



# Meeting of the Public Health Expert Group

Welcome and Introduction

DG SANTE  
European Commission  
*19-20 June 2024*

*Health and  
Food Safety*

# Agenda

Wednesday, 19<sup>th</sup> June (14:15 – 17:30)

Welcome and introduction

Progress on work of subgroups under PHEG

Update from international organisations (OECD, WHO, UNICEF)

Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> June (9:30 – 13:30)

PHEG policy priorities and policy coordination

Opportunities for synergies (DG REFORM, European Investment Bank)

AOB and next steps



# Progress on work of subgroups under PHEG

DG SANTE  
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Health and  
Food Safety

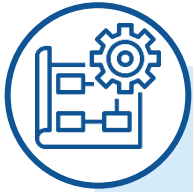
# PHEG subgroup on mental health

Supports development and implementation of Commission Communication on a comprehensive approach to mental health, chaired by SANTE.

Adopted on 7 June 2023

20 flagship initiatives and EUR 1.23 billion in funding opportunities.

## State of Play – flagship initiatives



### Tracking framework for the flagship initiatives

Published on 13 May 2024

Monitor progress and implementation of the flagships

Next update: World Mental Health Day, 10 October

### Flagship 1: European Mental Health Capacity Building initiative (EUR 11 million)

Reform of mental health systems via capacity building and policy dialogues

In cooperation with WHO

# PHEG subgroup on mental health

## **Flagship 18: EU guidance on stigma and discrimination**

Drafting group on stigma to develop actions in cooperation with WHO, stakeholders and people with lived experience

## **Flagships 9 and 16: Youth First Flagship and integrated cross-sectoral mental health services**

Support from Technical Support Instrument (TSI), managed by DG REFORM

## **Flagship 15: EU PROMENS – capacity building of professionals (EUR 9 million)**

Multidisciplinary training and exchange programme  
2000 professionals trained across the EU by 2026

# PHEG subgroup on mental health

## Joint actions

### **JA ImpleMENTAL** (EUR 5.3 million)

- ✓ Transferring best practices on mental health systems reforms and suicide prevention.

### **Joint action MENTOR** (EUR 6 million; EU4Health 2023 work programme)

- ✓ Will support the implementation of the Mental Health Communication.

### **Joint action** under EU4Health 2024 work programme (EUR 6 million)

- ✓ Future joint action that will address the mental health of vulnerable groups
- ✓ Coordinators and work package leaders

# PHEG subgroup on mental health

## Next steps

### Flagship 4: EU Repository of best and promising practices on mental health (EU Best Practices Portal)

- Call for best and promising practices.
- 29 practices were presented at online marketplace 11-13 March 2024: [Best and promising practices on mental health promotion, prevention, and early detection and intervention](#)
- Selection by PHEG of best and promising practices for possible transfer
- Outputs of the drafting group on stigma to be considered horizontally in ongoing/new joint actions

# Update cancer subgroup

## Meetings of the cancer subgroup

- ✓ **General meetings** on 5/03, 23/04 & 12/06
- ✓ **Dedicated meetings** on possible measures to reduce human health risks associated with the use of sunbeds on 19/12/2023 & 24/01/2024
- ✓ **Thematic group meetings:**
  - ✓ European Cancer Inequalities Registry on 21/03
  - ✓ eCancer on 15/03



# Update cancer subgroup

## Recent developments:

- ✓ Council Recommendation on vaccine preventable cancers
- ✓ Council Recommendation on smoke-free environments
- ✓ Commission Recommendation on reducing health risks associated with the use of sunbeds
- ✓ Commission Recommendation on clinical audits of medical radiological practices
- ✓ Conference to mark the third anniversary of the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan on 31/01
- ✓ Code of conduct for cancer survivors' access to financial services (conference on 14/05)
- ✓ Study on mapping and evaluating the implementation of the Europe's Beating Cancer Plan (final workshop on 18/04)
- ✓ Study on job retention and return to work cancer patients and survivors (final workshop on 25/04)

# Ongoing/upcoming

## Actions launched:

- ✓ JAPreventNCD: Cancer and other NCDs prevention – action on health determinants
- ✓ ELISAH: European Linkage of Initiative from Science to Action in Health
- ✓ PEACHD: Piloting European Action on Cancer Health Determinants
- ✓ FILTERED: From sILos To synErgies to pRevEnt ncDs
- ✓ ShowUp4Health: Building Trust in Roma and Internally Displaced People Communities for NCD Prevention
- ✓ OriON: Joint Action on Contribution to the Cancer Inequalities Registry to Monitor National Cancer Control Policies

## Upcoming events:

- ✓ Hands-on workshop: EU4Health Joint Actions 2024 on 25/06
  - *Strengthening digital capabilities including e-health, telemedicine, remote monitoring systems, health data access and health data exchange services in cancer centres in the Union*
  - *To support quality improvement of cancer registry data feeding the European Cancer Information System*
- ✓ Info Session - EU4Health 2024 Open Call for Proposals on 26/06
  - *European Cancer Imaging Initiative & cancer screening, health literacy in cancer prevention and care, social services in paediatric oncology, EU Network of Youth Cancer survivors*
- ✓ EU4Health Work Programme 2025 – stakeholder conference on 19/06



European  
Commission

# Vaccination subgroup - mandate

- **The vaccination subgroup:**



- advises the Commission on how to support Member States in increasing the uptake of vaccination
- advises on the identification, validation and transfer of best and/or promising practices in terms of increasing vaccination uptake
- informs on national/regional actions aiming to increase vaccination uptake and provide recommendations to the Commission on how to support such efforts

- **Mandate prolonged until December 2025**

# Vaccination subgroup - activities

- **First meeting on 30 March 2023:** Consultation of the subgroup on Commission proposal for a Council Recommendation on vaccine-preventable cancers
- **Second meeting on 4 October 2023:** Presentation of the Public Health Expert Group priority-setting exercise, the “Overcoming Obstacles to Vaccination” project and the #UnitedInProtection communication campaign
- **Third meeting on 18 April 2024:** Measles outbreaks, upcoming joint action on cancers caused by infections, vaccine-preventable cancers and addressing communicable diseases (HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, Hepatitis), joint EU/WHO immunisation project
- **Fourth meeting: Q4 2024**

# Network of Expertise on Long COVID

- Established in 2023, it brings together national institutions involved in Long COVID work to:
  - To advise on ways to strengthen EU- and national-level responses to Long COVID.
  - To provide a platform for exchanges of national experiences on diagnosis, treatment and management of Long COVID
  - To collect information regarding the situation on Long COVID in Member States.
- **EU4Health project on Long COVID:** EUR 1.5 million and 7 initiatives to be implemented with the WHO and OECD.

# Upcoming project: Long COVID Action (2024-2026)

## Seven actions:

### **Action 1. Identification of Research Needs and Priorities (OECD, WHO)**

Establishing a collaborative framework to prioritize Long COVID research, identify most urgent research gaps and inform policy decisions.

### **Action 2. Training for Healthcare Professionals (OECD)**

Developing an EU-wide training programme for healthcare professionals on developing technical knowledge for:

- Detection and addressing early symptoms of Long COVID
- Appropriate patient referral (diagnosis and treatment).

### **Action 3. Guidelines, Clinical Recommendations, Good Clinical Practice (WHO)**

Enhancing Long COVID management through international collaboration on clinical guidelines based on evidence delivered to Member States.

# Upcoming project: Long COVID Action (2024-2026)

## Seven actions:

### Action 4. Patient Engagement and Support (OECD, WHO)

Improving EU-level engagement and quality of life of Long COVID patients through collaborative stakeholder and citizen involvement. This includes:

- An Open Stakeholder Group in the EU HPP.
- A citizens' panel through the Commission's citizen engagement platform.

### Action 5. Assessment of the Social and Economic Consequences (OECD)

Developing a study to assess the socio-economic impact of Long COVID in Member States, Norway and Iceland. This includes the impact of Long COVID on:

- Healthcare
- Social services
- Long-term care
- Labour market.

# Upcoming project: Long COVID Action (2024-2026)

## Seven actions:

### Action 6. Development of a Case Definition (WHO)

Establishing a standardized EU case definition for Long COVID to enhance diagnostic accuracy and data comparability. This will be agreed with Member States.

