

European support for improving health and care systems

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Reaping benefits for health systems

- Innovative solutions needed to make our health systems more resilient to future crises
 - Innovation not necessarily technological
 - Strategic and integrated investment
 - Implementation is the greatest challenge
- Untapped potential of EU tools and mechanisms to support these processes
- The natural laboratory of Europe: Cross-country learning and mutual support
- Window of opportunity: new MFF (EU4Health, Horizon Europe), Recovery and Resilience Facility





Policy Brief: How can we capitalise on EU tools?

- The Slovenian Presidency asked for a mapping of European Union support for improving health and care systems
- Though health systems are primarily the responsibility of Member States, the EU provides an increasingly shared context
 - Policy; support; collective action
- A wide range of EU tools related to health systems grown up over time
 - Not always clear what is available and how to access





European support along the process of change

The road towards implementing change

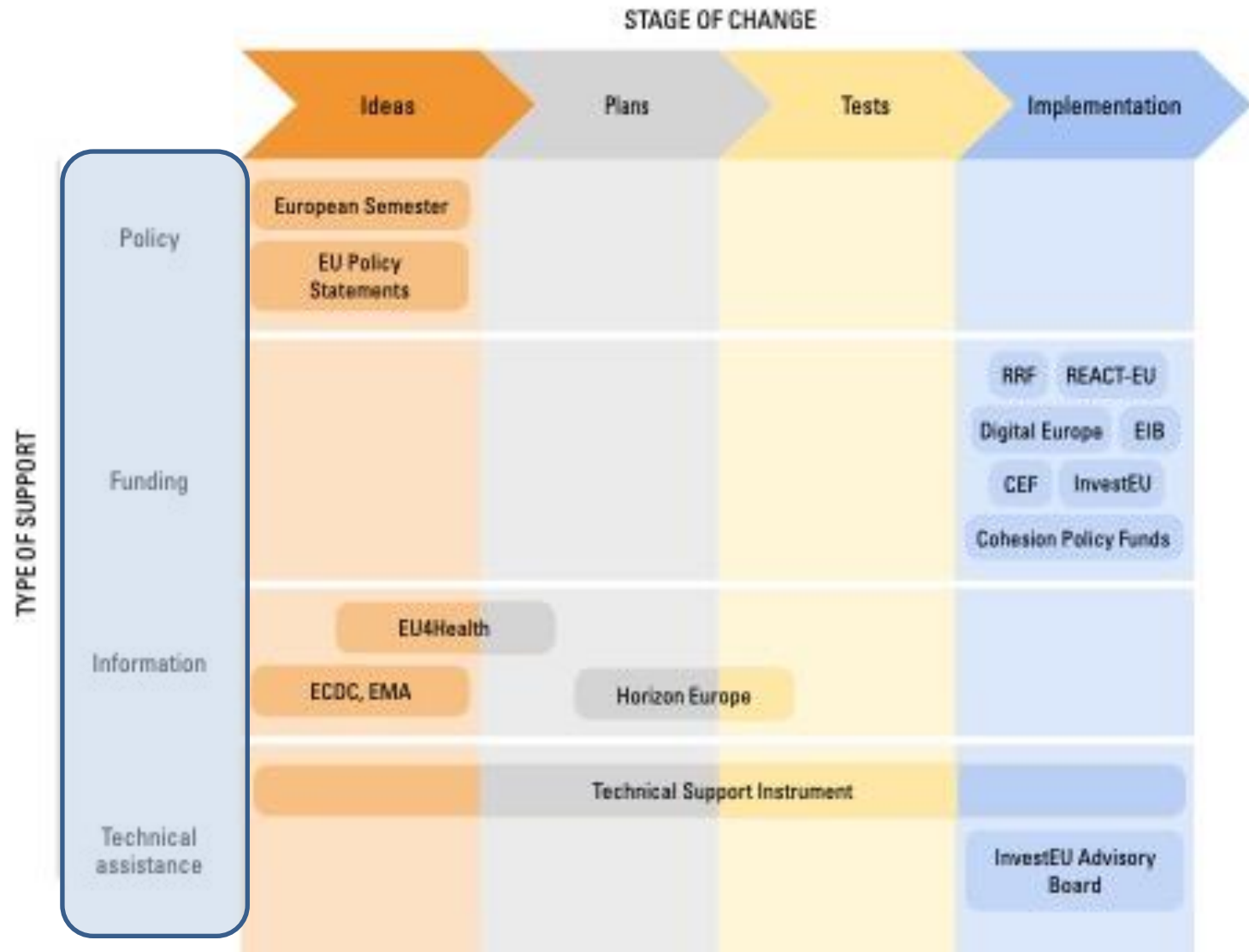
- Ideas
 - What are the overall policy aims?
 - Insights from elsewhere?
- Plans
 - Detailed options for implementation
 - Who and how: Stakeholders, financing, evaluation
- Tests
 - Pilots, small-scale tests
- Implementation
 - Large-scale system change in practice





