

EN

E-001328/2024

Answer given by Ms Kyriakides  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(10.7.2024)

The Commission supports Member States in tackling non-communicable diseases by taking a holistic approach focusing on health promotion and disease prevention. This was confirmed by the Expert Group on Public Health<sup>1</sup>. The strategic framework for this support is encapsulated in the ‘Healthier Together’ EU non-communicable diseases initiative<sup>2</sup> which includes cardiovascular diseases among the priority strands.

The Commission is providing significant financial support to prevent cardiovascular diseases and related risk factors and issues. Specifically, EUR 150 million is available from the EU4Health programme for actions addressing cardiovascular diseases, diabetes and key health determinants through collaborative actions<sup>3</sup>, projects by stakeholders<sup>4</sup>, and agreements with international organisations<sup>5</sup>. Furthermore, funding opportunities under Horizon 2020<sup>6</sup> and Horizon Europe<sup>7</sup> of EUR 1.6 million have been made available for research projects on cardiovascular diseases. The Commission remains committed to a holistic approach, providing guidance and financial support for the transfer of impactful actions and the piloting of ambitious new policies.

The Commission's pharmaceutical review, adopted in April 2023<sup>8</sup>, aims to ensure more timely and equitable access to medicines for patients across the EU. This review is projected to provide more equitable and earlier access to medicines for an additional 67 million patients in the EU—a 15% increase compared to today. The initiative includes a system to incentivise companies to make medicines available in all Member States within a certain period after authorisation that will foster equal access to medical treatment for citizens across the EU including for cardiovascular diseases.

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<sup>1</sup> Expert Group on Public Health [https://health.ec.europa.eu/non-communicable-diseases/expert-group-public-health\\_en](https://health.ec.europa.eu/non-communicable-diseases/expert-group-public-health_en)

<sup>2</sup> Healthier together – EU non-communicable diseases initiative [https://health.ec.europa.eu/non-communicable-diseases/healthier-together-eu-non-communicable-diseases-initiative\\_en](https://health.ec.europa.eu/non-communicable-diseases/healthier-together-eu-non-communicable-diseases-initiative_en)

<sup>3</sup> JACARDI: ‘joint action’ on cardiovascular diseases and diabetes, EUR 53 million: <https://jacardi.eu/>; JA PreventNCD - Reducing Europe's cancer and NCD burden through coordinated strategies on health determinants. Focusing on effective policies, societal and personal risk factors, EUR 76 million: <https://www.preventncd.eu/>

<sup>4</sup> EUR 12 million under the EU4Health programme.

<sup>5</sup> Such as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD); [https://health.ec.europa.eu/internationalcooperation/overview\\_en](https://health.ec.europa.eu/internationalcooperation/overview_en)

<sup>6</sup> [https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-2020\\_en](https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-2020_en)

<sup>7</sup> [https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/research-area/health/cardiovascular-diseases\\_en](https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/research-area/health/cardiovascular-diseases_en)

<sup>8</sup> [https://health.ec.europa.eu/medicinal-products/pharmaceutical-strategy-europe/reform-eu-pharmaceutical-legislation\\_en](https://health.ec.europa.eu/medicinal-products/pharmaceutical-strategy-europe/reform-eu-pharmaceutical-legislation_en)