



The EU 'Healthier Together' Non-Communicable Diseases Initiative

Reducing the burden of non-communicable diseases

Non-communicable diseases account for **80% of the disease burden** in the EU and the **majority of premature deaths** in the EU. Not only do they diminish people's quality of life, affect life expectancy and create numerous challenges – both for those affected, as well as their families – they also account for a significant amount of spending in national health budgets. The **Healthier together – EU Non-Communicable Diseases Initiative** therefore aims to **support EU countries reduce the burden of NCDs** whilst **improving citizens' health and well-being**, as part of a strong Health Union.

The Healthier Together Initiative has five strands:



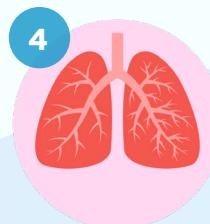
Health determinants for health promotion and disease prevention



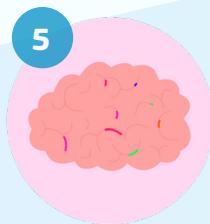
Diabetes



Cardiovascular diseases



Chronic respiratory diseases



Mental health and neurological disorders

Improved health promotion and disease prevention can **reduce the prevalence of NCDs by as much as 70%**. Yet, only around 3% of total **health spending** in the EU is targeted towards health promotion and disease prevention.

With coordination across strands and close alignment with Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, this Initiative helps **address environmental, commercial and lifestyle-related risk factors** in a more effective and efficient manner, thus contributing to build a European Health Union.

- ✓ Creating a tobacco-free generation
- ✓ Improving nutritional quality of food
- ✓ Addressing pollution and climate change
- ✓ Raising awareness of NCDs and supporting early detection
- ✓ Reducing health inequalities

Financial support

At least 20% of the annual EU4Health budget (2021–2027) dedicated to health promotion and disease prevention. For 2022 **156 million euros.**



Supporting SDG Goal target 3.4: **reducing premature mortality from non-communicable diseases by one-third by 2030.**

Tool kit for implementation and impact

Co-created over six months by:

- National representatives: Steering Group on Health Promotion, Disease Prevention and Management of Non-Communicable Diseases, sub-group on non-communicable diseases
- Patient groups, NGOs, health and other specialist organisations through the Health Policy Platform
- Commission departments and the World Health Organization, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the European Investment Bank.



Actions under the 2022 EU4Health work programme

Joint actions with countries participating in the programme:

- Health determinants to reduce the risk factors for cancer and other non-communicable diseases
- Addressing diabetes and cardiovascular diseases

Calls for proposals:

- Health determinants for cancer and non-communicable diseases (EUR 11 million)
- Diabetes and cardiovascular diseases (EUR 5 million)
- Mental health (EUR 8 million)
- and other NCDs (EUR 5 million)



Actions on chronic respiratory diseases, mental health and neurological disorders to follow in the next years.