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Public consultation on the next MFF: Implementing EU funding with Member States and regions

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

Introduction

The current multiannual financial framework (MFF) – the EU's long-term budget – runs until the end of 2027. In 2025, the Commission will adopt comprehensive proposals for the post-2027 multiannual financial framework and for the next generation of funding programmes. These programmes provide financial support to a wide range of beneficiaries across the EU - including universities, regions, towns, civil society organisations, businesses, farmers, students, scientists and many others.

Following President von der Leyen's <u>Political Guidelines for the 2024-2029</u> <u>European Commission</u>, the Commission will work together for a simpler, more focused and responsive long-term budget that reflects the European strategic priorities with the ambition to be an 'Investment Commission', while moving towards. The next long-term budget will be simpler in the way it works – with fewer programmes and a plan for each country linking key reforms with investment, and focusing on our joint priorities, including promoting economic, social and territorial cohesion. The multiannual financial framework for the period after 2027 must reflect this.

The Commission's proposals will be designed to make it possible for the EU to deliver on the things that matter most, in areas where it can achieve more than Member States acting alone. This requires a careful assessment both of what has worked well in the past and what could be improved in the future. The next EU long-term budget will draw lessons from the current one – notably in terms of simplicity and flexibility, speed and strategic focus.

To gather evidence to support the preparation of these proposals, the Commission is launching a series of public consultations to gather views from all interested parties on how to make the very most of every euro of the EU budget.

To deliver on these objectives, this consultation covers EU funding implemented with Members States and regions in the following policy areas: cohesion policy, common agricultural policy, fisheries and maritime policies, home affairs and Trans-European Networks. The decision to cluster issues serves to support the preparatory work and does not pre-empt the architecture of future programmes.

This questionnaire consists of three parts. Part 1 collects some information about you, while Part 2 contains questions related to the EU funds. Section 3 contains two closing questions.

It should take about 9 minutes to complete the survey. You can save your replies as a draft and finish them later. Please be concise when providing additional comments on the questions with a free text box. You can upload a document stating your views at the end of the survey.

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Part 1				
About you				

*Language of my contribution

- Bulgarian
- Croatian
- Czech
- Danish
- Dutch
- English
- Estonian
- Finnish
- French
- German
- Greek

0	Hungarian
0	Irish
0	Italian
0	Latvian
0	Lithuanian
0	Maltese
0	Polish
0	Portuguese
0	Romanian
0	Slovak
0	Slovenian
0	Spanish
0	Swedish
l an	n giving my contribution as
(()	
0	Business association
0	
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0	
(Non-governmental organisation (NGO)
0	Public authority
0	Trade union
0	Other
Firs	t name
	Lola
Sur	name
	Marchandy
Ema	ail (this won't be published)
	lola.marchandy@epha.org

*Organisation name

255 character(s) maximum

European Public Health Alliance

*Organisation size

- Micro (1 to 9 employees)
- Small (10 to 49 employees)
- Medium (50 to 249 employees)
- Large (250 or more)

Transparency register number

Check if your organisation is on the transparency register. It's a voluntary database for organisations seeking to influence EU decision-making.

18941013532-08

*Country of origin

Please add your country of origin, or that of your organisation.

This list does not represent the official position of the European institutions with regard to the legal status or policy of the entities mentioned. It is a harmonisation of often divergent lists and practices.

