



European
Commission

EU INVESTS IN HEALTH

More than €8 billion have been invested in over 7000 health-related EU-funded projects from 2014 to 2018. The majority of projects support health promotion and education, reform of health systems, and research and innovation.

THIS €8 BILLION, INCLUDING EU AND NATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS UNDER COHESION POLICY PROGRAMMES, HAS BEEN INVESTED AS FOLLOWS:



€1.3 billion in improving access to healthcare and addressing health inequalities via 923 projects in 16 Member States. The countries with the highest number of projects are Germany, Portugal, Italy, Greece, Poland and Hungary, and the biggest recipients of funding are Croatia, Portugal, Hungary and Estonia.

Project example: Proximity lab, Brussels (Belgium), €1.7 million total budget — The project addresses the needs of chronic disease patients. Specifically, it aims to support patients in ambulatory care, therefore avoiding costly hospitalisation. The laboratories allow for testing a number of biological parameters critical to the continued treatment of chronic disease patients.



€1.6 billion in reforming health systems, such as strengthening primary care and supporting the transition away from hospital care, in 1.738 projects in 16 Member States. The highest number of projects have been registered in Poland, Bulgaria, Spain, Lithuania and Greece, while the biggest recipients of funding were Poland, Spain, Czechia and Bulgaria.

Project example: Support of Caretaker Services, Slovakia, €50 million total budget — the project created more than 3.300 nursing positions to support the care of elderly people and people with disabilities at home, with the goal of avoiding institutional care.



€600 million in the uptake of e-health and digital solutions, among which the digitalisation of national health systems, via 225 projects in 19 Member States. Poland, Spain and Germany are the countries with the highest number of projects, and Poland, Spain, Croatia and Hungary are the biggest recipients of funding.

Project example: Master Patient Index, France, €180.000 EU contribution — a database of patient records at regional level has been created to facilitate patient identification across different healthcare institutions.



€1.8 billion for research and innovation, via 1.708 projects across 20 Member States. Spain, Italy and Portugal are the countries with the highest number of projects and Spain, Hungary and Poland received the largest share of the funding.

Project example: Fast Breast Check, Italy, €424.000 EU contribution — the Fast Breast Check project is developing an improved medical device to better screen breast cancer.



€2 billion in health promotion, healthy ageing, workplace health and safety through 2.535 projects in 25 Member States. Most projects were developed in Poland, Germany, Belgium and Spain, while the biggest recipients of funding were Poland, UK and Latvia.

Project example: Green Care Farms, Poland, €700.000 EU contribution — the project consists of 15 green care farms, providing care and daily activities for elderly people and people with disabilities, to increase the availability and diversity of care services in rural areas while providing further qualifications for caregivers.



Nearly €1 billion has been invested in 275 projects in 20 Member States to support the **health workforce**, to address shortages of qualified medical professionals, migration of healthcare workers across Member States, and provide support for new and innovative curricula and educational approaches. The countries with the highest number of projects are Poland, Italy and Spain, and the biggest recipients of funding are Croatia, Greece, Poland and Spain.

Project example: Copenhagen Health Innovation, Denmark, €1.1 million EU contribution — courses on entrepreneurship are available for students studying healthcare-related fields to create innovative small businesses in this sector.

EU HEALTH INVESTMENTS AFTER 2020:

The EU will continue to invest in health in the 2021-2027 programming period. Through the inclusion of a new Policy Objective, EU funds will contribute to the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights. This Policy Objective, titled “A more social Europe” provides an overall framework to the implementation of Cohesion Policy investments in employment, education, health, housing and social inclusion.

Health systems are evolving towards more health promotion and disease prevention, shifting away from hospital and institution-centred care to community- or home-based care, towards integration of health and social care. These changes require different infrastructure investments, be that in primary and community care facilities or in more “soft” investments such as prevention programmes, integrated care and workforce training, for which EU funding will be instrumental.

But to transform their health systems, Member States and regions need to design long-term investment strategies. They must consider the needs for infrastructure, human capital, innovative technologies and new care delivery models. EU funding can, and should, contribute to all part of such investment strategies in combination with other instruments such as the InvestEU programme or national programmes. However, it is a strategic task for Member States and regions to carefully plan the coordination between the Funds but also with other European and national funding instruments. The Commission will ensure that potential synergies between all health relevant programmes are fully exploited.

REGIOSTARS

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Every year the RegioStars reward the best and most innovative Cohesion Policy projects in Europe in five thematic categories, including a topic of the year. This year's edition will seek to reward quality projects modernising health services, to inspire Member States and regions.

Source: the information in this leaflet come from a project financed by the Health Programme that aimed to further develop capacities of the relevant actors in EU Member States and regions. It produced country and thematic mapping documents, exemplary projects and outcomes of targeted workshops. All deliverables can be found on the website: <http://esifundsforhealth.eu/>

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