Many tools, different uses and objectives

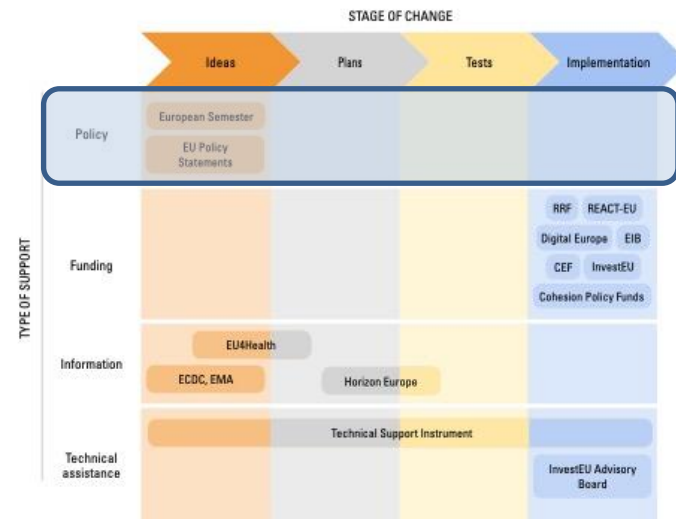
- Which types of support does the EU provide?
- Which stage can each instrument help with?





Policy: Finding a common voice

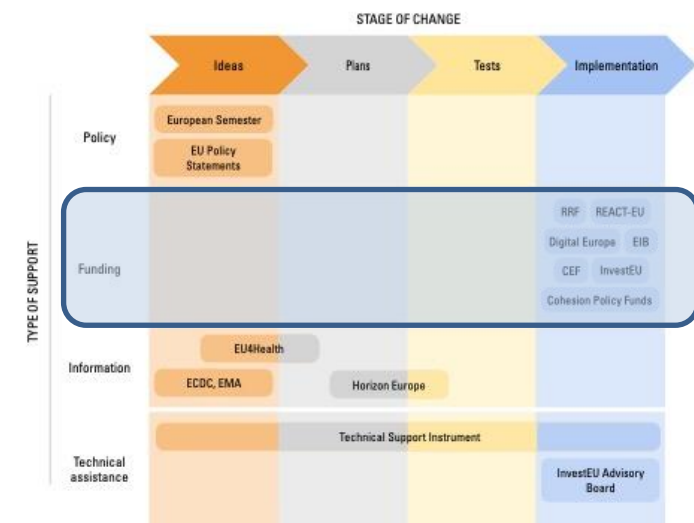
- Country-specific recommendations within the European Semester
 - Recommendations for health systems have become central
- EU policy statements for coordinated health action
 - Commission Communications
 - European Health Union
 - Council Recommendations and Conclusions