### Action 7. Working towards a Surveillance System (WHO)

Implementing a unified EU-level surveillance system for Long COVID to enhance data collection and health outcomes. This will be achieved through:

- Improving the collection of epidemiological data.
- Conducting population-based epidemiological studies.

A prospective longitudinal study on the incidence of Long COVID in middle-income countries and/or a retrospective registry study in advanced economies in the WHO European Region will be conducted.



# Upcoming events

- Next **general NELC meeting** on 26/06
- **Long COVID Conference** to assess the current landscape and launch the Long COVID Action on 10/09
- First **in-person NELC meeting** on 10/09

# State of play

- **Mandate of prevention of NCDs subgroup**



Focus on a comprehensive approach to prevention across the lifespan  
Mandate extended until the end of 2025

- **Healthier Together – EU NCDs initiative**



Sustainable and efficient way to address common challenges of prevention and NCDs

Implementation is ongoing for actions under the 5 strands: health determinants, cardiovascular diseases, diabetes, chronic respiratory diseases, mental health and neurological disorders (around €170 million via EU4Health programme)

# Actions implemented under the Healthier Together initiative



## Health determinants

- Joint Action PreventNCDs (€76 million)
- 6 Stakeholder-led projects (€6.8 million)



## Cardiovascular diseases and Diabetes

- Joint Action JACARDI (€53 million)
- 11 Stakeholder-led projects (€5.3 million)



## Mental Health

- Joint Action MENTOR (€6 million)
- 17 Stakeholder-led projects (€14 million)



## Chronic Respiratory Diseases

- Joint Action JARED (€4.8 million)
- 1 Stakeholder-led project (€275 000)



## Dementia and other neurological disorders

- Joint Action JADE Health (€4.5 million)
- 1 Stakeholder-led project (€330 000)

## Support from international organisations

- ❖ WHO on mental health
- ❖ OECD on best practices and making the economic case for prevention
- ❖ UNICEF on children's health



# Stakeholder Webinar on Prevention

## Posters submitted



**Multisectoral cooperation and innovative financing models for prevention of NCDs** - European Chronic Disease Alliance

**Cardiovascular health plan** - European Heart Network

**Heart checks for the elderly population** - EU Structural Heart Disease Coalition

**European Cardiovascular Health Checks for common risk factors** - European Alliance for Cardiovascular Health

**Keep Breathing initiative** - European Lung Health Group

**Comprehensive and unified EU mental health strategy** - European Federation of Psychologists Associations

**ABCs of mental health** - International Sports Culture Association

**Plant-based diets for prevention and management of diabetes** - International Diabetes Federation European Region

[Stakeholder webinar: prevention of non-communicable diseases - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](https://european-commission.europa.eu)

# Next steps

- **Call for best and promising practices on prevention** under the **EU Best Practices Portal**
- **Mapping of prevention interventions, policies and programmes**, aiming to achieve an overview of gaps and challenges at EU level on prevention policies

**Next meeting:** November 2024



# Updates from international organisations



# THE ECONOMIC CASE FOR PUBLIC HEALTH: AN OVERVIEW OF OECD WORK CO-FUNDED BY THE EUROPEAN UNION





# OECD Work Helps Mobilize Investments To Tackle Major Public Health Priorities For EU/EEA Countries



The economic case for promoting mental wellbeing



The impact of cancer on health, economy and societal wellbeing



Scaling up and transfer best practices to prevent, manage and control NCDs



Preparing for the next pandemic: modelling non-pharmaceutical interventions







# Mental Ill-health Causes a Significant Health And Economic Burden To EU/EFTA Countries

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- Mental ill-health reduces healthy life expectancy and decrease workforce productivity across the EU/EFTA;
- At current levels of coverage, treatment is provided to less than 1 in 3 persons in need;
- Best practice interventions in primary care, schools and workplace have a medium to large effect in promoting mental well-being;
- The report will be finalized by Q4-2024 and released by Q1-2025.



# Stronger Action and More Ambitious Targets for Prevention Can Bend The Raising Cost of Cancer

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- By 2050, health spending on cancer will rise in the OECD due to ageing and better cancer outcomes;
- A significant share of cancer cases can be prevented, scaling up action on prevention could help curb the growing cancer burden
- More ambitious targets on other risk factors, together with stronger action to achieve them, could see a greater impact on cancer
- The report will be finalized by Q3-2024 and released by Q4-2024



# OECD Supports The Scaling Up And The Transfer Of Best Practices To Prevent And Control NCDs

- OECD assesses ‘**real-world**’ public health **policies** against standard criteria and policies’ transferability;
- Policies are selected in close **communication with countries** and the **EC** to focus on priorities;
- We assess policies and identify ‘**dos**’ and ‘**don’ts**’ to help countries transfer best practices; if data is available, we make the **economic case**;
- The focus is on **healthier lifestyles, integrated care, healthy environments, mental health and addictions.**





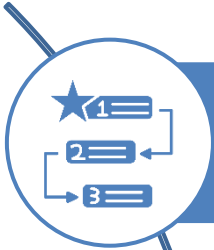
# Saving Lives and Livelihood: Optimising Health-Economic Trade-offs Of Public Health Interventions In Pandemics

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- The analysis considers **5 epidemic outbreaks** with different characteristics
- **Non-pharmaceutical interventions** in the analysis include: social distancing, school closures, workplace policies, travel restrictions, community-based IPC, testing & tracking
- The report will be finalized and released by Q1-2025



# New EU Co-funded Projects Starting in 2024



Economic analysis to inform priority setting for the '*Healthier Together EU NCD initiative*'



Effective and cost-effective immunisation strategies across the life course



Achieving tobacco and nicotine-free societies



Best practices to tackle addictions

# Addressing mental health challenges in the 27 EU Member States, Iceland and Norway

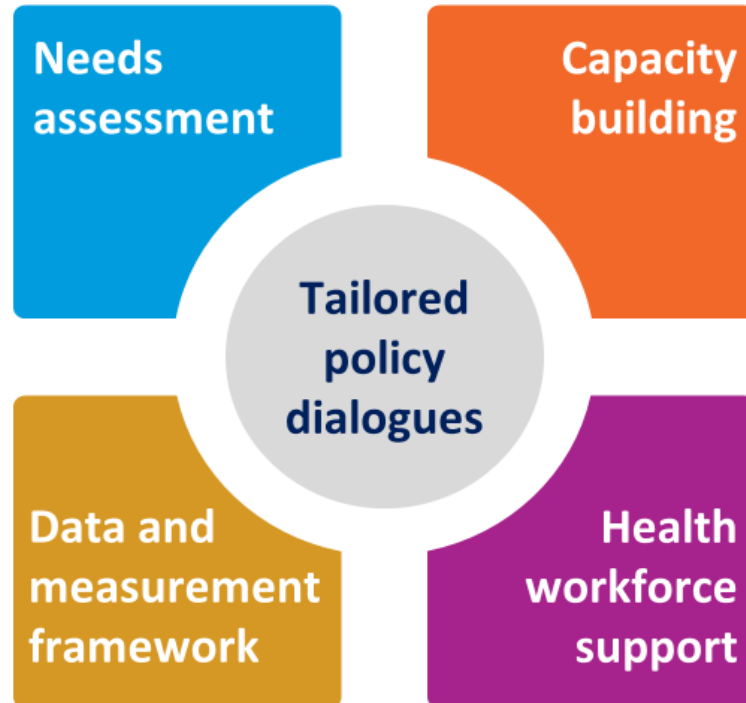
Presentation of progress to PHEG  
Luxembourg, 19-20 June 2024



# Addressing mental health challenges in the 27 EU countries, Iceland and Norway

(a contribution agreement between European Commission and WHO Europe)

- ✓ Survey on mental health systems, workforce & data collection mechanisms
- ✓ Survey on adverse childhood experiences (ACE)
- ✓ Mapping of data collection mechanisms
- ✓ Mental health indicators
- ✓ Mental health monitoring framework development
- ✓ Training in mental health measurement
- ✓ Real-time mental health data monitoring



- ✓ WHO QualityRights training
- ✓ WHO Guidance on Community Mental Health Services + 7 technical packages
- ✓ Professionalization of lived experience expertise
- ✓ Mental health leadership training and peer exchange
- ✓ Training on WHO mhGAP
- ✓ Mental health in primary health care
- ✓ Training in mental health prevention and promotion

