

International Conference on  
**Advanced Pulmonology,  
Respiratory Medicine &  
Lung Health**

**June 25–27, 2026**

**Barcelona, Spain**

Theme: Shaping the Future of Respiratory Health  
Through Innovation, Integration, and Global Insight

Incorporating COVID-19 into the broader narrative on  
respiratory diseases: A citizens and patients' perspective  
towards the development of an EU respiratory health plan

# EU qualitative survey

- **Pandemic Anxiety:** 83,7% of respondents remain persistently concerned about new pandemics.
- **Lack of Preparedness:** only 27,9% consider the preparedness of national authorities to be adequate.
- **Digital Stagnation:** progress in e-Health is perceived as “minimal” by over 70% of organizations.
- **Untapped Potential:** uneven public communication efforts, particularly for VPRDs; there is near-unanimous support for involving pharmacists in vaccination campaigns, yet civic and patient organizations remain significantly underutilized as strategic partners in health communication.

Top threats to respiratory health in the next years:

- Financial constraints: 76,7%
- Impact of air pollution and climate change: 48,8%
- Antimicrobial resistance: 32,6%

## Incorporating COVID-19 Into the Broader Narrative on Respiratory Diseases. A Citizens' and Patients' Perspective Towards the Development of An EU Respiratory Health Plan

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From pandemic to endemic: integrating  
COroNaVirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)  
into the broader respiratory disease  
narrative

European civic survey

# The 5 Strategic Pillars

*Pillar 1: Supporting the Health Workforce*

*Pillar 2: Motivating, Engaging, and Empowering PAGs and CSOs across Member States*

*Pillar 3: Reinforcing multi-stakeholder dialogue and bridging the gap between Healthcare Professional (HCP) associations and civil society*

*Pillar 4: Policy Dialogue at the EU Level*

*Pillar 5: Building a broader “European Respiratory Care Alliance”*

# “European civil society unites to strengthen health workforce and citizens’ right to health”

**Eu Call to Action” to the European Commission to Urgently Address the Health Workforce Crisis:** 42 civic, patient and health professional organisations, supported by 5 MEPs from the two largest political groups in the European Parliament (EPP and S&D), have addressed an open letter to the newly elected European Commissioner for Health and Animal Welfare, Olivér Várhelyi. This joint effort, led by Cittadinanzattiva - Active Citizenship Network and RPP Group, aims to underline the urgency of tackling Europe’s health workforce crisis to protect citizens’ right to health. [List of signatory organisations](#)

Watch the [collective video message](#) and the ones by MEP [Ondřej Dostál](#) (NI, Czech Republic), MEP [Loucas Furlas](#) (EPP, Cyprus), MEP [András Kulja](#) (EPP, Hungary), MEP [Tomislav Sokol](#) (EPP, Croatia)



MEP András Kulja (EPP, Hungary) - #CareforAll 2024



MEP Ondřej Dostál (NI, Czech Republic) - #CareforAll 2024



MEP Ondřej Dostál (NI, Czechia) and MEP Brando Benifei (S&D, Italy) signing the open letter



MEP Tomislav Sokol (EPP, Croatia) - #CareforAll 2024



MEP Brando Benifei (S&D, Italy) - #CareforAll 2024

# “Supporting health workforce to strengthen patients’ rights in the EU”



*“Supporting health workforce to strengthen patients’ rights in the EU”.* With this message, the #CareforAll2024 campaign, featuring representatives of 13 associations from 10 countries as testimonials.

[Read more](#) - For the video message, click [here](#)

## Call to Action to the European Commission to Urgently Address the Health Workforce Crisis and the Upskilling of Healthcare Professionals

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# EU workshops on European policies & advocacy in respiratory care



Read more ([A](#) – [B](#))



Read more ([C](#) – [D](#))



# EU campaign “Advancing Respiratory Care Across Europe”

#CareforAll 2025 is part of the ‘Advancing Respiratory Care at the EU Level’ project. It has been developed in partnership with 13 patient advocacy groups from 9 countries.

