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Targeted Stakeholders' Consultation about EU4Health Annual Work Programme 2026

Fields marked with * are mandatory.

* Name

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Stakeholders' Targeted Consultation EU4Health Annual Work Programme 2026

The EU4Health Programme, adopted in March 2021, is the response to the COVID-19 pandemic and aims to build a strong European Health Union by supporting legislative and non-legislative Union health priorities. Health is a vital investment and the EU4Health programme represents an unprecedented level of EU financial support in the health area, with an initial budget of €5.3 billion for the 2021-27 period, subsequently adjusted to €4.4 billion following the revision of the 2021-2027 Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF).

The European Commission is building a strong European Health Union, in which all EU countries prepare and respond together to health crises, medical supplies are available, affordable and innovative, and countries work together to improve prevention, treatment and aftercare for diseases such as cancer.

This targeted consultation is intended to seek the opinion of stakeholders about current and future Union health priorities and strategic orientations on key health needs to be addressed through the EU4Health Annual Work Programme 2026, providing inputs for reflection on the 2026 programme and beyond. The results will be compiled in a summary stakeholders' consultation report (see the report on the 2025 Work Programme's consultation – link).

For further information please read the consultation strategy (link).

This targeted consultation will be available from 04.08.2025.

Please read carefully the privacy statement before proceeding.

Stakeholders targeted consultation – Data Protection (link).

About your organisation

1. Please indicate the Member State or associated country you are located in, if applicable.
If not applicable, please select "Other non-EU country"

* Select the country

- (○) Austria
- (●) Belgium
- (○) Bulgaria
- (○) Croatia
- (○) Cyprus
- (○) Czechia
- (○) Denmark
- (○) Estonia
- (○) Finland
- (○) France
- (○) Germany
- (○) Greece
- (○) Hungary
- (○) Ireland
- (○) Italy
- (○) Latvia
- (○) Lithuania
- (○) Luxembourg
- (○) Malta
- (○) Netherlands
- (○) Poland
- (○) Portugal
- (○) Romania
- (○) Slovak Republic
- (○) Slovenia
- (○) Spain
- (○) Sweden
- (○) Norway
- (○) Iceland
- (○) Ukraine
- (○) Moldova
- (○) Montenegro
- (○) Bosnia and Herzegovina
- (○) Other non-EU country

If you are located in a non-EU country, please specify the country.

2. These comments represent the views of:

* Please choose only one from the list below.

- ○ Academia or education establishments
- ◉ Civil society organisations (associations, foundations, NGOs, professional organisations and similar entities)
- ○ Established networks in the field of health (e.g., one of the European Reference Networks)
- ○ Healthcare professional
- ○ Hospitals
- ○ Individual
- ○ Member States' authorities (national, regional, local)
- ○ Patient organisations
- ○ Primary care delivery organisation
- ○ Private entities (profit or non-profit)
- ○ Research institutes
- ○ Other

If you have chosen 'Other', please specify.

* Please indicate the full name of the organisation.

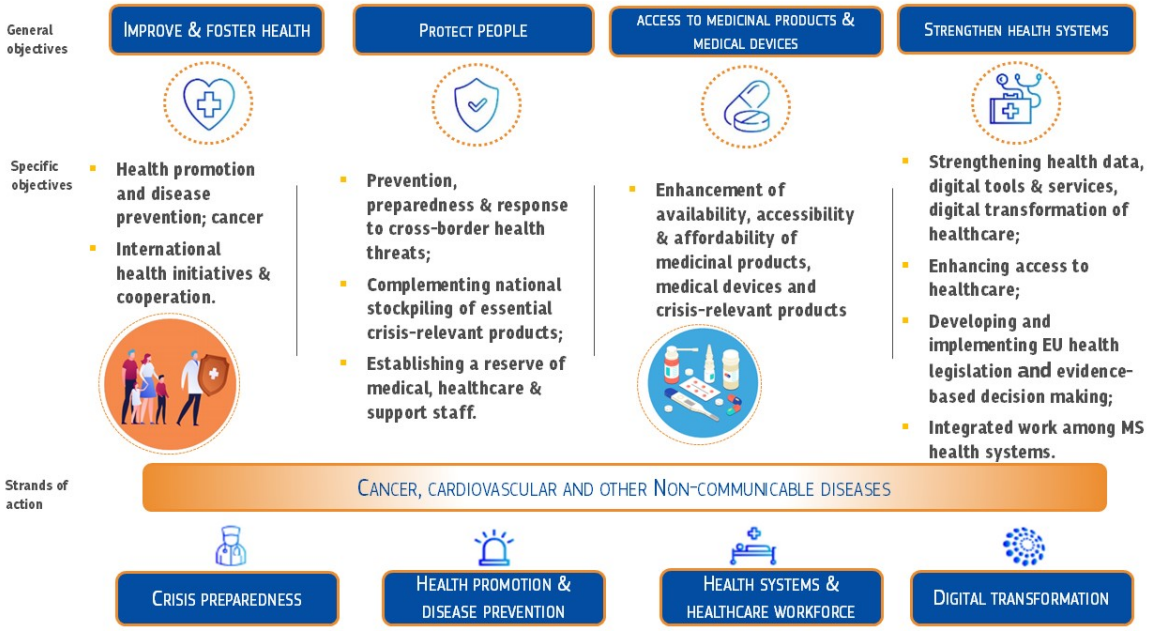
European Public Health Alliance (EPHA)

