



SGPP meeting, 14 February 2019

European Semester: state of play

Unit "Performance of national health systems"
Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety
European Commission

The European Semester



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Goals of the European Semester

- ensuring sound public finances
- preventing excessive macroeconomic imbalances in the EU
- Supporting structural reforms, to create more jobs and growth
- boosting investment.



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European Semester Timeline

November	Commission: Annual Growth Survey
February	Commission: Country Reports
March / April	Committees: examination and discussion of Country Reports
mid-April	Member States present National Reform Programmes
May	Commission: proposes Country-Specific Recommendations (CSRs)
June / July	Council: adoption of Country-Specific Recommendations (CSRs)

Why is health system assessment important in the Semester?

- **Biggest government** expense after **pensions**: 15% of total
- A key economic sector contributing **R&D/innovation, trade jobs** and **growth** : 9.9% of GDP on average and 8.5% of the total workforce
- A key sector of social protection : an investment in **human capital** and **productivity**
- A key determinant of **inequality**/ill-health ↔ poverty/exclusion





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Conceptual framework for the analysis of health systems in the Semester:



EFFECTIVE,

ACCESSIBLE &

RESILIENT health systems



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Equal opportunities and
access to the labour
market



Fair working conditions



Social protection and
inclusion

Principle 16

Everyone has the right to timely access to affordable, preventive and curative health care of good quality

- Building upon art 35 of the EU Charter of fundamental rights
- Access to good quality preventive health care and medical treatment is recognised as a fundamental principles in many national health systems in the EU
- Social scoreboard: indicators to monitor progress on the Pillar Principles
- Action at EU level (Cooperation, Legislation, Semester) and national level

Country-specific recommendations (CSRs) on health in 2018

- *12 MSs with health-related CSRs in 2018*
- *Continuity : long-term and challenging nature of structural reforms of national health systems*
- *Focus on cost effectiveness and quality, sustainability and accessibility (coverage)*

The Commission recommends

- *Implementation of agreed reforms for better **cost-effectiveness** and **accessibility of care** in Cyprus, Slovenia and Finland.*
- *Improving **fiscal sustainability** and **cost-effectiveness** of health system in Austria, Malta Portugal and Ireland*
- *Investing in **disease prevention** in Lithuania*
- *Attention to **workforce planning** in Bulgaria and Slovakia.*
- *Reducing high **out-of-pocket payments** for patients in Bulgaria and Latvia*
- ***Strengthening primary and outpatient care** in Latvia, Lithuania and Romania.*



The European Semester 2019 : Annual Growth Survey (Nov 2018)

"To ensure fiscal sustainability and maintain universal access to quality healthcare, Member States need to increase cost-effectiveness by investing in innovation, improving the integration of healthcare at the primary, specialised outpatient and hospital care levels and strengthening links with social care to meet the needs of an ageing population. A greater focus on prevention is also warranted to underpin these efforts."

The European Semester 2019

- *28 Country reports to be adopted on 27 February*
- *A number of health challenges likely to be identified for most Member State; plus an assessment of ongoing reforms*

Further steps:

- March: SPC annual review
- April: Member States' national reform programmes
- May: Commission proposes 2019 CSRs
- July: adoption by Council

New

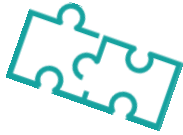


Investment focus of the European Semester in 2019

- ***MFF 2021-2027: strengthening links between EU funding and European Semester***
- *Country reports will **identify investment needs** at national level*
- *A dedicated annex to the report will identify the Commission's priorities for **cohesion policy funds***
- ***Health investments covered - national coordination is key***