Advancing Respiratory Care Across Europe  
#CareforAll 2025

With the unconditional support of:



Created in collaboration with:  
MD Health



#CareforAll 2025 is promoted by:



www.activecitizenship.net

**Advancing Respiratory Care Cross Europe  
#CareforAll 2025**

“Os fatores ambientais, incluindo o consumo de tabaco e a poluição atmosférica, continuam a ser os principais contribuintes para as doenças respiratórias em toda a Europa. Um Plano de Saúde Respiratória da Europa deve integrar as políticas de saúde e ambientais.”

Crísta Vaz de Almeida  
Sociedade Portuguesa de Literacia em Saúde (SPLS), Portugal

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With unconditional support of: Pfizer

Created in collaboration with: MD Health

**Advancing Respiratory Care Cross Europe  
#CareforAll 2025**

“In Europa la pandemia ha messo in evidenza, in modo drammatico, la vulnerabilità dei sistemi sanitari pubblici, in particolare nel campo dell’assistenza respiratoria. Per questo, chiediamo alle istituzioni dell’UE di adottare un piano europeo dedicato alla salute respiratoria.”

Bianca Ferrisio  
CittadinActive Active Citizenship Network, Italy

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**Advancing Respiratory Care Cross Europe  
#CareforAll 2025**

“Afecțiunile respiratorii continuă să fie una dintre principalele cauze de deces în Europa, provocând peste 324.000 de decese. Este nevoie urgentă de un Plan European pentru Sănătatea Respiratorie, pentru a diminua impactul așteptat asupra sănătății publice.”

Elena Corina Chisorean  
Coalition of Patients' Organizations with Chronic Diseases (COPAC), Romania

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**Advancing Respiratory Care Cross Europe  
#CareforAll 2025**

“Η εντατική καλοφάρμα στην κοινότητα των της υγείας, του RSV και του SARS-CoV-2 αναζητά να ανακαλύψει νέες επιπτώσεις σε όλη τα ευρωπαϊκά συστήματα υγείας. Τα συστήματα υγείας για την Ανατολική Υγείας στην ΕΕ είναι απαραίτητα για την ενίσχυση της πρόληψης, της επιτήρησης σε κλινικά επίπεδα και της ταχείας απόκρισης, αλλά για τους ηλικιωμένους, τα άτομα με χρόνιες παθήσεις και τους εργαζόμενους στον τομέα της υγειονομικής περίθαλψης.”

Maria Fournier  
Institute of Research for Innovation and Development (IRID), Greece

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**Advancing Respiratory Care Cross Europe  
#CareforAll 2025**

“Pacjenci z chorobami przewlekłymi, takimi jak przewlekła obturacyjna choroba płuc (POChP), astma, nowotwory, cukrzyca i choroby układu sercowo-naczyniowego, są szczególnie narażeni na utratę sprawności w wyniku chorób układu oddechowego. Nadszedł czas, aby instytucje Unii Europejskiej podjęły działania i ustanowiły Europejski Plan Zdrowia Oddechowego.”

Patrycja Rucińska-Zajac  
Poland Breathing Healthy (PBD) SOJUSZ & Foundation Institute for Patients' Rights and Health Education (IFPEZ), Poland

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With unconditional support of: Pfizer

**Advancing Respiratory Care Cross Europe  
#CareforAll 2025**

“Mannen worden vaker dan vrouwen getroffen door een dodelijke afloop van luchtweginfecties, 6,7% van de mannelijke sterfgevallen vergeleken met 5,6% van de vrouwelijke sterfgevallen. Onderdeel van een EU-gezondheidsplan voor luchtweginfecties moet de aanpak van deze ongelijkheid in sterfgevallen zijn”

Jo Maas  
European Patients Engagement for Customized Solutions (EPECS), The Netherlands

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**Advancing Respiratory Care Cross Europe  
#CareforAll 2025**

“El infradiagnóstico en las personas mayores retrasa el tratamiento, empeora los resultados sanitarios y aumenta los costes de la asistencia sanitaria. La detección precoz debe integrarse en un Plan de Salud Respiratoria de la UE.”

