

Mid-term evaluation of the Third Health Programme (2014-2020)

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

INTRODUCTION

The EU ensures that human health is protected as part of all its policies, and to work with its Member States to improve public health, prevent human illness and eliminate sources of danger to physical and mental health. However, the EU Member States have the primary responsibility for formulating and implementing health policy and delivering healthcare services. The EU's competence only extends to supporting, coordinating or supplementing actions of the Member States.

One of the main ways in which the EU supports, coordinates and supplements actions by the Member States is the third programme for the Union's action in the field of health (2014-2020) (hereinafter: "3HP"). The 3HP provides financial support for actions to address a number of important health-related challenges facing European citizens, governments and health systems. The 3HP supports action across the EU from public authorities, research and health institutions, NGOs, international organisations and – in certain cases – private companies. The total budget for the seven years of its duration is €449.4 million. The 3HP addresses major health challenges facing MS from risk factors (such as use of tobacco and harmful use of alcohol) to chronic and rare diseases, responding to cross border health threats (e.g. Ebola and Zika viruses) as well as ensuring innovation in public health to name just a few areas. For more information on the 3HP, please visit the websites of [DG SANTE](#) or [CHAFEA](#).

This consultation is an opportunity for any interested parties to express their views and opinions on the 3HP. It is a part of the ongoing mid-term evaluation of the 3HP. The consultation covers:

- The objectives and priorities of the 3HP, and the extent to which these are appropriate and in line with health needs in the EU
- The way the 3HP is implemented, and the extent to which this is effective and efficient
- The overall added value and usefulness of the 3HP

The results of the public consultation will be used together with other evidence to inform the mid-term evaluation of the 3HP. The European Commission will publish a Staff Working Document, including a summary of the results of the consultation, in the second half of 2017.

* Privacy Statement

Before completing the form, please read carefully the [privacy statement to conform to European data protection regulations](#).

- I have read and accept the terms and conditions related to this meeting

In case you wish to contact the Unit responsible for the event, please send an email to: SANTE-HEALTH-PROGRAMME@ec.europa.eu

I. KNOWLEDGE OF AND EXPERIENCE WITH THE 3HP

1.1. How would you describe the extent of your knowledge of:

	Detailed, in-depth knowledge	Some knowledge	Only very basic knowledge	No knowledge at all
*EU health policy?	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*The 3HP?	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

*1.2. Are you working on health issues that are closely related to (any of) the ones supported by the Health Programme?

- Yes
 No

*1.3. Are you aware of any activities that were funded by the 3HP that are relevant to your work?

- Yes
 No

1.4. Have you ever consulted, used, or participated in any of the results, services or products stemming from activities supported by previous Health Programmes? Please tick the following examples, as appropriate:

The Commission encourages dissemination of Health Programme outputs and results, however linking to the following external websites from this webpage should not be taken as an endorsement of any kind by the European Commission.

- The [European Code Against Cancer](#)
- European screening guidelines on [Breast cancer](#)
- European screening guidelines on [Colorectal cancer](#)
- European screening guidelines on [Cervical cancer](#)
- The [Orphanet](#) database and recommendations for rare diseases
- The Eudamed database for medical devices (only accessible to Member State authorities)
- The [Euripid](#) database for the pricing of medicines
- Materials on [health technology assessment](#)
- Training packages, e.g. on [cancer screening](#), [migrants' and refugees' health](#), capacity building in the preparation and response against health threats in [air](#) and [sea](#) travel
- Best practices for [tackling health inequalities](#)
- Best practices for the diagnosis and treatment of [HIV/AIDS](#), tuberculosis and [hepatitis](#)
- Scientific Opinions from the [Independent Scientific Committees](#)
- Advice from the [Expert Panel for investing in health](#)
- Information campaigns (e.g. [Ex-smokers are unstoppable](#))
- Reports (e.g. [Health at a Glance Europe](#), The Economics of prevention, Country Health Reports, EU Health Report, different Reports on the monitoring of health strategies on nutrition, alcohol etc.)
- Comparable health data (e.g. [ECHI indicators](#))
- Others

