



The next EU Drug Agenda

EU4Health

ACHIEVE

EU DRUG AGENDA

COMMUNICATION FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, THE COUNCIL, THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE AND THE COMMITTEE OF THE REGIONS

EU Agenda and Action Plan on Drugs 2021-2025

EU DRUG AGENDA

The EU Agenda on Drugs is based on the following guiding principles:

a. The founding values of the European Union and fundamental principles of EU law: respect for human dignity, liberty, democracy, equality, solidarity, the rule of law, security and human rights.

b. Multidisciplinary approach: to implement the EU Agenda on Drugs, all partners at national level, EU institutions, bodies and agencies (in particular, the continued central role played by the EMCDDA and Europol) 18 , as well as industry and civil society organisations need to further and better cooperate.

c. Integration into EU's external action: the approach and objectives of the EU Agenda on Drugs should be pursued in a coordinated and integrated manner with the EU's external action.

d. Science led, evidence-based responses and fostering innovation: efforts are needed in research to identify priorities, achieve synergies and coordination and disseminate findings effectively.

CSO concerns: new agenda goes back behind 2013

- **Dropping the balanced approach.** Although the Agenda explicitly claims to seek an ‘integrated, balanced, and multidisciplinary approach’ to drug policies, the draft is not balanced, as over half of its eight priority areas concern security and supply control interventions, with the rest distributed between prisons, prevention, treatment, and harm reduction. Public health measures aimed at reducing the harms that can be associated to drug use have been relegated from the first priority of the 2013 Drugs Strategy to the end of the new Agenda.
- **Deprioritising human rights and public health.** Human rights have practically disappeared from the draft Agenda, which contains no reference to the relevant international or regional human rights instruments, from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to the International Guidelines on Human Rights and Drug Policy.
- **Reducing the space for civil society and people who use drugs.** Whereas the 2013 EU Drugs Strategy contained a commitment to promote and encourage ‘the active and meaningful participation and involvement of civil society’,¹⁴ the EU Drugs Agenda only mentions ‘engagement’ with the CSFD.¹⁵ Involvement with civil society beyond the CSFD has been omitted, and there is no reference to engaging with people who use drugs and clients of drug services, which the 2013 Strategy did.
- **Deprioritising scientific evidence.** In spite of the EU’s leading role in fostering scientific knowledge and research on drug markets and drug use through the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), the 2021-25 EU Drugs Agenda has dropped the cross-cutting theme on monitoring, research and evaluation, and science-based drug policies are scarcely mentioned in the operative parts of the document.


Proces:




EU4Health

- Presented as part of the Next Generation EU (the EU recovery package)
- Developed amid calls for greater EU role in health policy
- Purpose: Invest in prevention, crisis preparedness, procurement of vital medicines and equipment and improving longterm health outcomes


Objectives



Protecting people in EU from serious cross-border health threats and improving crisis management capacity



Making medicines, medical devices and other crisis relevant products, available and affordable and supporting innovation



Strengthen health systems and healthcare workforce

EU4Health Budget

- Initially €9.4 billion (an twenty-times increase from current health budget)
- Following the special session of the European Council (July 17 - 22) budget decreased to €1.1 billion
- Compared to the current health programme funding (€499 million) agreed budget represents a nearly quadruple increase in funding



EU4Health and Communicable Diseases

There is a bias in favour of non-communicable diseases

Non-communicable Diseases



Communicable Diseases



EU4Health and Communicable Diseases

Commission Proposal

- Calls for considering “the extension of ERNs beyond rare diseases to communicable and non-communicable diseases such as cancer.” (p.15)
- Highlights an example of possible action of program to support programs to improve health promotion and prevention for communicable diseases. (annex, p. 3)

EP ENVI Draft Report

- Calls for **addressing the social dimension of communicable diseases** including hepatitis. (amend. 15, p.16-17)
- Notes that the **European Diseases Management Guidelines need to be developed for communicable diseases.** (amend. 15, p.18-19)
- Calls for **ERN in the form of excellence networks for communicable diseases as a key objective of EU4Health** (amend. 28, p.27-28)
- Highlights that programs should address **early diagnosis and screening for communicable diseases.** (P. 63)

Key amendments in the EP ENVI draft report

- Tabled amendments released on July 16.
- Focuses on:
 - Ensuring that the **ECDC has adequate resource** to collect data on diagnosis, care, and outcomes. (amend. 222)
 - **The need for reliable data**, and to apply innovative solutions for infectious diseases. (amend. 227)
 - Promoting **measures to tackle infectious diseases**, through various prevention method. (amend. 265 and amend. 309)
 - Supporting the **creation of excellence networks for infectious diseases**. (amend. 596)
 - **Report on the progress of the elimination of viral hepatitis** in line with the WHO Strategies. (amemd. 1086)

Final ENVI committee vote: 28 Sept./1 Oct.

European Parliament
2019-2024



Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety

2020/0102(COD)

16.7.2020

AMENDMENTS 520 - 1095

Draft report
Cristian-Silviu Buşoi
(PE653.803v01-00)

on the proposal for a regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the establishment of a Programme for the Union's action in the field of health –for the period 2021-2027 and repealing Regulation (EU) No 282/2014 (“EU4Health Programme”)

Proposal for a regulation
(COM(2020)0405 – C9-0152/2020 – 2020/0102(COD))

Advocacy Opportunities



MEP Sara Cerdas (PT,
S&D)



MEP Petra De Sutter
(BE, Greens)



MEP Véronique Trillet-Lenoir
(FR, RE)



MEP Miriam Dalli
(MT, S&D)



MEP Michèle Rivasi
(FR, Greens)



MEP Peter Liese
(DE, EPP)







MEP Kateřina Konečná
(CZ, GUE/NGL)

Shadow Rapporteurs
and Active MEPs on
Health

Advocacy Opportunities

Outreach to Member States

	German Presidency July 2020 – Dec. 2020
	Portuguese Presidency Jan. 2021 – June 2021
	Slovenian Presidency July 2021 – Dec. 2021
	French Presidency Jan. 2022 – June 2022

EU4Health Timeline

