WHAT IS EUROPEAN ADDED VALUE?

European added value is additional to the value created by actions of individual Member States. It may result from different factors, e.g. coordination gains, legal certainty, greater effectiveness or complementarities. It reflects broader European relevance and significance of the action with a view to presenting models and mechanisms which can be applied not only regionally or nationally but also EU widely.

WHAT DOES EUROPEAN ADDED VALUE SERVE FOR?

Given the fact that the responsibility for defining health policies lies with Member States (Article 168 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union) the concept of European added value has been developed to assess subsidiarity in areas which are beyond the scope of EU exclusive competencies, and prioritise action at EU level. The European added value assessment can be applied at different stages of the Programme in order to: (1) support the definition of Programme actions to be set out in the annual work programme; (2) help evaluators during the selection process; (3) assess final project results and (4) evaluate ex-post the impact of the Programme.

HOW TO CREATE EUROPEAN ADDED VALUE?

The following seven ways have been identified:

- Implementing EU legislation and ensuring that the legislation is correctly implemented
- Economies of scale with the aim of using money more efficiently and providing citizens with better services
- Promotion of best practice in all participating Member States in order for EU citizens to benefit from the state of the art best practices
- Benchmarking for decision-making requiring a strong commitment to use result with the aim of facilitating evidence based decision making
- Focus on cross-border threats in order to reduce risks and mitigate their consequences
- Free movement of persons with the aim of ensuring high quality public health across Member States
- Networking as an important tool for disseminating results to all Member States including non-participants