	Afghanistan		Djibouti		Libya	Saint Martin
	Åland Islands	0	Dominica		Liechtenstein	Saint Pierre and
						Miquelon
0	Albania		Dominican		Lithuania	Saint Vincent
			Republic			and the
						Grenadines
	Algeria		Ecuador		Luxembourg	Samoa
0	American Samoa		Egypt		Macau	San Marino
	Andorra		El Salvador		Madagascar	São Tomé and
						Príncipe
	Angola		Equatorial Guinea	a	Malawi	Saudi Arabia
	Anguilla		Eritrea		Malaysia	Senegal
0	Antarctica		Estonia		Maldives	Serbia
0	Antigua and		Eswatini		Mali	Seychelles
	Barbuda					
	Argentina		Ethiopia		Malta	Sierra Leone
0	Armenia	0	Falkland Islands		Marshall Islands	Singapore

	Aruba	0	Faroe Islands		Martinique		Sint Maarten
0	Australia		Fiji	0	Mauritania		Slovakia
	Austria		Finland	0	Mauritius		Slovenia
	Azerbaijan		France	0	Mayotte		Solomon Islands
	Bahamas		French Guiana	0	Mexico		Somalia
	Bahrain		French Polynesia		Micronesia		South Africa
	Bangladesh		French Southern	0	Moldova		South Georgia
			and Antarctic				and the South
			Lands				Sandwich
							Islands
0	Barbados		Gabon	0	Monaco		South Korea
0	Belarus	0	Georgia		Mongolia		South Sudan
•	Belgium	0	Germany	0	Montenegro		Spain
	Belize		Ghana	0	Montserrat		Sri Lanka
	Benin		Gibraltar	0	Morocco		Sudan
0	Bermuda		Greece	0	Mozambique		Suriname
	Bhutan		Greenland	0	Myanmar/Burma		Svalbard and
							Jan Mayen
	Bolivia		Grenada	0	Namibia		Sweden
	Bonaire Saint		Guadeloupe	0	Nauru		Switzerland
	Eustatius and						
	Saba						
	Bosnia and		Guam		Nepal		Syria
	Herzegovina						
	Botswana		Guatemala		Netherlands		Taiwan
	Bouvet Island		Guernsey		New Caledonia		Tajikistan
	Brazil		Guinea		New Zealand		Tanzania
0	British Indian	0	Guinea-Bissau		Nicaragua		Thailand
	Ocean Territory						
	British Virgin		Guyana		Niger		The Gambia
	Islands						
0	Brunei	0	Haiti	0	Nigeria		Timor-Leste
0	Bulgaria		Heard Island and	0	Niue		Togo
_		_	McDonald Islands	3		_	
	Burkina Faso		Honduras		Norfolk Island		Tokelau

Burundi	Hong Kong	Northern	0	Tonga
		Mariana Islands		
Cambodia	Hungary	North Korea		Trinidad and
				Tobago
Cameroon	Iceland	North Macedonia	0	Tunisia
Canada	India	Norway		Türkiye
Cape Verde	Indonesia	Oman	0	Turkmenistan
Cayman Islands	Iran	Pakistan	0	Turks and
				Caicos Islands
Central African	Iraq	Palau		Tuvalu
Republic				
Chad	Ireland	Palestine	0	Uganda
Chile	Isle of Man	Panama	0	Ukraine
China	Israel	Papua New	0	United Arab
		Guinea		Emirates
Christmas Island	Italy	Paraguay	0	United Kingdom
Clipperton	Jamaica	Peru	0	United States
Cocos (Keeling)	Japan	Philippines	0	United States
Islands				Minor Outlying
				Islands
Colombia	Jersey	Pitcairn Islands	0	Uruguay
Comoros	Jordan	Poland	0	US Virgin Islands
Congo	Kazakhstan	Portugal	0	Uzbekistan
Cook Islands	Kenya	Puerto Rico	0	Vanuatu
Costa Rica	Kiribati	Qatar	0	Vatican City
Côte d'Ivoire	Kosovo	Réunion	0	Venezuela
Croatia	Kuwait	Romania	0	Vietnam
Cuba	Kyrgyzstan	Russia	0	Wallis and
				Futuna
Curaçao	Laos	Rwanda	0	Western Sahara
Cyprus	Latvia	Saint Barthélemy	0	Yemen
Czechia	Lebanon	Saint Helena	0	Zambia
		Ascension and		
		Tristan da Cunha		

