



EHS - 16 JUNE 2022 SUMMER EDITION TAKEAWAYS

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The 3rd edition of the European Health Summit took place for the first time in an in-person format at Egmont Palace where prominent speakers from business, policy and academia were able to connect.

The European Health Summit is a platform of stimulating discussions, sharing experiences and creating new partnerships which are the key to building a more resilient model for healthcare in Europe and to ensure the well-being of its citizens.

With the perfect timing as the EPSCO Council meeting under the French Presidency which took place the day before, the European Health Summit was convening a Summer edition, in the morning of the 16th of June 2022. With a view to engage the outgoing and incoming Presidencies and EU Health Ministers in discussions, Rare Disease, HERA and AI in Healthcare were the topics for debate.

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ADVANCING EUROPE'S LEADERSHIP IN THE RESPONSE TO RARE DISEASES: WHERE ARE WE, WHAT'S NEXT?

During its upcoming presidency of the European Council, the Czech Republic wants to set a new pathway for rare diseases, building on what has already been achieved in the past years. Maintaining a dialogue with the industry will be a priority. Its involvement is crucial for the development of rare disease treatments. A lot of work has already been achieved on how to procure and invest in the field of rare diseases. Now, people need to realize that it is worth the investment. Mr. Dvoracek, The Czech Deputy Minister of Health is confident the Czech Republic will make a significant contribution to the new rare diseases pathway.

WHAT OUTLOOK FOR EUROPEAN POLICY IN RARE DISEASE BY 2030? HOW TO SUPPORT AN INNOVATIVE ECOSYSTEM FOR THE BENEFIT OF PATIENTS?

The EU Commission's ambition is to harmonize the Member States' very diverse policies in the field of rare diseases. To do this, it is necessary to build on what has been achieved thus far. Firstly, data collection, analysis and sharing must be at the center of the discussion. It is crucial to deliver qualitative and meaningful clinical trials. Member States have already achieved a successful cooperation and are committed to continue working on this objective. Secondly, it is of paramount importance to enable a flexible access to treatment for patients and to ensure sufficient transparency around the patients' choices to enable well-informed decision-making. Finally, it is important to enhance communication about rare diseases to enable self-diagnosis by patients and to attract the healthcare professionals' attention in this field. The European action plan for rare diseases does not have to be very sophisticated. It can be used as a framework when working with more comprehensive national policies at the forefront.



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HERA AND THE ROLE OF PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP IN PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS

HERA's current challenge is to keep the Covid 19 pandemic's momentum whilst continue discussing future preparedness. It is very much needed to keep the unity among Member States and meanwhile enhancing solidarity on a global level. From a policy perspective, standardization and harmonization of the Member States' policies is needed to create a European vision and strategy on pandemic preparedness. Furthermore, it is crucial to collect data to enhance scientific cooperation enabling more evidence-based decisions in the future. Additionally, having a network of trained people with crisis-management experience will be a game-changer in facing unpredictable future crises. HERA could also play an important role in increasing the resilience of global supply chains and incentivizing investments in future preparedness. Simultaneously, HERA is a white page: We know what we want to do, but not exactly how we want to achieve it. Thus, everyone involved now will participate in the success or failure of HERA, however there are sufficient reasons to be optimistic about that.

AI FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES IN HEALTHCARE - A CASE STUDY OF REGIONAL SUPPORT

The potential of AI is cosmic: It can improve diagnosis, treatment and contribute to the discovery of new medicines. The aim of the EU's AI Strategy's is twofold. First, it seeks to create an ecosystem of trust. This is what distinguishes the EU from the rest of the world and it hopes that its high standards will set a precedent that will be taken up in the rest of the western world. Second, the EU aims to achieve excellence in all stages of supply chain, from laboratories to markets. Increasing access to easy-to-use technologies is one of the objectives in this context.

Implementation of AI can be a real challenge for small businesses. Processes are long and at the same time they should to be more transparent. However, the EU is there to offer funding for projects in the field of AI. It relies on national contact points to find the right projects and a panel of experts will then select the best applicants for funding.