2023 Stakeholders' Targeted Consultation on EU4Health priorities, strategic orientations and needs

EU4Health Programme has been adopted in March 2021 with EUR 5.3 billion investment during 2021-27, which represents an unprecedented level of financial commitment for the Union in health. The EU4Health Programme is the Union's response to the current public health emergency and for paving the way towards a European Health Union; it is expected to make a significant contribution to the post-COVID-19 recovery and aims to bring a contribution to the long-term health challenges by building stronger, more resilient and more accessible health systems.

This targeted consultation is intended to seek opinion of stakeholders about current and future EU health priorities and strategic orientations and on key health needs to be addressed through EU4Health annual Work Programmes, providing inputs for reflection on the 2023 EU4Health Work Programme and beyond. This consultation will be open from May 16 to June 27.

EU4Health Work Programme 2023 – priorities & strategic orientations

The EU4Health programme (regulation 2021/522) has been adopted in March 2021 and in less than one year two annual Work Programmes (WPs) have been adopted for 2021 and 2022, mobilizing more than one billion EUR for funding opportunities. The two work programmes cover relevant areas of interventions for achieving the general and specific objectives of the EU4Health regulation.

Question3. For simplification, in the annual Work Programme the actions funded under the EU4Health have been clustered in "strand of actions": in your opinion in the WP 2023 and beyond, which strand of actions is most important for addressing the current needs in health? See below for description of the strands.

Further information:

STRANDS

In the annual Work Programmes, the EU4Health supports a broad range of actions under four overarching "strands" with a cross-cutting focus on cancer



Please score the importance of the strands of action:

NPF=Neth.pat.fed:

| | Very important | Important | Not very important | Not important | No opinion |
|---|-------------------|-----------|-----------------------|------------------|------------|
| 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 Health | | | | | |
| Strand of action (transversal) 05: Cancer | | | | | |

Question4. Please indicate the strand of action that in your opinion has not been suitably covered under the EU4Health WP 2021 and WP 2022.

Answer
□ Strand of action 01: Crisis preparedness
Answer
⊠ Strand of action 02: Health promotion & Disease prevention
Answer
□ Strand of action 03: Health systems & healthcare workforce
Answer
□ Strand of action 04: Digital Health
Answer
□ Strand of action (transversal) 05: Cancer

Question Please specify, if needed, the area of intervention that in your opinion needs reinforcement:

100 characters

Patient empowerment (patient-centred care practices, policy decision-making and research priorities)

Question5. The EU4Health programme in its specific objectives makes reference to the reinforcement of the health and healthcare systems by targeting several areas of intervention.

Please score the importance of the areas of intervention for the reinforcement of health and healthcare systems:

| | Very important | Important | Not very important | Not important | No opinion |
|--|----------------|-----------|--------------------|------------------|------------|
| Actions to address inequalities in health | ⊠ | | | | |
| Improve health literacy | | | | | |
| Improve patient rights, patient safety, quality of care and cross- border healthcare | × | | | | |
| Coordination of voluntary stress testing of national healthcare systems | | | ⊠ | | |
| Development of quality healthcare standards at national level | ⊠ | | | | |
| Digital transformation of healthcare systems | | ⊠ | | | |

Please indicate other areas of intervention that you consider important for the reinforcement of health and healthcare systems (max 10 key words):

100 characters

Better monitoring of medicine shortages, more support to ERNs with expanded mandate to include complex NCDs

Question6. The EU4Health programme has the specific objective to support global commitments and health initiatives by reinforcing the Union's support for actions by international organisations, in particular actions by the WHO, and fostering cooperation with third countries. Totally over the MFF period 2021-27, a maximum of 12.5 % of the budget shall be reserved for supporting global commitments and health initiatives. Also in consideration of the current international situation, in your opinion which are the most important actions:

| | Very important | Important | Not very important | Not important | No opinion |
|---|-------------------|-----------|-----------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Actions supporting global commitments and health initiatives | | | | | |
| Actions fostering cooperation with third countries | | | | | |

Question7. In order to optimise the added value and impact from investments funded, the EU4Health will seek to maximise synergies and complementarities with other EU spending programmes. In your opinion which are the most important areas for developing synergies?