# Update on WHO/Europe work on NCDs and Innovation





20  
30



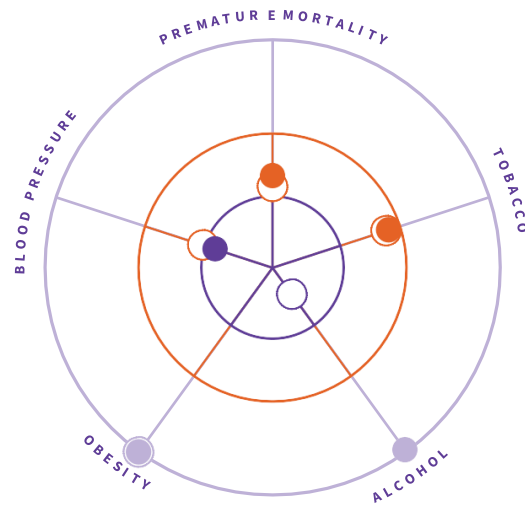
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# 100 Week challenge launched at Regional Committee – European Union Scorecard

## PROGRESS TOWARDS GLOBAL NCD TARGETS

### Premature mortality and risk factors

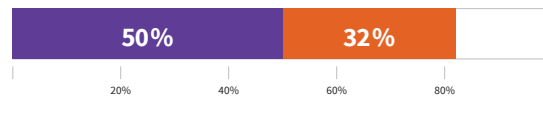
● On target ● <4 years from target ● 4–10+ years from target ○ Regional average



### POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

#### Achievement of progress monitor indicators

● Fully achieved ● Partially achieved



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### POLICY IMPLEMENTATION

#### Progress monitor indicators

● Fully achieved ● Partially achieved

##### GOVERNANCE-RELATED INDICATORS



**1** Time-bound targets and indicators based on WHO guidance



**2** Reliable cause-specific mortality data generated on a routine basis



**3** Risk-factor surveys every 5 years



**4** National integrated NCD policy/strategy/action plan

##### TOBACCO-RELATED INDICATORS



**5a** Increased excise taxes and prices



**5b** Smoke-free policies



**5c** Large graphic health warnings/plain packaging



**5d** Bans on advertising, promotion and sponsorship



**5e** Mass-media campaigns

##### ALCOHOL-RELATED INDICATORS



**6a** Restrictions on physical availability



**6b** Advertising bans or comprehensive restrictions



**6c** Increased excise taxes

##### NUTRITION- AND PHYSICAL-ACTIVITY-RELATED INDICATORS



**7a** Salt/sodium policies



**7b** Saturated fatty acids and trans-fats policies



**7c** Restrictions on marketing to children



**7d** Restrictions on marketing of breast-milk substitutes



**8** Public-education and awareness campaign on physical activity

##### HEALTH-SYSTEM-RELATED INDICATORS



**9** Guidelines on management of cardiovascular disease, diabetes and chronic respiratory disease



**10** Drug therapy/counselling to prevent heart attacks and strokes

Please scan the QR code and follow the instructions

<https://survey.ncd.digital/EU>



# WHO/EU Evidence into Action Alcohol project (EVID-ACTION) - Partnering with the EU to reduce harms from alcohol

- **30 countries:** EU Member States, Norway, Iceland, Ukraine
- **4 years:** 2022 – 2026
- **3 specific objectives:**



**Specific objective 1:**  
Health warning labels for alcoholic  
beverages

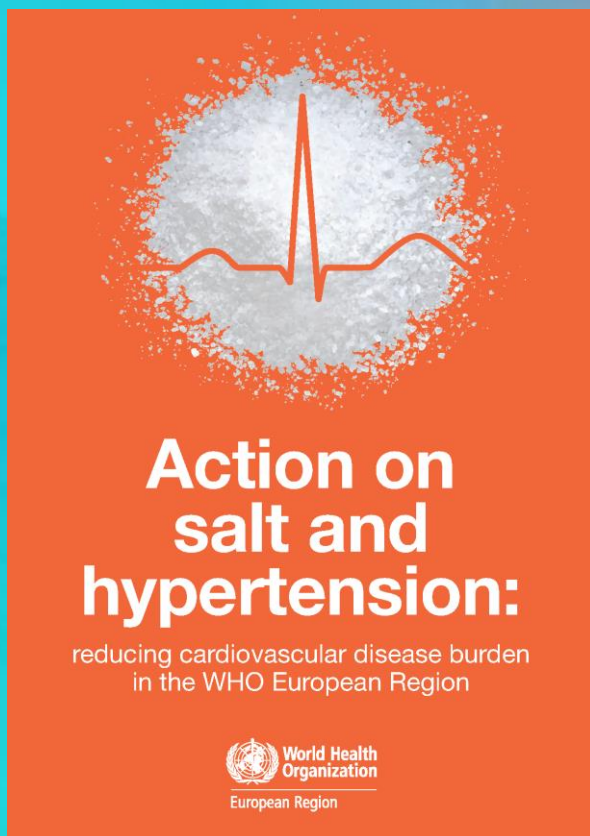


**Specific objective 2:**  
Capacity building, health literacy,  
public knowledge and advocacy

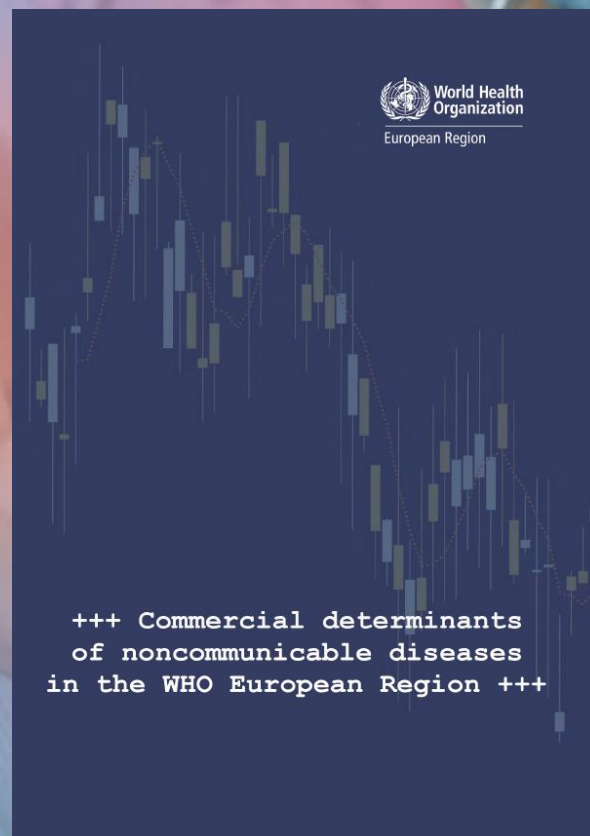


**Specific objective 3:**  
Screening and brief interventions

# Recent publications, and innovation meeting and strategy



<https://iris.who.int/handle/10665/376580>



<https://iris.who.int/handle/10665/376957>



# Joint work with JA Prevent NCD and JA CARDI

- Visit of JA Prevent NCD to the WHO Regional Office in May 2024
- Collaboration proposed and agreed in several areas
- Joint Meeting will be organized by JA Prevent NCD, JA CARDI and WHO/Europe on 10 September 2024 in Brussels
  - Review progress towards NCD related SDGs, global voluntary NCD targets and implementation of Progress Monitor Indicators and Best Buys
  - Good practice examples from countries
  - Contribution to the preparatory process for the UN High Level Meeting on NCDs in September 2025

# Promoting a comprehensive, prevention-oriented approach to children's health

**DP/CR-CA-24-26**

**Meeting of the Public Health Experts Group**

**Luxembourg, 19-20 June 2024**

unicef   
for every child



# UNICEF work in the region

## All children thrive

Minimize impact from environmental factors

Climate

Psychological development, wellbeing and good mental health

MHPSS

Management of chronic conditions (HIV/NCDs)

