

EU funding tools for health systems: State of play & future outlook

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ES-IT Cluster meeting & Capacity Building

Workshop 29-30.01.2026

TAIEX
MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER
WITH EU EXPERTISE

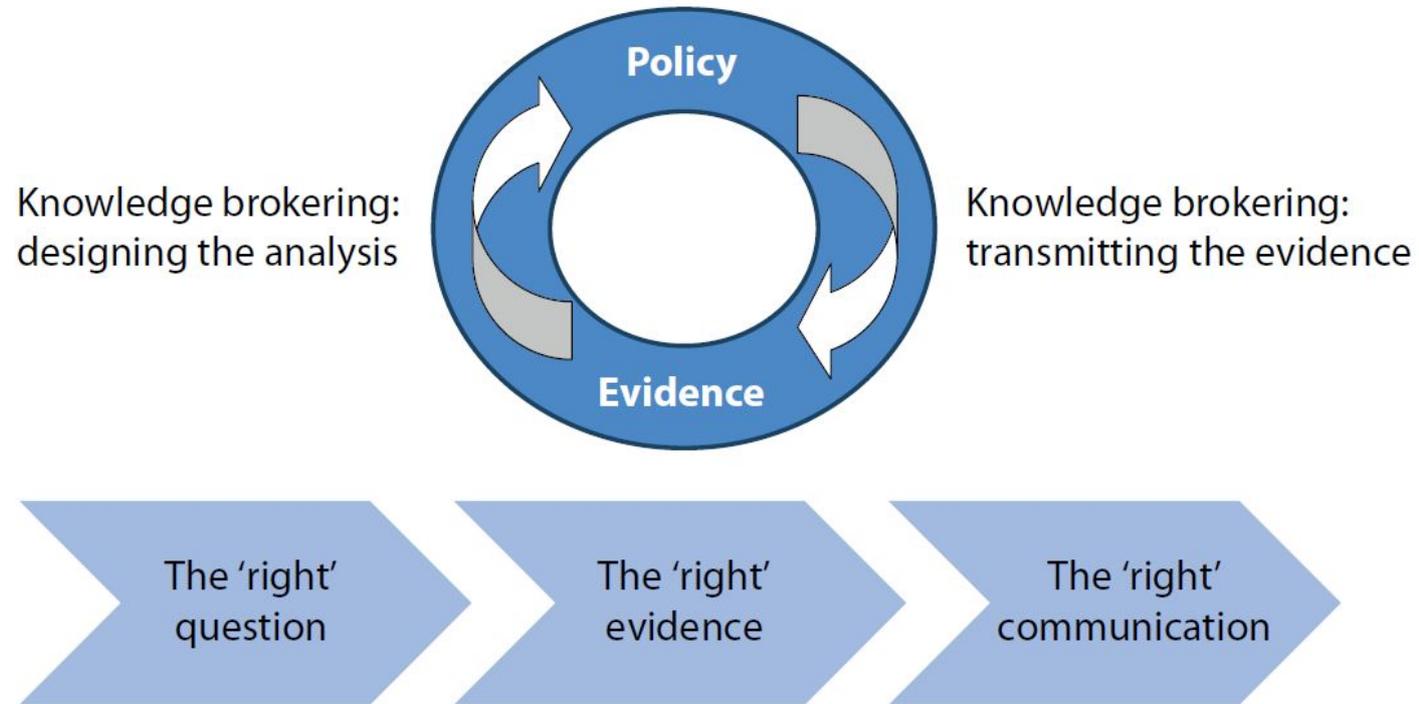


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The Observatory is...

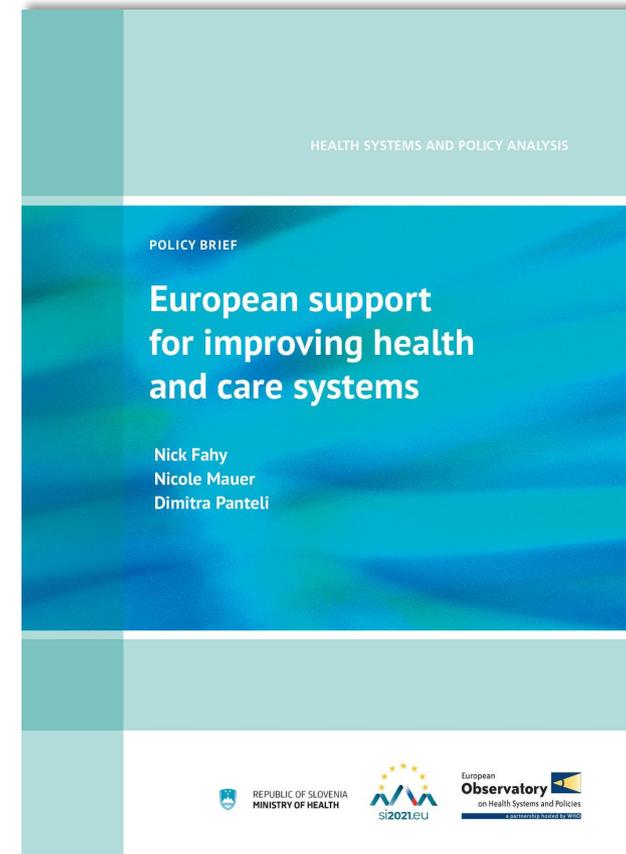
1. A WHO hosted partnership building bridges between policy makers and research and across countries
2. A collection of Member States, EU, decision makers, academics & health system actors who are **focused on generating and communicating evidence for policy**
3. A project that delivers for countries through its **4 functions:**
 - **Country monitoring**
 - **Policy analysis**
 - **Health systems performance assessment and**
 - **Knowledge brokering**
4. A resource for **planners, policy and decision makers**

The OBS model of supporting decision makers and tailoring evidence outputs



Policy Brief: How can we capitalise on EU tools?