Elena Moya  
Foro Español de Pacientes, Spain

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With unconditional support of: Pfizer

Created in collaboration with: MD Health

**Advancing Respiratory Care Cross Europe  
#CareforAll 2025**

“Seasonal peaks and public health emergencies demonstrate the severe strain respiratory diseases place on hospital capacity across Europe. Resilience must be built into an EU Respiratory Health Plan.”

Stephen McMahon  
Irish Patients Association, Ireland

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With unconditional support of: Pfizer

Created in collaboration with: MD Health

**Advancing Respiratory Care Cross Europe  
#CareforAll 2025**

“Възрастните хора, децата и пациентите с хронични заболявания са най-засегнати от респираторни заболявания. Защитата на най-застрашените трябва да бъде в центъра на плана на ЕС за респираторно здраве.”

Penka Georgieva  
Patient Organizations with You and Alliance of Transplanted and Operated (ATO) Future for Air, Bulgaria

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With unconditional support of: Pfizer

Created in collaboration with: MD Health

To know more: [A](#) – [B](#)

# Working Group on Respiratory Care

- The EU Working Group on Respiratory Care is a collaborative initiative launched to address the growing burden of respiratory diseases across Europe.
- Co-organised by the Active Citizenship Network (ACN) and the RPP Group, the Working Group brings together EU-level scientific societies, healthcare professionals, and national patient advocacy organisations to foster dialogue, share best practices, and shape policy recommendations.
- the Working Group aims to ensure that respiratory health becomes a central component of EU public health planning, with a particular focus on prevention, equity, and resilience.

**SAVE THE DATE:**  
EU WORKING GROUP ON RESPIRATORY CARE – KICK-OFF MEETING  
Wednesday, 28 May 2025 | 14:30–16:30 CEST | Online

Active Citizenship Network, in partnership with RPP Group, is pleased to announce the **Kick-Off Meeting of the EU Working Group on Respiratory Care**. This high-level strategic meeting will officially launch the 2025 activities aimed at advancing respiratory health across Europe, transitioning from emergency responses to long-term, integrated care strategies.

The working group will begin its collaborative efforts to develop the Call-to-Action: "Towards the Development of an EU Respiratory Health Plan", advocate for the inclusion of best practices in the 2025 EU Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) guidelines, and strengthen institutional support for high-risk patient care and NCD prevention.

We welcome the participation of PAGs and civil society organizations interested in shaping EU-level action on respiratory care. If your organization is interested in joining this initiative, please contact Bianca Ferriolo at: b.ferriolo@cittadinanzattiva.it

We look forward to your participation and continued collaboration to shape a more resilient and equitable EU health policy framework.

#RespiratoryCareEU #CareForAll2025 #ActiveCitizenshipNetwork

[Read more](#)

**SAVE THE DATE:**  
EU WORKING GROUP ON RESPIRATORY CARE – SECOND MEETING  
Monday, 22 September 2025 | from 14:30 to 16:30 CEST | Online

[Read more](#)



# Policy recommendations for an EU Respiratory Health Plan: Call to Action (I)



The eleven recommendations outlined in the Call to Action are intended to provide robust, evidence-based input to ensure that the specific needs of respiratory health are fully addressed and embedded in an upgraded, unified European framework for infection control, providing better protection for the health rights of European citizens. [Read more](#)

Endorsed by:

- 24 National CSOs & PAGs from 13 Member States
- EUROPEAN UMBRELLA PATIENTS' ORGANIZATIONS:
  1. European Liver Patients' Association (ELPA)
  2. International Patient Organisation for Primary Immunodeficiencies (IPOPI)
- HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS' ASSOCIATIONS:
  1. Federation of European Academies of Medicine (FEAM)
  2. World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA)
  3. European Scientific Working group on Influenza and other Respiratory Viruses (ESWI)
  4. European Specialist Nurses Organisation – ESNO
  5. European Medical Association – EMA
  6. European Geriatric Medicine Society – EuGMS

[Click here](#) to download the document

# Policy recommendations for an EU Respiratory Health Plan: Call to Action (II)

## Areas of Interest

### 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.

*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*

# Call for a Council Recommendation on immunisation against respiratory infections

## Toward a Council Recommendation on the value of immunisation against respiratory infections



### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



Core policy ask:

We call for a new Council Recommendation on the value of immunisation against respiratory infections.