	Democratic	Lesotho	Saint Kitts and	Zimbabwe
	Republic of the		Nevis	
	Congo			
0	Denmark	Liberia	Saint Lucia	

The Commission will publish all contributions to this public consultation. You can choose whether you would prefer to have your details published or to remain anonymous when your contribution is published. Fo r the purpose of transparency, the type of respondent (for example, 'business association, 'consumer association', 'EU citizen') country of origin, organisation name and size, and its transparency register number, are always published. Your e-mail address will never be published. Opt in to select the privacy option that best suits you. Privacy options default based on the type of respondent selected

*Contribution publication privacy settings

The Commission will publish the responses to this public consultation. You can choose whether you would like your details to be made public or to remain anonymous.

Anonymous

Only organisation details are published: The type of respondent that you responded to this consultation as, the name of the organisation on whose behalf you reply as well as its transparency number, its size, its country of origin and your contribution will be published as received. Your name will not be published. Please do not include any personal data in the contribution itself if you want to remain anonymous.

Public

Organisation details and respondent details are published: The type of respondent that you responded to this consultation as, the name of the organisation on whose behalf you reply as well as its transparency number, its size, its country of origin and your contribution will be published. Your name will also be published.

I agree with the personal data protection provisions

Part 2 - Questions related to EU funds implemented with Member States and regions

How important are the following policy challenges to you?

Limited public investment capacities to meet the needs of EU priorities (e.g. green and digital transitions, security, competitiveness)	•	©	•	©	©
Persisting social, economic, regional and territorial disparities	•	0	0	0	0
Limited capacity of regions and communities to benefit from the single market and new economic opportunities	0	•	•	0	•
Demographic challenges	0	•	0	0	0
Labour and skills shortages, need for upskilling and reskilling, and unpreparedness of education and training systems for the 21st century	•	•	•	•	•
Decline in labour productivity and competitiveness	0	0	0	0	•
Lack of progress in addressing poverty and social exclusion	•	0	0	0	0
Barriers to the access to essential services, health, quality care, housing and social protection	•	0	0	0	0
Digitalisation of the public administration, including public services and the justice systems	•	0	0	0	0
Digital transformation in key sectors	•	0	0	0	0
Lack of connectivity in Member States and regions (e.g. transport, energy and digital)	0	•	0	0	0
Challenges related to the respect of the rule of law (e.g. independence of the judiciary, right to a fair trial, fight against corruption)	0	0	©	0	•
Challenges related to the effective protection of EU funds against fraud, corruption and other illegal activity	0	0	0	0	•

Security threats such as organised crime	0	0	0	0	•
Challenges related to ensuring a complete and fully functioning Schengen area with the free movement of people	0	0	•	0	•
Challenges related to migration and asylum management	©	0	0	0	•
Increasing impacts of climate change and environmental degradation (e.g. natural disasters, loss of biodiversity)	•	•	•	0	•
Decarbonising the economy	•	0	0	0	0
Securing an affordable, sustainable and secure energy supply	0	0	0	0	•
Maximising the potential of the circular economy	0	0	0	0	•
Securing a stable supply of high- quality food at all times at reasonable prices	•	0	0	0	0
Economic disparities and crises faced by the agricultural and fishery sectors	©	0	0	0	•
Struggling cultural and creative sectors, precarity of artists, limited access to culture and preservation of heritage	0	0	•	•	•
Other (please specify below)	•	0	0	0	0

If you have identified other policy challenges or would like to elaborate on the challenges above, please specify (mentioning the policy area to which you refer in the latter case):

500 character(s) maximum

Strenghtening healthcare systems and preparing them for future crises

To what extent do you consider the following factors as obstacles to the EU budget achieving its objectives?