- 2021 Slovenian Presidency: 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
- A wide range of EU tools related to health systems have grown up over time
 - Not always clear what is available and how to access
 - How can these tools be combined effectively?



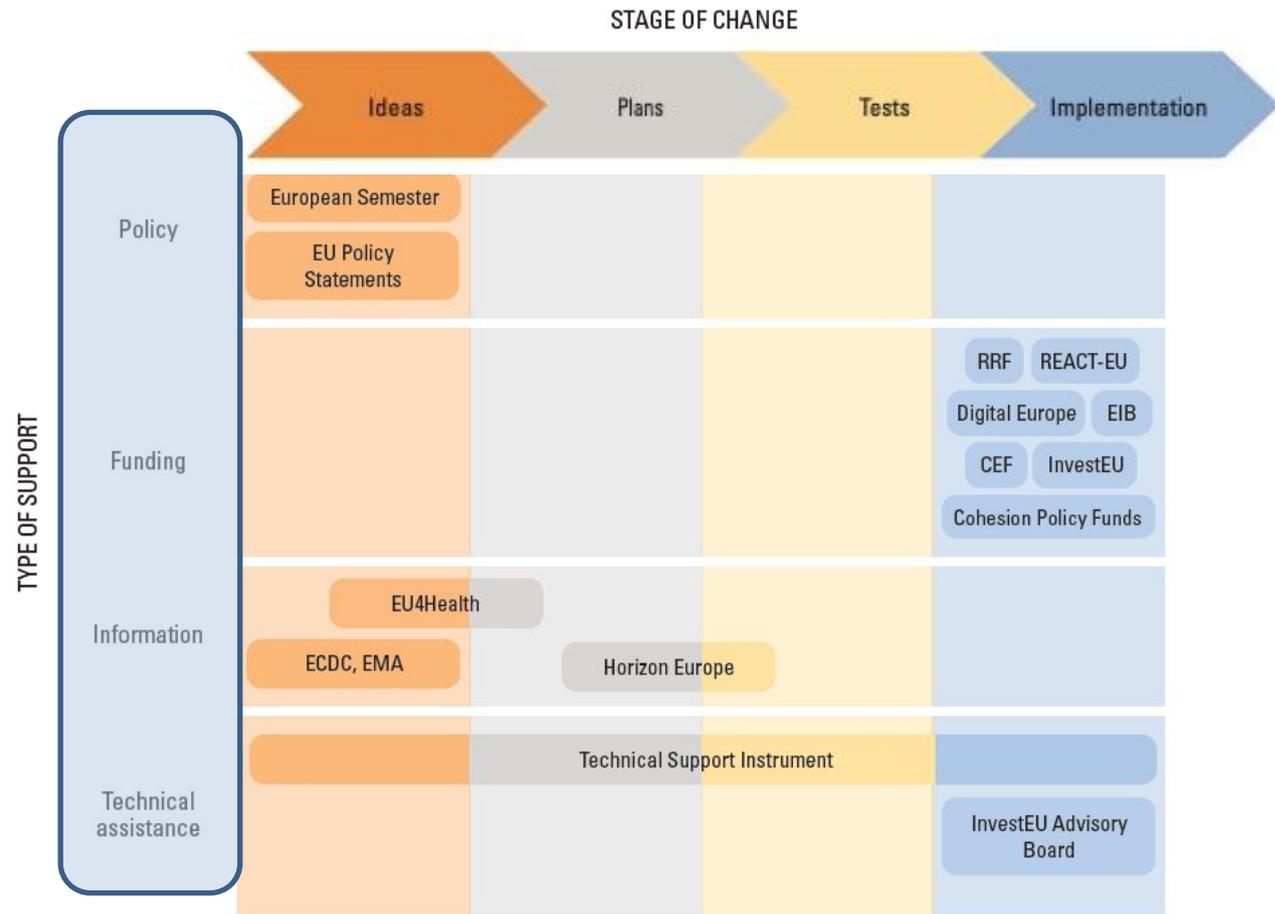
European support along the process of change

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



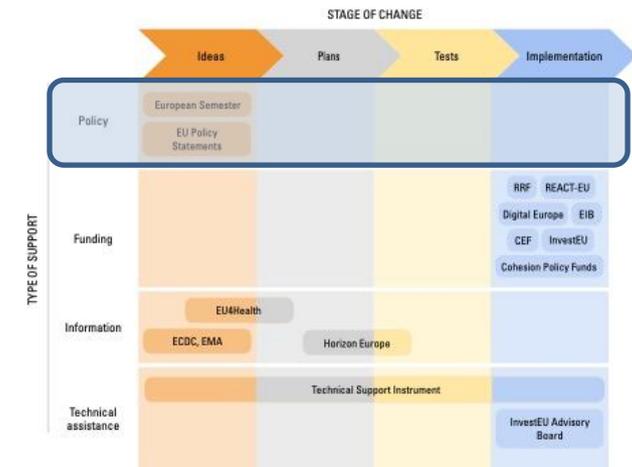
Many instruments, different uses and objectives