Please score the importance of areas for synergies:

| | Very important | Important | Not very important | Not important | No opinion |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------|-----------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Research & innovation | | \boxtimes | | | |
| Digital transformation | \boxtimes | | | | |
| Crisis preparedness & response | | | | | |
| Climate & environment | | | | | |
| Social dimension including lack | × | | | | |

| | Very important | Important | Not very important | Not important | No opinion |
|--|-------------------|-----------|-----------------------|------------------|---------------|
| of medical staff, equal access to healthcare, gender inequalities | | | | | |

Please indicate other health-related policy areas and/or EU spending programmes and initiatives relevant for developing synergies and complementarities:

100 characters

Integration of health and social care, healthy food systems, climate-related risk factors for health

Question8. According to its regulation (EU) 2021/522, the EU4Health programme pursues ten specific objectives – in your opinion which specific objectives is the most important for setting the priorities and strategic orientation of the Work Programme 2023?

Please score the importance of specific objectives for priorities and strategic orientation:

| | Very important | Important | Not very important | Not important | No opinion |
|---|-------------------|-----------|-----------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Specific objective 1: Health promotion & Disease prevention | ⊠ | | | | |
| Specific objective 2: Prevention, preparedness & response to cross-border health threats | | | | | |
| Specific objective 3: Enhance availability, accessibility & affordability of medicinal products, medical devices and crisis- relevant products | × | | | | |
| Specific objective 4: Complementing national stockpiling of essential crisis- relevant products | | | | | |

| | Very important | Important | Not very important | Not important | No opinion |
|--|-------------------|-----------|-----------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Specific objective 5: Establish a reserve of medical, healthcare & support staff | | | | | |
| Specific objective 6: Strengthen health data, digital tools & services, digital transformation of healthcare | | | | | |
| Specific objective 7: Enhance access to healthcare | ⊠ | | | | |
| Specific objective 8: Development & implementation of EU health legislation & supporting evidence-based decision making | | | | | |
| Specific objective 9: Support integrated work among MS health systems | | | | | |
| Specific objective 10 International health initiatives & cooperation | | ⊠ | | | |

Question 9. In the Annex I of the EU4Health regulation (EU) 2021/522), some possible actions are indicated as eligible for funding under the EU4Health and for contributing to the achievement of the programme's specific objectives. In your opinion which are the most important actions?

Please score the importance of actions to be funded for the achievement of the related specific objective: **Specific objective 1**: Health promotion & disease prevention

| | Very important | Important | Not very important | Not important | No opinion |
|--|-------------------|-----------|-----------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Assisting and support the Member States to improve health promotion and disease prevention | | | | | |

| | Very important | Important | Not very important | Not important | No opinion |
|---|-------------------|-----------|-----------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Surveys, studies, collection of comparable data and statistics, methodologies, classifications, microsimulations, pilot studies, indicators, knowledge brokering and benchmark exercises | | | | | |
| Promoting life- long health: put in place healthy and safe urban, work and school environments, to enable healthy life choices, promote healthy diets and regular physical activity, taking into account the needs of vulnerable groups at every stage of their life | | | | | × |
| Effective responses to communicable diseases, and in the prevention, surveillance, diagnosis and treatment of such diseases | | | | | |
| Health promotion and disease prevention throughout the lifetime of an individual and by addressing health risk factors, such as obesity, unhealthy diets and physical inactivity | | | | | |
| Policies and actions to reduce health inequalities and inequities in relation to healthcare | ⊠ | | | | |
| Enhance health literacy | | | | | |
| Promotion and implementation of the recommendations of the European Code against | | | | | |