	To a large extent	Somewhat	Very little	Not at all	Don't know/ not applicable
Too many funds with overlapping objectives	0	0	0	0	•
Different and often complex fund-specific rules on access to funding and compliance	0	0	©	0	•
Administrative capacity at national, regional and local level	•	0	0	0	0
Administrative burden for beneficiaries, regional and national authorities	0	•	0	0	0
Overly complicated governance and distribution of funds	0	0	0	0	•
Lack of flexibility to adapt to new and unforeseen developments	0	•	0	0	0
Lack of consistency and effectiveness to deliver on EU policy priorities	0	•	0	0	0
Insufficient alignment with national policies	0	0	0	0	•
Low absorption of funds and insufficient number of high-quality projects	0	0	0	0	•
Insufficient focus on projects with the highest EU added value (e.g. multi-country projects)	0	0	0	0	•
Insufficient focus on achieving results	0	0	0	0	•
Insufficient mobilisation of private financing (e. g. by de-risking private investment)	0	0	©	0	•
National regulatory environment makes EU funding less effective	0	0	0	0	•
Fraud, corruption and other illegal activities targeting EU funds	0	0	0	0	•
Other (please specify below)	0	0	©	0	0

To what extent do you agree that the below objectives are supported by EU policies - for Cohesion Policy?

	To a large extent	Somewhat	Very little	Not at all	Don't know/not applicable
Contribute to achieving EU objectives, including territorial, social and economic cohesion	•	0	0	0	•

Support EU public goods (e.g. cross-border / multi-country projects)	0	0	0	0	•
Address cross-border challenges (e.g. climate change)	0	0	0	0	•

To what extent do you agree that the below objectives are supported by EU policies - for Common agriculture policy?

	To a large extent	Somewhat	Very little	Not at all	Don't know/not applicable
Contribute to achieving EU objectives, including a fair standard of living for the farming community) and to making the agricultural sector attractive to new entrants	0	•	0	0	•
Support EU public goods (e.g. the provision of eco-system services, and cross-border cooperation)	0	0	0	0	0
Address cross-border challenges (e.g. climate change, food security)	0	0	0	0	0

To what extent do you agree that the below objectives are supported by EU policies - for Fisheries and maritime policies?

	To a large extent	Somewhat	Very little	Not at all	Don't know/not applicable
Contribute to achieving EU objectives, including fostering sustainable fisheries, and restoring and conserving aquatic biological resources	0	•	0	0	•
Support EU public goods (e.g. cross-border cooperation)	0	0	0	0	•
Address cross-border challenges (e.g. climate change)	0	•	0	0	0

To what extent do you agree that the below objectives are supported by EU policies - for Home affairs?

	To a large extent	Somewhat	Very little	Not at all	Don't know/not applicable
Contribute to achieving EU objectives, including efficient management of migration, asylum and external borders	0	0	0	0	•

Support EU public goods (e.g. cross-border / multi-country projects)	0	0	0	0	•
Address cross-border challenges (e.g. security threats)	0	0	0	0	•

To what extent do you agree that the below objectives are supported by EU policies - for Trans-European Networks?

	To a large extent	Somewhat	Very little	Not at all	Don't know/not applicable
Contribute to achieving EU objectives, including a smooth functioning single market, and territorial, social and economic cohesion	0	0	0	0	•
Support EU cross-border / multi-country infrastructure projects	0	0	0	0	•
Address cross-border challenges (e.g. military mobility and defence, climate change)	0	0	0	0	•

To what extent do you agree that the following options could help the EU budget become more effective and efficient?

	To a large extent	Somewhat	Very little	Not at all	Don't know/ not applicable
Applying common rules, timelines and eligibility criteria to all relevant EU funds	•	0	0	0	0
Fewer, clearer and simpler rules	•	0	0	0	0
Reduce the number of EU funding programmes	0	0	0	•	0
Simplify the management of EU funding programmes at national and regional level	•	0	0	0	0
Prioritise projects with high EU added value, such as multi-country projects and projects that contribute to the EU's strategic priorities	•	0	0	0	0
Introduce more flexibility into resource allocation to react to crises and emerging needs	•	0	0	0	0
Use funds to promote both reforms and investments	•	0	0	0	0
Simplify access to funding for beneficiaries	•	0	0	0	0

