

Submit your best practices on the prevention of non-communicable diseases!

A call for best practices is open through 14 March on the [EU Best Practice Portal](#)

Member States' health authorities, represented at the Steering Group on Health Promotion, Disease Prevention and Management of Non-Communicable Diseases¹, have recently identified their **priorities** in public health for the near future.

Prevention of non-communicable diseases was identified as a top priority². Health determinants including use of tobacco products, environmental determinants and alcohol consumption also ranked high, and so did overweight and obesity.

The European Commission is now calling for the identification of **best practices**³ that can be shown to contribute to the **prevention of non-communicable diseases**, especially with a focus on:

- ✓ Reducing the use of **tobacco** products;
- ✓ Improving the **environmental** determinants of health;
- ✓ Reducing overweight and **obesity**;
- ✓ Reducing **alcohol**-related harm.

Governmental and non-governmental actors are invited to submit practices at the EU Best Practice Portal: <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/dyna/bp-portal/>.

Submitted practices will be **assessed** against the [best practice criteria](#) adopted by Member States in the Steering Group on Health Promotion, Disease Prevention and Management of Non-Communicable Diseases.

The Commission will invite the submitters/owners of the top ranked best practices to present them to Member States' representatives in a Marketplace event, where countries may select their favourites for joint implementation across the EU. The **implementation** of those best practices may subsequently be supported by **EU funding** programmes.

The **deadline** for submission is **14 March** 2021 (midnight CET).

¹ https://ec.europa.eu/health/non_communicable_diseases/steeringgroup_promotionprevention_en

² Alongside antimicrobial resistance, cancer and access and availability of medical products, which are being addressed by specific initiatives at the EU level.

³ A 'best practice' is a relevant policy or intervention implemented in a real life setting and which has been favourable assessed in terms of adequacy (ethics and evidence) and equity as well as effectiveness and efficiency related to process and outcomes. Other criteria are important for a successful transferability of the practice such as a clear definition of the context, sustainability, intersectorality and participation of stakeholders.

Non-communicable diseases

Worldwide, 7 of the 10 leading causes of deaths in 2019⁴ are attributable to non-communicable diseases, which also account for up to **80% of healthcare costs**⁵.

Heart disease and cancer (including breast, lung and colorectal cancer)⁶ are the leading causes of death in the EU. Overweight and obesity are chronic conditions that also act as a gateway to other non-communicable diseases. Across EU countries in 2018, almost one in five 15-year-olds was overweight or obese⁷. All of these chronic conditions share similar risk factors⁸ that are largely preventable. In 2017, approximately 61% of deaths across the EU were attributed to alcohol-related harm, smoking, physical inactivity, diet and overweight and obesity⁹. Europe remains the region with the highest alcohol consumption in the world¹⁰ and smoking represents the most important cause of premature mortality across the EU⁷. Air pollution is also an important risk factor for non-communicable diseases. In 2019, 4% of deaths from NCDs were attributed to air pollution⁷.

This burden could be substantially reduced if successful preventive actions were effectively implemented and scaled up.

⁴ <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/the-top-10-causes-of-death>

⁵ https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/health/files/state/docs/2017_companion_en.pdf

⁶ https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/sites/82129230-en/1/3/2/1/4/index.html?itemId=/content/publication/82129230-en&_csp_ =e7f5d56a7f4dd03271a59acda6e2be1b&itemI GO=oecd&itemContentType=book

⁷ https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/health/files/state/docs/2020_healthatglance_sum_en.pdf

⁸ https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/94384/9789241506236_eng.pdf?sequence=1

⁹ <https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/health-knowledge-gateway>

¹⁰ <https://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/disease-prevention/alcohol-use/data-and-statistics>