| | Very important | Important | Not very important | Not important | No opinion |
|--|-------------------|-----------|-----------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Cancer and support the revision of the current edition of that Code | | | | | |
| Implementation of cancer registries in all Member States | | | | | |
| Cooperation among relevant national bodies of participating Member States with a view to supporting the creation of a virtual European network of excellence | | | | | |
| Improve the quality of cancer care | | | | | |
| Establishment of quality assurance schemes for cancer centres and centres treating cancer patients | | | | | |
| Mechanisms for cross-specialty capacity building and continuous education, in particular in the area of cancer care | | | | | |
| Support the quality of life of cancer survivors and caregivers, including provision of psychological support, pain management and health-related aspects of professional reintegration | | | | | |
| Strengthen collaboration on patient rights, patient safety and quality of care | | | | | |

100 characters

Address environmental and climate-related health risks, treatment development for diseases with huge unmet needs

Specific objective 2: Prevention, preparedness & response to cross-border health threats

| | Very important | Important | Not very important | Not important | No opinion |
|--|-------------------|-----------|-----------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Strengthening the critical health infrastructure to cope with health crises, by supporting the setup of tools for surveillance, forecast, prevention and management of outbreaks. | | | | | |
| Foster Union- wide health crisis prevention and preparedness, and the management capacity and response capacity of actors at Union and national level. | | | | | |
| Set up an integrated cross-cutting risk communication framework covering all phases of a health crisis, namely prevention, preparedness, response and recovery. | | | | | |
| Preventive actions to protect vulnerable groups from health threats and actions to adapt the response to and the management of health crises to the needs of those vulnerable groups such as actions to secure basic care for patients with chronic or rare diseases. | | | | | |

| | Very important | Important | Not very important | Not important | No opinion |
|---|-------------------|-----------|-----------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Address the collateral health consequences of a health crisis, in particular the consequences for mental health, on patients suffering from cancer, from chronic diseases and other vulnerable situations. | | | | | |
| Training and educational programmes for the upskilling of healthcare and public health workforces, and temporary exchanges of staff, in particular with the aim of improving their digital skills. | | | | | |
| Establish and coordinate Union Reference Laboratories, Union Reference Centres, and Centres of Excellence. | | | | | |
| Audit Member States' preparedness and response arrangements, e.g. regarding health crisis | | | | | |
| Communicating to the public in the context of risk management and health crisis preparedness | | | | | |

100 characters

Involving patients at every stage in shaping crisis preparedness solutions; targeted communication

Specific objective 3: Enhance availability, accessibility & affordability of medicinal products, medical devices and crisis-relevant products

| | Very important | Important | Not very important | Not important | No opinion |
|---|-------------------|-----------|-----------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Strengthen laboratory capacity and the production, research, development, and deployment of health products and crisis-relevant niche products within the Union. | | | | | |
| Actions and interoperable IT tools to monitor, prevent, manage, report and notify shortages of medicinal products and medical devices, while contributing to their affordability. | | | | | |
| Support clinical trials to speed up the development, market authorisation and access to innovative, safe and effective medicinal products and vaccines. | | | | | |
| Encourage the development of innovative medicinal products and vaccines to meet rising healthcare challenges and patients' needs, and of less commercially profitable products such as antimicrobials. | | | | | |
| Improve the environmentally friendly production and disposal of medicinal | ⊠ | | | | |

| | Very important | Important | Not very important | Not important | No opinion |
|--|-------------------|-----------|-----------------------|------------------|---------------|
| products and medical devices and actions to support the development of medicinal products that are less harmful for the environment. | | | | | |
| Promote the prudent and efficient use of medicinal products, in particular of antimicrobials | | | | | |
| Stimulate the increase in the production of essential active pharmaceutical ingredients and medicinal products in the Union, including by diversifying supply chain production of active pharmaceutical ingredients and generics within the Union, to reduce Member States' dependence on certain third countries | | | | | |
| Enhance the availability, accessibility and affordability of medicinal products and medical devices | | | | | |
| Foster innovation in repurposing, reformulation and combining of off-patent medicinal products, in synergy with other programmes | | | | | |
| Strengthen the environmental risk assessment of medicinal products | | | | | |
| Establishment and operation of a mechanism for | | ⊠ | | | |