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



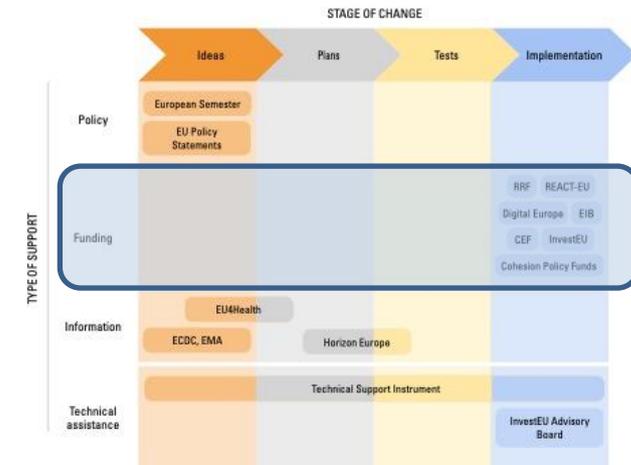
Policy: Providing direction

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



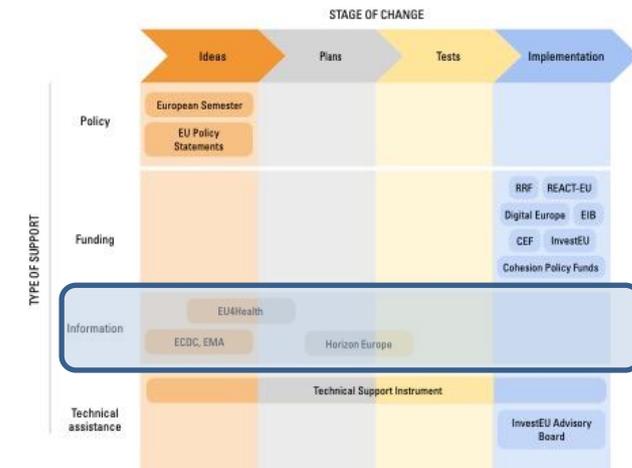
Funding: New infrastructure for health systems

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



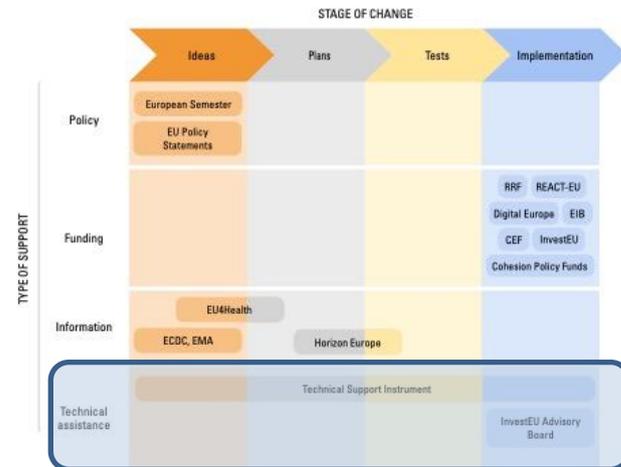
Information: Evidence for action

- EU4Health
 - Widest range of health-relevant activities
 - Cross-country evidence, best practices, cooperation, models for implementation, expert advice
- Horizon Europe
 - Focus on technological innovation
 - Emerging research on health systems
- EU agencies
 - ECDC, EMA
 - Expert advice and scientific evidence



Technical assistance: Adapting to the national context

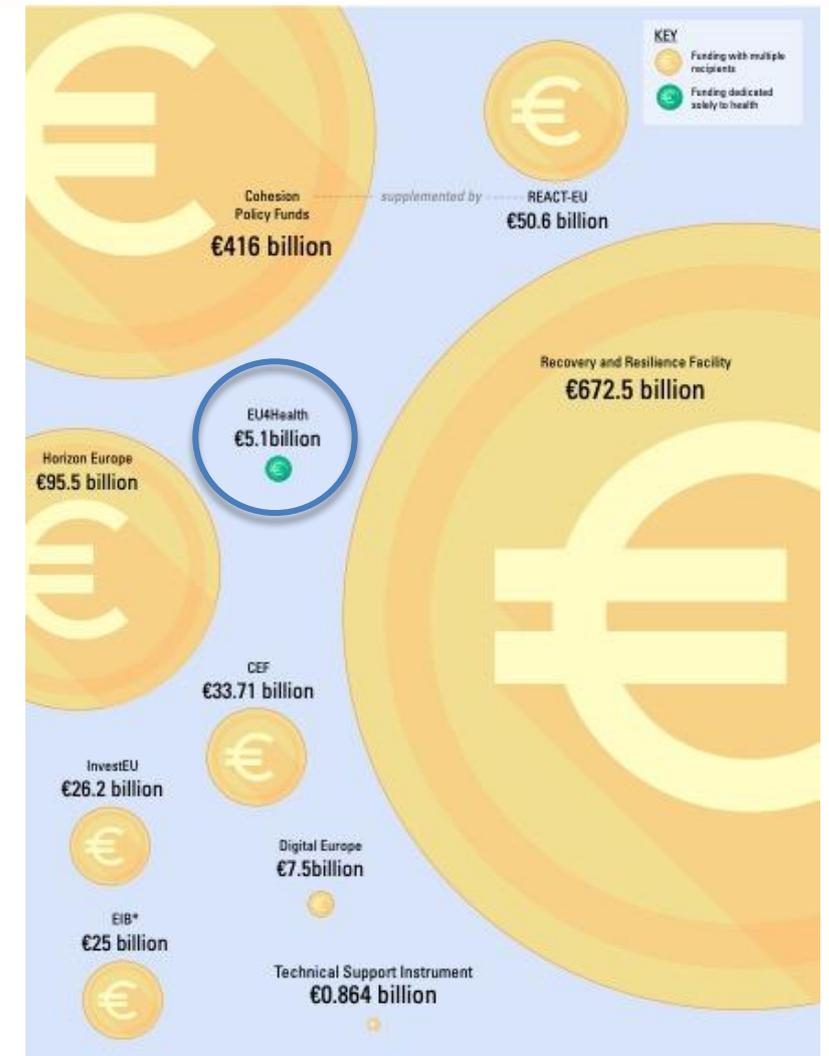
- Technical Support Instrument
 - Expert support across all stages of change
 - Potential to implement country-specific recommendations from European Semester, Recovery and Resilience Facility
- InvestEU Advisory Hub
 - Technical assistance to plan, develop and implement investment projects drawing on EU funds