HIV/  
NCDs

Support to early development and good parenting

ECD

Healthy feeding, starting from breastfeeding to balanced diet

Nutr

Full protection from vaccine preventable diseases

Immun

Good care during pregnancy, delivery and postnatal period

MNH

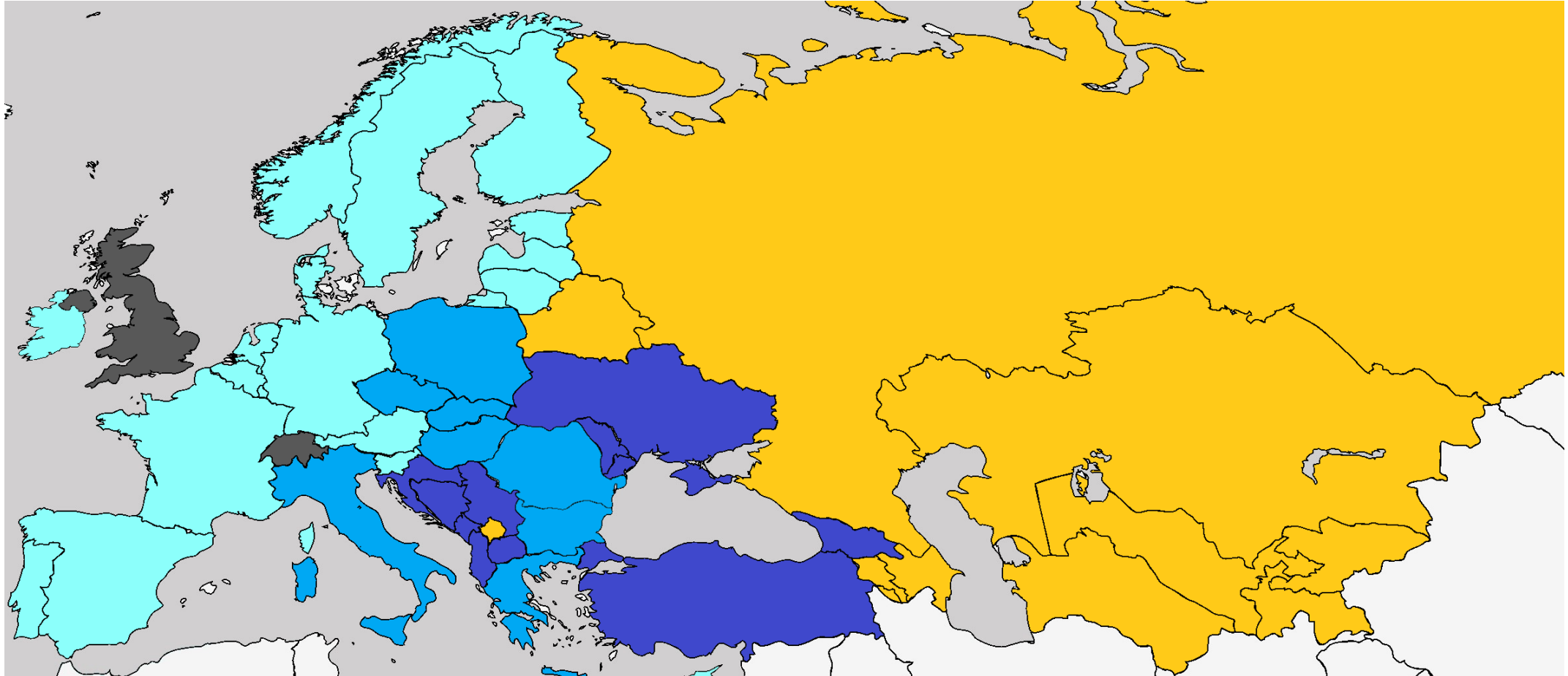
## Programmatic support

- Increase **access to essential health services** (especially for most vulnerable)
- Improve **quality** and timeliness of health services
- Promote **healthy behaviors** of adolescents and caregivers
- Address **stigma** on disabilities, mental health conditions, HIV, obesity...
- Improve **environments** for children (food systems, digital platforms)
- Generate **evidence and guidance** on child health prevention, promotion, treatment and rehabilitation
- Support **innovations** for children and parents (uSupport, Bebbos+)
- Respond to **emergencies and PHE** (war, earthquakes, measles outbreaks)

## Systems transformation

- Strengthen **information systems and digital health** (data integration, apps development, telemedicine...)
- Strengthen **procurement and supply systems** (cold chain, stock management, emergency supplies, local markets, solarization...)
- **Policy advisory and financing advisory** for health services for children (costing of PHC, financing exercises, sustainability assessments)
- **Social and Behavioral Change** capacity (institutionalize capacity for health promotion, e.g. to address stigma and vaccine hesitancy)

# UNICEF footprint in the region



**19**

EU Countries  
with NatComs

**8**

EU Countries  
with UNICEF

**9**

Cand. Count.  
with UNICEF

**10**

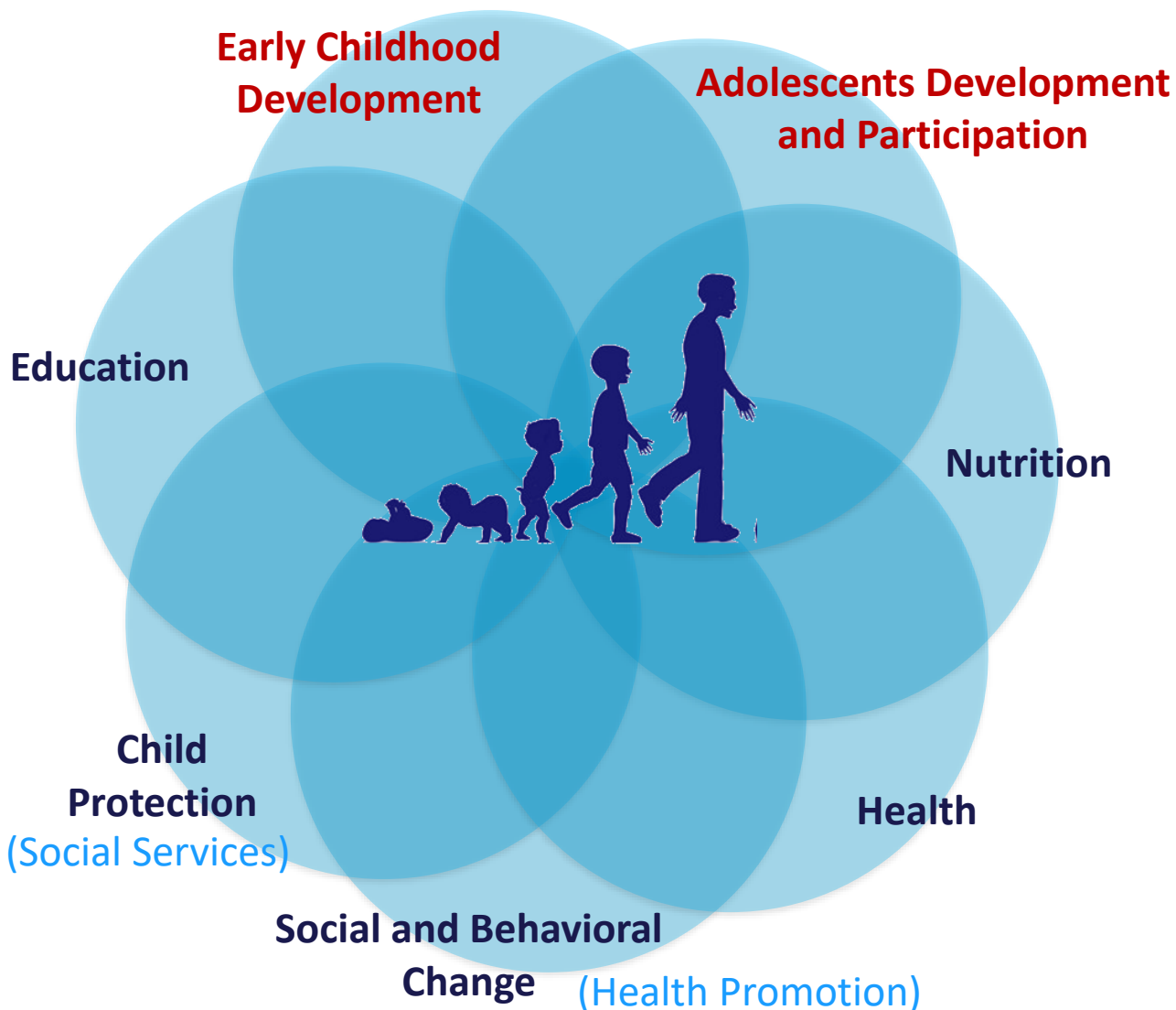
Countries  
with UNICEF

**2**

Countries  
with NatComs



# UNICEF APPROACH TO CHILD HEALTH



Promoting health in childhood and adolescence pays off for the whole life cycle

→ UNICEF promotes interventions for ECD, AD (with AP) and in school aged children