In a world of rising health threats and mounting pressure on health systems, the EU has a clear opportunity and responsibility to lead on preparedness by reinforcing investment in public health prevention. Preventing and mitigating respiratory infections is not only a public health priority but also a vital component of EU resilience, safeguarding citizens, economies, and essential services from the destabilising effects of large-scale outbreaks.

As other global actors reduce their long-term public health investments, the EU can step forward to fill the gap and champion a model of long-term resilience. Immunisation against respiratory infections is a proven, cost-effective tool that strengthens strategic autonomy, reducing economic losses and reliance on emergency measures and external supplies during crises.

The EU has already taken steps to promote immunisation against influenza with the [2009 Council Recommendation on Seasonal Influenza Vaccination](#). This provides a strong foundation. However, to match the scale of today's challenges and address the reality of other respiratory infections, some with pandemic potential, further action is needed. These infections can overwhelm healthcare systems, disrupt essential services, and undermine workforce capacity and economic stability.

**Safe and effective immunisation tools are available and the prevention of severe outcomes is both feasible and cost effective.** A comprehensive EU approach will save lives, protect economic productivity, and maintain public trust while ensuring that the EU is prepared for future cross-border health threats. Now is the time for the EU to take responsibility and act decisively to protect the health and security of its citizens.



As a member of the [Steering Group on Prevention of Respiratory Infections](#) we contributed to the Call to Action [“Toward a Council Recommendation on the value of immunisation against respiratory infections”](#)

## Calling for a new Council Recommendation on the value of immunisation against respiratory infections



A new Council Recommendation should:

### Call on Member States to:



**Use New Economic Governance Framework (NEGF) flexibilities** to exclude immunisation spending from caps on country's budget deficits.



**Fund education, training, and best-practice exchange** for healthcare professionals.



**Adopt EU-wide coverage targets** for influenza, COVID-19, RSV, and pneumococcal disease, using the 75% flu benchmark for at risk populations.



**Strengthen surveillance** by expanding existing flu systems to include COVID-19, RSV, and pneumococcal disease.



**Tackle misinformation** through transparent communication and community engagement.

### Invite the European Commission to:



**Commit dedicated EU funding** for immunisation access, innovation, and confidence.



**Issue guidance for Member States** on prevention budgeting under NEGF flexibilities.



**Empower the ECDC** to set harmonised reporting standards on coverage.



**Invest in digital infrastructure** to track immunisation coverage as a key performance indicator.



**Develop guidelines to embed immunisation** in medical education and daily practice.



**Integrate immunisation** into all EU health and resilience strategies, including the forthcoming Cardiovascular Health Plan

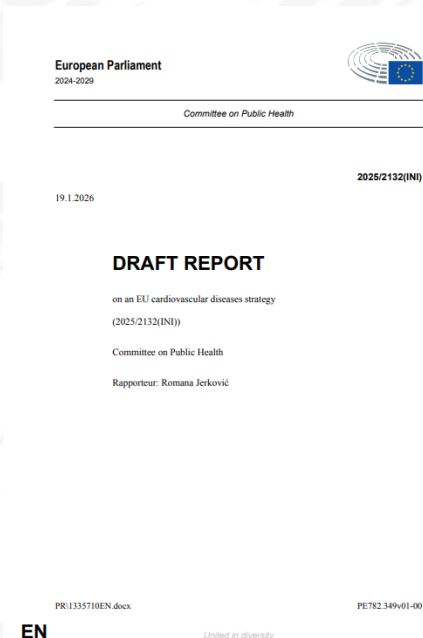
**Now is the time for the EU to take responsibility and act decisively to protect the health and security of its citizens.**

# Institutional policy dialogue at the EU Parliament

## *“Council recommendation on the value of immunisation against respiratory infections: a step towards an EU Respiratory Health Plan?”*

(Brussels, 18 March 2026)

- Under the [EU Safe Hearts Plan](#), the European Commission will propose a Council recommendation on immunisation against respiratory infections as a preventive measure for cardiovascular disease.
- However, the European Parliament Committee on Public Health's (SANT) [first draft of its report on an EU cardiovascular diseases strategy](#) make s no mention of vaccination.