* 3. Has your organisation been a beneficiary of the EU4Health Programme so far?

- ◉ Yes
- ○ No
- ○ Do not know/Not relevant

EU4Health work programme 2026 – strategic orientations and priorities

The EU4Health Programme (Regulation (EU) 2021/522) was adopted in March 2021. So far, five Annual Work Programmes have been adopted between 2021 - 2025. These Annual Work Programmes have covered relevant areas of interventions for achieving the general and specific objectives of the EU4Health Regulation.



4. For simplification and to provide a high-level framing, the actions in the annual work programme have been clustered in "strand of actions". **In your view, how effectively does each strand allocate resources to address both current and future health needs while maintaining balance across priorities?** Please see the consultation strategy (link) for the description of the strands.

Please score from one to five : 1 = Least effective to 5 = Most effective. Each score can only be used once

	1	2	3	4	5
* Strand of action 01: Crisis preparedness	○	○	○	○	◉
* Strand of action 02: Health promotion & disease prevention	◉	○	○	○	○
* Strand of action 03: Health systems & healthcare workforce	○	○	◉	○	○
* Strand of action 04: Digital Transformation	○	○	○	◉	○
* Strand of action 05: Cancer, cardiovascular and other NCDs	○	◉	○	○	○

*** 5. In your opinion, in which area of prevention, preparedness & response to cross-border health threats there is a need for action through EU4Health?**

- ○ Respiratory or contact-based viruses with pandemic potential
- ○ Vector-borne or animal-reservoir viruses with epidemic potential
- ◉ Antimicrobial resistance
- ○ Armed conflict related threats and chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) threats
- ○ Other

*** 6. In which area there is a need for action by EU4Health for improving health promotion and disease prevention?**

- (●) Mental health initiatives
- ( ) Prevention and reduction of tobacco use
- ( ) Vaccination
- ( ) Reducing harmful use of alcohol
- ( ) Other

*** 7. How can EU4Health strengthen healthcare systems and healthcare workforce to better respond to patients' needs?**

- ( ) Enhancing healthcare workforce training
- ( ) Increasing cross-border collaborations (e.g. patients accessing healthcare in another EU Member State)
- ( ) Ensuring available and affordable medicinal products, medical devices and crisis-relevant products
- (●) Improving accessibility of healthcare
- ( ) Other

*** 8. In your opinion, in which area of digital health there is a need for action through EU4Health?**

- (●) Rights of patients under the European Health Data Space
- ( ) Application/ Use of Artificial Intelligence in healthcare
- ( ) Uptake of the European Health Record exchange Format
- ( ) Use of health data by researchers and innovators
- ( ) Other

*** 9. In your opinion, in which area of cancer, cardiovascular and other non-communicable diseases there is a need for action through EU4Health?**

- ( ) Support the uptake of cancer screening activities
- ( ) Support cancer treatment activities
- (●) Support cardiovascular disease prevention
- ( ) Support cardiovascular disease treatment
- ( ) Other

*** 10. In your opinion, which areas covered by the EU4Health work programme support best Europe's competitiveness?**

between 2 and 3 choices

- [x] Actions on disease prevention, health promotion and for addressing health determinants (including cancer)
- [ ] Supporting global commitments and health initiatives
- [x] Strengthening the capability for prevention, preparedness, and response to cross-border health threats
- [ ] Complementing national stockpiling on essential crisis relevant products
- [ ] Training a reserve of medical, healthcare and support staff
- [ ] Improving the availability, accessibility & affordability of medicinal products, medical devices and crisis-relevant products
- [ ] Improving health data and promoting the uptake of digital tools and services and the digital transformation of healthcare systems (including through Artificial Intelligence)
- [x] Improving access to quality, patient-centred, outcome-based healthcare and related care services

- [ ] Other

*** 11. In your view, which areas of innovation requires priority action under EU4Health to foster health advancements?**

between 2 and 3 choices

- [ ] Biotechnology applications
- [x] Digital health technologies
- [ ] Personalised medicine
- [x] Health system integration
- [ ] Advanced therapeutics
- [ ] Digital health & AI
- [ ] Other

