

Key Strategies and initiatives at European level to improve child and adolescent health

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2nd Network Meeting of the EEA Grants Health Programmes:
Prevention in the Field of Child and Adolescent Mental Health

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EUROHEALTHNET

Who we are

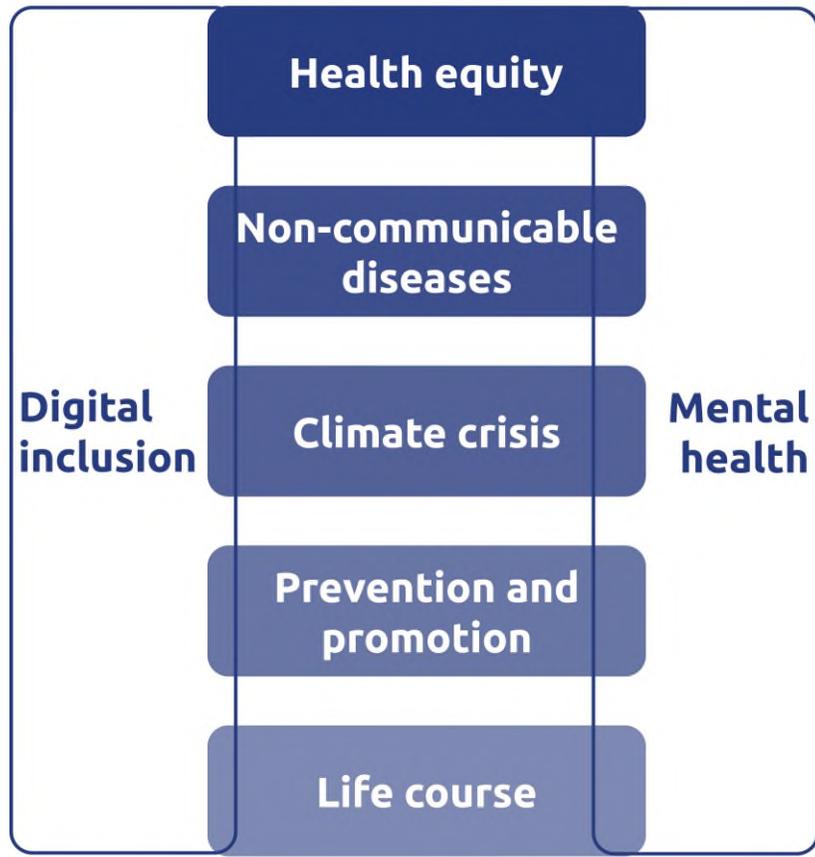


How we work



EUROHEALTHNET STRATEGY

5 priority areas and 2 cross-cutting topics in our Strategic Development Plan 2021-2026



to help build healthier communities



to tackle health inequalities within and between European States



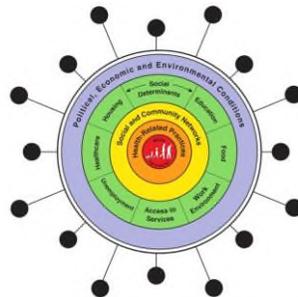


*“We cannot wait for the end of the pandemic to repair and prepare for the future. We will build the foundations of a stronger **European Health Union** in which 27 countries work together to detect, prepare and respond collectively.”*

Ursula von der Leyen, President of the European Commission, speaking at the World Health Summit (25 October 2020)

Key initiatives:

- Stronger coordination of **EU cross-border health threats**
- Revised mandates of **EU agencies** ECDC and EMA, new agency EU-HERA on biomedical preparedness
- EU pharma strategy**
- Europe’s Beating Cancer Plan**: linked to digitalisation, research and innovation, four core areas of prevention, early detection, diagnosis and treatment, quality of life of cancer patients and survivors



EU4Health Programme 2021-2027

-5.1 billion EUR (10x budget previous one)

Investments to:

- boost EU’s preparedness for major **cross border health threats**
- strengthen health systems** (prevention, health promotion, digital transformation, access)
- make **medicines and medical devices** available and affordable
- fight against **cancer**
- reduce **antimicrobial-resistant infections**
- improve **vaccination** rates
- expand European Reference Networks for **rare diseases**
- cooperate on **global health threats** and challenges

EU Mental Health Strategy

Long called for by e.g.,

The **Finish EU Council Presidency**, as part of their [Council Conclusions on an Economy for Well-being](#) (2019)

The [European Parliament](#), whose Culture and Education Committee also approved a [report](#) on the impact of COVID-19 closures of educational, cultural, youth and sports activities on children and young people in the EU

MEPs noted that an EU effort on mental health is especially welcome against the backdrop of the pandemic, the war in Ukraine and the current socioeconomic crisis.

