



# EUROPEAN HEALTH SUMMIT 2022 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 pandemic has forcefully shown that European countries have no other choice than to embrace their cooperation if they want to overcome future healthcare threats. Preparedness lies at the heart of this renewed cooperation, which needs to be accomplished in a synergetic and cross border - continental manner. This will enable Europe to recognize major global health shifts and crisis management, which will undoubtedly position the union as an international healthcare leader.

As health priorities are shifting worldwide, the European Health Summit gathered experts, industry leaders, policy makers and relevant multidisciplinary stakeholders to address the challenges and opportunities that come with these swift changes in a constructive dialogue.

## HOW CAN THE EUROPEAN HEALTH DATA SPACE LEGISLATION BECOME THE ENABLER OF IMPROVED HEALTHCARE SERVICES?

Creating a common framework for health data in Europe is a game changer, in terms of security, agility and flexibility. Increased data for healthcare in the decision-making process will foster innovation. Using data to derive treatments allows us to create environments for researchers to collaborate. However, EHDS' implementation will take time, and businesses are seeking to accelerate this process while ensuring the readiness of member states. EHDS will not exist in isolation and ensuring links to other population data will be vital for diseases which have overlapping contributory factors. Engaging public-private partnerships is also key to ensuring the successful implementation and operation of the EHDS. Starting with a few member states and a specific use case, we can help technology to support them. The Commission is also working to establish registries in member states to support these complexities and on how to trust and handle data. Therefore, increasing public support and consent for data use will be needed, by focusing on the benefits and potential of EHDS for healthcare outcomes.

## INTERVIEW: HOW CAN WE REVITALISE THE ANTIBIOTIC PIPELINE?

Antibiotic resistance and the reduced efficacy of antibiotics lessens our capability of treating diseases. We should apply good stewardship and utilise antibiotics as little as possible. Otherwise, there is a risk of having a dysfunctional system wherein a simple wound infection can cause severe morbidity/mortality. Another response should be the development and promotion of new innovative treatments although current IP and regulatory procedures are a hurdle. Nevertheless, there is a large amount of innovation in Europe which must translate into clinical development. Europe is not matching the US in terms of providing market incentives to entice big pharma, who provide the possibility to commercialise drugs and make them available worldwide. There is also a need to support SMEs – who often have innovative ideas - in the development pipeline.

## INVESTING IN CARDIOVASCULAR HEALTH FOR HEALTHIER AND ECONOMICALLY STRONGER FUTURE

In Europe, there are 6 million new cases of cardiovascular disease (CVD) per year and 80% of related deaths (1.8 million) are preventable. As the greatest killer worldwide, CVD negatively influences Europe's citizens and economy. To address this problem, better healthcare data to drive decisions and a European CVD plan to enable faster and broader access to high-value treatments, are needed. This should come about through strategic public-private partnerships. Health should not be seen only as a cost factor, but rather as an investment and, in the longer term, a focus on prevention is vital. Changing this mindset that was used to design existing health systems will require high-level leadership and true commitment.



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## SHOWCASING THE POWER OF CROSS INDUSTRY COLLABORATION FOR DIGITAL ACCELERATION, INNOVATION AND GLOBAL HEALTH

Early-stage cross-industry collaboration and coordination is vital for healthcare in Europe and beyond. Governments can effectively engage with industry to drive innovation, health outcomes and build a thriving biotech ecosystem, as shown by a new cross-sectorial collaboration model for company creation launched in Israel. With a specific model to nurture companies and scale up innovation, it starts by focusing on an unmet need and providing business support for these startups. Increased data-sharing allows the time of clinical value to be shortened. As part of the bioconvergence strategy, there is a specific focus on artificial intelligence technologies, big data, digital capabilities, and machine learning for pharmaceutical development. Cloud computing, facilitated by industry, can also facilitate the discovery and development of new therapies quickly and cheaply, the potential to replicate this model elsewhere is highly likely.