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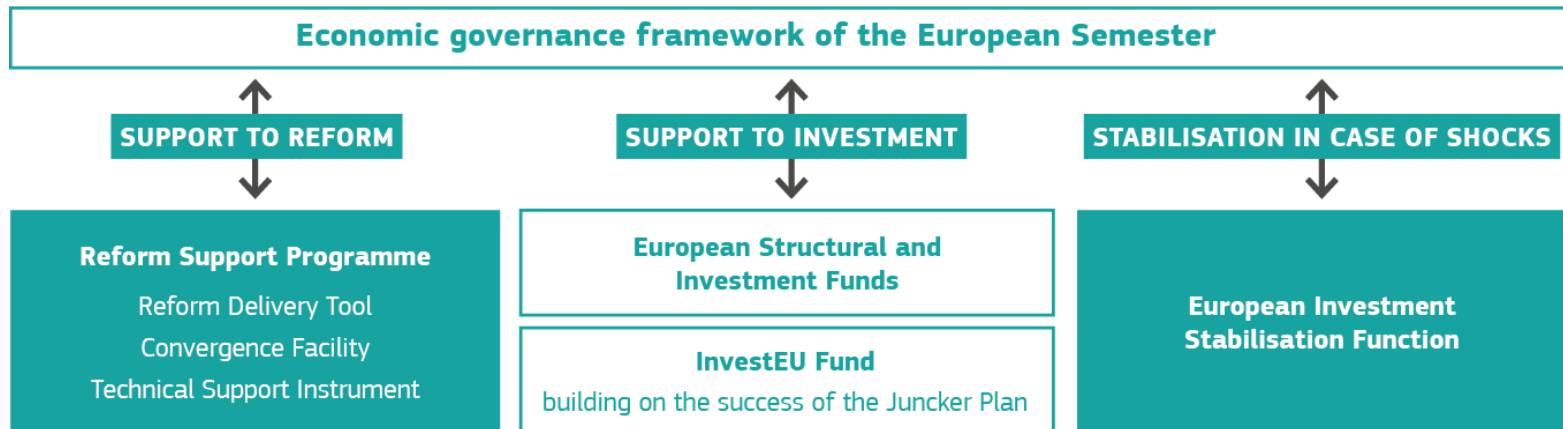
coordination and
complementarity of financing
from cohesion policy funds
and the new Reform Support
Programme



roadmap for the short,
mid- and long-term
planning and monitoring
of investments



technical and financial
support for reforms at
national level



Health and
Food Safety



Cohesion Policy funds 2021- 2027 : Policy objectives

- A smarter Europe...
- A greener Europe...
- A more connected Europe...
- A more social Europe...
- A Europe closer to citizens...

Investments in health may be envisaged both under Objective 1 and Objective 4



Cohesion Policy funds 2021- 2027: Health investments

ERDF to support investment “(...) ensuring equal access to health care through developing infrastructure, including primary care(...)”

ESF to support investment “(...) enhancing the equal and timely access to quality, sustainable and affordable services; modernising social protection systems, including promoting access to social protection; improving accessibility, effectiveness and resilience of healthcare systems and long-term care services;(...)”



Cohesion Policy funds 2021- 2027: Health investments

- *Reforms of health systems*
- *Equal access to affordable, accessible, sustainable and high-quality healthcare with a view to reducing health inequalities*
- *Investment strategies, which consider together human capital needs, needs for infrastructure, innovative technologies and new care delivery models*
- *More health promotion and disease prevention*
- *Shifting away from hospital and institution-centered care to community and home-based care*



Support to Member States' health authorities to channel cohesion funds support to health

- ***2 projects supported by the Health Programme since 2012***
- ***2nd project (2016-2018) to support capacity buildings in Member States through knowledge sharing, developing and promoting exchange of information and good practices***

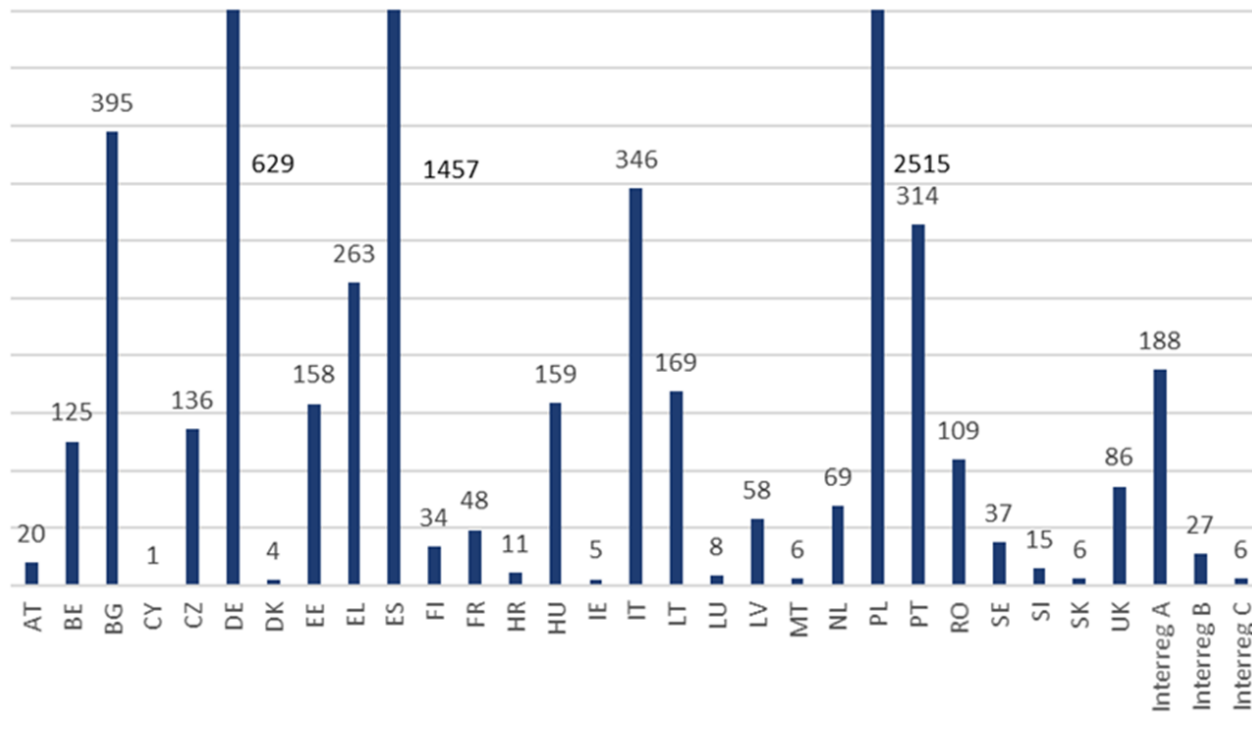
ESI Funds for Health project (2016 – 2018)