Determinants of health are multiple and require actions in different sectors

→ UNICEF adopts a multisectoral approach to child health and wellbeing



# PHEG 20 June 2024

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# Policy priorities

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# PHEG – policy priorities

## Survey 2023 – priority topics



***Mental health***

**Health promotion &  
socio-economic  
determinants**

**Lifelong prevention of  
NCDs  
Long COVID**

**Vaccine-preventable  
diseases and vaccination  
Infectious diseases (HIV  
/AIDS, Tuberculosis and  
hepatitis)**

**2023**

**2024**

**2025**



Europe's Beating Cancer Plan

'Healthier Together' EU NCDs initiative

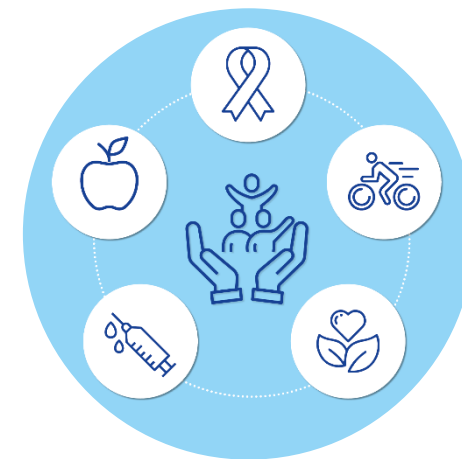
Communication on a comprehensive approach to mental health



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# PHEG – policy priorities

*Health promotion & socio-economic determinants*  
*Tobacco, alcohol, nutrition, physical activity*



**Health in All  
Policies**

**Marketing &  
advertising**

**Awareness &  
interventions**

**Factors  
beyond  
individual  
responsibility**

**Legislation:** tobacco and emerging products

# PHEG – policy priorities

## *Prevention of NCDs*

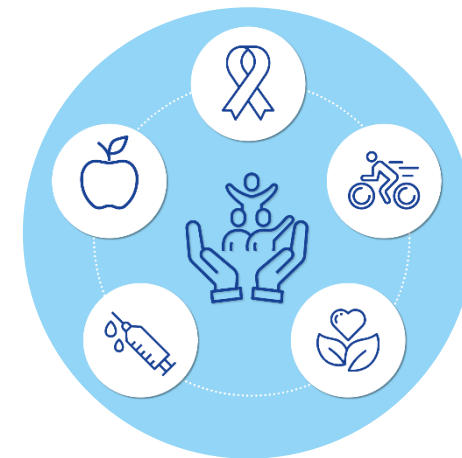
*Mental health, cancer, cardiovascular diseases*

Actions at EU level:

**Promote focused actions to prevent disease**

**Exchange of best and promising practices – management & treatment**

**Promote (new) evidence-based population screenings**



EU Best Practices Portal – *EU repository on best and promising practices on mental health*



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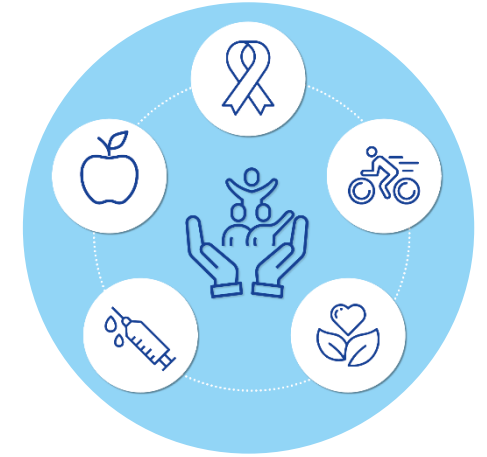


# Current actions

# PHEG – policy priorities

## *NCD prevention and Health determinants*

- Healthier Together initiative - Europe's Beating Cancer Plan
- Evaluation of the legislative framework on tobacco control
- Health warnings and provision of list of ingredients on alcoholic beverages
- Stakeholder-led Grant Action Projects
- Collaborative Joint Actions Between Member States
- International organisations (WHO, OECD, UNICEF)



**JA PreventNCD**  
Joint Action Prevent Non-Communicable Diseases



Joint action  
cardiovascular diseases  
and diabetes



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# PHEG – policy priorities

*Research projects funded under the Horizon Europe framework programme (2021-2027)*



Health area	Number of projects	EU funding (EUR)
<b>Brain</b>	763	1.260.274.654
<b>Cancer</b>	877	2.072.485.453
<b>Cardiovascular</b>	238	642.975.482
<b>Diabetes and Obesity</b>	102	312.539.635
<b>Mental Health Disorders</b>	404	884.212.010
<b>Other Chronic Diseases</b>	281	551.772.205
<b>Total</b>	2.665	5.724.259.439

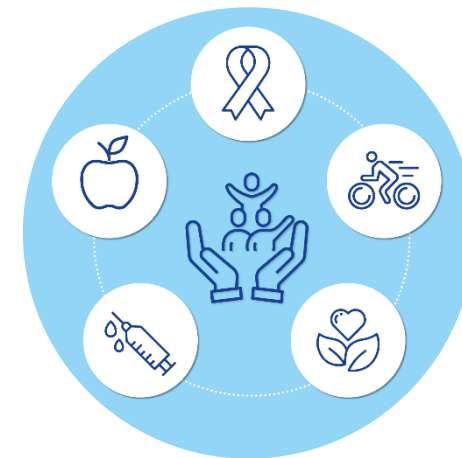


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# PHEG – policy priorities

*Mental Health - Communication on a comprehensive approach to mental health (tracking framework)*

- Capacity building programmes: European Mental Health Capacity Building Initiative; EU PROMENS
- EU repository on mental health best and promising practices
- Collaborative Action on mental health – MENTOR
- Stakeholder led Grant Actions



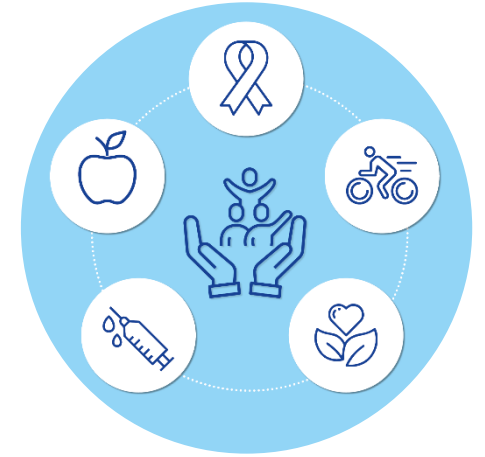


# Possible future actions

# PHEG – policy priorities

*Useful tools to support Member States in addressing priority areas:*

- Transfer of best and promising practices
- EU-level studies
- Exchange between Member States on relevant experiences
- Funding of prevention and control initiatives
- Legislative initiatives
- Raising public and political awareness





# Collaborative approach

DG SANTE  
European Commission

*Health and  
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# Expert Group on Public Health

