

EU RESOURCES HUB FOR SUSTAINABLE INVESTING IN HEALTH

Main outcomes and lessons learnt

Capacity Building Workshop for
Documents

29/01/2026



Santé publique
Sécurité de la Chaîne alimentaire
Environnement
Volksgesondheid
Veiligheid van de Voedselketen
Leefmilieu

Background

- **Challenges & opportunities:**

Covid pandemic put additional pressure on the financing of health system, while generated new sources of funding both at national and EU levels.

Shared conviction on the importance to invest in health systems resilience

- **Matching needs with resources:**

Many EU funding programmes were available for supporting investments in health. But health authorities struggle to find their way in this complex funding landscape: multiplicity of programmes, various timescales, heavy workload for application, co-funding requirements...

Project ‘Resources Hub for Sustainable Investing in health’



Under the Technical Support Instrument 2022 (DG REFORM)

- Multi-country project: Austria, Belgium & Slovenia
- 2022-2024
- Two work streams:



1. Making the case for public investment in health

2. Develop a pilot case to strengthen capacity of health authorities to reach EU resources



- Final objective: the creation of a “EU Resources Hub”
- Providers: Expertise France, European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies, SEO Amsterdam Economics



Workstream 1 – Making the case for health investments

- **Building capacity to advocate for more public investment in health (national/EU level)**
- **Exploration of different tools and tailored approaches that could be used to make the case for health investment**
- **Health Impact Assessment** study of a policy measure targeting the reduction of tobacco selling points in Belgium (Inter-federal Strategy for a smoke-free generation):
 - Collaboration between Sciensano, FPS Public Health, Food Safety and Environment, FPS Finances and FPS Economy
 - Collaborative learning process, knowledge sharing
 - Proposal to embed HIAs in the future for the design and implementation of evidence-based federal public health policies

