

EN
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Answer given by Mr Andriukaitis
on behalf of the European Commission
(14.6.2019)

The Commission shares the Honourable Member's concerns regarding the rise of diseases associated with ageing, in particular non-communicable diseases and promotes knowledge sharing and collaboration amongst Member States to address this issue. The Commission supports the implementation of validated best practices in public health via the Steering Group on Health Promotion, Disease Prevention and Management of Non-Communicable Diseases¹ and the Best Practice Portal². These efforts should help reach the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 3.4 to reduce premature mortality from non-communicable diseases by one-third by 2030, through prevention and treatment³.

Almost EUR 7.2 billion have been devoted to support 4399 research projects on chronic diseases in Horizon 2020⁴. Of these, 272 projects for EUR 598 million focus on health aspects of the aging population, and 333 projects worth EUR 556 million are related to cardiovascular research. This includes projects such as Gateway to Uncommon and Rare Diseases of the Heart⁵; Cardiovascular Health at the Heart of EU Policies⁶; YOUNG50 - Cardiovascular Risk Prevention⁷; or Secondary Prevention of Cardiovascular Disease in the Elderly.⁸

Under Horizon 2020, the Commission is funding projects related to cardiovascular disorders⁹ to empower patients and improve early diagnosis and prevention (e.g. HeartMan¹⁰).

The Commissions' proposal for the European Social Fund Plus for the new EU budget includes investing in health promotion and disease prevention, namely to reduce risk factors of non-communicable diseases, as an objective of its Health Strand¹¹.

The Commission is therefore supportive of sharing of expertise and collaborative work to prevent non-communicable diseases. Joint actions are one possible instrument to achieve such goal.

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/health/non_communicable_diseases/steeringgroup_promotionprevention_en

² <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/dyna/bp-portal/index.cfm>

³ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg3>

⁴ Horizon 2020, the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2014-2020) - COM(2011)809, 30/11/2014

⁵ <http://guardheart.ern-net.eu/>

⁶ https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/chafea_pdb/health/projects/811127/summary

⁷ https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/chafea_pdb/health/projects/847130/summary

⁸ <http://www.secure-h2020.eu/>

⁹ http://ec.europa.eu/newsroom/document.cfm?doc_id=2852

¹⁰ www.heartman-project.eu

¹¹ https://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/beta-political/files/budget-may2018-european-social-fund-plus-regulation_en.pdf