Background

According to [recent data](#) 64 % of young people in the 18-34 age group were at risk of depression in spring 2021. [UNICEF reports](#) that suicide is the second leading cause of death among young people.



Now more than ever we must take better care of each other and our mental health.

As announced by [@vonderleyen](#) next year we present a new comprehensive approach on mental health.

For those who feel anxious and lost, accessible, affordable support can make the difference.

[#SOTEU](#)

10:49 AM · Sep 14, 2022 · Twitter for iPhone

EUROPEAN YEAR OF YOUTH 2022

EUROPEAN YEAR OF YOUTH

Discover the initiative



European youth policy initiatives

⚠ Stay tuned, this set of initiatives is not exhaustive, more are on the way!

Select a topic

Green

Youth and the world

Digital

Health, well-being & sports

Culture

Education and European learning mobility

Employment and inclusion

Policy dialogues and participation

Solidarity with Ukraine

- **Pathways to School Success and Expert Group for Supporting Well-Being at School**
- HealthyLifeStyle4All –Youth Ideas Labs
- Loneliness among the youth
- Keeping Children Safe
- Tobacco Free Generation
- **Best practice implementation in support to mental health**
- EU Network of Youth Cancer Survivors
- EU mobile app on cancer prevention
- EU Network for Prevention of child sexual abuse
- Promoting mental health**
- EU Strategy for a more effective fight against child sexual abuse

EU NCDs “Healthier Together” Initiative

[“Healthier Together” Toolkit](#), launched in June 2022, identifies policies and practices to tackle NCDs and maps the EU’s legal and financial tools that can support its implementation.

€156 million was earmarked under the EU4Health 2022 work programme for its implementation.

Mental health and neurological diseases are a one of the five key strands of the initiative.

The Toolkit sets out **what Member State identified as priority areas for mental health** – including mental health promotion and prevention of mental health problems with a specific focus on young people.

It calls for collaborative action on: well-being and mental resilience for future generations (encouraging social/life skills and resilience, tackling adverse life events, parental support, mental health literacy, anti-bullying programmes, online safety, preventing and treating eating disorders, mental health in school settings, loneliness, intergenerational support) **and continuity of mental health service provision for adolescents** (ensuring seamless and continuity of service provision in transfer from child and adolescent services to adult services, for instance via policy measures, integrated service delivery, and financing models).

DISEASES



Cardiovascular Disease



Chronic Respiratory Diseases



Diabetes



Mental health and neurological disorders

HEALTH DETERMINANTS



Unhealthy Diet



Tobacco Use



Harmful Use of Alcohol



Physical Inactivity



Air Pollution

Kinds of initiatives receiving funding:

ImpleMENTAL Joint Action focuses on the implementation of two best practices, Mental health reform in Belgium and Suicide Prevention Austria (SUPRA), which will be transferred and implemented as a pilot in the participating countries. (EuroHealthNet part of stakeholder group)

MENTALITY: (2023-2024?) coordinated by MHE) will pilot established European promising practices targeted at children, healthcare and other care workers, people with pre-existing mental health problems, psychosocial disabilities, migrants, and service providers. For children and adolescents, the *MENTALITY* pilot (OCHA) will be piloted in Greece and Slovakia.