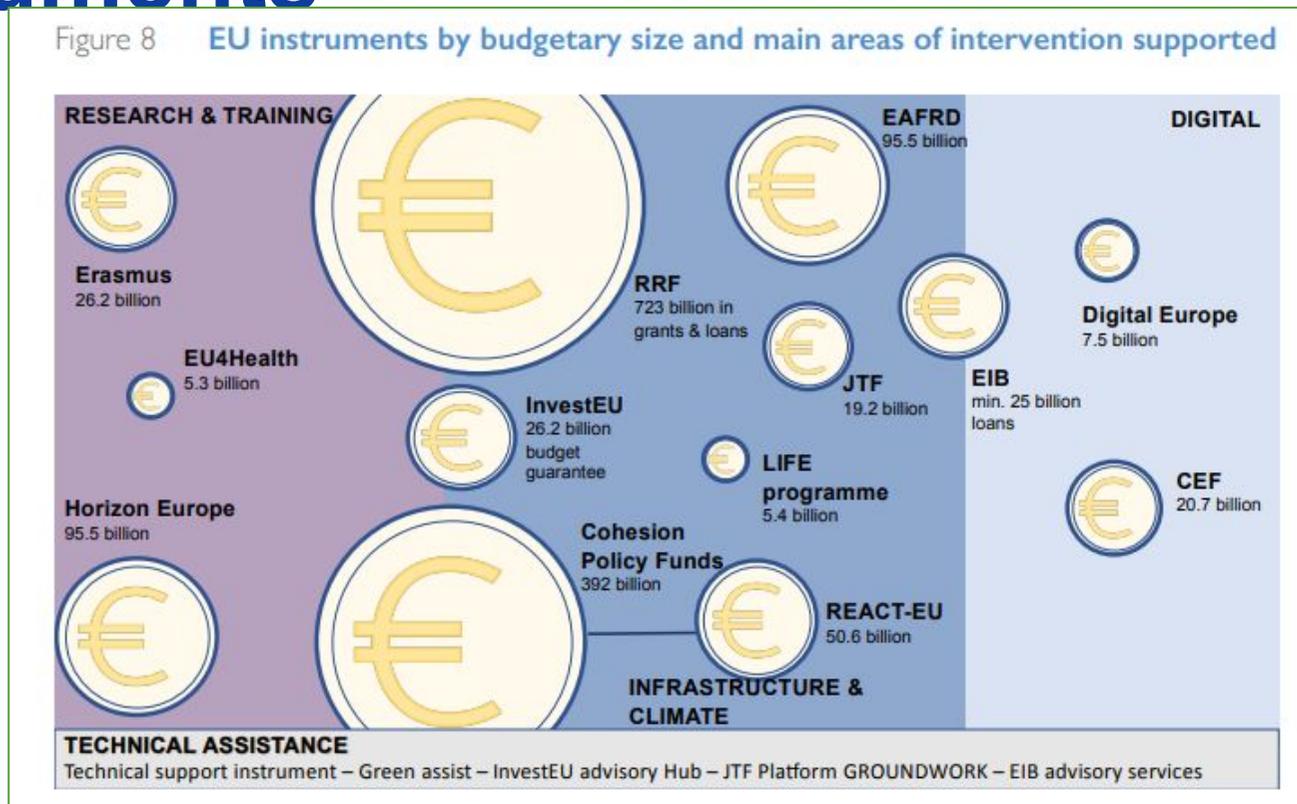


WS2 - Support Health Ministries to navigate and identify EU funds and instruments

-  **Strengthening the capacity of national public health authorities to reach EU funding available for health**

Persisting obstacles: lack of knowledge of existing opportunities, division of powers inside a Federal State, lack of sufficient expertise/time/human resources for applications, competitive processes coupled with uncertain results...

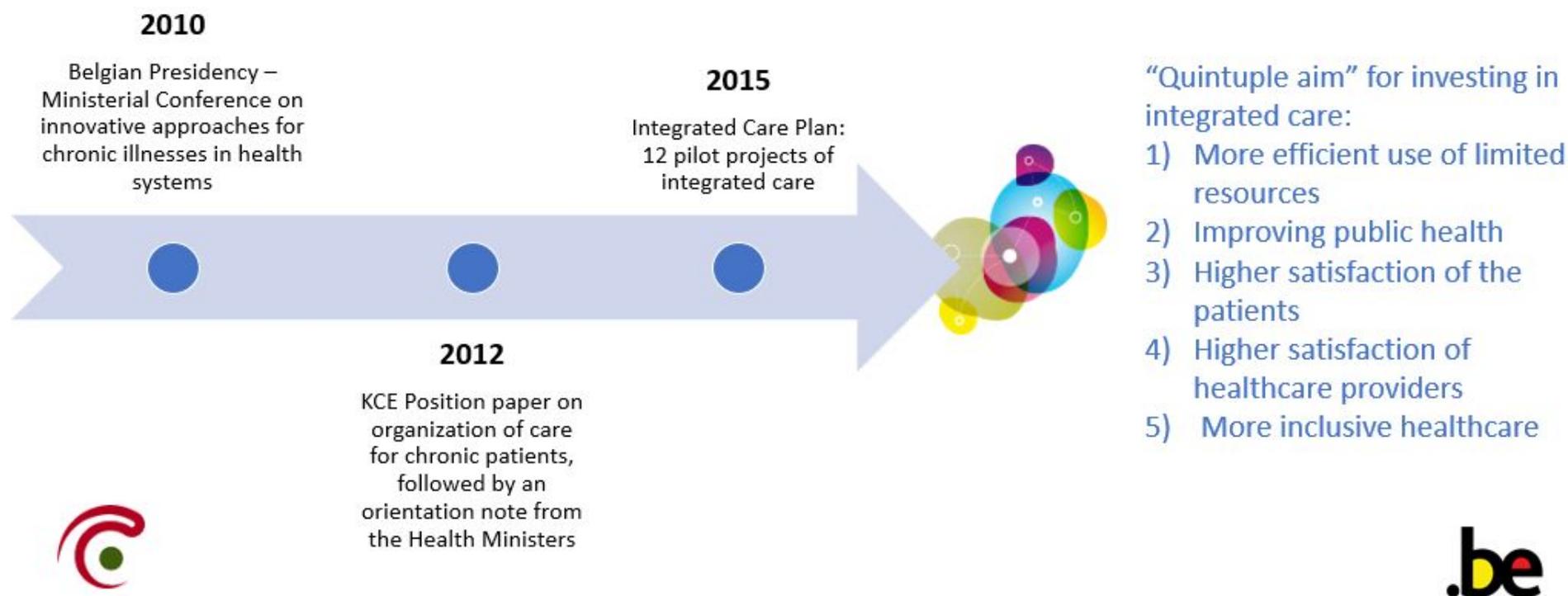
Workstream 2 – Support Health Ministries to navigate and identify EU funds and instruments



