

EU4Health programme 2021-2027

The **EU4Health** programme was adopted as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic and to reinforce crisis preparedness in the EU. The pandemic highlighted the fragility of national health systems. The EU4Health programme will bring a contribution to the long-term health challenges by building stronger, more resilient and more accessible health systems.

Health is an investment and, with a €5.3 billion budget during the 2021-27 period, the **EU4Health programme is an unparalleled EU financial support in the health area**. EU4Health is a clear message that public health is a priority for the EU, and it is **one of the main instruments to pave the way to a European Health Union**.

Established by Regulation (EU) 2021/522 (https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2021.107.01.0001.01.ENG), EU4Health brings an EU added value and complements the policies of the Member States to pursue

four general objective representing the ambitions of the programme and ten specific objectives representing the areas of intervention:

Improve and foster health

- o Health promotion and disease prevention, in particular cancer;
- o International health initiatives and cooperation.

Protect people

- o Prevention, preparedness and response to cross-border health threats;
- o Complementing national stockpiling of essential crisis-relevant products;
- o Establishing a reserve of medical, healthcare and support staff.

Access to medicinal products, medical devices and crisis-relevant products

- o Ensuring that these products are accessible, available and affordable

Strengthen health systems

- o Reinforcing health data, digital tools and services, digital transformation of healthcare;
- o Enhancing access to healthcare;
- o Developing and implementing EU health legislation and evidence-based decision-making;
- o Integrated work among national health systems.

Objectives of the EU4Health programme (https://health.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2022-05/eu4health-2021-2027_2022-work-prog_en.pdf)

EU4Health and the European Health Union

EU4Health will pave the way to a European Health Union (https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/promoting-our-european-way-life/european-health-union_en) by investing in urgent health priorities:

Response to the COVID-19 crisis (https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/coronavirus-response/public-health_en) and reinforcing the EU's resilience to cross-border health threats; (https://health.ec.europa.eu/health-security-and-infectious-diseases/overview_en)

Europe's Beating Cancer Plan; (https://health.ec.europa.eu/non-communicable-diseases/cancer_en)

Pharmaceutical Strategy for Europe. (https://health.ec.europa.eu/medicinal-products/pharmaceutical-strategy-europe_en)

Other areas, such as health systems' digitalisation (https://health.ec.europa.eu/ehealth-digital-health-and-care/overview_en), reducing the number of antimicrobial-resistant infections (https://health.ec.europa.eu/antimicrobial-resistance/eu-action-antimicrobial-resistance_en) and improving vaccination (https://health.ec.europa.eu/vaccination/overview_en) rates will also be boosted.

The EU will expand successful initiatives like the European Reference Networks (https://health.ec.europa.eu/european-reference-networks/overview_en) for rare diseases and continue to pursue international cooperation (https://ec.europa.eu/health/internationalcooperation/overview_en) on global health threats and challenges.

Work programmes

EU4Health is implemented by annual Work Programmes (https://ec.europa.eu/health/funding/key-documents_en?f%5B0%5D=topic_topic%3A194) supporting a broad range of actions that are clustered under four overarching "strands" with a cross-cutting

focus on cancer.

Crisis preparedness;



Health promotion & disease prevention;
Health systems & healthcare workforce;
Digital.

The programme provides funding to eligible entities, health organisations and NGOs from EU countries, or non-EU countries associated with the programme.

Actors involved

A targeted Stakeholders' consultation took place from 16/5/2022 to 27/6/2022. A Stakeholders' event was organised on 08/07/2022. As a result, the following documents were produced:

EU4Health Stakeholders Consultation – Summary & Key (https://health.ec.europa.eu/document/download/d2d60957-917a-41bf-925a-a0e10f18eaa8_en?filename=2022_eu4Health-stakeholders-consultation_summary_en.pdf)

InsightsEU4Health Stakeholders Event – Summary & Key (https://health.ec.europa.eu/document/download/2779f805-16a3-4d15-8fbe-7fe9424342be_en?filename=2022_eu4Health-stakeholders-event_summary_en_0.pdf)

OutcomesEU4Health Stakeholders Consultation – Stakeholders Posters (https://health.ec.europa.eu/document/download/582d7254-7ccb-4fc7-b888-dc0c87cdee76_en?filename=2022_eu4Health-stakeholders-consultation_posters_en.pdf)

Many actors are necessary to make EU4Health a reality:

EU countries are consulted on the priorities and strategic orientations of the programme and work together with the Commission in the 'EU4Health Steering Group' to ensure consistency and complementarity with national health policies. They provide their opinion in the EU4Health Programme Committee before the adoption of the annual work programmes.

Third countries associated to the EU4Health programme participate in the consultation process and observe the work of the EU4Health Steering Group and Programme Committee. They benefit of the funding as any other EU country.

Stakeholders, including representatives of civil society and patients' associations, academics and organisations of healthcare professionals, provide input on priorities and strategic orientations and on the needs to be addressed through the annual work programme. The European Parliament is informed about the progress of the preparatory work and outreach activities with stakeholders.

The **European Commission** prepares, adopts and implements the annual work programmes, and monitors and reports on the progress regarding fulfilment of the programme objectives. It may also seek the views of relevant decentralised agencies and of independent experts in the field of health on technical or scientific matters of relevance for the implementation of the programme.

The **Health and Digital Executive Agency** (HaDEA (https://hadea.ec.europa.eu/index_en)) implements the programme.

Associated third countries

The European Commission signed an association agreement with Ukrainian authorities (https://health.ec.europa.eu/funding/eu4health-programme-2021-2027-vision-healthier-european-union/association-agreement-ukraine_en) that will open access to EU funding for Ukraine.

Funding & Tenders

Funding opportunities under the EU4Health Programme are published by the Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA). Please frequently visit HaDEA's pages on calls for proposals (https://hadea.ec.europa.eu/calls-proposals_en) and calls for tenders (https://hadea.ec.europa.eu/calls-tenders_en).

Synergies and complementarities with other funds

Health challenges are cross-cutting by nature. EU4Health works together with other Union programmes, policies, instruments and actions:

European Social Fund Plus (<https://ec.europa.eu/european-social-fund-plus/en>)(ESF+) to support vulnerable groups in accessing healthcare

European Regional and Development Fund (https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/en/funding/erdf/) to improve regional health infrastructure

Horizon Europe (https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe_en) for health research

Union Civil Protection Mechanism/rescEU (https://ec.europa.eu/echo/what/civil-protection/mechanism_en) to create stockpiles for emergency medical supplies

Digital Europe and Connecting Europe Facility (<https://ec.europa.eu/inea/en/connecting-europe-facility>) for creating the digital infrastructure needed for digital health

InvestEU Programme (https://europa.eu/investeu/home_en)

Single Market Programme (https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/single-market-programme-legal-texts-and-factsheets_en)

Recovery and Resilience Facility (https://ec.europa.eu/info/business-economy-euro/recovery-coronavirus/recovery-and-resilience-facility_en)

Erasmus+ (https://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/node_en)

Emergency Support Instrument (https://ec.europa.eu/info/live-work-travel-eu/coronavirus-response/emergency-support-instrument_en)

Links

Regulation (EU) 2021/522 establishing a Programme for the Union's action in the field of health ('EU4Health Programme') for the period 2021-2027 (https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.L_.2021.107.01.0001.01.ENG)

Press release: Commission welcomes entry into force of EU4Health programme (https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_1344)

Questions and Answers: EU4Health Programme 2021-2027 (https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda_21_1345)

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