

EN

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Answer given by Mr Várhelyi
on behalf of the European Commission
(9.3.2026)

The Commission adopted an EU cardiovascular health plan – the Safe Hearts Plan¹ on 16 December 2025, in response to a call for action by Member States² and the European Parliament³. The plan addresses also diabetes in its scope. Through its flagship initiative on early detection and screening, the plan will promote common approaches to early detection across the EU. Member States may make use of EU cohesion funds⁴ to enhance their capacities in providing the necessary services. The Commission also supports Member States in reducing the burden of non-communicable diseases, including type 1 diabetes, under the Healthier Together initiative⁵. The joint actions JACARDI⁶ and PreventNCD⁷, funded under the EU4Health programme, support Member States in working together on cardiovascular diseases and diabetes, and on health determinants.

Member States have EUR 7.3 billion allocated from the European Regional Development Fund across national, regional and Interreg programmes, for investments in health infrastructure, equipment and cooperation across borders.

The Commission plans to address diabetes in the frameworks mentioned above, while respecting the responsibilities of Member States for the organisation and delivery of health services and medical care (in accordance with Article 168(7) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union). Member States exchange views and knowledge through the Expert Group on Public Health⁸. The Commission also supports the collection and sharing of best and promising practices through the EU Best Practice Portal on Public Health⁹.

¹ https://health.ec.europa.eu/publications/communication-eu-cardiovascular-health-plan-safe-hearts-plan_en.

² <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2024/12/03/cardiovascular-health-council-calls-for-more-robust-efforts-to-help-prevent-cardiovascular-diseases/>.

³ <https://www.cardiovascular-alliance.eu/mep-group/>, https://www.europarl.europa.eu/doceo/document/A-9-2023-0366_EN.html.

⁴ https://commission.europa.eu/funding-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes/cohesion-fund-cf_en.

⁵ https://health.ec.europa.eu/non-communicable-diseases/healthier-together-eu-non-communicable-diseases-initiative_en.

⁶ <https://jacardi.eu/>.

⁷ <https://www.preventnkd.eu/>.

⁸ https://health.ec.europa.eu/non-communicable-diseases/expert-group-public-health_en.

⁹ <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/dyna/bp-portal>.