Funding: New infrastructure for health systems

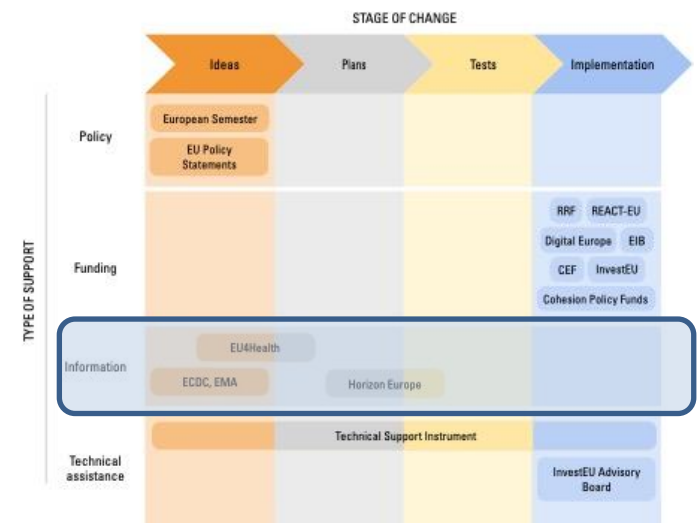
- Cohesion funds
 - Infrastructure (including technology and medical equipment), skills and training, health promotion
 - REACT-EU
- European Investment Bank
 - Low-cost loans
 - Large infrastructure (hospitals), but also Primary Health Care (e.g.: Austria, Ireland)
 - InvestEU
- Recovery and Resilience Facility
 - Temporary additional boost to recovery after Covid
 - Use shaped by national plans, several incorporating health (e.g.: Germany, Italy, France, Austria)





Information: Evidence for action

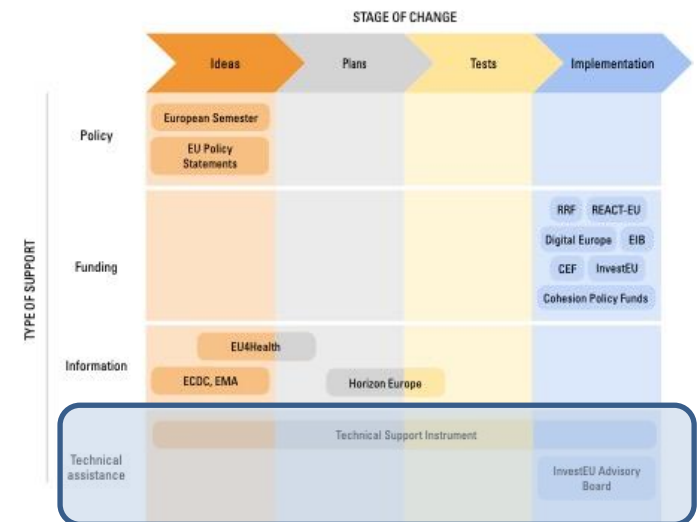
- EU4Health
 - Widest range of health-relevant activities
 - Cross-country evidence, best practices, cooperation, models for implementation, expert advice
- Horizon Europe
 - Focus on biomedical research and technological innovation
 - Emerging research on health systems (European Partnership on Transforming Health and Care Systems)
- EU agencies
 - ECDC, EMA
 - Expert advice and scientific evidence (e.g.: risk assessments, COVID-19 Vaccine Tracker)