- Case studies: a ‘learning by doing’ approach, to pilot and test a concept of EU Health Resources Hub

Selection of a pilot case for BELGIUM

Integrated care: towards an Inter-federal Plan



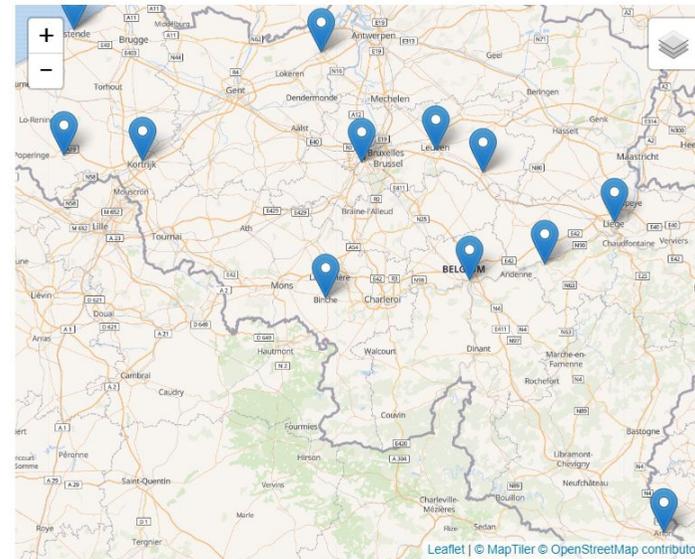
Inter-federal plan for integrated care in Belgium

Macro = political level

Meso = governance of partnerships set up at local level

Micro = patients or healthcare providers' level

HOME
PRÈS DE CHEZ VOUS



LES PROJETS PILOTES SOINS INTÉGRÉS POUR LES MALADIES CHRONIQUES

BOOST (region Bruxelles Pentagone)
Chronilux (region province Luxembourg)
RÉLIAN (région Liège et Seraing)
Chronicopôle (region Liège, Huy et Waremme)
RésiNam (Namur - Profondville)
PACT (region La Louvière, Morlanwez et Binche)
Empact (region Flandre occidentale - central)
De Brug (region Courtrai - Menin)
De Koepel (région côtière)
Verbonden in ZOHrg (region Tirimont - Landen)



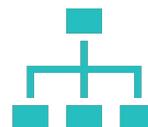
Selection of a pilot case



Belgium's evolution to a health and wellbeing system and population-centere d organisation of care



Population Health Management (PHM) is central to the success of implementing integrated care in Belgium



Preparation of a new inter-federal Integrated Care plan in collaboration between federal and regional authorities to fully embed integrated care at all levels in Belgium.



Data integration and digital solutions as key enablers for implementing a PHM strategy

Workstream 2 – pilot EU Health Resources Hub

**Inter-federal plan for Integrated Care / Digitalisation:
Developing digital tools for data integration to support
Population Health Management (PHM)**

Preparatory phase for the development of a future dashboard to support PHM



- Collaboration between FPS Public Health, Food Safety and Environment, federated entities, 3 Belgian universities and international experts ; policy dialogue for the development of a PHM strategy in a spirit of mutual learning
- Aim: creation of a fully fledged dashboard in 2025, expected to be funded through the RRF



FOUNDATIONS

- PHM coaching and capacity-building on dashboards to support PHM for policymakers
- Mapping of population health needs
- Identification of data needs by assessing data available and data gaps
- Establishment of a set of preliminary indicators
- Segmentation of the population to establish target subgroups for tailored actions
- Consideration of data protection/security issues



DASHBOARD

- Leverage existing national, regional & international tools/examples of population health dashboards & databases
- Design and creation of a digital dashboard and the accompanying IT infrastructure with software experts
- Dashboard implementation starting with a test phase



HORIZON EUROPE

The Austrian pilot initiative

Balancing project maturity & EU funding



The Austrian initiative exemplifies the challenges of navigating EU funding programs for a specific investment case. While being the most highly developed initiative enabled it to highlight the advantages of utilizing established EU instruments for funding, it also identified a key challenge: the complexity and cost of securing appropriate EU funding due to the highly specific expertise needed for applying to some programmes.

