



Conference on the **Future** of **Europe**

HEALTH WORKING GROUP – REVISED DRAFT PROPOSALS - 04/04/2022

PROPOSAL 1 - Healthy food and healthy lifestyle¹

OBJECTIVE: Ensure that all Europeans have access to education on healthy food and access to healthy and affordable food, as a building block of a healthy lifestyle, in particular by:

SPECIFIC MEASURES:

1. Setting minimum standards for food quality, as well as food traceability, including by limiting the use of antibiotics and other animal drugs to what is absolutely necessary to protect the health and well-being of animals instead of use in a preventive way and by making sure that controls are tightened in that respect. [#²3, #17]
2. Educating people about healthy habits from an early age, and encouraging them to make healthy choices, through taxation of non-healthy processed food and by making information on the health properties of food readily available; for that purpose, establishing a European-wide scoring system for processed food based upon best practices in Member States and a label covering the use of hormonal substances and endocrine disruptors in the production of food. In this regard, reinforce monitoring and enforcement of existing rules and consider strengthening them. [#18, #19, WG]
3. Encouraging dialogue with the food chain actors from production to sales for corporate social responsibility regarding healthy food. [#19]
4. Supporting at EU level the provision of healthy and affordable food in establishments servicing the public, such as school canteens, hospitals, or nursing homes, including through dedicated funding. [#3, Plenary, WG]
5. Investing in research on the impact of the use of antibiotics and the effects of hormonal substances and endocrine disruptors in human health. [#17, #18]

¹ Recommendations of the European Citizens' Panels on which the proposal is mainly based: #3, #17, #18, #19,

² # = European Citizens' Panel's Recommendation

PROPOSAL 2 – Reinforce the healthcare system³

OBJECTIVE: Reinforce the resilience and quality of our healthcare systems, in particular through:

SPECIFIC MEASURES:

1. The creation of a European health data space, which would facilitate exchange of health data; individual medical records could be made available – on a voluntary basis – through an EU individual electronic health passport, in compliance with data protection rules. [#41, WG]
2. Adequate working conditions, in particular through stronger collective bargaining, including in terms of wages and working hours, and harmonisation of training and certification standards for health professionals; networking and exchange programmes should be developed such as an Erasmus for medical schools, contributing notably to skills development. [#39, WG]
3. Ensuring strategic autonomy at EU level to avoid dependency on third countries for medicines (in particular active ingredients) and medical devices (including raw materials); in particular, a list of essential and priority, but also innovative medicines and treatments (such as biotechnology solutions) should be established at EU level relying on existing European agencies and HERA, to guarantee their availability for citizens. Consider organising coordinated strategic stockpiling throughout the EU. [#40, NL2⁴, Plenary, WG]
4. Further developing, coordinating and funding existing health research and innovation programmes without undermining other health-related programmes. Increased funding should also be provided to European Reference Networks as they constitute the basis of the development of networks of medical care for highly specialised and complex treatments. [#42, #43, WG]
5. Investing in the health systems, infrastructure and digital health and ensuring that healthcare providers respect the principles of full accessibility, affordability and quality of services, hence ensuring that resources are not drained by profit-oriented health operators with little regard for the general interest. [#51, WG]
6. Issuing strong recommendations to the Member States to invest in effective, accessible and resilient health systems, notably in the context of the European Semester. [#51, WG]

³ Citizens' recommendations on which the proposal is mainly based: #39, #40, #41, #42, #43, NL1, NL2, #51

⁴ National Citizens' Panel's Recommendation

PROPOSAL 3 – A broader understanding of Health⁵

OBJECTIVE: Adopt a holistic approach to health, addressing, beyond diseases and cures, health literacy and prevention, and fostering a shared understanding of the challenges faced by those who are ill or disabled.

SPECIFIC MEASURES:

1. Improve understanding of mental health issues and ways of addressing them, including from early childhood and early diagnostics, building on good practices developed throughout the EU, which should be made readily accessible through the Public Health Best Practice Portal. To raise awareness, EU institutions and relevant stakeholders should organise best practices exchange events and help their members disseminate them in their own constituencies. An EU Action Plan on mental health should be developed, that would tackle the issue of availability of professionals, including for minors. [#44, #47, WG]
2. Develop at EU level a standard educational programme on healthy lifestyles, covering also sexual education. It should also encompass actions targeting both healthy lifestyle and environmental protection and how they can help prevent many diseases, such as for instance bicycling as a healthy mean for everyday mobility. It would be available free of charge to Member States and schools to use in their curricula, as appropriate. Such a programme would address stereotypes on those who are ill or disabled. [#46, WG]
3. Develop first aid courses – including a practical component – that would be made available to all citizens free of charge and consider making them compulsory on a recurring basis for students and in workplaces. There should also be a minimum number of defibrillators available in public places in all Member States. [#50]
4. Expanding the health week initiative, which would take place across the entire EU in the same week, when all health issues would be covered and discussed. Also consider health year initiatives, starting with the year on mental health. [#44, WG]

⁵ Recommendations of the European Citizens' Panels on which the proposal is mainly based: #44, #46, #47, #50

PROPOSAL 4 – Equal access to health for all⁶

OBJECTIVE: Establish a “right to health” by guaranteeing all Europeans have access to affordable, preventive, curative and quality health care

SPECIFIC MEASURES:

1. Establish common minimum healthcare standards at EU level, covering also prevention and accessibility of care, and provide support to achieve these standards. [#39, WG]
2. Recognising the need to take full account of the principle of subsidiarity and the key role of local, regional and national players in health matter, ensure there is the ability to act at EU level when the right to health is best addressed there. To allow faster decision-making on key subjects and to improve the effectiveness of European governance towards the development of the European Health Union (such as in the event of a pandemic). [#49, FR wish11, NL3]
3. Beef up the European Health Union using the full potential of the current framework and start exploring the possibility to include health and healthcare among the shared competencies between the EU and the EU Member States. In order to include this new shared competence, there is a need to amend Article 4 of the TFUE. [#49, FRwish11]
4. Make sure anyone can access existing treatments, wherever first available in the EU; to that purpose, facilitate cross-border cooperation, notably on rare diseases, cancer, cardiovascular diseases and highly specialised treatments, such as organ transplants. [Plenary and WG]
5. Ensure affordability of care, through stronger investment in healthcare, in particular of dental care including prophylaxis. Guarantee that within 15 to 20 years, affordable dental care is available to everyone. [#48, WG]
6. Ensure that treatments and medicines across the EU are of equal quality and of fair local cost; recognise as regular medical treatment in terms of taxation the hormonal contraception products used for medical reasons, such as in the cases of fibromyalgia and endometriosis, as well as female sanitary products. Ensure access to reproductive treatments for all individuals suffering fertility problems. [#40, NL3, #45]
7. Fight health poverty by offering free of charge dental care for children, low-income groups and other vulnerable groups, such as for instance the disabled. Also consider the impact of poor-quality housing on health. [#48, WG]
8. Consider the international dimension to health and recognise that medicines should be universally available, including in poorer countries. [NL2]

⁶ Recommendations of the European and National Citizens' Panels on which the proposal is mainly based: #39, #40, #45, #48, #49, #50, #51, FRchange8, FRwish11, NL2, NL3