



Flash Report **Stakeholder webinar on prevention of non-communicable diseases**

20 March 2024

The webinar, attended by around 100 participants from the stakeholder community, aimed to provide an update on the main EU policies and projects on prevention of non-communicable diseases (NCDs), and for EU-level associations to present their actions and ideas on how to support Member States in reducing the burden of NCDs.

EU policies on the prevention of NCDs

DG SANTE provided an update on the main public health initiatives on NCD prevention, such as the 'Healthier together' - initiative ([Healthier together – EU non-communicable diseases initiative - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](https://european-commission.europa.eu/healthier-together)) and the Communication on a comprehensive approach to mental health ([A comprehensive approach to mental health - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](https://european-commission.europa.eu/mental-health)). Three key points were made on the upcoming new political cycle as an opportunity for stakeholders: (i) to take forward a health and prevention-focused agenda, in a coordinated way, avoiding competition between organisations and diseases; (ii) to explore the full potential of available tools rather than by default asking for more/new ones; and (iii) to support the horizontal approach to prevention as endorsed by Member States, moving away from disease-specific strategies for better efficiency and higher impact.

Presentation of EU-funded projects

HaDEA presented a state of play of the main ongoing projects funded by the EU4Health programme, that help to reduce the prevalence of NCDs. The projects support the implementation of the above-mentioned policy initiatives.

Presentation of posters

Following the request by the European Commission, eight EU-level associations presented through posters, the actions and ideas that their organisations could take to reduce the burden of NCDs. Each association outlined their targeted approaches, demonstrating how they aim to address specific public health challenges and implement their ideas. The posters can be accessed here: [Stakeholder webinar: prevention of non-communicable diseases - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](https://european-commission.europa.eu/stakeholder-webinar-prevention-of-ncds).

Discussion

Stakeholders supported the overarching understanding that health promotion and disease prevention are key, the importance of thinking about health and not only disease-specific action, and that we should use available tools to promote lifelong prevention. The importance of an enhanced collaboration across sectors, and between Member States and stakeholders, including patient groups, was underlined.

Next steps

The Chair thanked the associations that presented posters and reminded the participants that while no funding is earmarked for these actions, the Commission will inform the Expert Group on Public Health of the outcome of the webinar, including the poster ideas.