Support for health civil society and the restoration of operating grants under the EU4Health Work Programme

We, the undersigned civil society organisations (CSOs) from across Europe, stand in solidarity with EU health CSOs calling for meaningful, adequate and predictable operating support under the 2026 EU4Health Work Programme and beyond.

We call on the European Commission to act upon the concerns raised by Member States and put into practice the principles set out in the EU Civil Society Strategy, including its commitment to provide CSOs with adequate, sustainable and transparent funding that enables meaningful participation in policymaking.

In recent years, CSOs across Europe have operated in an increasingly challenging environment, facing shrinking resources and, in some countries, attempts to discredit their work and restrict their ability to operate independently. Against this backdrop, the removal of operating grants for EU health CSOs is particularly concerning. This comes despite many organisations having concluded Framework Partnership Agreements with the European Commission and operating grants representing only a small share of the overall EU4Health budget. It also comes in the context of strong political support for their continuation, including a non-paper signed by 13 Member States in March 2026 and a letter signed by 70 MEPs from different political groups and countries in April 2026, both addressed to the European Commission.

This issue goes beyond health. **As the EU prepares its next Multiannual Financial Framework, we are concerned about the precedent this could set for CSOs across sectors.** The commitments of the EU Civil Society Strategy must be translated into concrete action, including adequate and predictable funding that enables civil society to participate independently and meaningfully in EU policymaking.

EU health and patient advocacy organisations are an essential part of European democracy. They bring the voices and experiences of patients, communities and citizens into policymaking and contribute independent expertise to public health debates and major EU legislation. Like CSOs in other sectors, they help ensure pluralistic, balanced, and evidence-based policymaking. Member States have made clear through two votes on the draft 2026 EU4Health Work Programme the importance of continued support for health civil society.

We therefore call on the European Commission to reinstate meaningful, adequate and sustainable operating grants for EU health CSOs in the 2026 EU4Health Work Programme and beyond.

We stand with our colleagues in the health sector and with the broader principle that civil society must have the means to participate fully and independently in European democracy. The EU's commitment to a strong civil society must be reflected not only in its strategies, but also in the funding that makes meaningful participation possible.

A.N.I.F.

Associazione Nazionale Ipercolesterolemia Familiare - A.P.S. Italia

Life Advocacy Center

afa Crohn · RCH · France

AFVD

AIDES MILITER · AGIR · TRANSFORMER

AIDS Action Europe

Alliance société sans tabac

Alliance maladies rares

Alzheimer Europe

Amalyste

ANIMAL ADVOCACY & FOOD TRANSITION

APODEC AU COEUR DE LA VIE

apss Association des Patients Souffrant du Syndrome de l'Intestin Irritable

asma y alergia ESPAÑA

ASPTMR

AINP ASSOCIATION D'INFORMATION NÉVRALGIE PUDENDALE & DOULEURS PELVI-PÉRINÉALES

Sclérodermie France

FibromyalgieSOS ASSOCIATION NATIONALE

acec Association for Culture Education Communication

ANME

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Association française des hémophiles

AFPric Association Française des Polyarthritiques & des Rhumatismes Inflammatoires Chroniques

AFE

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Association Nationale Spina Bifida Handicaps

ECL Association of European Cancer Leagues

ASPHER The Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region

Sport for All Not Only Success

International Society of Doctors for Environment ISDE

Valentin Haüy Avec les aveugles et les malvoyants Agir pour l'autonomie

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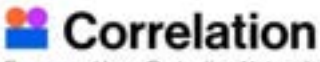
Correlation
European Harm Reduction Network

CyFPA
CYPRUS FEDERATION OF
PATIENTS' ASSOCIATIONS

CF Europe

DSW
Deutsche Stiftung
Weltbevölkerung
youth
can

DIGESTIVE CANCERS
EUROPE

EUROPEAN CENTRAL COUNCIL OF HOMEOPATHY
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EATG
European
AIDS Treatment
Group

EUROGROUP
FOR ANIMALS

EuroHealthNet

EUROPA
DONNA

ECHDO
European Congenital
Heart Disease Organisat

EEB
European
Environmental
Bureau

eufic

EHMA
European Health Management Association

ehn
European Heart Network

ELPA
European Liver
Patients' Association

EME
European ME Alliance

EMHA | IMHA
The Migraine Movement

emsp
EUROPEAN
MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS
PLATFORM

ENSP

EPF
European
Patients
Forum

epha
european
public health
alliance

EUPHA
EUROPEAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION

EPSU
EUROPEAN PUBLIC SERVICE UNION

european
youth forum

EURORDIS
RARE DISEASES EUROPE

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Amis de la Santé

Fédération
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GLOBAL IN MIND
global institute for mental
health innovations, networking
and development a.s.b.l.

Greek
Patients'
Association

HAI
HEALTH
ACTION
INTERNATIONAL

HEAL
HEALTH AND
ENVIRONMENT
ALLIANCE

Health Care Plus
Collaboration · Coordination
Sharing & Learning

Health Care
Without Harm

hdri
Human Development
Research Initiative

HAPO
Hungarian Alliance
of Patient Organization

MAGYAR COELIAKIA
EGYESÜLET
HUNGARIAN COELIAC
SOCIETY

ILGA
EUROPE
Equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual,
trans and intersex people
in Europe

1958
COGNOSCERE EST MUTARE

INSTITUTE OF
ECONOMIC SCIENCES
Institute of national significance
for the Republic of Serbia

IPOPI
INTERNATIONAL

ISCA
International Sport and
Culture Association

JESC
Jesuit
European
Social
Centre

KADC

la dent bleue

le planning familial

LHL International

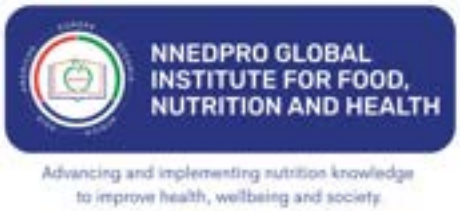
LIFELONG LEARNING PLATFORM
EUROPEAN CIVIL SOCIETY FOR EDUCATION

LUNGS EUROPE

Make Mothers Matter

MHN
MALTA HEALTH NETWORK
A NETWORK OF NON GOVERNMENTAL & NOT FOR PROFIT ORGANISATIONS

Mental Health Europe

NSULF
National School, University and Leisure Sport Federation

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SRP

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PARTNERSHIP

social platform

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Association des familles victimes du saturnisme	Association Epilepsie-France
Association LA CROIX BLEUE	Catalan Institute of Oncology
ENDOmind France	Epilepsie France
FEANTSA	Fédération Française des Diabétiques
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