

EN

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Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
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The Commission supports Member States on preventive health through the Healthier Together initiative¹. The Communication on a comprehensive approach to mental health² provides actions to improve youth's mental health. The Joint Action PERCH³ addresses reproductive health by aiming to boost HPV vaccination. Over EUR 260 million were invested^{4,5} on youth mental health research and adolescent health⁶. Funding opportunities will be provided under Horizon Europe⁷. The European Social Fund Plus⁸ contributes to improving access to healthcare for disadvantaged groups. Moreover, the Commission is developing an ambitious Cardiovascular Health Plan to address the triangle of obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular diseases.

Preparatory work for an EU-wide inquiry⁹ on the broad impact of social media and excessive screentime on mental health and wellbeing is ongoing. The Digital Services Act¹⁰ sets strict rules to protect minors online, supported by Commission guidelines¹¹ which enshrine safety and privacy by design. A blueprint for age verification online¹² was launched for +18 users to easily and in full respect of privacy access age restricted content.

The upcoming EU action plan against cyberbullying will focus on minors and vulnerable youth. The Commission will propose a Digital Fairness Act to strengthen consumer protection in the digital space, focusing on children. The Commission also recommends Member States to implement integrated child protection systems¹³.

The Commission will update the Guidelines for teachers to foster digital literacy and tackle disinformation¹⁴ to address i.e., social media platforms. The upcoming 2030 Roadmap on the future of digital education and skills¹⁵, will focus on youth digital literacy and well-being.

¹ https://health.ec.europa.eu/non-communicable-diseases/healthier-together-eu-non-communicable-diseases-initiative_en.

² https://health.ec.europa.eu/publications/comprehensive-approach-mental-health_en.

³ <https://www.projectperch.eu/>.

⁴ https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe_en.

⁵ <https://www.brainhealth-partnership.eu/>.

⁶ <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home>.

⁷ https://commission.europa.eu/funding-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes/horizon-europe_en

⁸ <https://european-social-fund-plus.ec.europa.eu/en>.

⁹ https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/e6cd4328-673c-4e7a-8683-f63ffb2cf648_en?filename=Political%20Guidelines%202024-2029_EN.pdf.

¹⁰ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2022/2065/oj/eng>.

¹¹ <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/commission-publishes-guidelines-protection-minors>.

¹² <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/factpages/blueprint-age-verification-solution-help-protect-minors-online>.

¹³ Commission Recommendation (EU) 2024/1238 of 23 April 2024 on developing and strengthening integrated child protection systems in the best interests of the child <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=celex%3A32024H1238>.

¹⁴ <https://education.ec.europa.eu/focus-topics/digital-education/action-plan/guidelines-for-teachers-to-foster-digital-literacy-and-tackle-disinformation>.

¹⁵ 2030 Roadmap on the future of digital education and skills, as announced in page 7 of COM(2025) final.