

Sustainable investment in health equity and wellbeing

State-of-Play European Union approach since COVID-19

Cooperation, learning and exchange across national public health institutes

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A EUROPEAN HEALTH UNION

“For me, it is crystal clear – we need to build a stronger **European Health Union**. And to start making this a reality, we must now draw the first lessons from the health crisis. We need to make our **new EU4Health programme** future proof.” *State of the Union speech, Sept 2020*

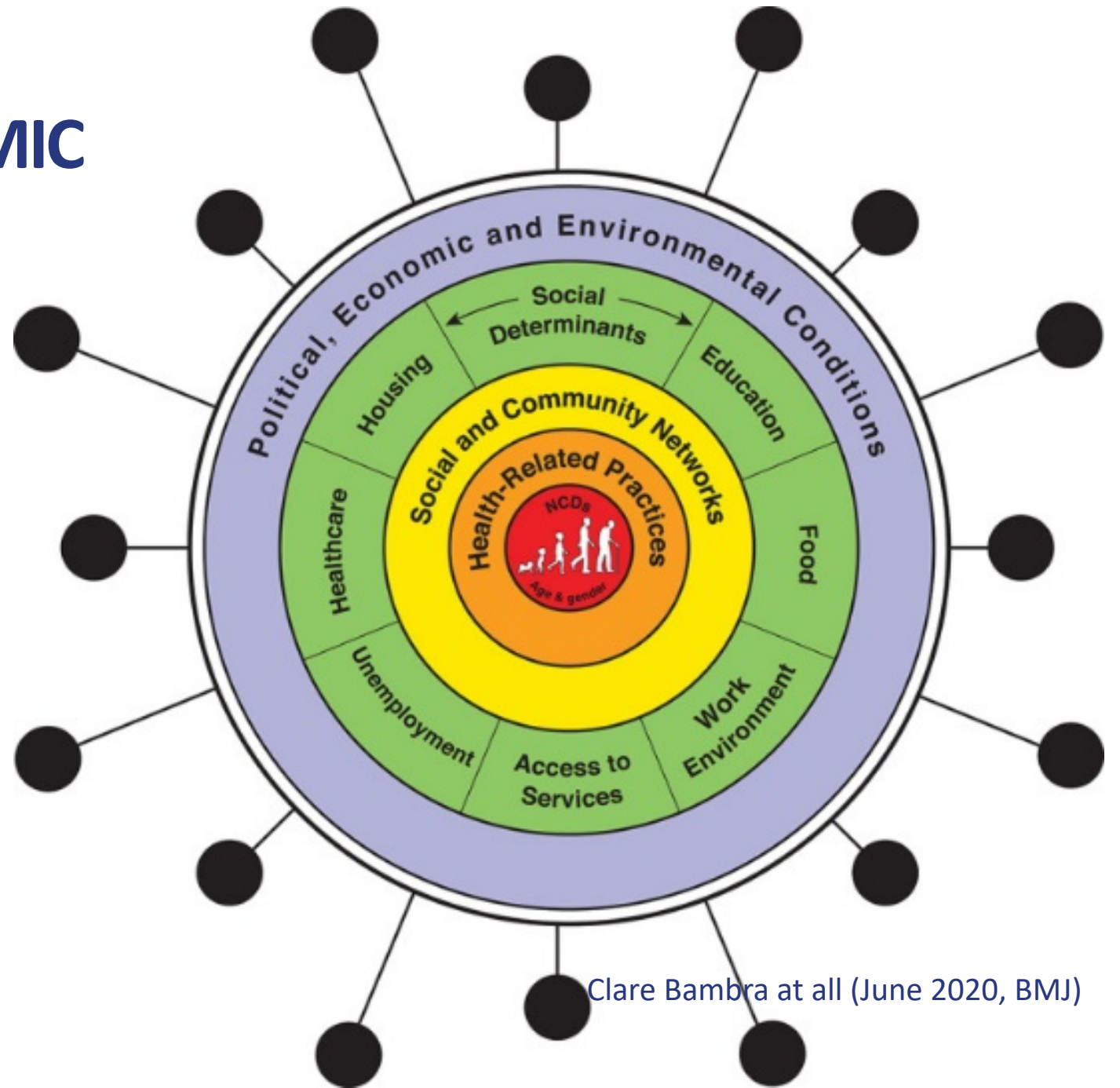
"All European citizens have the same right to health. **NextGenerationEU**'s resources will therefore target the resilience of our health systems. The European funds will enable investments in new hospitals, better equipment and stronger healthcare systems." *CoR speech, Oct 2020*



European Commission President
Ursula von der Leyen

COVID-19 AS A SYNDEMIC

“A syndemic is a set of closely intertwined and mutual enhancing health problems that significantly affect the overall health status of a population”



Clare Bamba et al (June 2020, BMJ)

EU4Health 2021-2027

A vision for a healthier European Union:

- boost EU's preparedness for major **cross border health threats**
- strengthen **health systems** (prevention, health promotion, digital transformation , access)
- make **medicines and medical devices** available and affordable
- fight against **cancer**
- reducing **antimicrobial-resistant** infections
- improve **vaccination** rates
- expand European Reference Networks for **rare diseases**
- cooperate on **global health threats** and challenges.

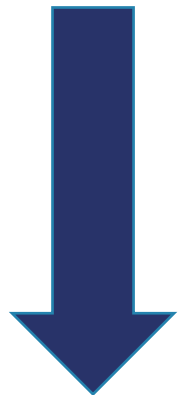


1.9 billion EUR
=> four times the size of the budget of the current programme for 2014-2020.

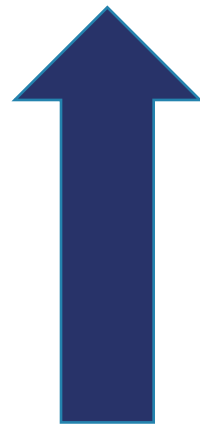
The social sector investment gap

The investment gap in social infrastructure in EU (**education, housing, health, social services**) is estimated to be **€192 billion/year**

The **health** investment gap increased from **€20 to €70 billion/year** due to the COVID-19 crisis, around 0.6% of EU GDP, with large variations across countries



Public sector investment is 20% lower than a decade ago



Yet the demand (ageing, NCDs) is rising...

Economy of Wellbeing

Opportunities for health and wellbeing: MFF 2021-2027

European Semester

Recovery and Resilience Facility

- €312.5 billion in grants and up to €360 billion in loans

Regional Development and Cohesion Policy

- ESF + (101.2 billion) and at least 25% of ESF+ will be allocated to fostering social inclusion

Just Transition Fund (reflecting the Green Deal) will focus on most affected regions

HorizonEurope – taking forward SDGs and 5 mission areas (cancer, food, oceans, climate change, climate neutral cities)



InvestEU

- policy window on investing in social measures and tackling inequality
- 30% will go to fighting climate change

IN SUMMARY

We want to achieve **systemic change** and **sustainable** investments in health and wellbeing:

- build partnerships and work towards an **economy of wellbeing**
- get engaged with the **European Semester** and other policy makers that decide on budgets
- there is a strong need for **leadership** and **international cooperation** among public health authorities
- and boost **capacities of public health institutes** to understand and access those other funding streams or finance instruments



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