This pilot initiative underscored the need for specialized support in navigating the complexities of fund selection and in crafting a compelling application.

The Slovenian pilot initiative

Strategic planning & tailored support



The Slovenian project serves as a model for planning support based on a defined reform strategy. This approach involved focusing on a specific aspect of the strategy and tailoring assistance from the pilot Hub to securing resources under the European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIFs). The TSI support to the initiative included a detailed analysis of the strategy, segmenting it into fundable projects, mapping existing tools in other EU Member States for one of these projects, facilitating experience sharing meetings, and overall project refinement.

This initiative not only highlights the importance of a targeted approach but also emphasizes the value of utilizing tools like the TSI for in-depth strategy and initiative development work.

The Belgian pilot initiative

Cultivating ideas into strategic initiatives eligible for EU funding



The Belgian pilot initiative showcased how an initial concept for adopting new approaches to improve healthcare delivery (such as PHM) can be nurtured into a well-defined strategy, potentially qualifying for EU funding. This involved tailored guidance and expertise offered by the Hub including the preparation of technical specifications for the future development of a dashboard for PHM (to be funded by the RRF), and setting the foundations for an inter-federal PHM Strategy.

Thus, the Belgian initiative serves as a powerful illustration of how a support structure like the Hub could bridge the gap between nascent ideas and concrete initiatives ready to be financed, paving the way for positive transformations within the healthcare system.

Lessons learnt from the pilot projects

- **Coupling strategic political will and administrative know-how**
- **Aim big:** adopting a broad and visionary approach and setting ambitious goals ensures that efforts will have a meaningful impact and be worth the resources invested.
- **Comprehensive tailored support, from the start:** need for early, proactive technical support with direct relationships
- **Capacity building**
- **Alleviating administrative burdens**

Main outcomes

1. Support to National Pilot projects
2. Evaluation of the support provided to the national pilot projects
3. EU Health Resources Hub Concept: in-depth analysis
4. Manual to support MS in using EU funds
5. Communication and dissemination



- Council Conclusions under the Belgian Presidency
- NFPs meeting and willingness to strengthen national capacities
- Discussion within the EU4Health Programme

A EU-level Health Hub as a support service for Member States

- **Background: 2021 – Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the EU:** the Council invited the Commission to explore setting up a dedicated health advisory service to assist Member States **upon request** in optimising the use of EU funds and tools to support the planning, design, financing and implementation of **needed health system reforms**.
 - a mechanism that would function like a “**one-stop shop**”/**single entry point** for accessing health funds, open to all Member States

Council Conclusions – A Europe that cares, prepares and protects

23. Strategic investments in health are crucial to reinforce the sustainability and resilience of European health systems. The EU provides multiple funding streams at the disposal of Member States and stakeholders. However, Member States face challenges finding and accessing existing EU funds to support impactful investment in national health system transformations. It is of great importance that the work programmes of the EU existing funding instruments promoting research & innovation and those supporting implementation of policy initiatives are in **synergy with national priorities** in the health area and the nexus between research, innovation, policy and funding instruments is upheld.

IX. improve EU implementation tools

INVITES the MEMBER STATES and the EUROPEAN COMMISSION to:

83. **INITIATE** an in-depth discussion in the EU4Health Steering Group in order to make the mechanism of joint actions **more effective and sustainable in addressing future trends in health and Member States needs** to implement priority areas within the EU Health Union.

84. **STRENGTHEN the coordination between policy and funding instruments**, ensuring that available EU funding continues to be used in a strategic, effective and sustainable manner, in line with health priorities of Member States and taking into account technical support, **with a focus on implementing transformations with long-term impact.**

