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TWINNING PROJECT EU SUPPORT TO THE PARLIAMENTS OF BiH IN EU INTEGRATION TASKS



EU TWINNING FACTSHEETS / EU POLICIES IN A NUTSHELL



EU HEALTH POLICY

➤ WHAT ARE THE MAIN OBJECTIVES AND PRINCIPLES OF THE EU IN THE FIELD OF HEALTH?

The health systems of the European Union are a central part of Europe's high levels of social protection, and contribute to social cohesion and social justice as well as to sustainable development. The EU does not define health policies, nor the health care systems of the Member States. It complements national health policies by formulating EU-wide laws and standards for health products and services and by providing funds for health projects across the EU in order to achieve common objectives, pool resources and overcome shared challenges.

EU policies and actions in public health aim to:

- ▶ protect European Union citizens from serious cross-border health threats,
- ▶ contribute to efficient, accessible and resilient health systems,
- ▶ facilitate access to better and safer healthcare for EU citizens,
- ▶ promote health, prevent diseases and foster supportive environments for healthy lifestyles.

European Health Policy rests on the following operating principles: Quality, Safety, Care that is based on evidence and ethics, Patient Involvement, Redress, Privacy and confidentiality.

➤ WHAT ARE THE KEY STRATEGIC DOCUMENTS REGULATING EU HEALTH POLICY?

The Council Conclusions on Common values and principles in European Union Health Systems (2006/C 146/01) define a set of operating principles that are necessary to ensure patients' trust in cross-border healthcare, for achieving patient mobility as well as a high level of health protection.

The European health strategy (2014/C 217/02) invites the Member States and the European Commission, to take certain measures to tackle the consequences of the economic crisis on healthcare systems as well as sets out a range of practical, voluntary recommendations.

Regulation (EU) No 282/2014 is the legal basis for the current, **Third Health Programme**. With a budget of €449.4 million and throughout 23 priority areas, it serves the following specific objectives:

- ▶ Promote health, prevent disease and foster healthy lifestyles through 'health in all policies',
- ▶ Protect EU citizens from serious cross-border health threats,
- ▶ Contribute to innovative, efficient and sustainable health systems,
- ▶ Facilitate access to high quality, safe healthcare for EU citizens.

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REPUBLIK ÖSTERREICH
Parlament



ORSZÁGGYŰLÉS



HRVATSKI SABOR

In May 2020, the Commission has proposed a new health programme for the 2021-2027 period (No 282/2014). The so called '**EU4Health Programme**' incorporates the lessons learned from the COVID-19 crisis and aims to ensure that EU's health systems are resilient enough to face new and future health threats.

It pursues to make a significant contribution to the post-COVID-19 recovery by:

- ▶ Protecting people from serious cross-border health threats;
- ▶ Making medicines, medical devices and other crisis relevant products available and affordable and supporting innovation;
- ▶ Strengthening health systems and the health care workforce, including by investing in public health, for instance through health promotion and disease prevention programmes.

▶ WHICH ARE THE KEY INSTITUTIONS OF THE EU IN THE FIELD OF HEALTH?

Consumers, Health, Agriculture and Food Executive Agency (CHAFEA) is an Executive Agency set up by the European Commission to manage four EU programmes on its behalf, including the health programme.

The mission of the European Centre for Disease Prevention & Control (ECDC) is to identify, assess and communicate current and emerging threats to human health posed by infectious diseases. It works together with national health protection bodies to strengthen and develop continent-wide disease surveillance and early warning systems.

The tasks of the **European Medicines Agency** (EMA) are to facilitate development and access to medicines, to evaluate applications for marketing authorisation, to monitor the safety of medicines across their lifecycle and to provide information to healthcare professionals and patients.

▶ WHAT DO WE UNDERSTAND UNDER THE TERM “PUBLIC HEALTH ACQUIS”?

