



## **Europe should not cut back on the health budget, not now.**

The European Commission presented a proposal for a dedicated health programme for the next seven years called '[EU4Health](#)' with a budget of €9.4 billion. This was proposed last May. This ambitious programme aiming to improve and safeguard the health of Europeans was received very well, especially in current times as Europe and the rest of the world are amidst a health crisis.

It is therefore unconceivable that the [EU Council concluded](#) last week that the budget for the much needed health programme is cut to €1.7 billion (just 18% of the Commission's proposed budget), at a time where new cases of COVID-19 are on the rise in multiple EU Member States.

The leaders of the EU Member States also decided on budget cuts in the proposed research programmes (Horizon). The innovative plans of President von der Leyen for European action on investing in youth, research and innovation, digital age, and climate may be jeopardized by these budget cuts. Hence, she marks the conclusions of the Council as '[regrettable](#)'.

Before the EU budget for the coming seven years is adopted, it will pass the European Parliament. This is an opportunity to reverse the Council's decision for budget cuts in health. As a reminder, 70% of the Europeans would like the EU to [do more for health](#) (and this was from a poll before the health crisis).

We call on investments in public health systems, research and better EU-cooperation, as these are key for healthy populations in Europe.

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The European Public Health Association, or EUPHA in short, is an umbrella organisation for public health associations in Europe. Our network of national associations of public health represents around 20'000 public health professionals. Our mission is to facilitate and activate a strong voice of the public health network by enhancing visibility of the evidence and by strengthening the capacity of public health professionals. EUPHA contributes to the preservation and improvement of public health in the European region through capacity and knowledge building. We are committed to creating a more inclusive

Europe, narrowing all health inequalities among Europeans, by facilitating, activating, and disseminating strong evidence-based voices from the public health community and by strengthening the capacity of public health professionals to achieve evidence-based change.

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