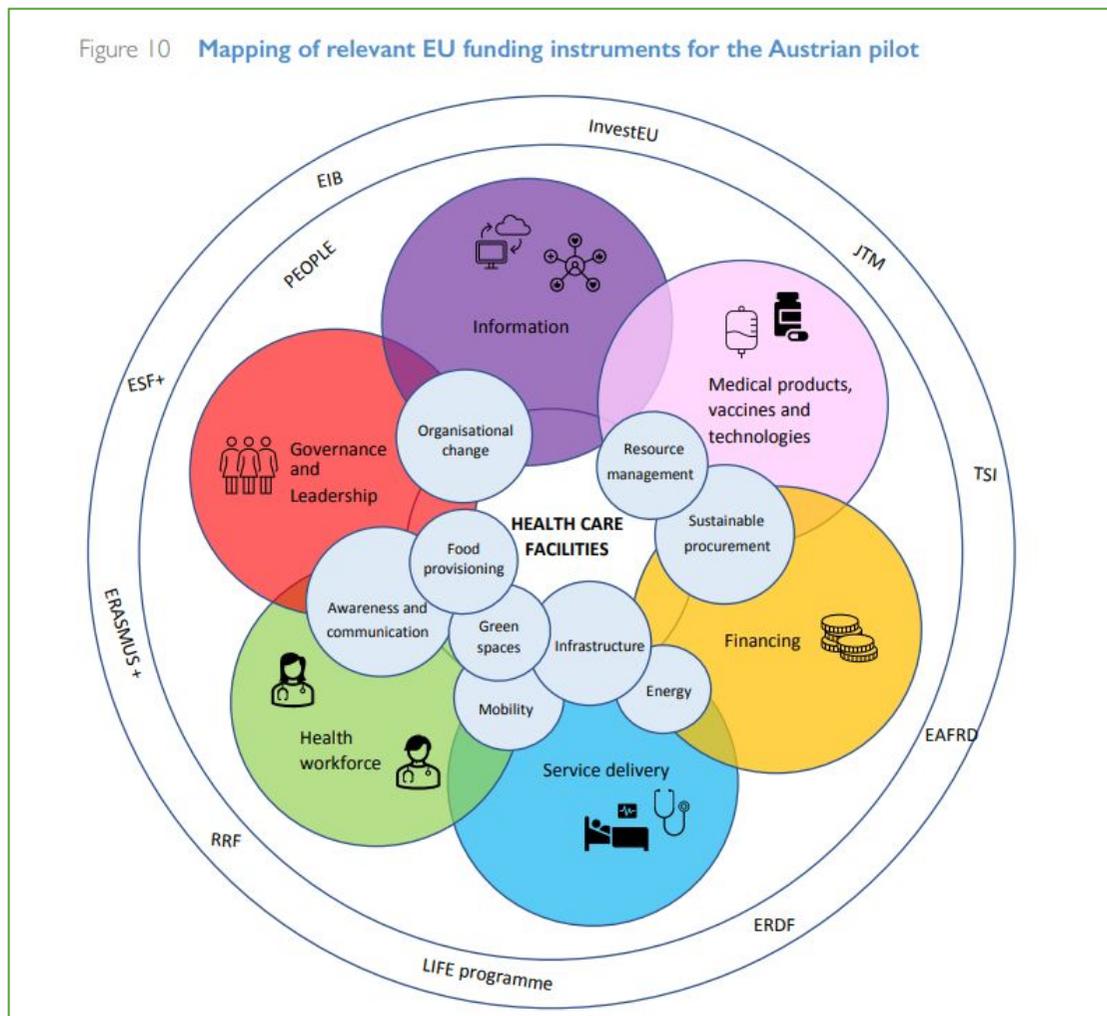
85. **ASSESS the current landscape of EU funds and its corresponding legislative framework to better align EU funding with Member States national health policy priorities.**

INVITES THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION TO:

86. **ESTABLISH an EU Health investment Hub** in consultation with Member States and taking into consideration the lessons learnt from the Technical Support Instrument project “EU Resources Hub for sustainable investing in health”, to provide on-demand, tailored and fit-for-purpose support to Member States in accessing and using existing EU funds delegated to Member States for the planning, financing and implementation of national health projects of high interest and impact and within the context of national health reforms and health care transformation processes, as well as identifying opportunities from different EU programmes for projects with objectives that span across multiple EU funding instruments and their priorities;

87. **IMPROVE and update the procedures** to facilitate access to existing fundings.

Figure 10 Mapping of relevant EU funding instruments for the Austrian pilot



Council Conclusions 2024

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Concept of the EU Health Hub

Unlocking EU potential and opportunities by tapping in and making a strategic use of EU funds, including the blending of different instruments, for impactful health investments.