Article 168 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union clearly defines the distribution of competences in the field of health. Basing on these provisions, the EU developed a legislative framework and adopted incentive measures aimed to protect and improve human health, covering the following main fields:

Patients' rights in cross-border healthcare

Directive 2011/24/EU on patients' rights in cross-border healthcare sets out the conditions under which a patient may travel to another EU country to receive medical care and reimbursement. It covers healthcare costs, as well as the prescription and delivery of medications and medical devices.

Medicinal products

The EU legal framework for medicinal products guarantees high standards of quality and safety. It also promotes the functioning of the internal market, with measures that encourage innovation and competitiveness in Europe. It is based on the principle that medicinal products may be placed on the market only following a marketing authorisation granted by the competent authorities. The European Medicines Agency (EMA) is responsible to coordinate the centralised authorisation procedure.

Combating serious cross border health threats

The EU health security framework includes a set of monitoring, early warning, and responsive measures to combat serious cross-border threats and to ensure a high level of health protection in the EU. The recent COVID-19 coronavirus outbreak is an excellent example for such threats. A key document in this field is **Decision on serious cross-border threats to health** (1082/2013/EU).

Tobacco

In order to protect citizens from the hazardous effects of smoking the European Union and national governments have taken various tobacco control measures in the form of legislation and recommendations, include in particular the following fields:

- ▶ **The regulation of tobacco products:**

The Tobacco Products Directive (2014/40/EU) lays down rules governing the manufacture, presentation and sale of tobacco and related products (e.g. packaging, labelling and ingredients).

- ▶ **Advertising restrictions:**

The Tobacco Advertising Directive (2003/33/EC) bans tobacco advertising in the print media, on radio and over the internet. Directive (2014/40/EU) extended the EU rules to electronic cigarettes as well.

- ▶ **Protecting EU citizens from passive smoking:**

The Council Recommendation on smoke-free environments (2009/C 296/02) aims to protect citizens against environmental tobacco smoke and thereby to improve public health in general.

- ▶ **Tax measures:**

Council Directive on the structure and rates of excise duty applied to manufactured tobacco (2011/64/EU) introduced high taxes on tobacco products, which are extremely effective in reducing tobacco use, notably among young people.

Organs, blood, tissues and cells

The EU legal framework in this field aims to set high standards of quality and safety for the whole chain of activities related to substances of human origin (blood, tissues, cells and organs).

- ▶ Directive 2004/23/EC lays down quality and safety standards for transplanting human tissues.
- ▶ Directive 2010/53/EU lays down rules to ensure quality and safety standards for organ transplantation.
- ▶ Directive 2002/98/EC defines the quality and safety standards for blood transfusion.

▶ **COVID-19 OUTBREAK**

The European Commission is working on all fronts to contain the spread of the coronavirus. It has taken different measures in order to support national health systems, protect and save lives, and counter the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic:

- ▶ **Economic measures:** To kick-start the European recovery, protect lives, livelihoods and jobs, the European Commission is proposing a major €2.4 trillion recovery plan.
- ▶ **Supporting research for treatment, diagnostics and vaccines:** It has mobilised €474 million to develop vaccines, new treatments, diagnostic tests and medical systems.
- ▶ **Public health:** It provides direct support to the healthcare systems of the EU countries (€3 billion), medical guidance for Member States, adequate supply of personal protective equipment.
- ▶ **Borders and mobility:** It has taken actions that covers mobility, from transportation to travel advice and Schengen-related questions.
- ▶ **It fights against coronavirus-related disinformation.**

EU response to the coronavirus pandemic in the Western Balkans

The EU is mobilising a package of over €410 million in reallocated bilateral financial assistance to support the Western Balkans during the coronavirus emergency and ensuring the flow of essential goods, expanding Green Lanes within the region. **It provides for Bosnia and Herzegovina the followings:**

- ▶ €7 million of immediate support for the health sector,
- ▶ €73,5 million in short to medium term assistance to support the social and economic recovery,
- ▶ digital campaigns have been launched: '#StayHome' and 'Heroes of the Day' as well as one to tackle disinformation about coronavirus.