Others, please explain

*** 1.5. Have you or the organisation / institution you represent ever applied for funding from the 3HP and/or its predecessors?**

- Yes, I/we have applied for funding from the 3HP
- No, I/we have never applied for funding from the 3HP
- Don't know

1.6. If you have never applied for funding from the 3HP, please tell us why (tick all that apply)

- The opportunities and activities are not relevant for me and/or my organisation
- Lack of information on opportunities
- Lack of information on how to apply
- The co-funding rates are not attractive enough
- Excessive administrative burden
- Lack of language skills
- Lack of partners in other European countries
- Other, please specify

Other (please specify)

The Health Literacy Coalition has never applied for funding through the 3HP, but some members of the coalition have direct experience through their specific activities in their respective organisations.

1.7. The 3HP is supporting cooperation at EU level between relevant health organisations, national health authorities, academia and non-governmental bodies. To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
*The cooperation is essential and should be maintained	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*The 3HP should be expanded to include other health areas	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*In practice, the 3HP's results (at least at this mid-term stage) are not visible and the cooperation should be abandoned	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

*** 1.8. In your opinion, what do you consider to be the main way(s) in which the 3HP is contributing (or could contribute) to addressing health-related challenges?**

Although the competence in health literacy is limited at the European Union level, the EU nevertheless has a strong role in addressing horizontal issues that are relevant for citizens and patients. The 3HP can serve as a mechanism that promotes pilot projects and research into initiatives that add value beyond what Member States can achieve individually, and which could trigger action at the Member State level to benefit citizens and patients, while also directly addressing the main challenges facing Europe's healthcare systems, all of which are unlikely to disappear in the near future and must, therefore, be treated as real challenges, requiring appropriate investment. It is thus critical that the 3HP is appropriately and fully promoted across Member States to ensure that the limited funding is being allocated to projects that can bring tangible benefits to the people's lives, as well as having broad impact beyond one country or one disease-area to avoid a deepening of inequalities.

This could involve the development of an action plan on health literacy, focusing on the power of citizens and patients in health and healthcare, as well as on what health policies and systems can do. Citizens and patients are at the center of health, health policies, and health systems. Prevention programmes, eHealth, etc. only work when citizens and patients are included and equipped with the tools needed to participate. Many treatments, particularly in the field of non-communicable diseases require considerable patient involvement to be successful.

To the empowerment of patients and citizens, the EU should address the critical role of health literacy for citizens in the promotion and prevention of health, adopting a patient-centric approach, and enhancing quality of life and productivity. A common definition of health literacy endorsed by the European Commission would be a significant step forward in this direction. As the Health Literacy Coalition - representing patients, healthcare professionals, academia, and industry - the following definition is recommended:

Health literacy entails people's knowledge, motivation and competencies to access, understand, appraise, and apply health information in order to make judgments and take decisions in everyday life concerning healthcare, disease prevention and health promotion to maintain or improve quality of life during the life course.

The 3HP can also support the development of a monitoring mechanism, such as the European Health Literacy Survey (HLS-EU), to assess current health literacy levels in Member States and work with the European Commission and national authorities to set ambitious, but achievable targets for areas of improvement to enhance health literacy and reduce inequalities across Europe.

1.9. What are the main aspects (if any) that need to be changed or improved in your opinion?

Throughout the four main objectives of the 3HP, a common thread is the call for health information and knowledge systems. However, beyond big data generation and research, this element should also include the vital need for patients, healthcare professionals, carers, and citizens more broadly to have access to sound health information and knowledge, as well as having the right skills to understand their impact to an appropriate and functional degree. In addition, an assessment of the extent to which health systems will need to change to support citizen- and patient-involvement is needed.

Even people with advanced education and reading skills may face health literacy challenges, but enhancing the ability of citizens to understand medical advice and work with their doctor to find solutions is of benefit to other elements of the objectives set out in the 3HP, including the promotion of health, prevention of disease, and facilitation of access to healthcare. Yet until it is specifically included in the scope of the objectives, the success of the initiatives will be limited.

