Expenditure 2022

● Employees:	€ 963,000
● General operations:	€ 105,000
● External services:	€ 44,000
● Project deliverables:	€ 98,500
● Other costs:	€ 16,500

Total € 1,227,000



Building a diverse workforce and inclusive workplace

Since its adoption by EuroHealthNet's General Council on 1 June 2022, the office took forward its [Gender, Equality and Diversity Policy](#). Most prominently, our recruitment process was evaluated, leading to new practices including more gender-neutral job descriptions, and strict guidelines for anonymising applications to ensure a more objective selection of candidates, as well as gender-balanced interview panels.

A new video sets out the concrete actions specified in our Gender, Equality and Diversity Policy, as well as EuroHealthNet's ambitions for the future.

I will always cherish this experience as my first genuine insight in public health at a European level. Your team has been an absolute wonder to work with, and I look forward to applying everything they taught me into my future career.

Sylvia Agarici

Intern at EuroHealthNet in 2022



External Evaluation

2022 saw the introduction of a new external evaluation period and a new set of indicators that are to be used in the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework for the 4-year period 2022-2025. These indicators were refined by Dominique Danau of SAGO Research – a qualitative and quantitative data collection and research service - in close cooperation with senior management and the Executive Board.

Underpinning the external evaluation by a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework, allows EuroHealthNet to more effectively align

evaluation efforts of the [Strategic Development Plan 2021-2026](#) and monitoring its implementation. The methodology for the external evaluation was approved by the Executive Board in November 2022.

EuroHealthNet's 2022 [evaluation report](#) exemplifies a well-established and recognised organisation in the health community and beyond. In addition, to the vital advocacy work undertaken by EuroHealthNet, having opportunities to exchange knowledge, expertise, and experiences are particularly appreciated by members. Similarly, informative resources regarding EU-level developments, policies and (financial) instruments including the work of other members and projects are very much valued by the Partnership.

It wouldn't be possible without you

Our work would not be possible without the continued commitment and support of Members, Associate Members, Observers, and the European Commission's ESF+ Operating Grant (2022-2025). Thanks to you, we continue to deliver results that will create healthier and fairer futures for all.



[EuroHealthNet Partnership, 2022](#)

Our team has continued to expand over the past year, as we welcomed new team members Emilia Lindquist, Ioanna Tsetika, Anne Wagenführ-Leroy, Eleanor Morrissey, Chris Russ, and Hannes Jarke who will work across management, policy, operations, practice, and research.

In EuroHealthNet, we also work with several external suppliers and we continue to be extremely grateful for their support. Many thanks to our financial support, accountant Frédéric Demaude, and financial auditors, RSM, to our technical support, Alka, and our external design consultants, graphic designers, Wim Vandersleyen, Jan Omer Fack and Edouard Schneider, web designers PurplePlanet and Re.Brand as well as animation studio Flan Caramel.

It would not be possible without you, and we thank you all for your support.

Join us

EuroHealthNet's mission is to help build a sustainable, fair, and inclusive Europe through healthier communities by tackling health inequalities within and between European States.

If you share our vision of a fairer, healthier, and sustainable future and are working on the determinants of health and/or social and health inequalities, join us!

Who can become a Member?



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

Non-statutory bodies, such as universities, non-governmental and civil society organisations, and other international networks

can join the EuroHealthNet Partnership as associate members. Associate members can become part of one or more of our three platforms (Policy, Practice and Research).

To find out [how you can become a Member](#) and the [benefits of being one](#), or if you have any further questions, please contact our Senior Operations Coordinator David Hargitt via d.hargitt@eurohealthnet.eu

Together we can help build a sustainable, fair, and inclusive Europe.

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 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 an Executive Board.

Euro Health Net

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Contact us

Rue Royale 146
1000 Brussels
+32 2 235 03 20

info@eurohealthnet.eu
www.eurohealthnet.eu
www.health-inequalities.eu

Follow us: [@eurohealthnet](https://twitter.com/eurohealthnet)



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