

## Summit 2025 Vision / EU Health Coalition,

### Reshaping health for a stronger Europe

#### Why prioritizing health matters for Europe's security, growth and competitiveness

Health is fundamental to the wellbeing of individuals and families, and to our societies, economies and security. Well-performing health systems, a resilient health workforce and a strong footprint in research and innovation for life sciences are key for Europe to remain prosperous and competitive in a turbulent world.

**As a broad Coalition whose membership spans all 27 EU countries and all areas of the health and life sciences sector, we are proposing five actions that can help Europe leverage health to achieve its vision for security, growth and competitiveness.**

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Ensure the meaningful involvement of patients, patient organisations and all other relevant health stakeholders in policy development, health research, and healthcare practice to understand what matters most to patients and their families, allocate resources effectively at a time of increased demands for care <sup>1</sup> , and improve individual and population health outcomes. This includes identifying appropriate, sustainable funding models to support these stakeholders' role in policymaking processes, as well as deploying people-centred methodologies and indicators in	Prepare the future European health workforce by investing in training, education, and retention programs to make healthcare an attractive labour sector and to build a future-proof, resilient and skilled workforce. This can be done by ensuring adequate support and resources for healthcare professionals to maintain high standards of care in Europe, i.e., preventing burnout, providing mental health support and investing in digital upskilling. Elevating the health workforce in the Pact for Skills and the planned Quality Jobs Roadmap and supporting Member States in strengthening their health workforce	Prioritise investments in health under the EU's new fiscal rules and in the next long-term budget (2027-2034), to capitalize and amplify the health sector's return on investment (ROI) in the medium- and long-term. The European Commission can support Member States by providing <b>guidance</b> on how to assess the return on investment of different types of health investments, as well as supporting <b>assessments and investment plans</b> that are in line with the new framework.	Help Europe regain its competitive edge in research & innovation by making life and health sciences a key pillar of the European Life Science Strategy. This includes a) robust funding of health research through the next long-term budget, b) facilitating the translation of early scientific discoveries into innovative products and services by ensuring access to funding for start-ups, an innovation-friendly regulatory framework and increasing Europe's attractiveness for clinical trials, and c) developing a culture of learning within and between health systems, ensuring the uptake and scale up of innovative best practices to level up