- **Mapping** of over 7,000 health-related projects co-financed by the ESI Funds in all Member States thematically and by country;
- Assessment of a range of **exemplary projects**
- A series of **workshops** to exchange and learn from the project findings as well as build networks
- A set of **findings and recommendations** that can help health stakeholders to maximise the results from ESI Funds in both the current and future programming periods.



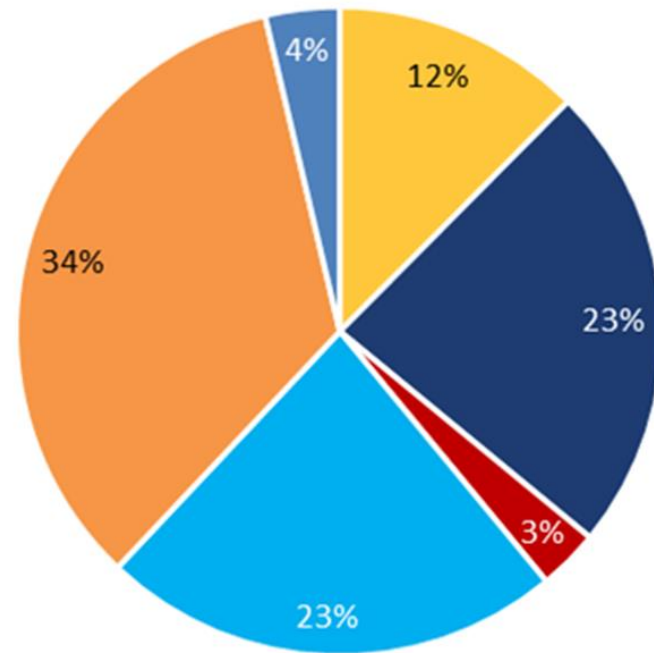
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7,404 ESI-funded health projects in MS and Interreg programmes



Health-related projects were classified into 6 health themes

- Access to healthcare
- Reform of health systems
- e-health
- Research and innovation
- Ageing and health promotion
- Health workforce



ESI Funds for Health project – lessons learned

- Integration of investment plans into a **broader reform agenda is needed,**
- **Cross-sectoral cooperation** is key to developing integrated solutions that tackle the challenges faced by the health sector.
- ESI-funded projects contribute to the implementation of health reforms, but their success relies on institutions having the necessary **capacity** to implement reforms.
- **Investments in people** (services, networks, education) are crucial for the health sector and must be considered next to the **necessary infrastructure** investments
- Co-ordination and **combination of resources and funds** is important to achieve a better, more sustainable return on investment in health



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<http://esifundsforhealth.eu/>

ESI Funds for Health
Building knowledge & capacities

Funded by the Health Programme
of the European Union

ABOUT | ESI FUNDS FOR HEALTH | PROJECTS | WORKSHOPS | CONFERENCE

The European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) support local and regional projects that contribute to job creation and a sustainable European economy.

This website shows examples of ESIF-funded health projects and provides information on the implementation of projects that contribute to wider health policy goals.

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- *Thank you*
- *Questions ?*

- *AOB: point of information: the expert panel on health systems*