

BACKGROUND NOTE

15 October
2020

9:30/11:00

Online
Workshop

The COVID-19 outbreak is showing us the need to step up **investments** in health promotion and disease prevention, reinforcing our **health systems preparedness, responsiveness and resilience**, ensuring cross-border cooperation across Europe. Solidarity and equity are key to face this major world health crisis and its devastating socio-economic consequences. **Cohesion policy** as one of the main instruments to achieve the EU treaty objective of economic, social, and territorial cohesion, offers regions and cities the opportunity to allocate resources for the health and social care systems of tomorrow.

In the current programming period 2014-2020, **the European Social Fund (ESF)** and the **European Regional Development Fund (ERDF)** covered substantial health investments in improving access to healthcare, developing specialised health infrastructure and capacities reducing health inequalities, and boosting healthcare reforms for around €9 billion, demonstrating the crucial contribution of cohesion policy in supporting social and economic convergence around Europe and promoting the health of EU citizens. The potential of investments in public health and reducing health inequalities, however, were sub-optimal, leaving room for further advancement.

The workshop aims at discussing therefore how best to improve the use the **ESI Funds 2021-2027** for innovative investments in health and social inclusion-enabling structures, methods and approaches, also in light of the new challenges set by the COVID-19 pandemic.

[Agenda follows in the next page >](#)



European Committee
of the Regions

Interregional Group on Health and Wellbeing



AGENDA

Moderator: Nick Batey, Chair of the European Regional Health Authorities (EUREGHA)

Welcome

9:30 **Birgitta Sacrédeus**, Chair, Interregional Group on Health and Well-being, European Committee of the Regions

Keynote Speech

9:35 **Normunds Popens**, Deputy Director-General, Director General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission

Panel debate

9:55 **Andrzej Ryś**, Director for Health Systems and Products, DG Health and Food Safety
Normunds Popens, Deputy Director-General, Director General for Regional and Urban Policy, European Commission
Caroline Costongs, Director, EuroHealthNet
Birgitta Sacrédeus, Chair, Interregional Group on Health and Well-being, European Committee of the Regions

Q&A

10:40

Closing remarks

10:55 **Nick Batey**, Chair, European Regional and Local Health Authorities (EUREGHA)

*TBC



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EuroHealthNet
EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIP FOR IMPROVING HEALTH, EQUITY & WELLBEING



European Regional and Local Health Authorities



European
Commission