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

IANPHI webinar 22 November 2020
“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*
A syndemic is a set of closely intertwined and mutual enhancing health problems that significantly affect the overall health status of a population

Clare Bambra at all (June 2020, BMJ)
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 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...
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

Horizon Europe – 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
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

**IN SUMMARY**