Summit 2025 Vision / EU Health Coalition,

Reshaping health for a stronger Europe Why prioritizing health matters for Europe's security, growth and competitiveness

Health is fundamental to the wellbeing of individuals and families, and to our societies, economies and security. Well-performing health systems, a resilient health workforce and a strong footprint in research and innovation for life sciences are key for Europe to remain prosperous and competitive in a turbulent world.

As a broad Coalition whose membership spans all 27 EU countries and all areas of the health and life sciences sector, we are proposing five actions that can help Europe leverage health to achieve its vision for security, growth and competitiveness.

1	2	3	4
Ensure the meaningful	Prepare the future	Prioritise investments	Help Europe regain its
involvement of	European health	in health under the	competitive edge in
patients, patient	workforce by investing	EU's new fiscal rules	research & innovation
organisations and all	in training, education,	and in the next long-	by making life and
other relevant health	and retention	term budget (2027-	health sciences a key
stakeholders in policy	programs to make	2034), to capitalize	pillar of the European
development, health	healthcare an	and amplify the health	Life Science Strategy.
research, and	attractive labour	sector's return on	
healthcare practice to	sector and to build a	investment (ROI) in	This includes a) robust
understand what	future-proof, resilient	the medium- and	funding of health
matters most to	and skilled workforce.	long-term. The	research through the
patients and their	This can be done by	European Commission	next long-term
families, allocate	ensuring adequate	can support Member	budget, b) facilitating
resources effectively	support and resources	States by providing	the translation of early
at a time of increased	for healthcare	guidance on how to	scientific discoveries
demands for care ¹ ,	professionals to	assess the return on	into innovative
and improve	maintain high	investment of	products and services
individual and	standards of care in	different types of	by ensuring access to
population health	Europe, i.e.,	health investments, as	funding for start-ups,
outcomes.	preventing burnout,	well as supporting	an innovation-friendly
This includes	providing mental	assessments and	regulatory framework
identifying	health support and	investment plans that	and increasing
appropriate,	investing in digital	are in line with the	Europe's
sustainable funding	upskilling. Elevating	new framework.	attractiveness for
models to support	the health workforce		clinical trials, and c)
these stakeholders'	in the Pact for Skills		developing a culture
role in policymaking	and the planned		of learning within and
processes, as well as	Quality Jobs Roadmap		between health
deploying people-	and supporting		systems, ensuring the
centred	Member States in		uptake and scale up of
methodologies and	strengthening their		innovative best
indicators in	health workforce		practices to level up

¹<u>https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC7934513/</u>

healthcare planning	through EU-funding		European health	
and delivery.	programmes are		systems.	
	concrete means of			
	countering the health			
	workforce and skills			
	gap.			
5				
Create a health and life science office in the European Commission, connecting DG SANTE, DG HERA,				
DG RTD, DG CNECT, DG ENVI and DG GROW, to spearhead a coherent European strategy for this				
sector. Only by linking EU policies for public health, research and industrial policy can Europe deliver				

DG RTD, DG CNECT, DG ENVI and DG GROW, to spearhead a coherent European strategy for this sector. Only by linking EU policies for public health, research and industrial policy can Europe deliver a coherent vision, strategy and policies for a vibrant end-to-end health research and care ecosystem.

Why acting for health matters

European populations are ageing and the burden of disease is growing while

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• Noncommunicable diseases drive 80% of the disease burden, are the leading causes of avoidable premature deaths and account for approximately 70% of healthcare costs in Europe.

• Compounding the issue, the threat of antimicrobial resistance will continue to grow, with the World Bank estimating that by 2050, 10 million people per year could die if new antimicrobials are not found • Europe also has one of the lowest fertility rates in the world (Euronews

article)

With consequences for the workforce, fiscal sustinability and the economy

> Ageing populations put pressure on public spending for health care and long-yerm care

• Equally worrying. cancer cases in young people (between 18 and 49, and thus in their most economically active years) are rising fast

• Poor physical and mental health is one of the leading reasons people leave work. take part-time jobs or work as unpaid carersm, correlating also with lower productivity for those already in employment Premature death from chronic diseases in the working age population is responsible for €115 billion in economic loss every year in the EU (powering up chronic disease

The health workforce is shrinking

• We could face a crippling shortage of nearly 1.8 million healthcare workers, and the numbers are climbing". "In some countries there are just 2.4 doctors for every 1000 people. That's not a gap. It's a gulf." Hans Kluge, WHO Europe

Health expenditure is returning to pre-COVID-19 levels or even below

> • Rigid financing models, which create barriers for necessary investments and the uptake of innovation, further impact health systems.

 Fragmented national healthcare policies and bureaucratic hurdles disadvantage Europe compared to more strategic investors in health innovation like the US and Japan.

Europe's share of global clinical trials dropped from 22% to 12% in 2023

> This translates to 60,000 fewer patients accessing a trial involving a country within the EEA and 20,000 fewer places available in EEA-only trials • Europe is missing out

on accessing the latest medicines 5 to 10 years before launch

- Rare disease patients may be missing out on their only treatment option
- EEA's health systems benefit from between 1-1.5bn Euros from trial payments and drug cost savings every year

management)

At a time of stretched budgets and geopolitical tensions, European policymakers would be wise to remember that health is not only wealth but strength.

Here are some examples of the difference that the health and life sciences sector is making for Europe's economy, workforce and social systems.

The economic footprint of the pharmaceutical sector is:

- 311-billion-euro gross value added in 2022
- 2,3 million total supported jobs
- 3x productivity compared to EU average (gross value added per worker)

The medtech sector employs 800,000 people in Europe.

On average in the EU, the health sector accounts for 5,3% of the economically active population. Patient organisations add significant value to health and social systems

- in the Czech Republic, the value of services provided by 7 patient organisations alone amount to up to 76.3 million EUR per year
- In Hungary, patient organisations' work in prevention could lead to estimated savings of 448.778 EUR per year to the health system.

and of the return on investment it generates:

Investments in preventative care, vaccination programmes and healthcare system improvements generate returns of two to four times the initial investment (CFE paper) Vaccination alone can deliver returns as high as 16 to 44 times the cost, and these returns last over time due to dividents in terms of better health outcomes and more productive workforce (CFE paper)

Secondary prevention strategies to effectively manage chronic conditions and their risk factors, thereby avoiding emergency visits, hospitalisation and costly complications

Every euro invested in public health generates a 14-fold return in economic benefits New breakthrough therapies such as cell- and gene therapies can through one highly innovative intervention replace a lifetime of chronic treatment or even cure rare and genetic conditions with huge gains for the individual and the society

What will be the impact?

Keeping health high on the policy agenda, especially at a time of geopolitical tensions and stretched resources, will reduce long-term healthcare costs, improve the overall health and productivity of the population, and contribute to Europe's growth and stability.