



Programme area n°6 European Public Health Challenges

OBJECTIVE

Improved prevention and reduced inequalities in health

AREAS OF SUPPORT

- > Prevention of non-communicable diseases
- > Prevention and control of communicable diseases in accordance with the international health regulations, including Tuberculosis (TB) and HIV/AIDS
- > Health systems development, including information and surveillance systems
- > Universal access to health care
- > Reduction of social inequalities in health and the burden of diseases
- > Mental health, including mental disorders associated with alcohol and drug abuse
- > Strengthening systems for primary health care services
- > Healthy and active ageing

SUGGESTED MEASURES

- > Preparedness, alert and response to communicable diseases, including antimicrobial resistance and zoonotic diseases
- > Population-based health promotion and prevention programmes and/or programmes targeted at specific risk groups, including tobacco, alcohol and drugs users in addition to those with suicidal behaviour
- > Civil society empowerment in the health sector, including user involvement in health care services
- > Mental health awareness-raising activities and education programmes
- > Develop outreach services (local and home-based services including services for mental health and substance abuse)
- > Strengthening health care access for migrants and refugees
- > Policy approaches for strengthening primary health care in terms of quantity and quality
- > De-institutionalisation/transition from inpatient to outpatient care, including in mental health
- > Develop e-health tools and strategies
- > Secure human rights and reduce stigma associated with mental illness
- > Promote health through a life-course approach, including nutrition and physical activity, awareness-raising and educational programmes
- > Foster inter-sectorial cooperation

RELEVANCE OF SUPPORT

Although people in general live longer and healthier lives than before, inequalities in life expectancy and burden of diseases remain, for both communicable and non-communicable diseases. The economic crisis has led to cuts in health spending, which has further increased the existing health gap. Poverty continues to contribute to poor health and measures are urgently sought to break this cycle of disadvantage for the most vulnerable. Additionally, the demographic challenge brought by an ageing population and low birth rates requires innovative solutions and multi-sectorial approaches.

The EEA and Norway Grants help reduce the health gap by improving health governance, boosting systemic change and strengthening primary care and health services in line with the EU's cohesion objective of promoting social inclusion, and combating poverty and any discrimination. Contributing to the implementation of international instruments such as the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is also relevant in this regard. Investing in prevention, health promotion and information is underpinned by World Health Organisation (WHO) and EU strategies and accepted as the best way to improve population health in a sustainable manner. The Europe 2020 strategy recognises the importance of fostering health as an indispensable condition for smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. This perspective includes mental health, which is often stigmatised leading to social exclusion and work absenteeism. The WHO Mental Health Action Plan 2013-2020 sets important new directions for mental health including a central role for provision of community-based care and a greater emphasis on human rights.

Building on experience and exchange of best practice to meet common European health challenges, both donor and beneficiary countries can benefit from extensive bilateral cooperation and partnerships. Coordination and cooperation with international organisations such as WHO adds further value to the Grants and the activities supported.

PROGRAMME AREA SPECIFICS

- > A maximum level of funding available for infrastructure (hard measures) shall be identified in the memorandum of understanding or exceptionally in the programme's concept note
- > At least 10% of the total programme allocation shall address child health
- > At least 10% of the total programme allocation shall address improved access to health for vulnerable groups/people and deprived areas

BILATERAL INTEREST

The donor and beneficiary countries share common challenges in the health sector. Programme and project cooperation is encouraged in order to exchange knowledge and share best practices and values. The EEA and Norway Grants 2014-2021 builds on the good bilateral relations developed in the past to further improve bilateral cooperation in the future.