| | Very important | Important | Not very important | Not important | No opinion |
|--|-------------------|-----------|-----------------------|------------------|---------------|
| cross-sectorial coordination following the One-Health approach | | | | | |

100 characters

Patient involvement in R&D and EU/national policy decisions, and reporting of shortages

Specific objective 4: Complementing national stockpiling of essential crisis-relevant products

| | Very important | Important | Not very important | Not important | No opinion |
|---|-------------------|-----------|-----------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Monitor information on national stockpiling activities regarding essential crisis- relevant products to identify potential needs for additional stockpiling at Union level | | | | | |
| Ensure consistent management of stockpiling of essential crisis- relevant products at Union level, in a manner that complements other Union instruments, programmes and funds and in close coordination with relevant Union bodies | | | | | |
| Procurement and supply of essential crisis- relevant products, which contribute to their affordability, in a manner | | | | | |

| | Very important | Important | Not very important | Not important | No opinion |
|--|-------------------|-----------|-----------------------|------------------|---------------|
| that complements Member States' stockpiling actions | | | | | |

| 100 characters | |
|----------------|--|
| N/A | |
| | |

<u>Specific objective 5</u>: Establish a reserve of medical, healthcare & support staff

| | Very important | Important | Not very important | Not important | No opinion |
|--|-------------------|-----------|-----------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Preparatory work for mobilising and training at Union level a reserve of medical, healthcare | | | | | |
| Support staff to be mobilised in the event of a health crisis, in close collaboration with the ECDC, in synergy with other Union instruments, and in full respect of Member State competences | | | | | |
| Exchange of best practices between existing national reserves of medical, healthcare and support staff | | | | | |

QuestionPlease add any other action you consider of highest importance for the achievement of the specific objective:

Text of 1 to 100 characters will be accepted

<u>Specific objective 6</u>: Strengthen health data, digital tools & services, digital transformation of healthcare

| | Very important | Important | Not very important | Not important | No opinion |
|---|-------------------|-----------|-----------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Support a Union framework and the respective interoperable digital tools for cooperation among Member States and cooperation in networks, including those needed for Health Technology Assessment cooperation | | | | | |
| Deployment, operation and maintenance of mature, secure and interoperable digital service infrastructure and data quality assurance processes for the exchange of, access to, and use and reuse of data; supporting cross-border networking, including through the use and interoperability of electronic health records, registries and other databases; developing appropriate governance structures and interoperable health information systems | | | | | |
| Support the digital transformation of healthcare and health systems, including through benchmarking and capacity building, for the uptake of innovative tools | | | | | |

| | Very important | Important | Not very important | Not important | No opinion |
|--|-------------------|-----------|-----------------------|------------------|---------------|
| and technologies such as artificial intelligence, and supporting the digital upskilling of healthcare professionals | | | | | |
| Support the optimal use of telemedicine and telehealth, including through satellite communication for remote areas, fostering digitally-driven organisational innovation in healthcare facilities and promoting digital tools to support citizen empowerment and patient- centred care | | | | | |
| Development, operation and maintenance of databases and digital tools and their interoperability, including already established projects, where appropriate, with other sensing technologies, such as space- based technologies and artificial intelligence | | | | | |
| Strengthen citizens' access to and control over their health data | | | | | |
| Deployment and interoperability of digital tools and infrastructure within and between Member States and with Union institutions, | | | | | |

| | Very important | Important | Not very important | Not important | No opinion |
|--|-------------------|-----------|-----------------------|------------------|---------------|
| agencies and bodies | | | | | |
| Preparatory activities and projects for the European health data space | | ⊠ | | | |
| Support e- health, such as the transition to telemedicine and at-home administration of medication | | | | | |
| Establishment of interoperable electronic health records, in line with the European Electronic Health Record Exchange format in order to increase the use of e-health and improve the sustainability and resilience of healthcare systems | | | | | |

