(English version)

Question for written answer E-002544/24
to the Commission
Dimitris Tsiodras (PPE)
(14 November 2024)

Subject: Improving the quality of life of people living with diabetes

More than 33 million people ([1]) in the EU suffer from diabetes. This number is expected to reach 48 million by 2030.

These figures make diabetes one of the most significant challenges for national health systems.

Furthermore, diabetes is a complex and multifactorial disease owing to its interaction with other conditions, and a number of those affected face inequalities in terms of prevention, protection against risk factors as well as education to counter disinformation.

On the occasion of World Diabetes Day, can the Commission say:

1. How does it intend to ensure continued support for funding under the next EU research framework programme and how will it support further research on subpopulations like the elderly and patients with comorbidities?

2. How will it help improve the coordination of diabetes research in the EU?

Submitted: 14.11.2024

Answer given by Ms Zacharieva on behalf of the European Commission
(12 February 2025)

Research and innovation (R&I) on non-communicable diseases, including diabetes and its comorbidities, has been a longstanding priority of the Commission.

Over EUR 274 million supported 108 diabetes-related projects in the previous Framework Programme for R&I Horizon 2020 ([1]), ([2]). In addition, the current programme, Horizon Europe ([3]), continues to invest in diabetes research. So far over EUR 109 million has supported 50 R&I projects on diabetes ([4]).

The project portfolios on diabetes in Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe also include the Innovative Medicines Initiative and the Innovative Health Initiative ([5]) projects that have addressed detection, prevention and treatment of diabetes and its complications ([6]).

With its broad call topics, Horizon Europe will further support excellent and impactful R&I on non-communicable diseases, including diabetes.

The design of call topics is coordinated with the Programme Committee delegations of Member States and Associated Countries, which also convey priorities of scientific communities, civil societies and citizens (including patients). The funding opportunities under Horizon Europe are published on the EU Funding and Tenders Portal ([7]).

Coordination of diabetes research is also ensured between EU programmes, including EU4Health ([8]) where policy research related to diabetes and its co-morbidities is developed and implemented through collaborative actions among Member States.

While it takes good note of the importance of continuing to provide support to research on diabetes in different subpopulations of patients, at the current early stage of preparation of the next EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation the Commission cannot provide further details regarding this specific research area.

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1 [1]European Commission, https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/research-area/health/diabetes_en
([1]) Horizon 2020 ((2014-2020) https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-2020_en
([2]) For instance, the DIABFRAIL-LATAM project has focused on improving the quality of life of ageing populations with diabetes associated with comorbidities; https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/825546
([3]) Horizon Europe (2021-2027) https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe_en
([4]) For instance, the project MELISSA aims to provide mobile artificial intelligence solution for diabetes adaptive care. https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101057730
([5]) https://www.ihi.europa.eu/about-ihi/imi-ihi
([6]) More on IMI/IHI project portfolios: https://www.ihi.europa.eu/projects-results/health-spotlights/impact-diabetes
([7]) https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home
([8]) https://health.ec.europa.eu/funding/eu4health-programme-2021-2027-vision-healthier-european-union_en