For instance, creating supportive environments for healthy lifestyles, as stipulated in the first objective of 3HP, can only occur when everyone involved in the care of a patients, including the patients themselves, have access to understandable and appropriate health information. Without spelling out the need for health literacy, it may be easier to dismiss and overlook its need, particularly as its broad impact is not limited to one disease area and as such does not have a specific advocacy voice among many healthcare stakeholders to ensure that it is represented.

Currently, only one open call mentions health literacy and is limited to a disease area. By expanding the concept of health literacy as a general need in health, there is an increased chance that patients will understand the intertwined relationship of various lifestyle-related risk factors on their health and how to prevent them, better be able to self-manage their chronic conditions, and support family members who may be facing difficulties in accessing the healthcare system. As such, the 3HP should include health literacy as an important pillar that spans the entirety of contemporary healthcare provision.

II. THE 3HP OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES

The 3HP aims to address a number of important health-related challenges facing EU citizens, governments and health systems. To do this, it pursues a series of objectives and thematic priorities, please see the [factsheet](#) about the 3HP for more information.

2.1. Do you think the EU should provide funding for actions in order to...?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
*...promote health, prevent diseases, and foster supportive environments for healthy lifestyles	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*...protect citizens from serious cross-border health threats (Zika and Ebola outbreaks)	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*...contribute to innovative, efficient and sustainable health systems	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*...facilitate access to better and safer healthcare for EU citizens	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*...contribute to addressing health inequalities and the promotion of equity and solidarity	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

2.2. To what extent do you agree with the following statements about the 3HP?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know

<p>*The 3HP's objectives and priorities are clear and easy to understand</p>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<p>*The 3HP's objectives and priorities are in line with the main health needs in Europe and are appropriate for addressing the key issues and challenges</p>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<p>*The objectives and priorities of the 3HP are consistent with health policy objectives in my country</p>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<p>*The more explicit consideration of economic resources and constraints in the objectives of the 3HP (compared with its predecessors) is appropriate</p>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<p>*The objectives and priorities of the 3HP are consistent with wider EU policy objectives, including the Europe 2020 strategy</p>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

<p>*Overall, the way the 3HP's objectives and priorities have been defined facilitates more focused action than under its predecessors</p>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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2.3. If you have any concerns about the relevance and coherence of the 3HP and its objectives, please briefly summarise them here.

While the objectives of the 3HP are defined in a clearer manner than under other health programmes, there is a lingering concern as to how appropriate assessment can take place. To accurately assess the pilot programmes, the criteria should be realistic and feasible, accounting for the fact that the impact of an advocacy activity may not be immediately felt. With this in mind, it is important to work with a variety of stakeholders active in healthcare to develop criteria that is tailored toward nuanced evaluation that can respond to a variety of project types (e.g. scientific based vs. communication based).

Complimenting national health programmes is important, but this should not merely rely on a reiteration of national policies or proposals and instead should proactively contribute to trigger actions that would promote health, increase sustainability, encourage innovation, and empower citizens. As such, the 3HP should be specific in the milestones that it hopes to achieve during the duration of the programme to ensure that the finances are being distributed to the projects that will answer to the achievement of these milestones.

2.4. The 3HP contains 23 thematic priorities, gathered under four specific objectives:

1. Promote health, prevent diseases, and foster supportive environments for healthy lifestyles
2. Protect citizens from serious cross-border health threats
3. Contribute to innovative, efficient and sustainable health systems
4. Facilitate access to better and safer healthcare for EU citizens

Please select up to five priorities that you consider to be the most important, and up to five that you consider to be not relevant.