Maximising EU support requires combining tools

Comparative size of different EU funding tools:

EU4Health is the only tool dedicated exclusively to health



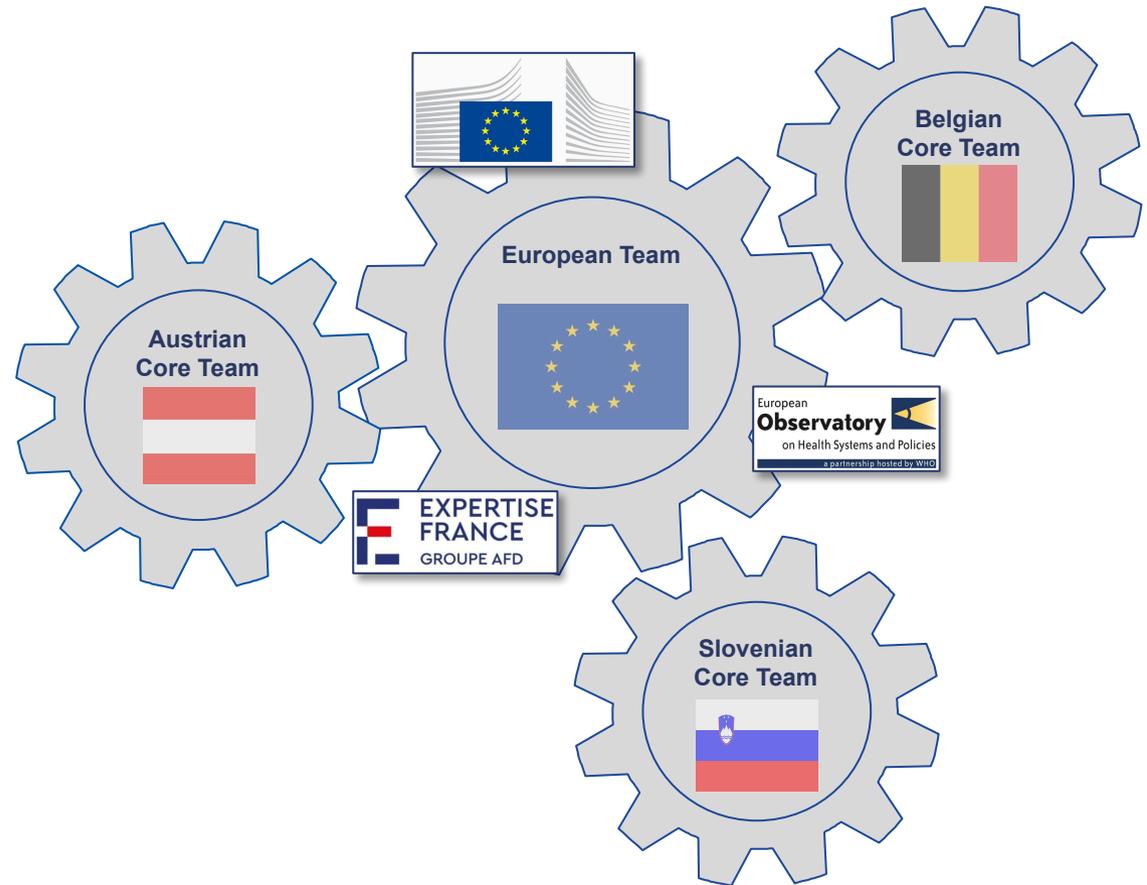
TSI 2022 – 2024: Resources hub for sustainable investment in health