▶ **WHAT ARE THE MAIN CHALLENGES FOR BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA?**

Findings of the European Commission's Commission Opinion on Bosnia and Herzegovina's application for membership of the EU

On 29 May 2019 the Commission adopted its Opinion on the EU membership application of BiH and the accompanying Analytical Report. As it is stated in the Chapter 28 on Consumer and health protection, Bosnia and Herzegovina is at an early stage of preparation in the field of public health. It should make additional efforts to establish an effective system of coordination and cooperation between different levels of government and further align its legislation with the EU acquis.

Bosnia and Herzegovina should in particular:

- ▶ Adopt legislation at all levels prohibiting smoking in public places in line with the EU acquis and ratify the protocol to eliminate illicit trade in tobacco, and start to enforce both measures;
- ▶ Conduct an assessment on the status of communicable diseases and establish an oversight system in the field of substances of human origin, ensuring efficient coordination in the whole country.

Action Plan for the implementation of priorities from the European Commission's Opinion and Analytical Report

This document – elaborated by the Directorate for European Integration of the Council of Ministers of BiH – contains the list of documents to be adopted and measures to be taken by the relevant State-, Entity and Cantonal-level institutions to implement the priorities identified by the European Commission.

▶ ROLE OF THE PARLIAMENTS IN ADDRESSING HEALTH QUESTIONS

Legislative function:

- ▶ Discussion and adoption of laws related to Health
- ▶ Harmonisation of the BiH legislation with the EU acquis - Compliance checking of draft laws and submitted amendments

Oversight function:

- ▶ Political monitoring of the Governments' activities during the whole integration and negotiation process
- ▶ Regular control of the fulfilment of priorities from the European Commission's Opinion and Analytical report and the tasks identified in the related Action Plan.

Information function:

- ▶ Promoting openness and transparency of the legislative process
- ▶ Providing regular information on the EU accession process and related parliamentary tasks to a greater public
- ▶ Providing information concerning draft laws related to Health
- ▶ Organizing events, like public hearings and roundtables attended by experts, the academia, CSOs, etc. on the most challenging issues related to Health

International and inter-parliamentary cooperation:

- ▶ Cooperation and coordination with EU institutions, national parliaments of EU Member States and parliaments of the Western Balkans region
- ▶ Informing international partners about the progress made and the challenges to be met by BiH

Administrative staff of the Parliaments has the responsibility to provide the necessary expertise and organizational support for the Members of Parliaments so that they can make the necessary decisions and represent the interests of the citizens.



WOULD YOU LIKE TO LEARN MORE?

European Union, health: https://europa.eu/european-union/topics/health_en
European Commission, Public health policies: https://ec.europa.eu/info/policies/public-health_en
Summaries of the EU health legislation:
https://eur-lex.europa.eu/summary/chapter/environment.html?root_default=SUM_1_CODED=20&locale=en
Council Conclusions on Common values and principles in European Union Health Systems (2006/C 146/01):
https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:OJ.C_.2006.146.01.0001.01.ENG&toc=OJ:C:2006:146:TOC
Council conclusions on the economic crisis and healthcare (2014/C 217/02):
[https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/AUTO/?uri=celex:52014XG0710\(01\)](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/AUTO/?uri=celex:52014XG0710(01))
Regulation (EU) 282/2014 on the Third Health Programme: [https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:52014XG0710\(01\)01.ENG&toc=OJ:L_.2014.086.01.0001.01.ENG](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=uriserv:52014XG0710(01)01.ENG&toc=OJ:L_.2014.086.01.0001.01.ENG)
Commission Proposal for the establishment of the 'EU4Health Programme':
<https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A52020PC0405>
Analytical Report of the European Commission:
<https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/sites/near/files/20190529-bosnia-and-herzegovina-analytical-report.pdf>
Action Plan for the Implementation of Priorities from the European Commission Analytical Report:
<http://www.dei.gov.ba/dei/dokumenti/prosirenje/default.aspx?id=22458&langTag=bs-BA>
EU response to the coronavirus pandemic in the Western Balkans:
https://ec.europa.eu/neighbourhood-enlargement/news_corner/eu-response-to-the-coronavirus-pandemic_en