## Priorities 2024-26

### Prevention

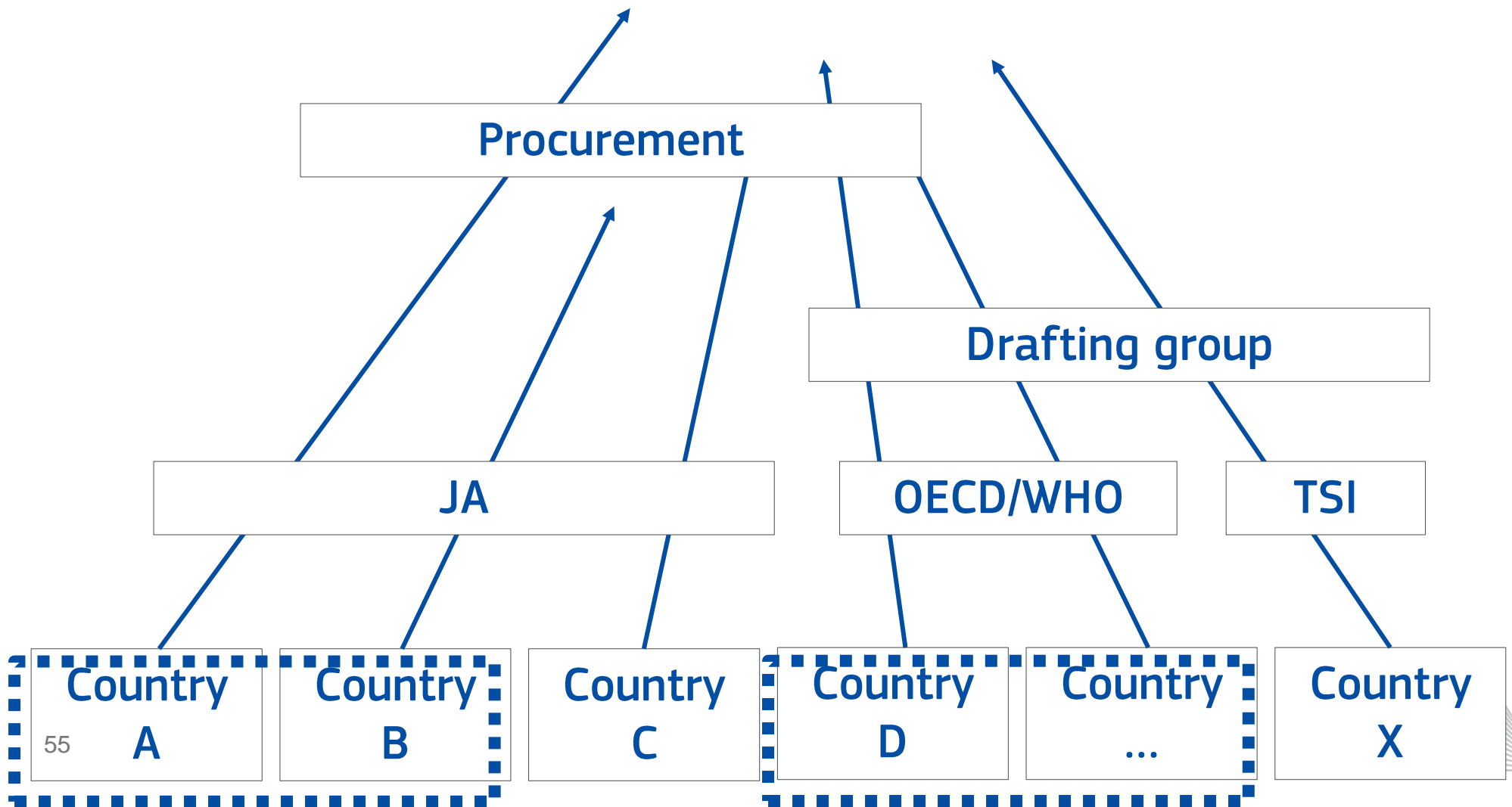
(promotion; socio-economic determinants; non-communicable diseases...)



From priorities to actions



Goals and actions  
3-5 years





# Update from DG REFORM

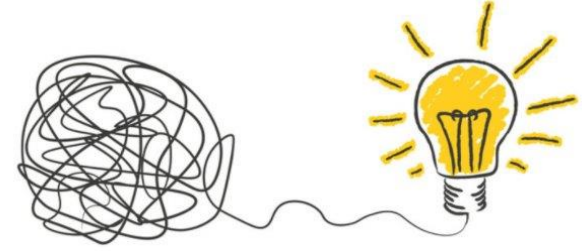




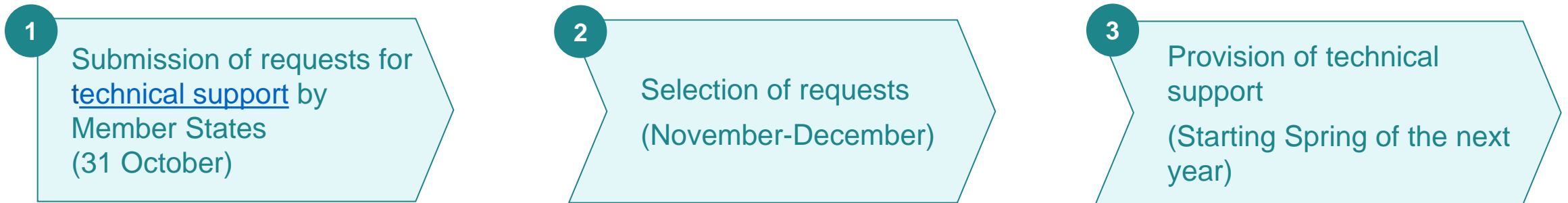
# Supporting reforms via the Technical Support Instrument

PHEG meeting 20.06.2024

# How does TSI work?



- Provides **tailor-made expertise** to EU Member States to **design & implement reforms**
- Is **demand driven** and **does not require any co-financing** from Member States
- **National** and **regional level** (including outermost regions)
- **€ 864 million of budget** for the period 2021-2027



## Direct provision

European Commission's in-house expertise



## Indirect provision

Other international organisations  
Member States' experts  
Private sector experts

# Examples of our work

Project examples

## Digital Health

Creation and implementation of the National eHealth Centre (Czechia)

E-Health Strategic Development Plan 2020-2025 (Croatia)

The future directions and evolutions of eHealth (Belgium)

Health ICT governance framework (Estonia)

## Primary care

Start-up services for primary health care units (Austria)

Support for the development of the primary care system (Hungary)

Integrated primary care in Flanders (Belgium)

Strengthening NHS by empowering professionals in Portugal

Adapting governance and requirements for primary care

Framework for multidisciplinary PC teams for adults and children

## Public health

Improving public health actions through better information on equity and SDH and tools for evaluating health promotion interventions

Integrating mental health services for adults (Denmark)

National Action Plan combatting Anti-Microbial Resistance (Latvia)

OPTIMISE - youth prevention, community sexually transmitted infection (STI) services, integrated hepatitis c care

Cancer screening, strategies (Italy, Romania, Slovakia, Latvia)

## Hospital sector

Capacity building – design and procurement of investments for three regional hospitals (Romania)

Redesign of the reimbursement systems for hospital care (Greece, Poland, Slovenia)

Restructuring of the hospital sector (Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Portugal, Croatia)

Fostering ambulatory surgeries (Hungary)

Centralized procurement (Greece, Portugal)

## Transversal reforms

Genomics DE (Germany)

Artificial Intelligence in healthcare (Slovakia)

Development of country-specific HSPA framework (Lithuania, Croatia, Ireland, Latvia, Slovenia)

Capacity planning of health system resources (Cyprus)

MedGen (Portugal)

Securing, strengthening and expanding national production of medicines

# Focus: mental health (TSI 2024 flagship)

## Support areas in ongoing projects:

- Support **MH professionals & community services**
- **School-level** interventions
- **Early detection, timely & equitable access** to MH services for vulnerable group
- Prevent **substance-use & behavioural addictions**

## TSI 2023 Multi-country project "**Child & Youth wellbeing and mental health first**"



Integrated collaboration framework to address MH and psychosocial needs of children & young people in care and protection system



Youth engagement framework for implementing promotion and prevention programmes for MH



Model for collaboration and better integration of MH provision across health, social and education sectors



Proposals to strengthen policies and programmes available for children and young people living with overweight or obesity

