

EN

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Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
(24.9.2025)

Union action respects the responsibilities of the Member States for the definition of their health policy and for the organisation and delivery of health services and medical care (Article 168(7) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU¹). The acquisition and availability of public access automated external defibrillators (AEDs), as well as their mapping and related information and training activities, are within the remit of the Member States.

The Commission supports the efforts of Member States to reduce the burden of non-communicable diseases, such as cardiovascular diseases, through a strategic framework, the 'Healthier together' initiative², which supports the exchange of best practices between the Member States, activities to improve health literacy, and increase awareness among the population. The EU provides financial support under the EU4Health programme³ for the implementation of best practices and projects^{4,5} that contribute to reducing preventable deaths caused by cardiovascular diseases. Member States may decide to organise specific awareness campaigns at national level aiming to increase the knowledge on the use of defibrillators for resuscitation in the case of cardiac arrest.

Defibrillators, including AEDs, are within the scope of Regulation (EU) 2017/745 on medical devices⁶ and must comply with its safety and performance requirements, supported by specific harmonised standards, to be lawfully placed on the EU market.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:12008E168>.

² https://health.ec.europa.eu/non-communicable-diseases/healthier-together-eu-non-communicable-diseases-initiative_en.

³ https://health.ec.europa.eu/funding/eu4health-programme-2021-2027-vision-healthier-european-union_en.

⁴ <https://jacardi.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 Regulation (EU) 2017/745 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 April 2017 on medical devices, amending Directive 2001/83/EC, Regulation (EC) No 178/2002 and Regulation (EC) No 1223/2009 and repealing Council Directives 90/385/EEC and 93/42/EEC (OJ L 117, 5.5.2017, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2017/745/oj>).