Use more EU funds to stimulate private and national investment, including through financial instruments (e.g. loans, guarantees, equity)	0	0	©	0	•
Place greater focus on achieving results, including via performance-based funding (such as financing not linked to costs)	0	•	0	0	0
Prevent and combat fraud and corruption better, as well as other illegal activities targeting EU funds	0	0	0	0	•
Other (please specify below)	0	0	0	0	0

Do you agree that the policies covered by the EU budget should continue to support all types of regions and communities in the future?

Maximum	1	selection(s)
✓ Vac		

No

If you selected 'yes', please explain why:

500 character(s) maximum

Supporting all types of regions and communities is essential to promote cohesion, reduce inequalities, and ensure that no one is left behind in the EU's recovery, health, and sustainability goals.

If you have any concrete suggestions for improvement, please specify:

500 character(s) maximum

EPHA has emphasized the importance of addressing health inequalities across all regions, especially through place-based approaches that consider socio-economic disparities and access to healthcare services. For instance, in its 2024 paper on energy poverty, EPHA underscores that vulnerable populations across both urban and rural settings must be equally supported by EU structural investments to reduce health disparities linked to inadequate housing and energy insecurity

If you think that these stakeholders could be involved more effectively, please specify:

500 character(s) maximum

It is paramount to strengthen meaningful involvement of affected communities and civil society throughout the policy cycle. As EPHA urges, participation must be non-tokenistic, with real influence in programme design, monitoring, and evaluation. This fosters culturally competent, equitable policies and aligns with WHO's recommendations on health equity.

Which of the following aspects do you consider the most important for improving the administrative and institutional capacity of public administrations in Member States?

1	Predictability of the programming cycle associated with EU-funded investments
	Flexibility to address a wide variety of Member States' needs
1	Focus on key EU priorities with more EU added value
	Helping Member States to identify the areas where technical support would be
	more impactful
V	Sustainability of capacity over time
	Support a wide range of beneficiaries in public administrations at different
	levels
V	Support and information about funding opportunities to potential beneficiaries
	/applicants
	Addressing skills needs of national, regional and local authorities
	Other (please specify below)
	Don't know / unable to answer

Part 3 - Closing questions

If you would like to add further information – within the scope of this questionnaire – please feel free to do so here.

2000 character(s) maximum

The European Public Health Alliance (EPHA) underscores the critical importance of the EU4Health Programme across all levels of governance. This programme is pivotal in building more resilient and accessible health systems throughout the European Union.

A primary concern is ensuring equitable access to healthcare and addressing health inequalities among all of the Members States. EPHA advocates for EU actions that focus on eliminating health disparities, eradicating discrimination, and promoting equal access to health.

The ongoing shortage of healthcare professionals is another pressing issue. EPHA emphasizes the need for EU initiatives to support the development and retention of a skilled healthcare workforce, ensuring that health systems can meet current and future demands effectively across all Members States.

Civil society organizations (CSOs) play an indispensable role in health policy and service delivery. EPHA calls for the EU to develop mechanisms for stronger co-creation of policies, programmes, and services, allowing for real empowerment of people and communities, including patient engagement. This includes providing sustainable financial support through a robust EU4Health Programme, enabling CSOs to contribute meaningfully to health initiatives and policy development.

In conclusion, EPHA urges the European Commission to prioritize health within the Multiannual Financial Framework by reinforcing the EU4Health Programme. This entails addressing healthcare access and inequalities, mitigating workforce shortages in the health sector, and ensuring sustainable support for civil society organizations. Such commitments are essential for fostering a healthier and more equitable Europe.

Please attach any relevant documents to support your replies.

File upload box - 1 MB max and only pdf, txt, doc, docx, odt and rtf files are allowed.

Only files of the type pdf,txt,doc,docx,odt,rtf are allowed

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Contact

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