A STRONG HEALTH DIMENSION IN THE FUTURE EU BUDGET

Health-related resources will be part of the budget of several priority areas: social protection, research and innovation, the digitisation of society, cohesion and global responsibility. Health policies will get EU funding through various mechanisms, mainly:

ESF+ AS CORNERSTONE

The new European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) Programme is the EU’s main instrument to invest in people, promoting equal opportunities, social protection and inclusion. One of the three strands in the programme will be the financing of health policies and projects, with a proposed budget of EUR 413 million.

The health strand will ensure a higher level of health protection, reduce inequalities and address the challenges identified in the European Semester. The main objectives are:

- Improving crisis **preparedness and response** against cross-border health threats
- Supporting **EU health legislation** (medicines, HTA, tobacco, cross-border care)
- Strengthening **health systems** (digital transformation, EU health information, support to national reforms)
- Supporting **integrated work** (European Reference Networks, implementation of best practices for health promotion and disease prevention)
EU health investments strengthen recent initiatives and roll out new ones, all with the potential to make a real difference in the life of citizens. By integrating the funding into other priority mechanisms, the overall impact and added value will increase.

**DRAW ON SUCCESSES AND EMPHASISE ADDED VALUE OF EU INTERVENTION**

**EUROPEAN REFERENCE NETWORKS**

**WHAT & WHY?**
- 24 networks with 900+ healthcare units
- Working together to better diagnose and treat rare and complex diseases affecting the lives of 30 million EU citizens

**FUTURE FUNDING 2021-2027**
- Support and consolidate functioning, improve accessibility and outreach, strengthen research synergies

**FIGHTING INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND OTHER HEALTH THREATS**

**WHAT & WHY?**
- Cooperation to increase vaccine coverage
- Joint preparedness and response to cross-border pandemics
- EU strategy on anti-microbial resistance currently causing 25,000 deaths per year in the EU

**FUTURE FUNDING 2021-2027**
- Strengthen cooperation and support and innovation

**DIGITAL HEALTH AND CARE**

**WHAT & WHY?**
- Digital infrastructure for health services; cross-border access and exchange of patients' data
- Data-based pharmaceutical breakthroughs or pandemic prevention
- Advanced telemedicine and development/uptake of new care models

**FUTURE FUNDING 2021-2027**
- Develop and roll out EU-wide electronic health records
- Outreach, strengthen research synergies

**REFORM OF EU HEALTH SYSTEMS**

**WHAT & WHY?**
- Data collection, analysis and knowledge sharing (e.g. “State of Health in the EU” cycle)
- Support national and regional policy makers to make health systems more effective, accessible and resilient

**FUTURE FUNDING 2021-2027**
- Support capacity building, policy implementation and transnational cooperation
- Develop new care models

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