## WHY INVESTING IN THE INTEGRATION OF HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT IS CRITICAL FOR PANDEMIC PREVENTION, PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

Human activity is creating new spaces for the evolution of new pathogens, with the potential to engender future pandemics. Prevention should therefore include stopping the encroachment and destruction of nature to avoid the emergence of new diseases. Through the One Health initiative, by focusing on the intersection of health and the environment, there is an opportunity to foster resilience using early warning indicators. It is vital to understand the links between human, animal, and environmental health, and more fundamentally that biodiversity and intact ecosystems are foundational in maintaining human health, along with our food systems and economies. The COVID-19 pandemic, other disease outbreaks and their societal and economic costs highlight the urgency of applying a One Health approach across all sectors and policies.

## TOWARDS A RARE DISEASE MOONSHOT: SCALING UP PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS TO ACCELERATE RESEARCH

20+ million people in the EU have rare diseases. Only 240 therapies have been approved for them, mostly for symptoms. Research in rare diseases is extremely complicated. With the methodologies we have today, it would take 100 years to have therapies for all rare diseases. Furthermore, the current framework has enabled small companies to start developing therapies, but there are difficulties in reaching these small patient groups. The EU and Member States should engage to create public good, but investment is also needed from private partnerships to scale up capacity and innovation. The rare disease Moonshot aims to build on the current research infrastructure and fill the gaps. Europe has some great capabilities, and it is important to harness them. Europe cannot work at a pace that suits ourselves. If we can get it right for rare diseases, then we can expect a cascade of breakthroughs in diagnostics and therapeutics.



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## BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE R&D ECOSYSTEM FOR RARE DISEASES

When it comes to rare disease research, with scientific platforms (gene transfer, gene editing, mRNA), we have the opportunity to advance scientific platforms to benefit not only one single disease, but multiple rare diseases. We are living in exceptional times. Never before have we reached this level of openness and willingness to collaborate between different types of stakeholders, this needs to be adequately exploited. Europe should foster networks of trialists, facilitate the approval of trials and ensure joined-up thinking across the regulatory network, all in a timely fashion. Our approach should be inclusive, working inclusively with citizens, NGOs – and therefore patient organisations – in defining the problems, implementing solutions and monitoring progress.

## PATIENTS ARE WAITING – WHAT MORE DO WE NEED TO DO TO ENSURE EUROPE IS A LEADER IN RARE DISEASE INNOVATION?

The amount of people living with rare diseases in Europe is staggering. Few have access to effective treatment options. The rare disease 2030 recommendation aims to improve this. Ensuring change relies on three-way partnerships: government, businesses and communities. Today's transformative treatments have shown how limited our value assessment and reimbursement systems are. These treatments can be ready based on these critical areas: screening and early detection, value assessment, payment alongside funding models as well as building capabilities in the application of real world evidence. We need investment in infrastructure to be able to have high quality data and it is now a unique opportunity to do so. We need more cross sector collaboration to deploy this goal. HTA alongside with public health specialists claim that research and innovation should be boosted and that Member States should implement these recommendations quickly.

## HEALTHCARE ECONOMICS

Over the last two decades, Europe is losing ground in terms of attracting R&D, investments, and innovation. 50% of clinical trials happen in the USA versus 20-22% in Europe. We have all the ingredients to drive innovation and should maintain our momentum. Europe is very attractive for biopharmaceuticals and it has leading medical universities as well as promising drugs and treatments, especially in the field of rare diseases. However, the pandemic has shown us the vulnerability of our supply chains and the need to make it more resilient. Among other concerns, there is a necessity to reform the healthcare sector to optimise budgets and sustainability in healthcare. We need real data to highlight drug efficacy and increase population and market access. Ensuring that we have the right environment for innovation is critical to continue to foster investment in Europe.



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## EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION, MARGARITIS SCHINAS

Vice President Schinas reflected on the Commission's health agenda in the last three years, especially the EU's successful pandemic response including the biggest vaccination programme in history. Furthermore, the EU is working on a resilient system for preparedness and response for future health threats while reinforcing and implementing agencies and instruments. The Commission is leading one of the most promising cancer plan and revising the pharmaceutical legislation for the first time in 20 years. The principles of affordability, access and competitiveness will be reflected in this new legislation. This reflection aims to portray Europe's resistance and resilience to position the continent at the forefront in healthcare.