*** 12. In your opinion, where does the EU4Health programme bring the most added value for European citizens?**

- ( ) Promoting collaboration between Member States (e.g., via Joint Actions)
- ( ) Enabling the preparedness and response to serious-cross border health threats
- (•) Tackling current and future health priorities (e.g. mental health, cancer, aging, etc.)
- ( ) Implementing actions on health legislation (e.g. European health data space, health technology assessment)
- ( ) Support to European Reference Networks
- ( ) Other

*** 13. What do you consider the most pressing unmet health needs that the EU4Health programme should address?**

between 2 and 3 choices

- [ ] Chronic disease management
- [ ] Access to healthcare services
- [x] Health inequalities
- [ ] New & emerging diseases
- [ ] Rare diseases
- [ ] Mental health
- [x] Cardiovascular diseases
- [x] Antimicrobial resistance
- [ ] Access to medical countermeasures
- [ ] Pandemic preparedness
- [ ] Chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) threats
- [ ] Other

*** 14. What (would have) happened to your action/ project, without European-level funding through the EU4Health programme?**

- ( ) Likely funded by a public source at national or regional level, without any major changes in scope, duration or level of ambition

- ○ Likely funded by a private source at national or regional level, without any major changes in scope, duration or level of ambition
- ○ Likely funded (by either a public or private source), but with a substantial reduction in scope, duration or level of ambition
- ○ No funding secured (by either a public or private source), but would have taken place later
- ◉ No funding secured, and would not have taken place at all
- ○ Likely funded by another EU programme, without any major changes in scope, duration or level of ambition
- ○ Other

*** 15. What should be the primary focus of the EU4Health programme in 2026?**

2000 character(s) maximum

The 2026 EU4Health work programme should urgently prioritise health promotion and disease prevention, which are areas proven to be cost-effective, equitable, and essential for sustainable health systems and equitable health outcomes. Investing in prevention reduces the burden of chronic diseases, lowers long-term healthcare costs, and eases pressure on hospitals. It also helps close persistent health inequalities, since vulnerable and marginalised groups are more often exposed to risk factors and face greater obstacles to accessing care. Prioritising prevention strengthens Europe's competitiveness: a healthy population is more able to actively contribute and participate in society, making health a foundation for productivity and growth. Within this pillar, the European Public Health Alliance (EPHA) and its members bring together expertise across non-communicable diseases prevention and control and mental health, reducing inequalities, and addressing the risks posed by antimicrobial resistance, environmental stressors, and the climate crisis on health. EPHA also plays a key role in strengthening the voice of health civil society in EU policymaking, assessing EU policies through a health lens, and ensuring that a health-in-all-policies approach remains foundational in the EU agenda. For their pivotal work to continue, however, civil society organisations need stable and predictable support. Restoring operating support as part of the forthcoming EU4Health work programme should be a pressing priority for European institutions, as it would provide the stability and independence that NGOs need to continue to play their longstanding role in prevention and health promotion. This would reinforce the impact of EU4Health and help the programme deliver on a core mission: ensuring better health and reducing inequalities for all Europeans.

*** 16. From your point of view, what are the major priorities not yet addressed by EU4Health work programmes?**

2000 character(s) maximum

While EU4Health has advanced in several areas, notably crisis preparedness, cancer, and digitalisation, important gaps remain that risk limiting its long-term impact. First, health promotion and disease prevention require much stronger and more consistent support. Despite clear evidence of cost-effectiveness, prevention still represents a small share of the EU health funding. Actions remain fragmented, often disease- or product-specific, while broader determinants – such as food environments, alcohol and tobacco – are insufficiently tackled. Without addressing these commercial risk factors, the burden of non-communicable diseases and related inequalities will continue to grow. Second, equity and marginalised and vulnerable groups are not systematically embedded. While some work programmes have included actions for migrants, refugees, LGBTQIA+ people, Roma communities, people living with disabilities or displaced Ukrainians, these are scattered initiatives. A consistent, cross-cutting approach – based on the social determinants of health – to reducing health inequalities is missing, despite its importance for fairness and for sustainable health systems. Third, civil society's role remains undervalued, NGOs are recognised as partners in projects, but the absence of sustainable and predictable funding undermines their ability to provide continuity, retain expertise, and contribute fully to EU4Health objectives. Finally, the links between environment, climate, and health are only partially covered, mainly in preparedness contexts (e.g., vector-borne diseases). Stronger integration of environmental determinants – such as pollution and climate stressors – into prevention is needed. Addressing these gaps would make EU4Health more cost-effective, equitable, and sustainable, delivering on its mission of better health in Europe.

Background Documents

Consultation Strategy

Data Protection

Contact

Contact Form