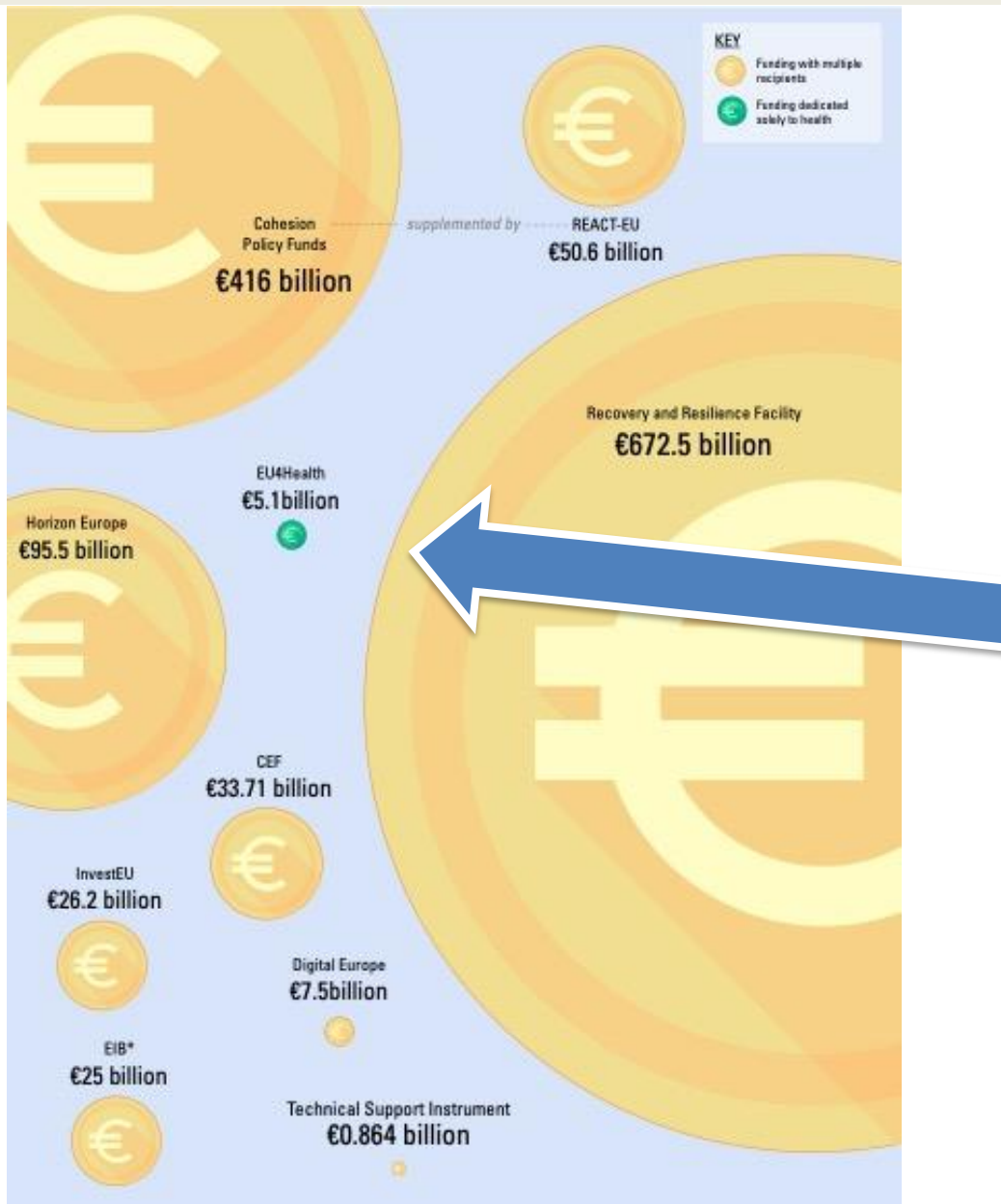
Technical assistance: Adapting to the national context

- Technical Support Instrument
 - Successor to the Structural Reform Support Programme
 - Expert support across all stages of change, development of national strategies, RRF
- InvestEU Advisory Hub
 - Technical assistance to plan, develop and implement investment projects drawing on EU funds
 - Brings several advisory services under one roof





Funding for health is comparatively small



Comparative size of different EU funding tools:

EU4Health is the only tool dedicated exclusively to health.

1. Reach out beyond funds for health
2. Combine tools with different aims



Maximising EU support requires combining tools

- The EU has many tools that can support health systems
 - Challenge of aligning different objectives with the needs of health systems
 - Different health systems have different needs and interests in having EU support
 - There is scope for making process of identifying and combining tools easier to navigate for policy-makers
 - Case study: Primary Health Care reform in Austria - 90 new PHC units by 2026
- There is scope for wider collaboration between Member States
 - Also to involve other actors, including the World Health Organization
 - Case study: WHO support to Greece
 - How can countries facing common issues reach out and work together?



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