

Call for Applications

Independent evaluation and impact assessment of EuroHealthNet programming, activities and the organisation as a whole, with a particular focus on activities and programmes supported by the EU Framework Partnership Agreement for a core grant in the field of social inclusion under the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) (2026-2029)

Terms of References

EuroHealthNet is the European Partnership for health, equity, and wellbeing. It consists of over 80 bodies from European countries responsible for public health and health promotion in Europe. It brings together more than 80 Members, Associate Members, and Observers from 32 European countries, including 25 EU Member States working on public health, disease prevention, promoting health and wellbeing, and reducing inequalities across Europe. EuroHealthNet is a non-profit organisation (asbl/ vzw) under Belgian law with an office in Brussels. For more information, please visit www.EuroHealthNet.eu.

EuroHealthNet's work is supported by a core grant from the European Commission, DG Employment and Social Affairs, through the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+). This grant supports a four-year framework (01/2026-12/2029) which is comprised of annual work plans around achieving five specific objectives. Each specific objective will be implemented through a Work Package, led by our Core team, our three Platforms for Policy, Practice and Research, and by our Communications team.

Our specific objectives are to:

1. Realise and expand a **high-quality, effective and sustainable European Partnership** for promoting social rights and health equity which engages a rich diversity of public authorities, civil society, and other key actors at EU, national, regional and local levels to concretely and directly contribute to the EU social policy objectives and related initiatives (including the demographic, digital and green transitions); (delivered by our Core team)

Expected main impact: Increased awareness of national, regional and local member organisations about the EU policies, initiatives and actions in the field of social inclusion, health equity and social protection.

2. Engage our members and contribute to the **effective implementation of the EPSR principles and other relevant policy initiatives** at EU, national, regional and local level, addressing health and social inequalities. This will be achieved through briefings and Policy Précis well-grounded in evidence, public policy labs and internal dialogues with members,

European Semester analysis, as well as reinforced cooperation with key social and health actors to create synergies; *(delivered by our Policy Platform)*.

Expected main impact: This will lead to an increased capacity of the EuroHealthNet Partnership's members to support policy-making and implementation of the EPSR's principles.

3. Strengthen the **capacities, competencies and knowledge** of national, regional and local member organisations and stakeholders, and facilitate the collection, exchange and transfer of good practices, to promote social inclusion, health equity and combat poverty. This will be achieved through member-led collaboration and capacity building, enabling active contributions to the implementation of the EPSR, its (new) Action Plan and related initiatives, and improving the use of EU funding opportunities, including the current and next Multi-annual Financial Framework (2028-2035); *(delivered by our Practice Platform)*.

Expected main impact: We will achieve improved awareness of EU policies, good practices and funding among EuroHealthNet's members to deliver on the EPSR

4. **Collect data, evidence and information of situations on the ground to feed into policies, practice and research** at EU, national, regional and local levels to reduce poverty, social exclusion and health inequalities. Research findings, citizen and stakeholder networks and instruments such as the Social Scoreboard will serve to provide input to the European Semester process, support the implementation of EPSR principles and related initiatives, and enhance understanding of what's required to achieve Economies that deliver more Wellbeing; *(delivered by our Research Platform)*.

Expected main impact: This will help EuroHealthNet enhance relevant research and data availability in health equity that will support our Policy, Practice, and Communications teams to generate effective action.

5. Organise **communication, dissemination and engagement activities** internally and externally, to raise awareness of the EPSR, promote social rights in Europe, combat poverty, ill-health and social inequalities, and help address the green, digital and demographic transitions in an equitable way; increasing and improving dialogue between actors in Member States, citizens and the EU Institutions; *(delivered by our Communications Team)*.

Expected main impact: This will lead to improved awareness of EU policies (EPSR in particular) as well as increased awareness among EU and national authorities of the needs and potential of the EuroHealthNet Partnership.

Monitoring and comprehensive evaluation are intrinsic to our core work. EuroHealthNet has successfully been evaluated over the past years (see external evaluation reports on our [website](#) for transparency reasons).

EuroHealthNet seeks to engage an external evaluator for the duration of the framework partnership agreement. The evaluator will perform constant evaluation and impact assessment of EuroHealthNet's ESF+-related programmes, activities, as well as, when appropriate, the wider organisation, to monitor progress made towards achievement of its main organisational objectives, and to assess the impact of its work. The evaluator will perform interviews and surveys with members of EuroHealthNet's Partnership, as well as other relevant stakeholders (e.g., EU institutions, WHO Euro, partner organisations, etc.).

The results will not only identify accomplishments but also generate knowledge on the shortfalls, thus contributing to lessons learned and informing organisational strategy, sustainability, and resource allocation. The evaluation and impact assessment will contribute to better-informed decision-making and promote greater accountability for performance in the coming years.

I. Evaluation Terms

The four-year evaluation process will consist of the following:

1st year (2026): The evaluation work will begin with the development of the overall 4-year annual evaluation and impact assessment plan and methodology. It will build on and take forward findings of the external evaluation from the periods 2018-2021 and 2022-2025. Output, outcome and impact indicators proposed by EuroHealthNet in the framework grant agreement proposal will be validated and/or adapted as needed by the external evaluator, and baseline data will be collected to support analysis of findings over the 4-year period. By December 2026, the evaluator will also assess progress of the 2026 work programme for all specific objectives in all work packages (culminating in a 1st short report).

2nd year (2027): The evaluation work will involve data collection and data analysis for 2027 and the development of a 2nd short by December 2027.

3rd year (2028): The evaluation work will involve data collection and data analysis for 2028 and the development of a 3rd short report by December 2028.

