

Flash report
EU4Health Stakeholders' Conference
19 June 2024

Background

The 2024 EU4Health Stakeholders' Conference was held as a hybrid event, combining in-person attendance with online participation. This format follows the success of the previous year's hybrid model. The conference saw substantial participation, with over 500 registrations indicating strong stakeholder engagement. The event was chaired by Marco Marsella, Director of Digital, EU4Health and Health Systems Modernisation.

The Conference's programme included the presentation of the results of the online stakeholders' consultation, four sessions dedicated to key health themes – Health Promotion & Disease Prevention and Health Systems, Digital Health, Cancer, and Crisis Preparedness – and a session on the health priorities of the forthcoming Hungarian Presidency.

Context

The conference took place after the completion of the EU4Health stakeholders' consultation, which gathered inputs over almost seven weeks. This consultation received more than 200 responses, reflecting a high level of stakeholder interest in shaping the strategic orientations and priorities of the EU4Health programme for 2025. The event served as a platform to discuss the results of the consultation and align on the future direction of the programme.

Sandra Gallina, Director-General at the DG for Health and Food Safety opened the conference via video message. She emphasised the importance of stakeholder input in developing the 2025 EU4Health annual work programme and highlighted key achievements of the programme, including significant investments in cancer, health promotion, disease prevention, and digital health. She also stressed the need for prioritisation due to recent budget adjustments.

Main messages from discussions during the Conference:

- The stakeholders at the event appreciated the diverse and content-rich agenda, noting that the Conference provided an opportunity to discuss various topics related to the EU4Health programme.
- The participants stressed the need for interactions among projects covering the same topic to foster collaboration.

- They also stressed the importance of the EU4Health programme to advance key projects that will improve the health of European citizens.
- Health Promotion & Disease Prevention and Health Systems session included discussions on subjects such as the EEAD-BEST project on suicide prevention, and the Inclusive Healthy Lifestyle Groups in Schools (IHLGiS). The health systems topic was addressed by the health systems resilience testing project and the Joint Action HEROES on health workforce forecasting and planning.
- In the field of health promotion and disease prevention, the EU4Health funded projects allow for acting at various stages, starting from disease prevention through early detection and then treatment. This is possible thanks a wide range of fit-for-purpose stakeholders that are anchored at a community level closer to the public
- Digital Health session covered key topics like artificial intelligence in health, the introduction of the EHDS, and the MyHealth@EU initiative, which pioneers the exchange of health data across borders.
- Various stakeholders support the new EHDS Regulation since it aims at allowing primary and secondary use of health data. Both are crucial for the development of innovative and personalised medicines.
- Moreover, they underlined the need to enhance the implementation of the EHDS Regulation and to support the MSs to be more involved with it mainly because of the segmentation of different EU programmes on the funding.
- During the Cancer session, discussions focused on several significant projects, including CAN.HEAL, INTERACT EUROPE and INTERACT-EUROPE 100, TOGAS (Towards Gastric Cancer Screening Implementation), and SOLACE.
- Crisis Preparedness session highlighted important initiatives such as the Joint Action on Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), the EPIC11 preparedness training programme, the GARDP support to clinical trials for antimicrobials, the HERA Invest project and the EU-WISH wastewater surveillance programme.
- During the final session Hungarian Presidency provided an overview of their health priorities emphasising public health initiatives and enhanced collaboration among Member States.
- During the last session of the EU4Health conference, the health attachée from the Permanent Representation of Hungary to the EU outlined some of the health priorities for the upcoming Hungarian Presidency. The focus will be primarily on the following areas: cardiovascular diseases and transplantation including organ donation. Furthermore, the pharma package will be handled as a high priority.