	Most important	Not relevant
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1.1. Risk factors such as use of tobacco and passive smoking, harmful use of alcohol, unhealthy dietary habits and physical inactivity	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
1.2. Drugs-related health damage, including information and prevention	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
1.3. HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and hepatitis	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
1.4. Chronic diseases including cancer, age-related diseases and neurodegenerative diseases	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
1.5. Tobacco legislation	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
1.6. Health information and knowledge system to contribute to evidence-based decision-making	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2.1. Additional capacities of scientific expertise for risk assessment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2.2. Capacity-building against health threats in Member States, including, where appropriate, cooperation with neighbouring countries	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2.3. Implementation of EU legislation on communicable diseases and other health threats, including those caused by biological and chemical incidents, environment and climate change	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2.4. Health information and knowledge system to contribute to evidence-based decision-making	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3.1. Health Technology Assessment	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3.2. Innovation and e-health	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3.3. Health workforce forecasting and planning	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3.4. Setting up a mechanism for pooling expertise at EU level	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3.5. European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3.6. Implementation of EU legislation in the field of medical devices, medicinal products and cross-border healthcare	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3.7. Health information and knowledge system including support to the Scientific Committees set up in accordance with Commission Decision 2008/721/EC	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4.1. European Reference Networks	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4.2. Rare diseases	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4.3. Patient safety and quality of healthcare	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

4.4. Measures to prevent antimicrobial resistance and control healthcare-associated infections	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4.5. Implementation of EU legislation in the fields of tissues and cells, blood, organs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4.6. Health information and knowledge system to contribute to evidence-based decision-making	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

2.5. If there are any other important thematic priorities you believe the 3HP should support in the future, or amendments to the existing priorities, please list them here.

III. IMPLEMENTATION

The 3HP has a total budget of €449.4 million (2014-2020), which is used to support:

- Cooperation projects at EU level (via [project grants](#))
- [Actions](#) jointly undertaken by Member State health authorities
- The functioning of non-governmental bodies (via [operating grants](#))
- Cooperation with international organisations (via direct grants)
- Studies and other service contracts to cover specific needs related to the support of EU health policies

The 3HP is implemented on the basis of Annual Work Programmes developed by the European Commission in consultation with representatives of the countries that participate in the 3HP (via the Programme Committee). An executive agency ([CHAFEA](#)) is responsible for implementing the Programme; its tasks include issuing calls and evaluating proposals, disbursing payments, monitoring actions and disseminating the results. National Focal Points in Member States promote opportunities arising through the Programme. An infographic showing the different roles can be found [here](#).

3.1. To what extent do you agree with the following statements about the implementation of the 3HP?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
*The types of funding mechanisms used by the 3HP are appropriate to achieve the objectives of the programme	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*The prioritised actions in the Annual Work Programme permit the optimal involvement of health actors and stakeholders' groups by making appropriate use of the different funding mechanisms	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*The 3HP includes appropriate measures to involve all Member States, including those with lower incomes	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
*The more explicit consideration of economic resources and constraints in the objectives of the 3HP (compared with its predecessors) is appropriate	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

<p>*The level of financial support that the 3HP offers is appropriate to address its objectives</p>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
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3.2. If you have any (additional) concerns about the 3HP and the way in which it is implemented, please briefly summarise them here and provide us with an indication of which area(s) they correspond to (tick all that apply):

- Eligibility / funding arrangements
- Application process
- Administrative burden
- Dissemination of results
- Other (please specify)

Other (please specify)

The current economic situation necessitates the consideration of preventing disease and the efficient management of a growing number of patients with chronic diseases and comorbidities. To successfully promote prevention, self-management where appropriate, and ensure adherence to management programmes created in coordination with physicians, patients, physicians, and healthcare institutions themselves must be health literate. This ties directly into the promotion, prevention and protection of healthcare that Commissioner Andriukaitis has referred to throughout his term, however, it is not fully reflected in the 3HP. Furthermore, it supports the 2020 vision of creating smart, inclusive and sustainable growth. Yet, health literacy is barely accounted for in the 3HP initiatives, while in reality it should be at the core of EU-level action. It is only when citizens have high levels of healthy literacy that the healthcare systems can become sustainable and Europe can appropriately cope with an ageing population.