100 characters

Actions to enable patient adherence and disease management via digital tools and applications

Specific objective 7: Enhance access to healthcare

| | Very important | Important | Not very important | Not important | No opinion |
|--|-------------------|-----------|-----------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Promote access to health services and related facilities and care for people with disabilities | | | | | |
| Strengthen primary care and reinforcing the integration of care, with a view to providing | | | | | |

| | Very important | Important | Not very important | Not important | No opinion |
|--|-------------------|-----------|-----------------------|------------------|---------------|
| universal health coverage and equal access to good quality healthcare | | | | | |
| Promote access to sexual and reproductive healthcare and supporting integrated and intersectional approaches to prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care | | | | | |

100 characters

Evidence-based policy recommendations and solutions to address access barriers faced by patients

Specific objective 8: Development and implementation of EU health legislation & supporting evidence-based for decision making

| | Very important | Important | Not very important | Not important | No opinion |
|---|-------------------|-----------|-----------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Establishment and operation of a health intelligence and knowledge infrastructure | | | | | |
| Implementation, enforcement, monitoring of Union health legislation and action; and providing technical support for the implementation of legal requirements | | | | | |
| Studies and analysis, health impact assessment of other Union policy actions and the | | | | | |

| | Very important | Important | Not very important | Not important | No opinion |
|---|-------------------|-----------|-----------------------|------------------|---------------|
| provision of scientific advice to support evidence-based policymaking | | | | | |
| Expert groups and panels providing advice, data and information to support health policy development and implementation, including follow-up evaluations of the implementation of health policies | | | | | |
| National contact and focal points in providing guidance, information and assistance related to the promotion and implementation of Union health legislation and of the Programme | | | | | |
| Audit and assessment work in accordance with Union legislation, where appropriate | | | | | ⊠ |
| Implementation and further development of the Union's tobacco control policy and legislation | | | | | |
| Support national systems as regards the implementation of legislation on substances of human origin, and as regards the promotion of the sustainable and safe supply of such substances through | | | | | |

| | Very important | Important | Not very important | Not important | No opinion |
|--|-------------------|-----------|-----------------------|------------------|---------------|
| networking activities | | | | | |
| Strengthen the administrative capacity of their healthcare systems through cooperation and exchange of best practices | | | | | |
| Knowledge transfer actions and Union level cooperation to assist national reform processes towards improved effectiveness, accessibility, sustainability and resilience of health systems, while linking available Union funding | | | | | |
| Capacity building for investing in and implementing health system reforms, including strategic planning and access to multi- source financing | | | | | |

100 characters

Patient involvement in expert groups and advisory bodies; health impact assessment in all EU legislation

Specific objective 9: Support integrated work among MS health systems

| | Very important | Important | Not very important | Not important | No opinion |
|---|-------------------|-----------|-----------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Transfer, adaptation and roll-out of best practices and innovative solutions with established Union level added-value | | | | | |

| | Very important | Important | Not very important | Not important | No opinion |
|--|-------------------|-----------|-----------------------|------------------|---------------|
| between Member States | | | | | |
| Cross-border collaboration and partnerships, including in cross-border regions, with a view to transferring and upscaling innovative solutions | | | | | |
| Cross-sectoral collaboration and coordination | | | | | |
| Support the functioning of European Reference Networks and the establishment and operation of new transnational networks and supporting Member States' actions to coordinate the activities of such networks with the operation of national health systems | | | | | |
| Support further the implementation of ERNs in Member States and fostering their strengthening, inter alia, by continuous assessment, monitoring, evaluation and improvement | | | | | |
| Creation of new ERNs, to cover rare, complex and low prevalence diseases, supporting collaboration among ERNs to address the multi-systemic needs arising from low | | | | | |