The event, hosted by [Cypriot MEP Michalis Hadjipantela](#) (EPP Group), brought together experts and representatives of EU institutions interested in the Council Recommendation on the value of immunisation against respiratory infections. To know more ([A](#) – [B](#))



# EU Respiratory Health Plan: repository

- **VACCINES TODAY** (March 17th, 2026): [Europe needs a Respiratory Health Plan that prioritises prevention](#)
- **HEALTH EUROPA** (10th March 2026): [The role of vaccination against respiratory infections as a tool for preventing cardiovascular disease](#)
- **SUNTEXT REVIEW OF CASE REPORTS & IMAGES** (Published date: 23 February 2026) [Leveraging Civil Society and Community Leadership to Support Public Vaccination Policies: Collection of Grassroots Mobilisation Initiatives across Europe](#)
- **JOURNAL OF ZOOTIC PATHOGENS AND ONE HEALTH POLICY** (Published: 31 January 2026): [Priorities to Strengthen Respiratory Health Strategy in the European Union](#)
- **TREND SANITÀ** (3 Nov 2025): [Respiratory Health in Europe: Integrating Environment, Prevention and Access to Care](#)
- **TREND SANITÀ** (3 Nov 2025): [Salute respiratoria in Europa: integrazione tra ambiente, prevenzione e accesso alle cure](#) (IT)
- **HEALTH EUROPA** (2nd October 2025): [Towards the development of an “EU respiratory health plan”](#)
- **JOURNAL OF MEDICAL & CLINICAL CASE REPORTS** (Published date: 12 September 2025): [Incorporating COVID-19 Into the Broader Narrative on Respiratory Diseases. A Citizens' and Patients' Perspective Towards the Development of An EU Respiratory Health Plan](#)
- **ACN monthly Newsletter** (Sept 2025): [“Special edition on our commitment on vaccination and respiratory care”](#)



# Promoting «European Respiratory Care Alliance» across Europe



4<sup>th</sup> European Congress on

## Human Genetics

April 27–28, 2026

Holiday Inn Berlin Airport Conference Centre, Berlin, Germany



### FOCUS SESSION

From underestimated threat to system priority: strengthening respiratory infectious disease surveillance and immunisation in Europe



8<sup>th</sup> EUROPEAN CONGRESS ON

## INFECTIOUS DISEASES

September 24-25, 2026

RADISSON HOTEL BUDAPEST, BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

Theme: "Advancing Infectious Disease Research: Shaping the Future of Global Health"

**VACCINES** SEPTEMBER  
**VVIC-2026** 21-22



# Respiratory Care: supporting initiatives across EU

## Panelist:

- [24 June 2025 | Linking Adult Immunization and Chronic Disease Management to Advance Healthy Aging in Europe](#)
- [9 September 2025 | EU webinar "Is Preventative Medicine a Human Right?"](#)
- [25 September 2025 | Brussels \(Belgium\): "Viral threats, immune challenges: shaping the future of respiratory care – the PID patients' perspective"](#)
- [22-23 October 2025 | 12th Global Webinar on Public Health](#)
- [10-11 November 2025 | Barcelona \(Spain\): 17th Global Summit on Nursing Education & Healthcare](#)
- [26-27 November 2025 | Webinar: 4th Global Summit on Public Health](#)

## EU-funded project:

- Providing external support for the [IMPORTANCE-Implications of Positive Airway Pressure and Home Mechanical Ventilation - TowArds optimal patient CarE](#), a European Respiratory Society Clinical Research Collaboration.

## Publications:

- ["COVID-19 Policy and Disease Management Recommendations in the Post-Pandemic Era Best Practices to Support High-Risk and At-Risk Patients"](#)

Jubilee 2025 in Rome (Italy): Prevention campaign "*Know the path. Walk with care*", urging citizens and visitors to monitor for respiratory symptoms and to get tested if they suspect any symptoms. [Read more](#)



25 September 2025 | Brussels





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