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Answer given by Ms Gabriel
on behalf of the European Commission
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Through Horizon 2020 and previous programmes, the Commission has invested in basic, translational, applied and public health research in chronic musculoskeletal diseases. Numerous calls for proposals addressing non-communicable diseases, ageing, occupational health and new technologies amongst others were relevant for this prevalent pathology.

There is a need for new ways of prevention, early diagnostic and treatment. Through Horizon Europe, the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation for 2021-2027, the Commission will continue to support research and innovation that address unmet needs of understanding and managing rheumatic diseases and comorbidities. The Programme will also support European partnerships for wide, concerted research and innovation efforts relevant for the area.

Regarding non-communicable diseases, the EU4Health Programme aims to improve and foster health in the Union (by supporting health promotion and disease prevention, and by promoting access to healthcare) and to reduce the burden of such diseases.

The Programme aims to strengthen health systems by several actions, which require the coordination of Member States, the implementation of best practices, the reinforcement of healthcare workforce and advancing digital transformation. The Programme will implement current and future EU-health policies and is not oriented to research and innovation activities as such. Specific actions related to non-communicable diseases (such as the rheumatic and musculoskeletal disease), which will meet the objectives of the Programme and have EU-added value, may be considered for inclusion in the future annual work programmes in line with EU4Health Programme governance.