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Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
(24.3.2025)

The Commission recognises that cardiovascular diseases have a significant impact on many people, communities and health systems and is also aware of their burden in the EU. As announced by the President in her political guidelines, the Commission will significantly step up work on preventive health, focusing on improving cardiovascular health in the EU through coordinated efforts, and entrusted the Commissioner for Health and Animal Welfare with leading this work¹. As announced by the Commissioner, the Commission is developing an ambitious Plan for European Cardiovascular Health, putting cardiovascular front and centre and taking bold actions, while building on the success of Europe's Beating Cancer Plan. The Commission is also closely working with Member States in the Expert Group on Public Health² on concrete actions to support national actions.

Significant funding is already available through the EU4Health Programme for Member States to address cardiovascular diseases³ and health determinants⁴. All countries are encouraged to participate in collaborative efforts, knowledge sharing and exchange of best practices. Stakeholder-led projects⁵ complement national efforts.

Horizon Europe⁶ supports research and innovation on non-communicable diseases including on cardiovascular diseases. The call topics are coordinated with the Member States and countries associated to the programme. Funding opportunities are published on the EU Funding and Tenders Portal⁷. Additionally, the Community Research and Development Information Service⁸ is an EU portal to disseminate information on EU-funded research projects, including their results and links to open-access publications.

¹ https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/e6cd4328-673c-4e7a-8683-f63ffb2cf648_en?filename=Political%20Guidelines%202024-2029_EN.pdf

² https://health.ec.europa.eu/non-communicable-diseases/expert-group-public-health_en

³ JACARDI <https://jacardi.eu/>

⁴ (EUR 129 million). JA PreventNCD - Reducing Europe's cancer and NCD burden through coordinated strategies on health determinants. Focusing on effective policies, societal and personal risk factors. <https://www.preventncd.eu/>

⁵ (EUR 8.4 million under the EU4Health Programme) World Heart Day: EU4Health projects supporting heart health: https://hadea.ec.europa.eu/news/world-heart-day-eu4health-projects-supporting-heart-health-2024-09-29_en

⁶ The European Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2021-2027): https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe_en

⁷ <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home>

⁸ <https://cordis.europa.eu/>