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EU Health Programme to be embedded in enlarged European Social Fund

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The EU is required to ensure that human health is protected across all policy areas and works together with the member states to achieve this aim through the EU Health Programme.

The EU Health Programme outlines the strategy for ensuring good health and healthcare. It can be considered as part of the overall Europe 2020 strategy which aims at making the EU's economy smart, sustainable and inclusive. One of the elements which will contribute to achieving this aim is good health.

The budget of the current Third EU Health Programme 2014-2020 has been established at 449.4 million €. The Programme focuses, among others, on themes that address current health issues across member states and on supporting and encouraging the cooperation between those member states in making their health system innovative, efficient and sustainable.

The European Social Fund is the EU's main instrument for supporting jobs, helping people getting better jobs and ensuring fairer job opportunities for all EU citizens.

With the recent announcement (on 2nd May 2018) of the EU's new budgetary proposals (MMF, Multiannual Financial Framework) for the period 2021-2027, the European Commission underlined that its aim is to strengthen and restructure the European Social Fund, which has been planned to reach more than 100 billion euro in the new seven-years period. The focus will be put on youth employment, up- and re-skilling of workers, social inclusion and poverty reduction.

In order to maximise the impact of funding in this area, the Commission proposes to put together the budgetary means of the European Social Fund, the European Health Programme, the Youth Employment Initiative, and others, under the new name: European Social Fund +.

Apart from the European Health Programme, several other health-related activities are set up in Brussels. The biggest budget goes to health research, while new initiatives have also been announced in the field of e-health.