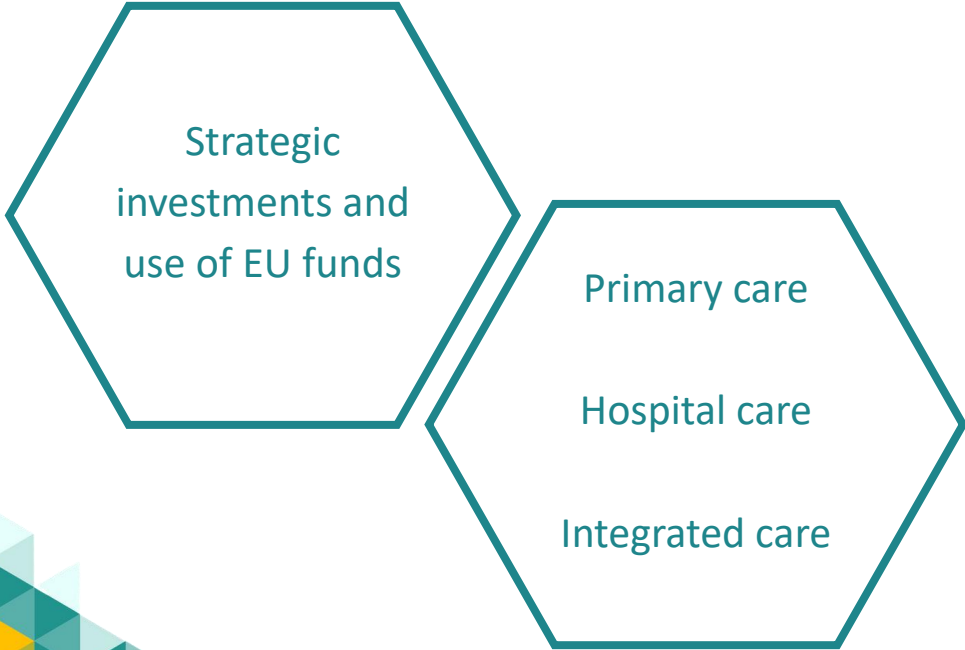
# TSI 2025 Flagship

## Addressing demographic change through reforms



- WP1: Addressing skills and labour shortages at national, regional or sectoral level
- WP2: Supporting the working-age population by strengthening social protection systems
- WP3: Supporting and empowering the **young generation**
- WP4: Supporting active ageing and the health and well-being of the **elderly population**
- WP5: Supporting **regions**
- WP6: Strengthening Member States' **data collection and fiscal capacities** to mitigate demographic change

# TSI 2025 Flagship EU Health Hub – Investing in Resilient Health Systems



# **Public Health Expert Group**

- **European Investment Bank Opportunities and Synergies**

# EUROPEAN INVESTMENT BANK

## EIB AT A GLANCE

Improving quality of life in Europe and beyond



### The world's largest multilateral lender

We raise our funds on the international capital markets  
We pass on favourable borrowing conditions



### Governed by the EU Member States

Shareholders are the EU 27 Member States



### Headquartered in Luxembourg

Around 4 273 staff in 60 global offices



### Leading provider of climate finance

€ 44.3 bn in climate action investments in 2023



### In 65 years, over €1.5 trillion invested

More than 15 000 projects in over 160 countries  
Crowding-in bank: €4.9 trillion investment mobilised



€ 75.14 billion in financing in 2023

## Our Priorities

### INNOVATION, DIGITAL AND HUMAN CAPITAL



€ 19.76 bn

### SUSTAINABLE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES



€ 26.80 bn

### SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND REGIONS



€ 21.33 bn

### SMES AND MID CAPS



€ 19.96 bn



# WHAT DO WE FINANCE IN THE HEALTH SECTOR?



## Health Infrastructure

Hospitals and integrated networks of healthcare delivery



## Integrated & Community care

Holistic approach to focus healthcare on final beneficiaries, non-technological innovation



## Education & Training

Educational and training programmes and necessary reforms in medical education systems



## Public Health Interventions

Vaccination campaigns medical equipment, etc



## e-HEALTH

Digitalisation of healthcare services and advances in AI

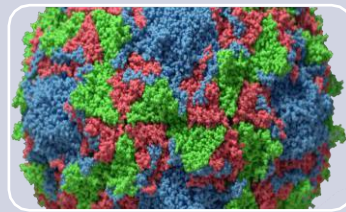
## ACTIVE COLLABORATIONS – GLOBAL REACH



**DG Santé**



**HERA**



**Polio**



**HDX and  
MAV**



**TB control  
collaborations**



**Climate &  
Health**

# STREAMLINING OUR LONG-TERM COLLABORATION – THE MOU WITH DG SANTE

- Cooperating in the implementation the **EU Global Health Strategy**
- Joining efforts in areas of common strategic importance, especially in the **EU Cancer, Mission and Plan**, as well as in **Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)**
- DG SANTE ready to provide **policy orientation** and feedback on EIB priority areas of intervention in Health, according to EC's priorities
- EIB ready to provide **technical and financial support** in joint activities like eHealth, AMR, One Health, Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, guiding principles and lines of action of the EU Global Health Strategy Communication, etc.
- Joining DG SANTE's and EIB's convening powers to **crowd-in** more multilateral, public and private financing into health
- **Exchanging data** to alleviate information asymmetries and enhance cooperation
- Continuing the strong cooperation in the implementation of the **InvestEU** Mandate within the LS&H sectors, including **HERA top-up**

# Mapping of Proton Therapy Centres

The EIB has conducted a study to **update and improve the lending policy and appraisal processes** regarding proton therapy, specifically:

- Better understand the geographical distribution of proton therapy centres in Europe
- Clarify the general evolutions of the sector, notably in terms of technology, costs and set up
- Assess the challenges and difficulties in establishing new proton therapy centres
- Assess the growth potential of proton therapy in Europe

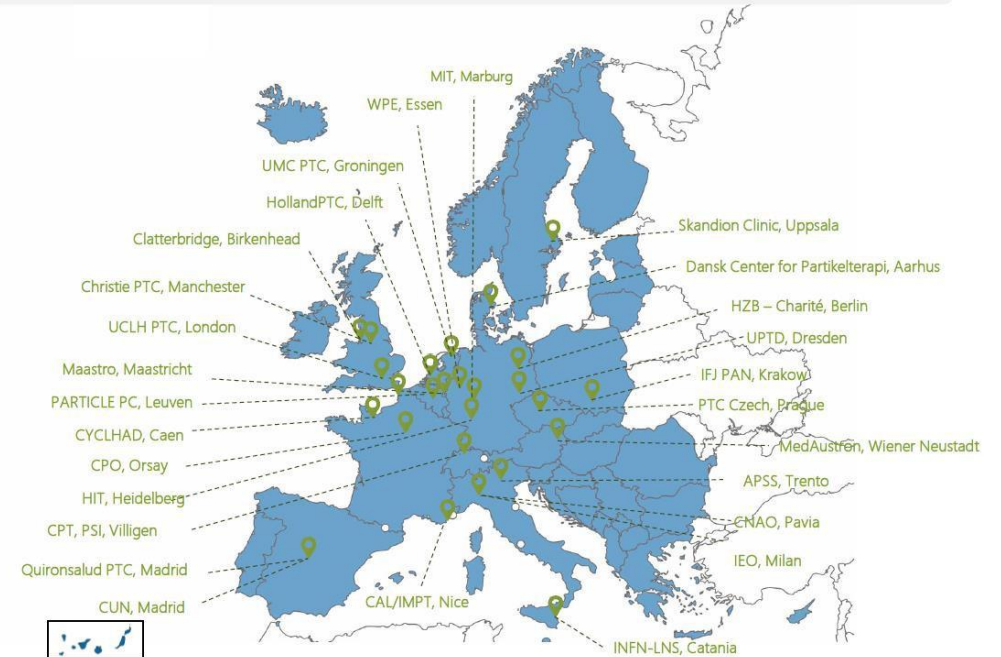
Results from the study (an Executive Summary and a detailed report) will be available in July



## 27 PROTON THERAPY FACILITIES IN OPERATION IN 13 COUNTRIES



Centres are concentrated in the European Megalopolis ('Blue Banana'), from Benelux to Northern Italy, while there are few centres in southern Europe, eastern Europe, and the Balkans.



# BULGARIA CHANGES THEIR PEDIATRIC CARE MODEL BURGAS & SOFIA CHILDREN HOSPITALS



Loan amount: EUR 12.80 m  
Project cost: EUR 77.07 m

Mandate:  
Inside EU own risk

- Through the **Advisory Hub** support, international consultants in coordination with EIB experts provided the Municipality of Burgas with a **comprehensive feasibility study** that included functional planning and preliminary design for the hospital, while supporting also the tender preparation.
- This process unlocked the opportunity for an investment of the EIB, which materialized in the **signature of a EUR 12.8 m loan** agreement with the Municipality of Burgas.
- The new hospital premises will help **attract and retain skilled medical professionals** in the region. In addition, it will also be linked to the Medical Faculty of the University in Burgas, facilitating university research and training of medical staff.
- The following design and build tender was successfully awarded and the **start of works** ceremony took place at the beginning of 2024.
- Based on the positive experience with the advisory, the Ministry of Health requested the support for the **new National Pediatric Hospital in Sofia**.

