



THE IMPACT OF EPHA'S WORK UNDER THE 2018-2021 FRAMEWORK PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT

THEMATIC PRIORITIES SUSTAINING THE THIRD HEALTH PROGRAMME

At the dawn of the EU4Health programme, EPHA is taking a stock and assessing the impact of its own work and its effectiveness in supporting the objectives of the **Third Health Programme**. One of the ways to do so is by reaching out to the members, collaborators and stakeholders that EPHA was closely engaging with throughout the last four years, to understand their perception of the impact of our work in the areas sustaining the Third Health Programme (3HP).

In more technical terms, for the last four years EPHA received annual Operating Grants under a multi-annual Framework Partnership Agreement (FPA), which supported the continued implementation of the Commission's 3HP. The activities under EPHA's Operating Grant were grouped into thematic priorities that remained constant, but were adapted slightly for each annual Specific Grant Agreement, depending on changes to the external policy environment.

Recognising that many of our members and partners have either witnessed or supported EPHA's work across different thematic priorities, we conducted a survey among the most engaged members and stakeholders, with a mix of quantitative and qualitative (open) questions. The results of surveys summarised in the following paragraphs effectively illustrate EPHA's contribution as Europe's leading civil society public health NGO as seen through the eyes of EPHA's members and partners.

According to the survey, EPHA's overall impact during the 2018-2021 period has been substantial. EPHA's actions clearly contributed to advancing EU health policymaking under the 3HP, and by doing so strongly contributed to advancing EPHA's own mission. EPHA implemented health in all policies principle, and promoted an inclusive stakeholder dialogue that was instrumental in having a more informed discussion on number of crucial policy areas with known impact on public health.

Survey participants identified that EPHA contributed to advancements in food, pharmaceutical and environmental policy. The 3HP covered the first years of the new Commission, thus offering EPHA an opportunity to shape important files such as the EU Green Deal, Farm to Fork and Pharmaceutical Strategy. It is clear that these policy roadmaps, while not being perfect, take into consideration wider public health perspective, and it is certain that at least partially it is because of EPHA's committed work.

The top examples of EPHA's success and impact according to the participants include getting the antimicrobial resistance and medicines affordability on the EU policy agenda, fostering greater accountability, civil society engagement in access to medicines, the impactful policy work on pharma strategy, but also the relentless advocacy for the EC health mandate and the EU4health programme.

EPHA's strong involvement in the discussions and shaping of the EU Code of Conduct for Responsible Business Marketing was brought up as illustration of EPHA's impactful work in collaboration with other CSOs. Another example shared by participants was the mobilisation of EU health NGOs around the new financial framework and helping to shape the EU4Health budget. EPHA's members also stressed EPHA's impactful work on supporting its members in handling the civil society response to COVID-19.

According to the survey, EPHA's role was especially strong and efficient as it acted as a coordinator of versatile NGO networks and alliances. EPHA's actions on better EU coordination and best practice sharing, and on stimulating the creation of new networks and innovative solutions was recognised as important and impactful.

The thematic priorities under the FPA in the period 2018-2021 included Food systems and NCD prevention; Universal Access and affordable medicines; Tackling Antimicrobial Resistance; Digital health; Healthy Trade; Health inequalities and Financing for public health. When specifically asked about EPHA's work across these specific areas, it was recognised as relevant and impactful, clearly contributing to the dialogue at EU level around the key public health issues. EPHA's actions across these thematic priorities were seen as influential and timely, including responses to open consultations on topics like HERA or the European Pharmaceutical Policy. These were seen as very useful for both civil society at large, and national authorities.

In their input to open end questions, EPHA's members and collaborators identified networks and potential partners that EPHA could benefit from working with in the future. Several topics that EPHA could further focus on were identified, thereby offering valuable inspiration for the upcoming work.

Acknowledging that it is inherently difficult to evaluate the impact of advocacy programmes and initiatives as they unfold in dynamic socio-political environments and have non-linear impact trajectories with a plethora of impacting variables, we believe that the impact assessment through surveying collaborators and stakeholders is a valuable proxy in EPHA's stock-taking exercise.



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