- Make a better and more strategic use of existing funds
- Flag health in funding programmes
- Support to all Member States in a flexible, demand-driven and simple way; moving from a competitive perspective to collaboration on shared goals
- General and tailored services
- Collaboration with strategic partners

Potential services

GENERAL SERVICES

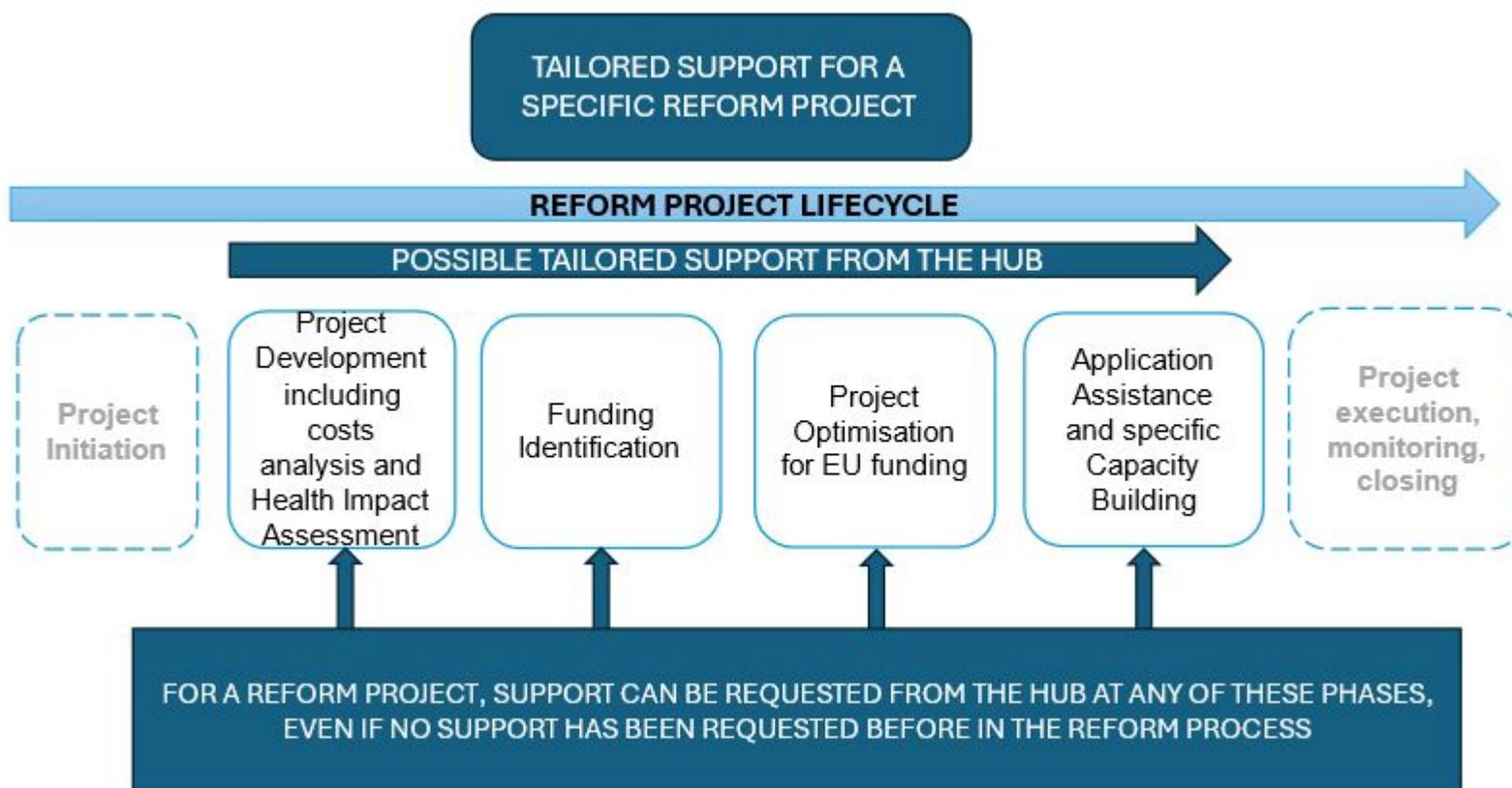
Knowledge gathering, sharing and dissemination

General capacity building

Networking and collaboration

- Defined in an annual action plan of the Hub defined in consultation with Member States
- Possibility to take into account specific requests from Member States during the year

Potential services



Thanks!

Any question?

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