A multistakeholder project with two workstreams

Work stream 1: Making the case for public investment in health

Work stream 2: ‘One-stop-shop’ EU Health Resources Hub

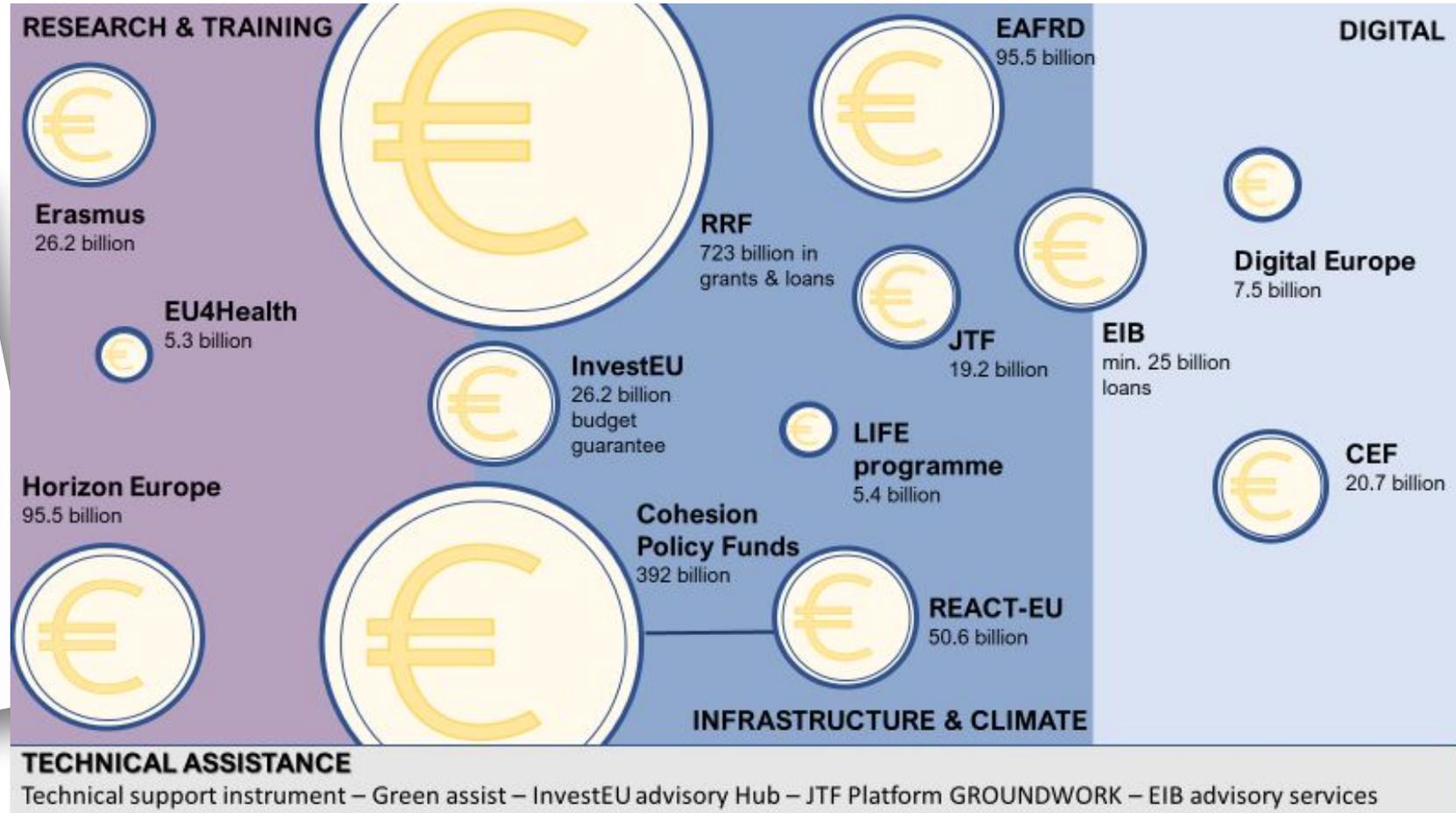
- Austria: Greening health care facilities
- Belgium: Implementing population health management for integrated care
- Slovenia: Strengthening primary health care through a telephone triage system



Adapted from Knoll & Fornaroli, 2024



WS 2: EU resources for investing in and strengthening health systems



EU resources for investing in and strengthening health systems
Tailored options for Austria, Belgium and Slovenia



Different types of management, different rules

Instrument	DG and/or Ex-	Area of sup-	Type of sup- port (Funding, technical support or other)	Type of man- agement (Direct, indirect, and/or share)	Single vs. multi- country proje	Budget size	Where and when to
			Funding grants, Guarant- , Quasi-eq- and/or di- equity)	Direct and in- direct man- agement	There is no restriction to incl- border proje		
			Funding grants, Loans, microcredit, guarantees, equity)	Shared man- agement	Cooperati- on between reg- ional countries is required, but		

Direct management:

Project cycle (from calls for proposals to selection & evaluation) managed directly by EC & exec agencies