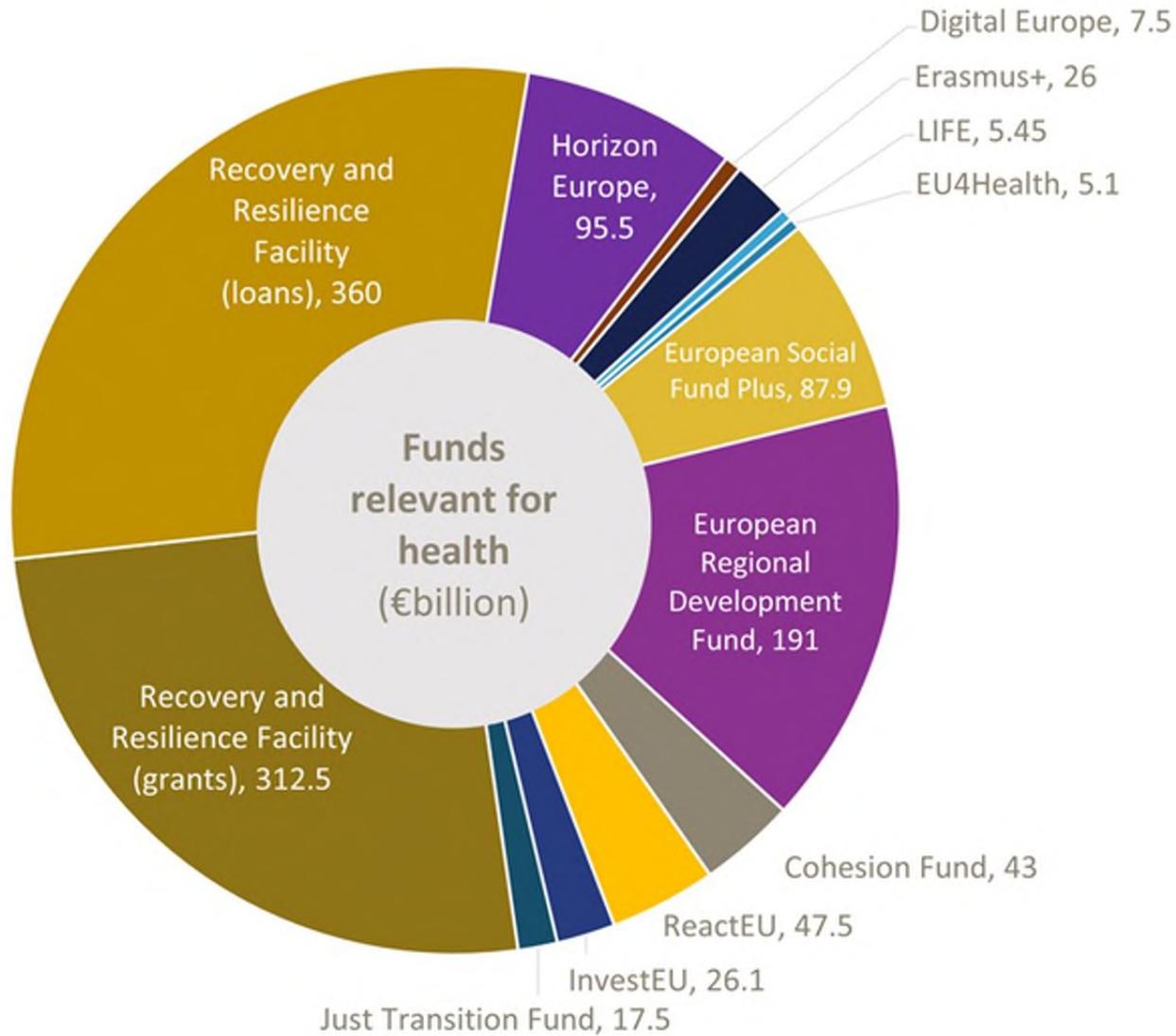
Schools4Health (2023-2025, to be coordinated by E) will pilot established European promising practices to implement best practices to promote mental health, physical activity and healthy eating in schools across EU Member States.



Horizon 2020/Europe projects and calls, e.g.

- BOOST: Building social and emotional skills to BOOST mental resilience and young people in Europe

Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF): 2021-2027



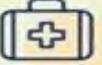
[Health in the next MFF funds and recovery programmes APRIL 2021.pdf](#)
(eurohealthnet.eu)



Member States should guarantee for children in need:

➤ Feasibility study for a child guarantee includes concrete suggestions for improving policies and programmes at EU and national levels.