4th year (2029): The evaluation work will involve data collection and data analysis for 2029 and the development of a 4th short report by December 2029. In addition, in 2029, a final 4-year impact assessment and public summary report should be produced, including conclusions drawn from the 4-year process on how EuroHealthNet has supported systemic change, policies, research and practices addressing health and social inequalities, as well as further

recommendations. The final 4-year impact assessment will inform EuroHealthNet's decision-making on future policies, programmes, and strategies for sustainability beyond the EU Framework Partnership Agreement 2026-2029.

II. Evaluation and impact assessment plan 2026-2029

An evaluation and impact assessment plan 2026-2029, which will operationalise and direct the four annual evaluations and the 4-year impact assessment 2026-2029, should include, but not be limited to, a description of the framework, methodology, and timeline. The evaluator is encouraged to select some of the guiding questions provided below as an area of focus.

For the 4-year impact assessment, the evaluator should assess EuroHealthNet's progress towards achieving the aims of its current ([Strategic Development Plan 2021-2026](#)) and new Strategic Development Plan 2026-2031, specifically as they relate to the strategic objectives of our 4-year operating framework. Concretely, the impact assessment should answer questions regarding how the EuroHealthNet Partnership achieves change which promotes health and social rights and improves health equity and wellbeing at local, regional, national and European levels.

A.-The evaluation may use the following guiding questions to inform the impact assessment. For each question, the evaluator will need to think through a methodology, potential indicators and measurements:

1. **Member Satisfaction & Engagement:** Do members feel that EuroHealthNet is addressing their expectations and needs in policy, practice, and research? How well are EuroHealthNet's activities and resources disseminated within member organisations? How well is the Executive Board, composed of members, integrated into wider activities, and is EuroHealthNet making the most of their knowledge, networks, etc.?
2. **Our activities and business plan:** To what extent do activities for the ESF+ core grant, as well as our other project activities, align with EuroHealthNet's Strategic Development Plan and contribute to the achievement of strategic objectives? How coherent is EuroHealthNet's presentation across these varied projects, and how do they contribute to the overall visibility and reputation of the organisation? How adaptive is EuroHealthNet in the context of new digital realities?
3. **The European Pillar of Social Rights:** How have EuroHealthNet's activities contributed to awareness of and engagement with the European Pillar of Social Rights?
4. **Support of policy making and Communication:** Did EuroHealthNet's work lead to improved awareness about EU policies, good practices and funding among our members and increased capacity of EuroHealthNet to support policy making? Has EuroHealthNet's

visibility (vis-à-vis EU and national policy makers and national and regional health and wellbeing actors) increased over the period 2026-2029?

5. **Alliance-building:** How does the memorandum of understanding and collaboration with the WHO European Regional Office contribute to the achievement of strategic objectives? Could alliances be further leveraged to keep health equity on national and European policy agendas and reduce fragmentation?

B.- Framework of output and outcome indicators and measuring performance:

The evaluator will also need to evaluate outputs and outcomes using (intermediate) performance indicators to identify and assess proximal, distal, and consequential impacts of our work as part of the multiannual ESF+ Framework Partnership Agreement. In order to do this, the evaluator will adopt quantitative and qualitative approaches, establishing output indicators, quantitative and qualitative targets and designing impact and outcome indicators and targets. The framework will be developed for the three Platforms and core functions. The information will be gathered in cooperation with office staff, analysed and synthesised in the brief annual evaluation reports, and used for subsequent actions.

More detailed information about EuroHealthNet's output, outcome and impact indicators and 2029 targets from its Framework Partnership Agreement 2026-2029 for a core grant under the European Social Fund Plus is available upon request.

III. Accountabilities and Responsibilities

EuroHealthNet's Director and Programme Managers will oversee the evaluation process. The evaluator will report to the Executive Board of EuroHealthNet and present the results to the General Council.

The evaluator is responsible for: 1) designing and conducting the evaluation; 2) the day-to-day management of evaluation-related operations; 3) regular reporting on the progress; 4) the analysis and development of results; and 5) the production of deliverables in accordance with contractual requirements.

IV. Process of Selection of the Evaluator

To respond to this call, the candidate evaluator must submit a short outline of the evaluation approach as described under the Evaluation Terms. The draft approach is to be submitted by **Friday, 27 February 2026, EOB.**

The EuroHealthNet's Director and Programme Managers will review shortlisted submissions and select the most appropriate candidates for an interview with EuroHealthNet's Director and one or more members of its Executive Board. As soon as the selection of the evaluator is completed, work can commence shortly thereafter.

V. Evaluator's Qualifications

We are seeking a professional evaluator:

- With a proven record and extensive experience in monitoring and evaluation of organisations implementing EU-funded projects.
- Skilled in going beyond the most immediate results of data analysis to provide timely evidence to underpin strategic guidance to help further improve governance and scale up work.
- Interested and experienced on health and social determinants of health, European policies and practices.
- Knowledgeable about European Pillar of Social Rights, the European Semester process, the WHO European Programme of Work (2026-2030), the Sustainable Development Goals, and related strategies, programmes and targets.
- Fluent in English (native speaker level). Knowledge of other European languages is an asset.
- Highly methodological and with excellent written skills.

VI. Budget and Application

The budget planned for the four-year work is maximum 36 000 €, VAT included. In the first year, the amount budgeted is 9 000 €.

Candidates meeting these requirements and interested in undertaking this work should send an email to Anne Wagenführ-Leroy at a.wagenfuehr-leroyer@eurohealthnet.eu by **Friday, 27 February 2026 end of business with the following subject line 'EuroHealthNet evaluation 2026-2029'**.

Please include

- Your proposal
- A description of your approach and their methodology
- Proof of your expertise

Thank you for your interest in EuroHealthNet!