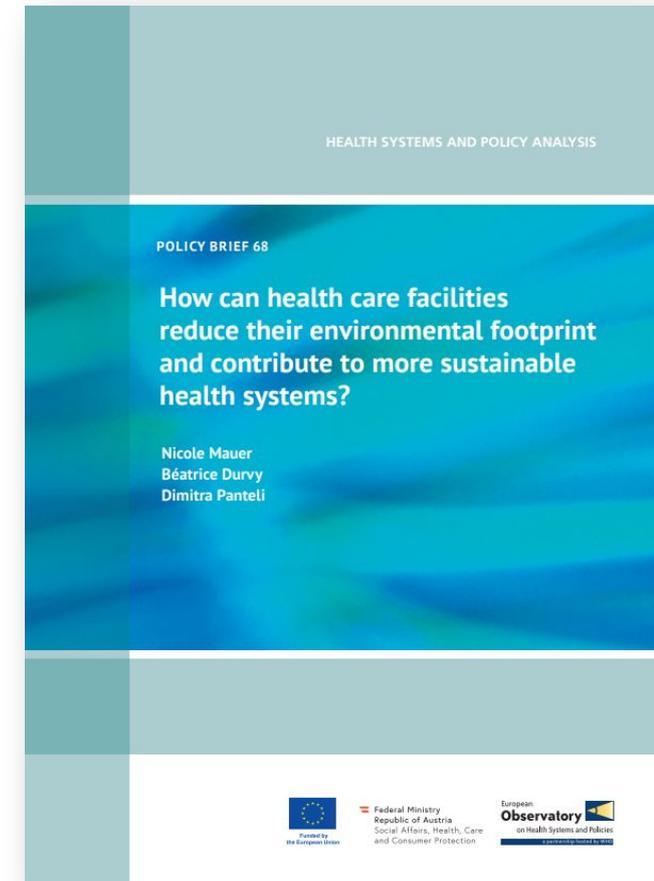
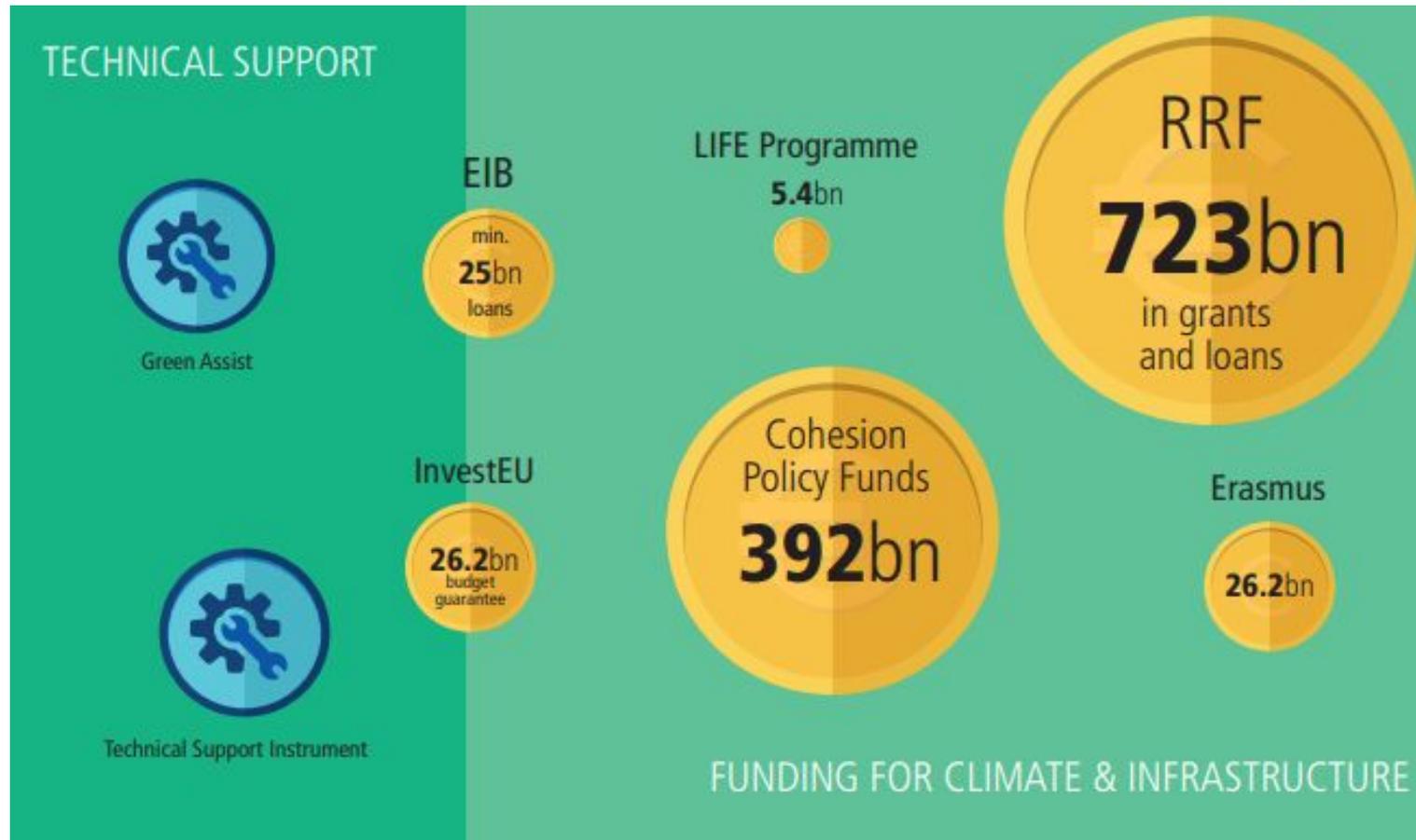
Applications via the Funding & Tenders Portal

Shared management:

Implementation through national/regional authorities (incl. calls for proposals, project selection, payment etc.)

