

EN
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Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
(7.1.2025)

The contribution agreement ‘Nurses at the heart of more resilient health systems and safe healthcare’¹ aims to support the Member States in attracting and retaining more nurses, building on the expertise of European nurses’ associations and their partner organisations in all the Member States. The agreement also aims to inspire new policies and actions at EU level to ensure a quicker take-up of the necessary measures to alleviate the crisis of the nurse workforce. The implementation of the action relies on the World Health Organisation’s (WHO) expertise and technical capacities in nursing within country and regional offices. The WHO will actively engage national authorities, relevant European nursing associations, their national partners organisations, and other health systems stakeholders including social partners.

A contribution agreement² refers to a specific type of contract used by the EU to allocate funding to other entities, typically for the implementation of specific actions or projects that align with the Union policies and objectives. Budget earmarking for final beneficiaries is not applied in the context of a contribution agreement.

The agreement with the WHO responds to the objectives of the call included in the 2024 EU4Health Work Programme³. The project is planned for launch in early 2025. Once launched, detailed information about the project—including its specific objectives, actions, and deliverables—will be made publicly available and shared alongside the commencement of implementation, including dissemination and communication activities.

¹ Please note that the agreement is funded with 1.3 million, and not 1.3 billion as the question stated: https://health.ec.europa.eu/latest-updates/commission-supports-action-across-europe-attract-and-retain-nurses-2024-09-02_en

² Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2024/2509 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 September 2024 on the financial rules applicable to the general budget of the Union (recast): <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32024R2509>

³ 2024 EU4Health Work Programme, p. 179-181: https://health.ec.europa.eu/publications/2024-eu4health-work-programme_en