



# ERDF support for health infrastructure

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# Why invest in **health**?

## *Public health rationale*

- **Health inequalities** remain large in Europe
- **(Cross-border) public health risks**

## *Economic and social rationale*

- **Health impacts on labour productivity and growth**
- **Health is one of most innovative and productive sectors**

## *Territorial rationale*

- **Territorial cohesion** agenda: importance of health in regional and local development
- Ensuring **equal access** to quality health services

## *Structural challenges*

- **Pressures on health care systems (e.g. chronic diseases)**
  - **Ageing society**
  - **Sustainability of public finances**
- **Need for restructuring and modernization of health sector**

# Health and EU Cohesion Policy

## Challenges of health investments

- Demographic change
- Technology developments (diagnostics, treatments, pharmaceuticals)
- Inequalities
- Costs
- National policy vs EU added value through cohesion policy

## Structural/strategic objectives

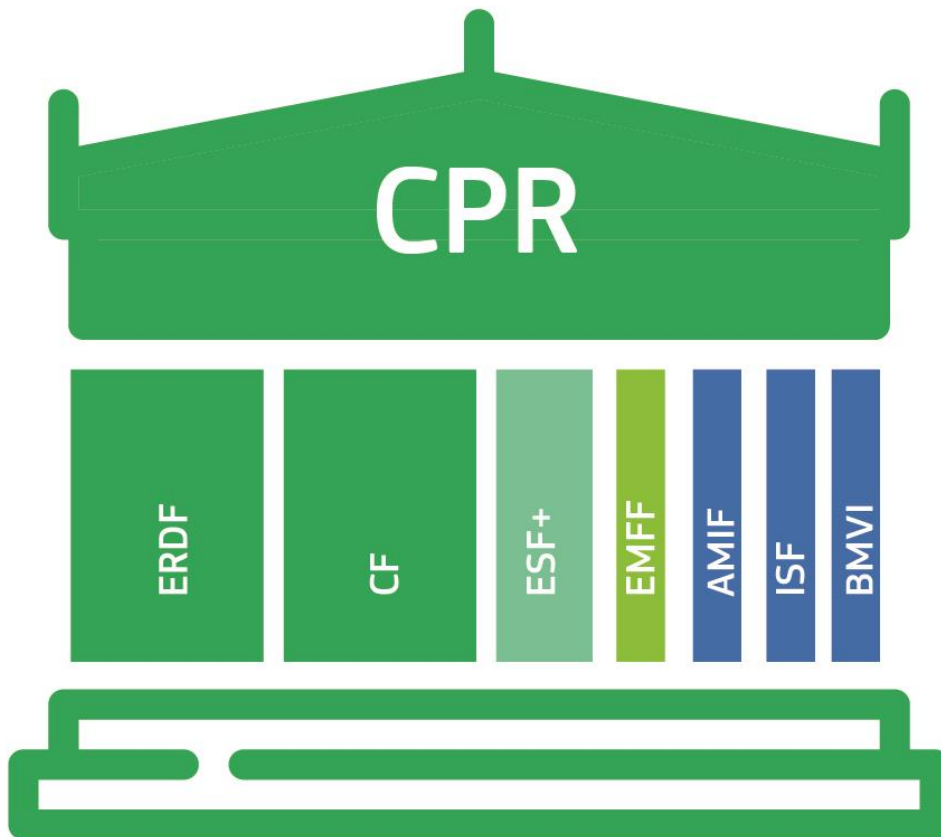
- Programme objectives (strategic) vs short term solutions
- Coordinated use of ERDF / ESF

# Health and EU Cohesion Policy

Health increasingly recognised as important asset for regional development and competitiveness and is eligible for cohesion policy funding:

- **ERDF in 2014-2020:**
  - **€4,3 bn for health infrastructure investment and**
  - **€1 bn for healthy active ageing and e-Health services and applications**
- **ESF – activities linked to ageing, health promotion, training of healthcare providers, etc.**

# EU Cohesion Policy in 2021-2027



## Common Provisions Regulation:

- more coherent
- simpler to learn
- simpler to combine

# Policy objectives



11 objectives are simplified and consolidated to 5:

1. A smarter Europe (**innovative & smart economic transformation**)
2. A greener, low-carbon Europe (including energy transition, the circular economy, climate adaptation and risk management)
3. A more connected Europe (mobility and **ICT connectivity**)
4. **A more social Europe (the European Pillar of Social Rights)**
5. A Europe closer to citizens (sustainable development of urban, rural and coastal areas and local initiatives)

Horizontal issues: administrative capacity building, cooperation outside the programme area



# Creating the conditions for success

## Enabling conditions (used to be "ex ante")

- Fewer, clearer, tighter link to policy
- Followed up, not just set at the beginning

## EU Governance

- European Semester
- Macroeconomic conditionality
- Reform Support Instrument
- Rule of law

# Enabling condition on health

- in the Common Provisions Regulation

**National and/or regional strategic policy framework for health** including:

- **Mapping of health and long-term care needs**, including in terms of medical staff
- Measures for efficiency, sustainability, accessibility and affordability to health and long-term care services
- Measures to **promote community based services, including prevention and primary care**, home care

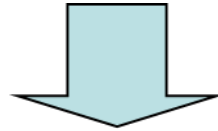


# ERDF 2021-2027 investments in health

- Health infrastructure investments, moving away from a hospital-centred model to more person-centred approaches, including **home care** and **community-based services**, and **health promotion** and **disease prevention** facilities and equipment;
- **Primary healthcare** (e.g. facilities for general practitioners, nurses), **secondary healthcare** (e.g. facilities for specialists, outpatient clinic), **tertiary healthcare** (e.g. acute and long-term care hospitals, emergencies services);
- **Integration of care** between the above three and between **health care, social care and long term care**, including through integrated IT systems;
- In the scope of **digitalisation of health services**: e-health m-health, telehealth, public information systems and telemedicine.

## Country example – Hungary

- Fragmentation of certain sectors (e.g. healthcare)
- Strict eligibility rules, no room for complex programs
- Limited administrative & management capacities of beneficiaries
- Allocation of support did not respond to the needs of most deprived micro-regions



- Initiative to focus on regions most in demand:
  - integrating education, healthcare, social services, employment and public transport
  - 33 most disadvantaged micro-regions (10% of population)
- Experience from implementation
  - Sufficient time to be provided for elaboration of programmes
  - Need for facilitation of consultations among players
  - Admin restrictions of institutional system is a great barrier



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**Thank you!**