Oversight through EC

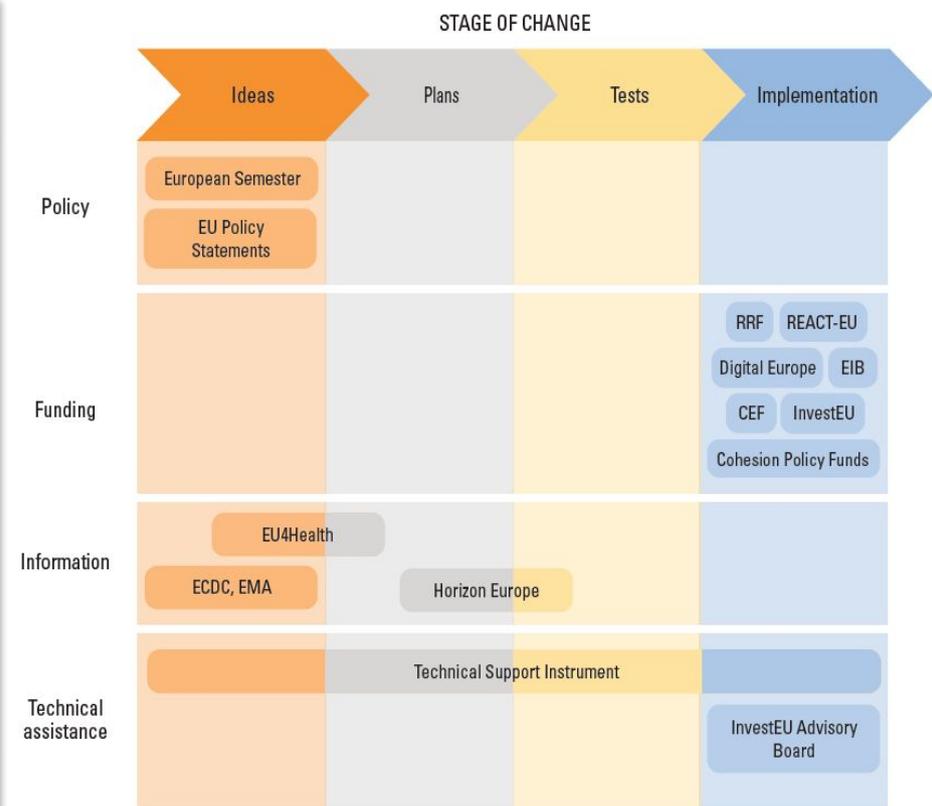
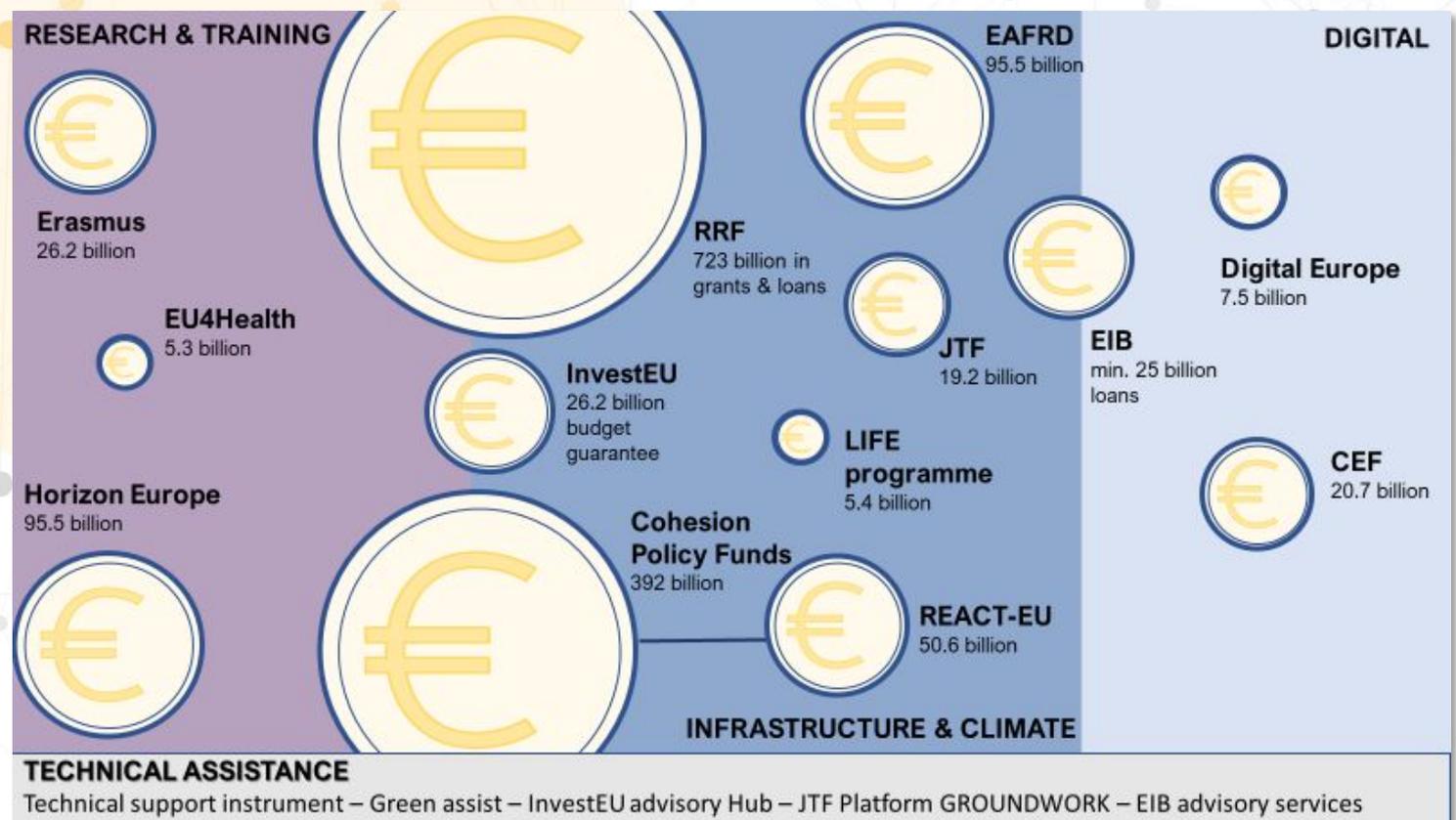
EU instruments relevant for Austria's greening needs