# RESPONDING TO THE HEALTH NEEDS OF AN AGEING SOCIETY

## LONG TERM CARE INFRASTRUCTURE (SPAIN)



Loan amount: EUR 90 m  
Project cost: EUR 205 m



Mandate: Invest EU



The project supports Vitalia's expansion plan during the period 2023 - 2026 by financing the construction and equipping of several new facilities: long-term care centres mainly for the elderly population, rehabilitation hospitals and assisted living apartments.



The promoter, Vitalia Plus S.A., is a leading private sector provider of long-term care services in Spain with an established track record that includes cooperation with the public sector (currently more than 50% of Vitalia's total residential beds are publicly financed and all their centres are certified under the Dependency Care Act (eligible for individual residential care subsidy)).



The project will add 230 rehabilitation beds, 1,840 residential care beds and 434 places for assisted living to Vitalia's capacity. The new buildings will achieve very low energy levels and comply with the Taxonomy substantial contribution to climate change mitigation.

## EIB'S HEALTH ACTIVITIES WERE CRUCIAL DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

### Typical health projects / investments

- **Infrastructure modernization of hospitals:** DIAKONESSENHUIS HOSPITAL (Netherlands)
- **E-health and digitalization:** E-HEALTH IRELAND (Ireland)
- **Primary health care:** PRIMARY HEALTH CARE CENTRES AUSTRIA (Austria)
- **Long term care:** HOIVATILAT CARE PREMISES (Finland)

### With COVID-19 the focus has changed

- **Emergency response:** PPEs, specific medical equipment, medical supplies (e.g. oxygen and related equipment and works), additional/ temporary staff, temporary facilities (mobile hospitals)
- **Pandemic preparedness:** strengthening national diagnostic capacities (laboratories), repurposing of health facilities, specific training, focus on prevention (regular vaccination campaigns), building resilient production and distribution supply chains for essential supplies
- **Testing, tracing and vaccination campaigns:** medical supplies (tests, vaccines), medical equipment (testing, cold chain equipment), training and recruitment of additional/ temporary staff



*EIB has the financing instruments and mandates to cover existing investment gaps in the health sector in Europe and beyond*

# INNOVATION FRONTIERS

## POST-ACUTE SEQUELAE COVID RDI (IEU TI)

*Fully signed in March, 2023*



Loan amount: EUR 25 m  
Project cost: EUR 62.60 m

Mandate: InvestEU



€25 million credit line backed by InvestEU to support clinical development of treatments for long COVID. To support the late clinical trial development of the Company's lead asset for long COVID. This operation highlights the EIB's commitment to tackling long COVID, a major public health problem affecting millions of people worldwide.

**GeNeuro** is evaluating the clinical efficacy of a six-month treatment with temelimab, the anti-W-ENV antibody developed by GeNeuro to improve cognitive impairment and fatigue in long COVID patients who test positive for the presence of the W-ENV protein.



The W-ENV protein was observed in more than 25% of patients with persistent symptoms after having had COVID.

If the current clinical trial is successful, this personalised medicine approach could offer a therapeutic solution to the millions of patients affected by long COVID.





# AOB

DG SANTE  
European Commission

*Health and  
Food Safety*

# **A Europe that cares, prepares, and protects**

*Strengthening the EU  
Health Union*

# Health priorities

Under the slogan “a Europe that cares, prepares and protects”, we selected a number of policy areas for which we believe that collaboration at EU level should be enhanced



## A Europe that cares

- Health workforce
- Unmet needs
- **Healthy populations**



## A Europe that prepares

- Preparedness governance
- Clinical trials
- AMR



## A Europe that protects

- Security of medicine supplies

+ work on 'implementation tools'

# Main Health Events

## Joint Meeting Chief Medical Officers & Working Party on Public Health at High Level

- Health emergency preparedness, crisis governance, Joint Actions

26 Mar. 2024 and 27 Mar. 2024

8 Feb. 2024 and 9 Feb. 2024

## High-level Conference on the Future EU Health Union

- Future EU Health agenda

## High-level Conference on Healthcare needs as drivers for healthcare policy and innovation

- Functioning of the research and innovation ecosystem and set up steps towards more needs-driven decision making

17 Apr. 2024 and 18 Apr. 2024

## Informal EPSCO Health

- Health workforce, critical medicines act,, primary prevention

23 Apr. 2024 and 24 Apr. 2024

## Launch of the Critical Medicines Alliance

24 Apr. 2024

## Symposium on Nutriscore

25 Apr. 2024

## Integrating Care, Strengthening Communities: The Data Connection

3 May

## High level Conference on Antimicrobial resistance

- Foster collaboration, knowledge sharing

8 May 2024

**02**

# Healthy populations



# Article in the special Eurohealth publication

A renew call to action: How can the European Union scale-up action on non-communicable disease prevention?

- Highlight of the progress of legal initiatives aimed at the prevention of Non-communicable diseases (NCDs) risk factors and wider health determinants under the European Commission's Europe's Beating Cancer Plan;
- Exploration of how the European Union (EU) can use its policy levers to strengthen prevention and tackle NCDs;
- Future potential actions for the next Commission, including addressing the impact of commercial determinants on the establishment of policies.



# Workshop on alcohol labelling and taxation

## HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE ON THE FUTURE EU HEALTH UNION

### Challenges of Reducing Alcohol-Related Harm through Europe's Beating Cancer Plan Implementation: Clearing the Ground for Evidence-Based Policies to Shape a Healthier Future

- WHO and EU Commission representatives, law, public health and consumer rights experts

#### AIMS:

- Take stock of developments concerning the role of packaging, labeling, and taxation of alcohol;
- Take note of the delays regarding alcohol-related initiatives of the EBCP, such as mandatory labeling of ingredients and nutrient content on alcoholic beverages, and reviewing the European Union legislation on alcohol taxation;
- Discuss the benefits of initiatives related to alcohol labeling and their impact on public health. Special attention will be given to scientific evidence that supports strengthened regulatory actions on alcohol.



# Ministerial debate during the Informal EPSCO Health

1. Introductory speech on NCD Prevention by Amandine Garde followed by a confidential ministerial lunch debate :

## **Europe's Beating Cancer plan: focus on primary prevention**

A discussion where EU Commission, WHO and Member States were invited to exchange their point of view on :

1. What are the most difficult policy and political issues you face with regard to primary prevention of NCDs in your country? What lessons do you draw from this national experience for NCDs policies at EU level?
2. How do you see the role of the EU in preventing NCDs? What areas should specifically be targeted by EU legislation? In which area is acceleration of action most needed?



**be**

**EU**



**belgium24.eu**

# Hungarian EU Presidency programme 1 July – 31 December 2024

**Priorities in the field of health**

# Overarching priorities

1. **Improving the competitiveness of the EU** (New European Competitiveness Deal)
2. Strengthening defence policy at EU level
3. Consistent and merit-based enlargement policy
4. Restricting illegal migration
5. Shaping the future of cohesion policy
6. Farmer-oriented European agriculture
7. **Addressing demographic challenges**

# Health priorities

## ***Pharmaceutical package***

### ***Public health priorities:***

- Cardiovascular health (Council Conclusions)
- Transplantation and organ donation (Council Conclusions)

### ***Other topics on the agenda:***

- Following negotiations of the Pandemic Agreement
- Implementation of EHDS Regulation
- AMR – UNGA special session (September 2024)
- Mental Health in the context of climate change and polycrises
- Rare diseases – future EU cooperation

# Presidency Events 1.

## **EPSCO**

- Formal meeting (Brussels): 3 December 2024
- Informal meeting (Budapest): 24-25 July 2024

## **High-level Presidency conferences**

- High-level conference on cardiovascular health (Budapest): 4 July 2024
- High-level conference on transplantation and organ donation  
(Budapest): 11 July 2024

# Presidency Events 2.

- 10-11 September: HERA Board Meeting (Budapest)
- 7 October: Conference on Mental Health and Polycrises (Brussels)
- 7-8 October: Chief Medical Officers, Chief Nurses and Chief Dental Officers meeting (Budapest)
- 9 October: Meeting of National Competent Authorities for Pricing and Reimbursement (NCAPR) (Budapest)
- 28-30 October: Committee meeting for Orphan Medicinal Products (COMP)
- 11 November: Conference on EHDS and health innovation (Brussels)
- 29 November: Conference on Rare Diseases (Budapest)
- 5-6 December: Heads of Medicine Agencies (HMA)+ EMACOLEX (Budapest)