3.3 To what extent do you agree with the following statement about the level of awareness of the 3HP?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
*The results of actions funded by the 3HP are sufficiently disseminated and promoted to those who might be able to make use of them	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

3.4. Do you have other specific views that could not be expressed in the context of your replies to the above questions?

To support the ongoing efforts of various actors in the promotion and prioritization of health literacy, there is a significant need for cooperation to ensure that European policy and national strategies are aligned with the needs of patients and healthcare systems. A health literate approach to the 3HP will have a positive impact in virtually every sector of healthcare and promote cost-effectiveness as well as avoidance of adverse events by reducing the burden on healthcare systems and helping patients to achieve better health outcomes.

IDENTIFICATION OF RESPONDENT

***Please indicate whether you are responding to this consultation as an individual or on behalf of one of the following types of organisations / institutions?**

- Individual / private person
- Public authority (national, regional or local)
- International organisation
- Academic / research organisation
- Professional association or trade union
- Non-governmental organisation
- Private company
- Other, please specify

Other, please specify

Coalition of NGOs

*** Please state your country of residence/establishment**

- Austria
- Belgium
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Cyprus
- Czech Republic
- Denmark
- Estonia
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- Greece
- Hungary
- Ireland
- Italy
- Latvia
- Lithuania
- Luxembourg
- Malta
- Netherlands
- Poland
- Portugal
- Romania
- Slovak Republic
- Slovenia
- Spain
- Sweden
- United Kingdom
- Other

If you sent in comments in a language other than English, please indicate in which language you have replied.

N/A

*** Which of the following best describes the field in which you or the organisation or institution you are representing are mainly active?**

- Health / public health policy making and planning
- Provision of healthcare services
- Health professional(s)
- Health research / education
- Patients and health service users
- Other, please specify

*** First name**

*** Last name**

*** Job title**

Your organisation's name (where relevant)

The number of members your organisation represents (where relevant)

Countries where your organisation is present (where relevant)

***If replying on behalf of an organisation or institutions, is your organisation or institution registered in the EU Transparency Register?**

- Yes
- No
- Not applicable

If you are responding on behalf of an organisation or institution, please register in the [Transparency Register](#). If your organisation/institution responds without being registered, the Commission will consider its input as that of an individual and will publish it as such.

*** Please indicate your preference for the publication of your response on the Commission's website:**

- I consent to publication of all information in my contribution, including my personal data
- I do not consent to the publication of my personal data as it would harm my legitimate interests. My contribution may be published in an anonymous form
- I prefer to keep my contribution confidential. (it will not be published, but will be used when analysing the results of the consultation)

(Please note that regardless of the option chosen, your contribution may be subject to a request for access to documents under [Regulation 1049/2001 on public access to European Parliament, Council and Commission documents](#). In this case the request will be assessed against the conditions set out in the Regulation and in accordance with applicable data protection rules.)

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Useful links

[Factsheet on the Third Health Programme \(http://ec.europa.eu/health/programme/docs/factsheet_healthprogramme2014_2020_en.pdf\)](http://ec.europa.eu/health/programme/docs/factsheet_healthprogramme2014_2020_en.pdf)

[Regulation \(EU\) No 282/2014 on the establishment of a third Programme for the Union's action in the field of health \(2014-2020\) \(http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2014/282/oj\)](http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2014/282/oj)

[Summaries of the Annual Work Programmes for 2014 \(http://ec.europa.eu/health/programme/docs/wp2014_annex_summary_en.pdf\)](http://ec.europa.eu/health/programme/docs/wp2014_annex_summary_en.pdf)

[Summaries of the Annual Work Programmes for 2015 \(http://ec.europa.eu/health/programme/docs/wp2015_summary_en.pdf\)](http://ec.europa.eu/health/programme/docs/wp2015_summary_en.pdf)

[Summaries of the Annual Work Programmes for 2016 \(http://ec.europa.eu/health/programme/docs/wp2016_summary_en.pdf\)](http://ec.europa.eu/health/programme/docs/wp2016_summary_en.pdf)

[Ex-post evaluation of the 2nd Health Programme 2008-2013 \(http://ec.europa.eu/health/programme/policy/2008-2013/evaluation_en.htm\)](http://ec.europa.eu/health/programme/policy/2008-2013/evaluation_en.htm)

Contact

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