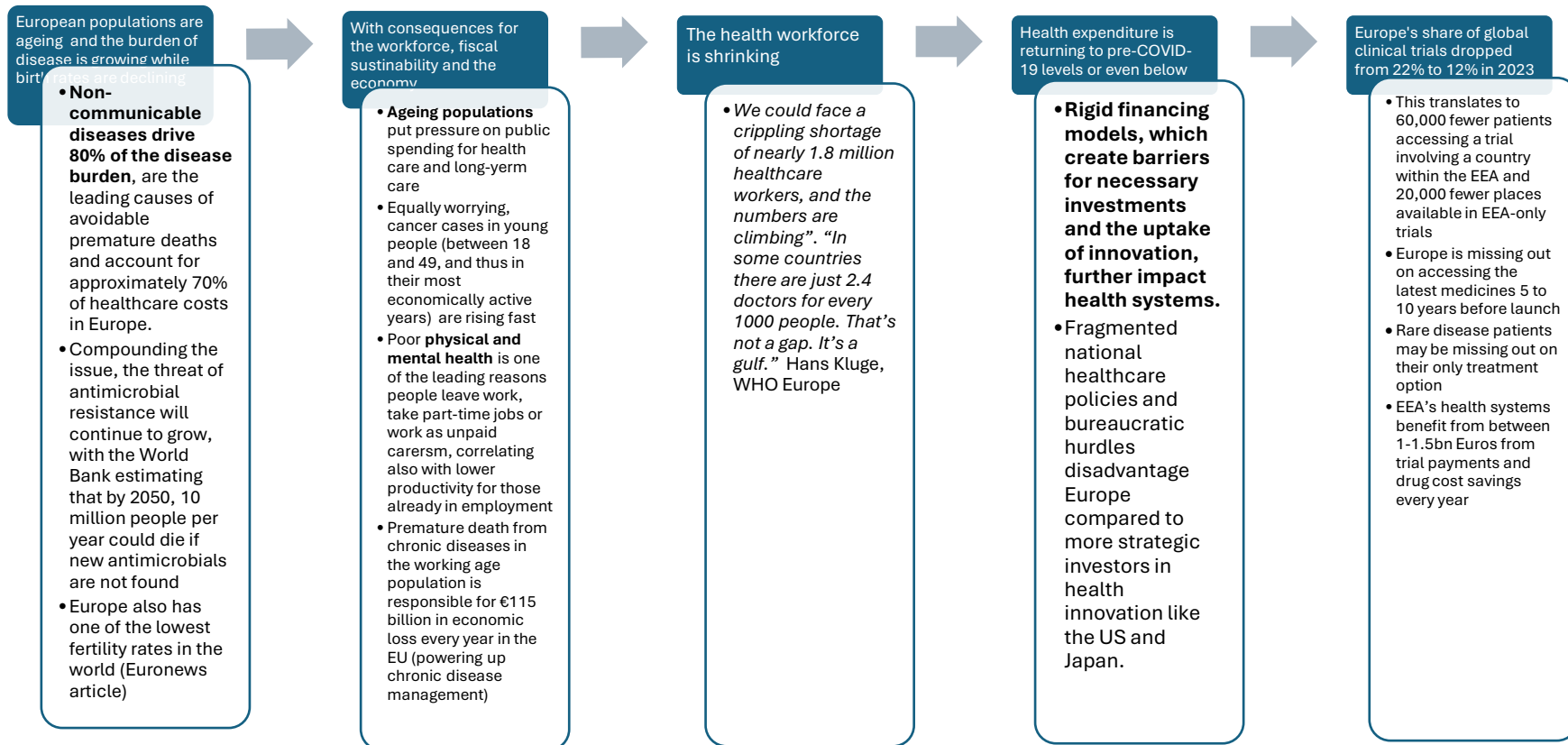
<sup>1</sup> <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC7934513/>

healthcare planning and delivery.	through EU-funding programmes are concrete means of countering the health workforce and skills gap.		European health systems.
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Create a health and life science office in the European Commission, connecting DG SANTE, DG HERA, DG RTD, DG CNECT, DG ENVI and DG GROW, to spearhead a coherent European strategy for this sector. Only by linking EU policies for public health, research and industrial policy can Europe deliver a coherent vision, strategy and policies for a vibrant end-to-end health research and care ecosystem.

## Why acting for health matters



***At a time of stretched budgets and geopolitical tensions, European policymakers would be wise to remember that health is not only wealth but strength.***

***Here are some examples of the difference that the health and life sciences sector is making for Europe's economy, workforce and social systems.***

The economic footprint of the pharmaceutical sector is:

- 311-billion-euro gross value added in 2022
- 2,3 million total supported jobs
- 3x productivity compared to EU average (gross value added per worker)

The medtech sector employs 800,000 people in Europe.

On average in the EU, the health sector accounts for 5,3% of the economically active population.

Patient organisations add significant value to health and social systems

- in the Czech Republic, the value of services provided by 7 patient organisations alone amount to up to 76.3 million EUR per year
- In Hungary, patient organisations' work in prevention could lead to estimated savings of 448.778 EUR per year to the health system.

***and of the return on investment it generates:***

Investments in preventative care, vaccination programmes and healthcare system improvements generate returns of two to four times the initial investment (CFE paper)

Vaccination alone can deliver returns as high as 16 to 44 times the cost, and these returns last over time due to dividends in terms of better health outcomes and more productive workforce (CFE paper)

Secondary prevention strategies to effectively manage chronic conditions and their risk factors, thereby avoiding emergency visits, hospitalisation and costly complications

Every euro invested in public health generates a 14-fold return in economic benefits

New breakthrough therapies such as cell- and gene therapies can through one highly innovative intervention replace a lifetime of chronic treatment or even cure rare and genetic conditions with huge gains for the individual and the society

**What will be the impact?**

Keeping health high on the policy agenda, especially at a time of geopolitical tensions and stretched resources, will reduce long-term healthcare costs, improve the overall health and productivity of the population, and contribute to Europe's growth and stability.