...free and effective access to:

 early childhood education and care	 education
 at least one healthy meal each school day	 healthcare

...effective access to:

 healthy nutrition	 adequate housing
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EU Member States have:

-Nominated a national **Child Guarantee Coordinator**;

-Identify children in need and barriers they face in accessing the services;

-Drafted a **National Action Plan**, incl. targets, corresponding measures and monitoring arrangements. MS should have stakeholders at all levels of planning, implementing and evaluating the

measures;

-Report to the Commission on progress every 2 years.

Member States most affected must spend 5% of their allocated funds under the European Social Fund Plus on fighting child poverty and social exclusion. Member States can also make use of the European Regional Development Fund, InvestEU and the Recovery and Resilience Facility to fund such measures

The new European Strategy for a Better Internet for Kids

Aims to ensure that children and young people are protected, empowered and respected online. It is based on three pillars:

- 1. Safe digital experiences**, protecting children from harmful and illegal online content, conduct, and risks and improving their well-being through a safe, age-appropriate digital environment.
- 2. Digital empowerment** so that children acquire the necessary **skills and competences** to make informed choices and express themselves in the online environment safely and responsibly.
- 3. Active participation**, respecting children by giving them a say in the digital environment, with more child-led activities to foster innovative and creative safe digital experiences.



Technical Support Instrument

- ✓ starts with a **request for support** from an EU Member State
- ✓ is **tailor-made** to address the country's needs
- ✓ provides a unique **combination of expertise** from the European Commission, EU Member States' national administrations, international organisations and/or the private sector
- ✓ strengthens the **capacity** of an EU Member State to carry out reforms
- ✓ requires no **co-financing**
- ✓ €864 million for the period 2021-2027 (in current prices)

2023 flagship on Youth First

Targets five areas:

1. Education and training
2. **Wellbeing and health, with a focus on promoting mental health issues, counselling and psycho-social support, and on healthy nutrition and healthy lifestyle**
3. Social and civic engagement of young people, youth work and volunteering, combatting fake news, discrimination and hate speech, and participation in policymaking
4. Social protection and access to housing
5. Access to finance and financial literacy

WHO/Europe Pan-European Coalition for Mental Health

The Coalition will:

- **provide an overarching structure for experience** and mobilizing national champions, advocates and service innovators;
- serve as the umbrella for **review of lessons learnt and future perspectives** for mental health policy formation and implementation;
- **stimulate fundamental and applied research on mental health**, with particular attention to the interface between health, social and community and the role of primary care; the intersection mental health and gender; and the role of or chronic financial insecurity;
- **facilitate national policy dialogues on mental health and psychosocial support to incorporate key mental health priorities in national policies and plans** (such as cross-sector prevention; digitalization of mental health services; de-institutionalization of psychiatric care, etc.)

[WHO European framework for action on mental health 2021–2025](#)

Launch of the Pan-European Mental Health Coalition

First met on 4-5 May 2022, and establish the working packages through which the Coalition will structure its work.

EuroHealthNet will contribute to the **working packages on the mental health of children, adolescents** and ageing populations; mental health at the workplace; and structural reforms of the system.

Coalition members will work to **identify good practices and frameworks for implementation**. Report of first meeting can be found [here](#).

WHO Europe + Greece Government

- **New programme to support and promote the quality of mental health care of children and adolescents**

The [programme](#) will set out a response to the mental health challenges arising from the negative **impacts of the pandemic**, while also keeping in mind the **consequences of the current humanitarian crisis in Ukraine on the mental health of the millions of children and young people affected**.

It will:

- **Provide support in developing national strategies and frameworks and sharing lessons learned.** Many countries have already developed successful approaches, but many require a common platform to share knowledge and expertise. The new WHO programme will better enable this.
- **Provide expertise in translating findings and lessons learned into practical tools and policies that support children's and young people's mental health needs.**
- **Create an inventory of quality of care of children and adolescent mental care systems in the Mediterranean and south-eastern Europe.**
- **Develop a package of tools to measure clinical progress against evidence-based standards.**



Workshop questions

- Do you feel your project/programme are helping to put child and adolescent health issues more strongly on the policy agenda in your countries? Are they contributing to changing overall approaches to child and adolescent health, and to more systemic change?
 - If yes, how –and how did you achieve this?
 - If not, why not –what are the barriers?
- Can your project/programme be sustained after funding from the Nordic Grants ends? What is needed to help sustain and mainstream the project/programme?

Contact us

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