



Editorial

All eyes on the upcoming Multiannual Financial Framework

The negotiations for the post-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) are already at the centre of EU discussions. This issue is particularly relevant for civil society organisations (CSOs) to engage in, in a context where CSOs are constantly challenged, by a shrinking civic space across the EU and difficulties securing funding. The EU4Health grants for CSOs are still not published for this year, the LIFE grants have been facing disinformation attacks, and there are risks of spillovers to other funding programmes. The global situation with the cuts on USAID is impacting both civil society organisations and public health across the world. It is paramount for the EU to learn the lessons from COVID-19 and keep health a priority. However, we see a risk for public health to be de-prioritised on the political agenda.

It is essential that public health, including support to civil society organisations in accessing sustainable means of funding, is prioritised and adequately funded in the next MFF. The way EU funding is organised sets the priorities for the EU in the next years. The EU4Health programme should be continued in the next long-term budget of the EU, to address growing health challenges and truly implement an ambitious European Health Union. To name but a few of these challenges, health systems and the workforce are in crisis and should be supported by strong investments in order to face future crises and strengthen access to healthcare for citizens. The growing burden of non-communicable diseases is also an urgent issue to tackle by investing in prevention.

Providing ambitious investments for public health is aligned with the new European Commission's priority of competitiveness. Investing in a healthy Europe and focusing on wellbeing contributes to healthy societies and economy. While defence and security are a priority in the recent global context, it is relevant to note that health is also part of security concerns. Health is a pillar of democracy and should be considered as such when planning the EU's post-2027 long-term budget.

EPHA will develop advocacy activities around the MFF negotiations, especially by taking part in the activities organised by the EU4Health Civil Society Alliance, a network of over 30 health civil society organisations, whose secretariat is co-chaired by EPHA and the European Patients' Forum. The EU4Health Civil Society Alliance will focus on key messages for health to be considered in the upcoming MFF, among other activities.

In this month's EPHA's newsletter, we will focus on upcoming advocacy activities on the MFF, how to protect investments supporting public health policy, and addressing public health issues. We also explore the activities of the EU4Health Civil Society and look back to the event the network organised in the European Parliament on March 26th.

Authored by



Clémentine Richer Delforge

Policy Manager

This Month's Top Stories



EU4Health Civil Society Alliance event – Unlocking Europe's future: Prioritising Health under the next Multiannual Financial Framework

"On March 26th, 2025, the EU4Health Civil Society Alliance organised an event in the European Parliament to discuss the future of the European Health Union and integrating health in the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF). The event was hosted by MEPs Tilly Metz (Greens, Luxembourg), Stine Bosse (Renew, Denmark), Vytenis Andriukaitis (S&D, Lithuania) and András Tivadar Kulja (EPP, Hungary). The panel, chaired by EPHA's Milka Sokolović and EPF's Anca Toma, gathered Irene Norstedt (European Commission, DG RTD), Michele Calabrò (EUREGHA), Marleen Kestens (European Heart Network) and Marleen Bekker (Wageningen University and EUPHA)."

*Opinion by the **EU4Health Civil Society Alliance Secretariat***

[READ MORE](#)



EU4Health Civil Society Alliance: A History in the Making

Opinion by **Dr Milka Sokolović** and
Clémentine Richer Delforge

[READ MORE](#)



The Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), an opportunity to unlock the involvement of patient organisations in health policy-making

Guest article by **Yann Heyer**, policy
officer at the *European Patients' Forum*
(EPF)

[READ MORE](#)

EPHA Updates

ephia european public health alliance

THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH

UKRI UK Research and Innovation

The Better Regulation for Better Health Toolkit

*All the tools you need to
engage with the 'Better
Regulation' agenda*

ACCESS THE TOOLKIT NOW [▶▶▶](#)

Better Regulation for Better Health Toolkit

The **Better Regulation** agenda is a key determinant of how policies affecting health are conceived, designed, adopted, implemented, evaluated and revised within the European Union (EU) policy process. This toolkit is designed to support consideration of and engagement with **Better Regulation** by civil society organisations interested in health and other social issues.

[READ MORE](#)

The importance of operating grants for civil society organisations in the field of health - open letter to the EU Commission

On the 10th April, in an open letter to the EU Commission and their president Ursula Von Der Leyen, members and partners of the EU4Health Civil Society Alliance have urged the commission to ensure immediate adoption of the 2025 EU4Health Work Plan, and approve full-year funding for civil society under existing Framework Partnership Agreements.