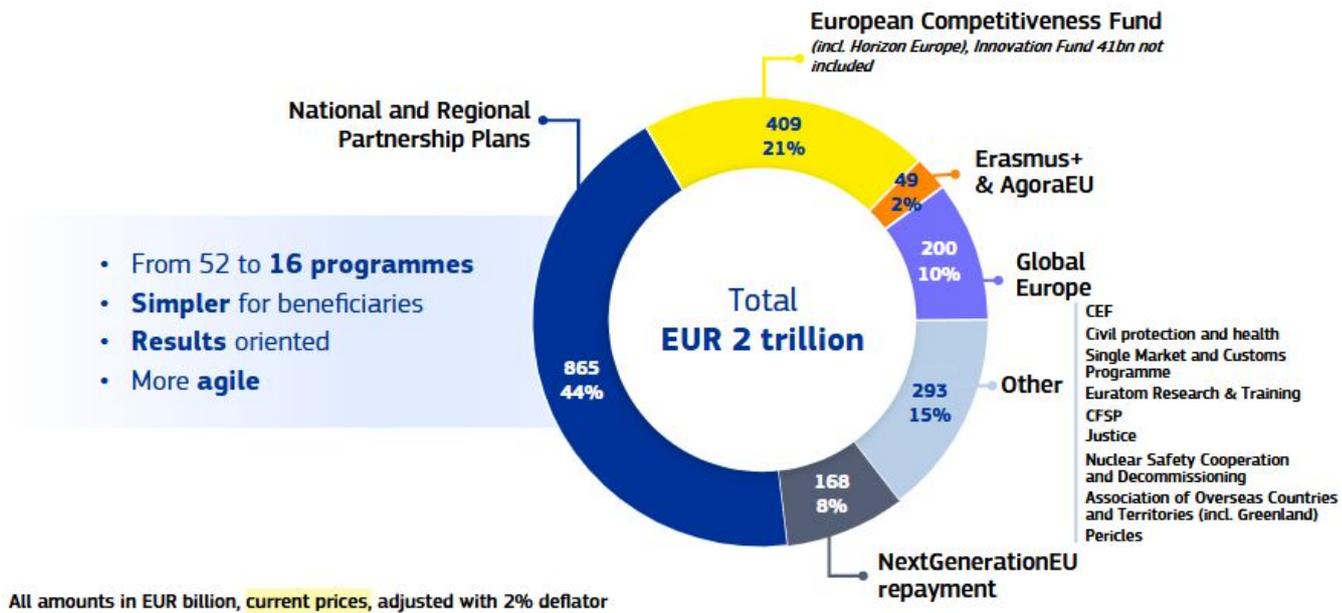
The EU has many instruments that can potentially support health systems

- Challenge of aligning different objectives of tools with the needs and interests of different health systems
- Challenge of matching programme timeframes, application and eligibility criteria with these needs and to translate them into project applications
- Applications are time- and resource-intensive, often requiring specialised knowledge of EU funding procedures and documentation requirements
- There is scope for making process of identifying, using and combining tools easier to navigate for policy-makers

Looking ahead: How will the funding landscape change?

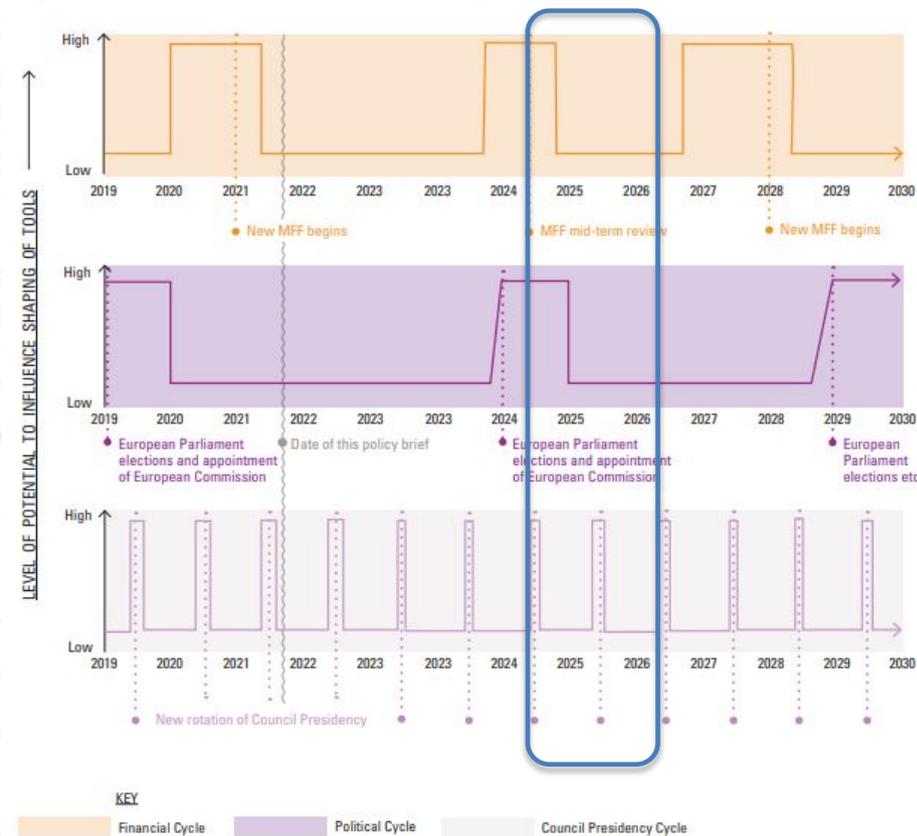


Discussions on the new MFF and a proposed Competitiveness Fund are underway



- From 52 to **16 programmes**
- **Simpler** for beneficiaries
- **Results oriented**
- **More agile**

Figure 4: The relationship between different EU institutional cycles over time



Strategic direction & priorities: future outlook

European Health Union
EU Global Health Strategy
EU Beating Cancer Plan
European Health Data Space
Revision of EU pharma legislation
HTA regulation

EU Safe Hearts Plan
Union prevention, preparedness and response
plan for health crises
Proposal for a European biotech act

Proposed ECF window for “Health, biotech, agriculture & bioeconomy”

Early considerations for the new MFF

- Changes may have important implications for health systems, but extent is difficult to foresee as:
 - Different funding instruments tend to fund different types of initiatives along the stages of change (e.g., EU4Health: evidence for action vs. ERDF: infrastructure)
 - There are important differences in budgetary size and other characteristics (e.g., RRF and Cohesion Policy Funds offer comparatively larger share of funding for health)
- Funding instruments may substantially change – but the expertise and capacity needed to use them may not
- Proposals focus on simplifying and streamlining processes – but how will access to funds work in practice?

THANK YOU

