THE THIRD HEALTH PROGRAMME 2014-2020
FUNDING HEALTH INITIATIVES

Challenges
An increasingly challenging demographic context, threatening the sustainability of health systems
A fragile economic recovery, limiting the availability of resources to invest in healthcare
An increase of health inequalities between and within Member States
An increase in the prevalence of chronic disease

General objectives
Improve the health of EU citizens and reduce health inequalities
Encourage innovation in health and increase sustainability of health systems
Focus on themes that address current health issues across Member States
Support and encourage cooperation between Member States

Specific objectives
Promote health, prevent diseases, and foster supportive environments for healthy lifestyles
Protect citizens from serious cross-border health threats
Contribute to innovative, efficient and sustainable health systems.
Facilitate access to better and safer healthcare for Union citizens

Operational objectives
Identify, disseminate and promote the up-take of evidence-based and good practices for cost-effective disease prevention and health promotion activities
Identify and develop coherent approaches and implement for better preparedness and coordination in health emergencies
Identify and develop tools and mechanisms at Union level to address shortages of resources, both human and financial, and facilitate the voluntary up-take of innovation in public health intervention and prevention strategies
Increase access to cross-border medical expertise and information for medical conditions of low prevalence, high specialisation or rare diseases
Facilitate the application of research results and developing tools towards quality healthcare and patient safety

Examples of expected results
Increased use of evidence-based practices in Member States
Integrated coherent approaches in Member States preparedness plan, improved surveillance and response to cross-border health threats
Increased sustainability of health systems
Creation of European Reference Networks, for example on rare diseases
**Thematic Priorities**

1. **Promote health, prevent diseases and foster supportive environments for healthy lifestyles**
   - **1.1** Risk factors such as use of tobacco and passive smoking, harmful use of alcohol, unhealthy dietary habits and physical inactivity
   - **1.2** Drugs-related health damage, including information and prevention
   - **1.3** HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and hepatitis
   - **1.4** Chronic diseases including cancer, age-related diseases and neurodegenerative diseases
   - **1.5** Tobacco legislation
   - **1.6** Health information and knowledge system to contribute to evidence-based decision-making

2. **Protect Union citizens from serious cross-border health threats**
   - **2.1** Additional capacities of scientific expertise for risk assessment
   - **2.2** Capacity-building against health threats in Member States, including, where appropriate, cooperation with neighbouring countries
   - **2.3** Implementation of Union legislation on communicable diseases and other health threats, including those caused by biological and chemical incidents, environment and climate change
   - **2.4** Health information and knowledge system to contribute to evidence-based decision-making

3. **Contribute to innovative, efficient and sustainable health systems**
   - **3.1** Health Technology Assessment
   - **3.2** Innovation and e-health
   - **3.3** Health workforce forecasting and planning
   - **3.4** Setting up a mechanism for pooling expertise at Union level
   - **3.5** European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing
   - **3.6** Implementation of Union legislation in the field of medical devices, medicinal products and cross-border healthcare
   - **3.7** Health information and knowledge system including support to the Scientific Committees set up in accordance with Commission Decision 2008/721/EC

4. **Facilitate access to better and safer healthcare for Union citizens**
   - **4.1** European Reference Networks
   - **4.2** Rare diseases
   - **4.3** Patient safety and quality of healthcare
   - **4.4** Measures to prevent antimicrobial resistance and control healthcare-associated infections
   - **4.5** Implementation of Union legislation in the fields of tissues and cells, blood, organs
   - **4.6** Health information and knowledge system to contribute to evidence-based decision-making

* Full text of the Regulation and further information at: