



### EU Health Policy Platform Annual Meeting: EU Health Award Ceremony (4<sup>th</sup> May 2022)

**The prestigious EU Health Award Ceremony took place on 4 May as part of the EU Health Policy Platform annual meeting, which took place in Brussels and online in two consecutive mornings on the 4 and 5 May 2022.**

**The Commission unveiled the winners of the 2021 EU Health Award in two topic areas: cancer prevention and mental health.** The Award on cancer prevention was open to cities, NGOs and educational institutions. The Award on mental health was open to local authorities or affiliated organisations and NGOs or other not-for-profit organisations.

Presenting the shortlisted initiatives in alphabetical order was Philippe Roux, Head of Unit, Health information and integration in all policies Unit, Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety, European Commission. The winning initiatives were presented by the President of the 2021 EU Health Award Jury and Principal Adviser at the Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety of the European Commission, Isabel de la Mata Barranco.

The Award Ceremony was moderated by Wendy Winn. Philippe Roux, chair of the Award Ceremony, gave the welcome speech, and was followed by Isabel de la Mata, who opened the Ceremony by congratulating all EU Health Award finalists and thanking them for their contributions.

**More than 800 people followed the event live,** and the [recording](#) is now available online.

*“The Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety – DG SANTE – values its partnerships*

*and close ties with health stakeholder organisations. We know that working together gets results and strengthens EU policy actions, and we benefit greatly from the rich expertise found in Europe’s public health community”,* said Philippe Roux.

For the second time in its seven-year history, the EU Health Award recognised outstanding initiatives in two different health areas:

- **Cancer prevention initiatives through strengthening communication, including health literacy and active lifestyles for children and young people (from 6 to 24 years old).**
- **Mental health initiatives that have been proactive or reactive in helping to prevent, address and/or mitigate the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. The initiatives had to be community-based and to support people whose mental health was particularly affected or at risk of being affected.**

The winning and shortlisted initiatives for the Award on Cancer prevention were announced first, followed by the winning and shortlisted initiatives for the Award on Mental health.

#### **AWARD ON CANCER PREVENTION**

Under the Award on Cancer Prevention, six initiatives were selected as finalists under the category NGOs and six more under the category Educational Institutions. The winners received a trophy, a certificate and a cheque. The first-prize winners were awarded with EUR 30 000, the second-prize winners received EUR 20 000 and

the third-prize winners were awarded with EUR 12 000. In addition, the shortlisted initiatives (three under each category) were awarded with a certificate and a cheque of EUR 1 500.

### **Educational Institutions category**

Winners: the first prize was awarded to Università degli Studi di Trieste (Italy), the second prize went to Secondary School of Bolesław Chrobry in Gniezno (Poland) and the third prize went to Instituto Piaget (Portugal).

Shortlisted: the School of Tourism, Catering and Trade, Pula, the Secondary School in Marusevec and the 6th Primary School Varaždin. All three of these shortlisted initiatives were from Croatia.

### **NGOs category**

Winners: the first prize went to the George D. Behrakis Research Lab, Hellenic Cancer Society (Greece), the second prize went to Everything for Her (Croatia) and the third prize went to Loono (Czechia).

Shortlisted: the KWF Dutch Cancer Society (The Netherlands), the LILT Milano Monza Brianza APS (Italy) and the Stiftelsen Choice (Sweden).

No award was given in the cities category due to a lack of submissions.

## **AWARD ON MENTAL HEALTH**

The Award on Mental Health recognised the work of six finalists under the category Local authorities or affiliated organisations and twelve finalists under the category of NGOs or other not-for-profit organisations. The first-prize winners were each awarded EUR 30 000, the second-prize winners received EUR 20 000 and the third-prize winners were awarded EUR 12 000. In addition, nine shortlisted initiatives were awarded with a certificate and a cheque of EUR 1 500.

### **Local authorities or affiliated organisations category**

Winners: the first prize went to Azienda sanitaria figure 2 (Italy), the second prize went to Councillor of Healthcare, Aging and Care – Barcelona (Spain) and the third prize was awarded to Intercommunale de Soins Spécialisés de Liège (Belgium).

Shortlisted: the City of Gent (Belgium), the Municipality of Metamorfoosi (Greece) and the Municipality of Toulouse (France).

### **NGOs or other not-for-profit organisations category**

Winners: two organisations were each awarded first prize: Geniko Nosokomeio Papageorgiou, 1st Psychiatric Clinic, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (Greece) and Rio Neiva - Environmental NGO (Portugal). The second prize went to AFYA-Verein zur interkulturellen Gesundheitsförderung (intercultural health promotion) (Austria) and ANEPF - Associations Nationale des Étudiants en Pharmacie de France (France). The third prize went to APAP - Associazione per lo studio della Psicologia Analitica e della Psicoterapia a orientamento junghiano (Italy) and Merimna Society for the Care of Children and Families Facing Illness and Death (Greece).

Shortlisted: the ESWA - European Sex Workers' Rights Alliance (The Netherlands), the Fogjunk Össze az Egészségügyért Alapítvány (Hungary), the Fundación Pública para la Investigación de Málaga en Biomedicina y Salud. Instituto de Investigación Biomédica de Málaga (FIMABIS-IBIMA) (Spain), the Solentra 'Trauma en Solidariteit' vzw (Belgium), the Soletterre Foundation (Italy) and the Stichting IkkanWelzijn (The Netherlands).

Representatives from the winning organisations spoke briefly about their work as they accepted their awards. Short videos about their initiatives were also shown.

*“I would like to recognise the work done by the finalists and by those who submitted their initiatives but were not selected. Allow me to recognise as well the work of colleagues that have participated in this whole process and a special mention to the Jury members who selected the finalists we are announcing today.”*, said Isabel de la Mata.

The jury members came from different European Commission departments, WHO, the European Cancer Leagues, and the European Public Health Alliance, among others.

**More information about these initiatives and the video recording of the Award Ceremony is available at:** [https://ec.europa.eu/health/eu-health-policy/interest-groups/eu-health-award/2021-eu-health-award-winners-and-shortlisted\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/health/eu-health-policy/interest-groups/eu-health-award/2021-eu-health-award-winners-and-shortlisted_en)

**The 2021 EU Health Award came to a successful close, but the EU Health Policy Platform annual meeting didn't end there!** Participants of the Ceremony were invited to join remotely on the second day to hear about innovative and successful projects to boost public health and endorse the 2021 Thematic Networks' Joint Statements on:

- “Climate and health education in Europe” by the Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region (ASPHER).
- “Health as a fundamental value. Towards an inclusive and equitable pharmaceutical strategy for the EU” by the European Association of Health Law's Interest Group on Supranational Biolaw.
- “Integrated Nutrition Cancer Care” by the European Nutrition for Health Alliance.

**Find out more about these Joint Statements by reading the presentations and watching the recording of the event here:** [https://ec.europa.eu/health/events/eu-health-policy-platform-annual-meeting-2022-05-04\\_en](https://ec.europa.eu/health/events/eu-health-policy-platform-annual-meeting-2022-05-04_en)