[READ MORE](#)



EPHA is now on Bluesky!

Exciting news: EPHA is on BlueSky! Join us on the growing platform to learn about our work and engage on key public health topics across Europe.

[FOLLOW US](#)



EPHA attended the first General Assembly of the Zero Hidden Hunger EU Horizon Project

The event brought together partners from across Europe to exchange insights from the different Work Packages (WPs), all working to tackle the pressing issue of hidden hunger, the often-overlooked **burden of micronutrient deficiencies**, increasingly exacerbated by an aging population, socio-demographic inequities, and the growing consumption of ultra-processed foods. We shared progress from WP9.2, which we are leading. Our focus is on reviewing existing macronutrient-related policies in Europe and setting up a Policy Lab to draw on evidence from academia, civil society,

and other sectors to shape stronger, equity-driven nutrition policies.

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

EPHA Events



Combating Ethnic Disparities in Healthcare: A Case Study of Prostate and Breast Cancer

On 9 April, the European Public Health Alliance (EPHA) and the European Cancer Organisation (ECO) organised a webinar exploring ethnic health disparities through a lens of cancer inequities. Through two expert presentations on prostate and breast cancer respectively, followed by a panel discussion, the webinar explored ways to realise inclusive cancer care, and health equity more broadly. This was explored through a research, patient advocacy, and policy perspective.

The recording and more information can be found on the event page.

[READ MORE](#)

News From Members



Association of European Cancer Leagues (ECL)

Webinar: Supporting cancer patients and survivors in the workplace

Many cancer survivors want to return to work. But finding a way back into the workplace isn't always easy. The MEPs against Cancer group and the Association of European Cancer Leagues (ECL) are hosting a special webinar on **30 April** (10:00 - 11:30 CEST) exploring how we can better support people affected by cancer as they navigate the workplace.

[READ MORE](#)

Royal College of Nursing

"Nurses' Day 2025: celebrating the skill, dedication and impact of nursing"

The initiative brings together Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) with a shared commitment to improving women's health policies, ensuring access to quality care, and promoting gender-sensitive healthcare systems throughout the EU.



[READ MORE](#)

European Association of Senior Hospital Physicians (AEMH)

Conference on Artificial Intelligence, Augmented Reality, Metaverse: Impact on Medicine and the Medical Profession

Rome, **22 May** 2025, 16.00 – 19.00

[READ MORE](#)



Malta Health Network (MHN)

Promoting Vaccination as a life-course approach

Once again the Malta Health Network is actively participating in the initiative of Active Citizenship Network (ACN) in promoting #VaccinAtion 2025.

[READ MORE](#)



Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region (ASPHER)

Trauma-Informed Public Health Conference and Public Mental Health Summer School

This year's theme: **Trauma-Informed Public Health** – understanding the role of trauma and strengthening resilience in public health systems.

[READ MORE](#)

Other News



Concerns over the lack of information on the publication of the 2025 calls for operating grants under the EU4Health programme

The members of the EU4Health Civil Society Alliance ask in a new joint statement for transparent information on the operating grants for 2025 under the EU4Health programme. As of March 2025, no information is available on the operating grants supporting civil society for this year, although a framework partnership agreement has been organised for 2025 and 2026. This contributes to growing difficulties for health civil society organisations, and endangers their ability to implement their activities.

The statement asks for the operating grants, once available, to cover the activities retroactively from January until the end of the year. It also calls for funding opportunities for civil society organisations that were not eligible for the Framework Programme Agreements or could not apply.

[READ MORE](#)

EPHA (AISBL) is the European Platform bringing together public health organisations representing health professionals, patients groups, health promotion and disease specific NGOs, academic groupings and other health associations. The European Public Health Alliance has received funding under an operating grant from the European Union's EU4Health Programme (2021-2027). The content of this email represents the views of the author only and is his/her sole responsibility; it cannot be considered to reflect the views of the European Commission and/or the European Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA) or any other body of the European Union. The European Commission and the Agency do not accept any responsibility for use that may be made of the information it contains. Transparency Register Number: 18941013532-08

Our mailing address is:

European Public Health Alliance AISBL, Rue de Trèves 49-51, Brussels 1000, Belgium

[UPDATE YOUR MAILING
PREFERENCES](#)

[UNSUBSCRIBE FROM EPHA
COMMUNICATIONS](#)
