

EU4Health programme 2021-2027

On 28 May 2020, the European Commission adopted a proposal for a regulation on the establishment of a programme for the Union's action in the field of health for the 2021-2027 period (EU4Health programme). Interinstitutional negotiations between the European Parliament and the Council were concluded on 14 December 2020 with a provisional agreement on the programme, including a budget of €5.1 billion. Parliament's Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety endorsed the final compromise on 15 January 2021. Parliament's first-reading vote is expected during the March I plenary session.

Background

EU4Health was announced as part of the [Next Generation EU](#) (NGEU) recovery instrument. According to the Commission, the coronavirus pandemic [has shown](#) that the EU needs more coordination between Member States during a health crisis; more capacity at EU level to prepare for and to fight health crises; and more investment in health systems to make sure they are ready for future challenges. The idea is that the EU4Health programme will be a [comprehensive response to the political demand](#) to reflect the lessons learned from both the coronavirus crisis and previous health programmes.

European Commission proposal

The Commission [has proposed](#) a stand-alone programme with [three main priorities](#): tackling cross-border health threats; making medicines available and affordable; and strengthening health systems. EU4Health will be set in the 'one health' approach, support implementation of the [European Pillar of Social Rights](#), and make sure the EU and the Member States reach the [sustainable development goal \(SDG\) 3](#) targets.

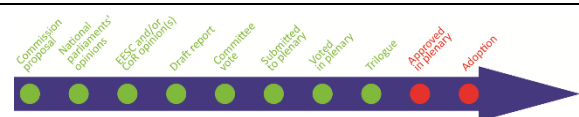
EU4Health and negotiations on the EU's long-term budget

Under the initial proposal, EU4Health would have a budget of €10.4 billion (in current prices). However, during the negotiations on the EU's 2021-2027 multiannual financial framework (MFF) and NGEU, the budget for EU4Health was revised downwards, with the July 2020 European Council [conclusions](#) allocating the programme €1.7 billion. After lengthy negotiations with the Council, Parliament [secured an extra €15 billion](#) for several EU flagship programmes, including [+€3.4 billion](#) for EU4Health.

European Parliament position

Parliament has consistently promoted a coherent EU [health policy](#). A May 2020 [resolution](#) called for the creation of a new stand-alone EU health programme. Parliament's Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) adopted its [report](#) on the EU4Health proposal on 14 October. It suggested, among other things, to strengthen the [EU's fight against cancer](#) in synergy with the [Europe's Beating Cancer plan](#). To ensure effective implementation, it proposed to set up a steering group. Parliament [confirmed the text](#) in plenary on 13 November. According to the final compromise text resulting from interinstitutional negotiations, EU4Health will support actions in areas where the EU's contribution has clear added value. Of the programme's budget, 20 % would go to health promotion and disease prevention, 12.5 % to procurement complementing national stockpiling of essential crisis-relevant products at EU level, and 12.5 % to supporting global commitments and health initiatives. A further 8 % is earmarked for administrative expenses. The remainder would be allocated in the coming years. The regulation also establishes an EU4Health steering group, as proposed by Parliament.

First-reading report: [2020/0102\(COD\)](#); Committee responsible: ENVI; Rapporteur: Cristian-Silviu Buşoi (EPP, Romania). For further information see our 'EU Legislation in progress' [briefing](#).



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