| | Very important | Important | Not very important | Not important | No opinion |
|---|-------------------|-----------|-----------------------|------------------|---------------|
| prevalence diseases and rare diseases and to facilitate diagonal networking between different specialities and disciplines | | | | | |
| Improve and further develop and implement ERN registries | | | | | |
| Stakeholder consultation activities | | | | | |

Text of 1 to 100 characters will be accepted Best practices for involving patients meaningfully; networking of specialised and on-site care

0 out of 100 characters used.

Specific objective 10: International health initiatives & cooperation

| | Very important | Importa nt | Not very important | Not important | No opinion |
|--|-------------------|---------------|-----------------------|------------------|---------------|
| Contribute to the objectives of the programme presented by the WHO, as the directing and coordinating authority for health within the United Nations | | | | | |
| Support collaboration among Union institutions, Union agencies, and international organisations and networks, and supporting the Union's contribution to global initiatives | | | | | |
| Support collaboration | | | | | \boxtimes |

| | Very important | Importa nt | Not very important | Not important | No opinion |
|--|-------------------|---------------|-----------------------|------------------|---------------|
| with third countries as regards the areas covered by the Programme | | | | | |
| Foster international regulatory convergence on medicinal products and medical devices | | | | | |

Text of 1 to 100 characters will be accepted

0 out of 100 characters used.

EU4Health Programme (2021-27)

Question10. From your knowledge and experience can you indicate any action that could be considered as a success story for the achievement of the specific objectives of the Programme and that would provide an EU added value?

300 characters

Health to be embedded into climate change and green deal policies and programmes. European Health Data Space allowing patients to receive care and improving disease outcomes.

Please indicate to which EU4Health specific objective(s) the action you have indicated could contribute?

Primary link = most direct relationship; Secondary link = less direct relationship

| | Primary link | Secondary link |
|--|-----------------|-------------------|
| Specific objective 1: Health promotion & Disease prevention | | |
| Specific objective 2: Prevention, preparedness & response to cross-border health threats | | |
| Specific objective 3: Enhance availability, | | |

| | Primary link | Secondary link |
|--|-----------------|-------------------|
| accessibility & affordability of medicinal products, medical devices and crisis- relevant products | | |
| Specific objective 4: Complementing national stockpiling of essential crisis- relevant products | | |
| Specific objective 5: Establish a reserve of medical, healthcare & support staff | | |
| Specific objective 6: Strengthen health data, digital tools & services, digital transformation of healthcare | | |
| Specific objective 7: Enhance access to healthcare | | |
| Specific objective 8: Development & implementation of EU health legislation & supporting evidence-based decision making | | |
| Specific objective 9: Support integrated work among MS health systems | | |
| Specific objective 10 International health initiatives & cooperation | | |



If you wish, please provide a short description of the action including:

(1) Link to the EU4Health specific objectives (i.e. how the action responds to EU4Health needs and priorities and how this action could contribute to the achievement of the EU4Health specific objective(s));
 (2) Expected outcomes (i.e. what would the action deliver and which effects would be expected to be generated);

(3) EU added value (i.e. how would the action bring value at EU level).

500 characters

To bear tangible results, the EU4Health programme must prioritise prevention; and ensure access to high quality care. On respiratory diseases, the EU Healthier Together Initiative must maximise synergies across policies e.g. climate, environment, tobacco, while improving care aspects e.g. diagnosis and eHealth.

As health NGOs are an essential resource in shaping health policy at national and EU level, a sustainable, accessible, and transparent funding scheme such as Operating Grants is key to support them deliver their goals. OPGs ensure the participation of independent civil society organizations in EU health policymaking.