



IMPACT ADVOCACY

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# **Call-to-Action: Towards the Development of an EU Respiratory Health Plan**

***EU Working Group on Respiratory Care***

***18 March 2026***

# Working Group's Call to Action

*By acting now, we can not only reduce the current burden but also future proof our systems against emerging respiratory threats. The time for coordinated evidence-based action is now.*



# Working Group's Call to Action

## *Areas of Interest of the Working Group*

### FOUR AREAS OF INTEREST

- Prevention & Early Detection
- Improved Access to Treatment
- Equitable Access & Support for Vulnerable Populations
- Public Awareness and Healthcare Workforce Upskilling

### ENDORISING

Logos of endorsing organizations:

- ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP NETWORK / CITTADINANZA ATTIVA
- ESWI
- FEAM - Federation of European Academies of Medicine
- POLSKA ZDROWO ODDYCHA / SOJUSZ NA RZECZ ZWALCZANIA CHOROÓB ZAKAŻNYCH UKŁADU ODDECHOWEGO
- Instytut Praw Pacjenta i Edukacji Zdrowotnej
- Universidad del Paciente y la Familia
- WFPHA - World Federation of Public Health Associations
- EMA - European Medical Association
- EUGMS
- MNH - MALTA HEALTH NETWORK
- COPAC - Coalitia Organizatiilor Pacientilor cu Afectiuni Cronice din Romania
- ESN - EUROPEAN SPECIALIST NURSES ORGANISATION
- ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP NETWORK / CITTADINANZA ATTIVA

# Working Group's Call to Action

## *Areas of Interest of the Working Group*

### 1. Prevention & Early Detection

- **Scale up prevention:** Vaccination, smoking cessation, and environmental policies to cut respiratory disease incidence.
- **Improve early detection:** Strengthen screening for timely intervention and less healthcare strain.
- **Integrate respiratory care:** Embed it within IPC strategies to address respiratory risks.

### 3. Equitable Access & Support for Vulnerable Populations

- **Remove access barriers:** Reduce wait times, specialist gaps, financial and social inequalities.
- **Prioritise vulnerable groups:** Elderly, children, and people with chronic or rare conditions.
- **Include patient voices:** Ensure vulnerable groups are represented in policy design.

### 2. Improved Access to Treatment

- **Ensure equitable access:** Essential medicines, antivirals, and new therapies across Member States.
- **Support innovative care models:** Integrated clinics, telemonitoring, and mobile screening.
- **Include in preparedness plans:** Integrate treatment strategies to manage seasonal and pandemic surges.

### 4. Public Awareness and Healthcare Workforce Upskilling

- **Launch EU awareness campaigns:** Promote respiratory prevention and adult vaccination.
- **Invest in workforce training:** Upskill healthcare professionals, including respiratory nurses and geriatric specialists.
- **Strengthen engagement skills:** Include patient communication and digital literacy in training.

# Thank You!