

NFP4Health

DELIVERABLE 4.1

NFP Profile



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4.1 NFP Profile

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ABSTRACT

This document has been elaborated in the context of the Joint Action NFP4Health (Grant Agreement no. 101035965); it is one of the key activities of WP4 that focuses on analysing, testing and/or improving existing and new roles/actions/paths of the National Focal Point (NFP) in order to support the effective and sustainable implementation of the EU4Health programme at national level.

This report provides the ideal profile of NFPs indicating mission, functions, tasks, and key principles. The deliverable has been drafted using different sources of information:

- EU legislation;
- Survey among current NFPs for collecting strengths, weaknesses, and areas of improvement;
- Inputs from JA NFP4Health Consortium and the related external advisory board;
- Ongoing JA NFP4Health onsite training, with a focus on key NFPs' soft and technical skills;
- Comparison with profiles of different EU Programmes' NCPs, particularly Horizon Europe NCPs.

It is urgent and necessary to reinforce knowledge and skills of NFPs responsible for the current EU4Health Programme and its wider scope with its new areas, instruments, as well as possibilities and synergies offered by other EU health related instruments. This will foster more knowledgeable and skilled NFPs in the Member States and associated countries in order to support equal opportunities of access to the EU4Health Programme for all Member States.

STATEMENT OF ORIGINALITY

This deliverable contains original unpublished work except where clearly indicated otherwise. Acknowledgement of previously published material and of the work of others has been made through appropriate citation, quotation, or both.

DISCLAIMER

The content of this deliverable represents the views of the author only and is his/her sole responsibility; it cannot be considered to reflect the views of the European Commission and/or the European Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA) or any other body of the European Union. The European Commission and the Agency do not accept any responsibility for use that may be made of the information it contains.



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1- Introduction

The EU4Health programme was adopted as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic and to reinforce crisis preparedness in the EU. The pandemic highlighted the fragility of national health systems. The EU4Health programme aims at contributing to the long-term health challenges by building stronger, more resilient, and more accessible health systems.

Since 2014, given the importance of the Health Programmes objectives, the Member States and participating countries have designated National Focal Points (NFPs) to assist the Commission in the promotion of the 3rd Programme for the Union's action in the field of health (2014-2020) established by Regulation (EU) No 282/2014, and, where relevant, in the dissemination of its results and the information available on its impact in the Member States and participating countries. Through the appointment of the NFPs, Member States intend to boost the European Cooperation, while enhancing an increasing participation at national level.

This document has the objective to provide an update and a practice tool targeting the NFPs in order to frame the mission profile, functions, and tasks. This document will be updated periodically.

2- Mission

The EU4Health National Focal Points (NFPs) representatives, appointed by their national responsible Ministries, have an essential role in delivering the programme's objectives and impacts thus enhancing an increased participation at national level. Acting as the national experts for the Health Programme in EU countries, the NFPs support the Programme implementation by promoting the equitable participation to the Programme and the dissemination of its results.

3- Functions and Tasks

Informing and awareness raising

- a) Promulgate general and specific documentation on the EU4Health Programme (Strategic related documents, Annual Work Programme, Stakeholders Consultations and any other document published by the European Commission and/or by HaDEA.)
- b) Organize promotional events and info days at the national level with the aim to:
 - promote the Annual Work Programme – in liaison the European Commission and the European Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA).
 - disseminate the results
 - inform on the impact generated by the Programme at the national level
- c) Raise awareness of:
 - Funding opportunities under the EU4Health Programme published in the [Funding&Tenders Portal](#)
 - Synergies with other health related programmes at European/national level, while improving cooperation with national and EU key stakeholders.



Support and capacity building

- a) Support potential applicants with the participation to the Programme aiming at increasing the participation and the performance
- b) Explain the scope and the modalities of types of action foreseen in EU4Health as well as ensuring that the proposals fall under the financial framework
- c) When appropriate, organise courses and training sessions to strengthen the knowledge of relevant stakeholders
- d) Report to the European Commission the results, opportunities and difficulties encountered by applicants to participate and make proposals for improvement purposes.

4- Key Principles

- a) The service of NFPs will be established, operated and financed under the responsibility of the Member States and Associated Countries
- b) In accordance with national law, consolidated rules for ensuring confidentiality and for avoiding conflicts of interest should be established
- c) A dedicated national EU4Health Programme info-page has to be set up by the appointed national organization, in accordance to existing web portals: [European Digital and Health Executive Agency \(HaDEA\)](#), [European Commission](#), [European Centre for Disease Prevention & Control](#), [NFP4Health website](#) (the latter applicable during the project's life)
- d) The NFPs services should be driven by the principles of transparency and equal access to the programme
- e) The NFPs service should be impartial and independent
- f) According to the scope of the mandate of the host organizations or national authorities, NFPs should be supported in terms of staff and equipment
- g) The NFPs service should ensure an efficient communication channel (functional mailbox accessible during work hours, telephone number)
- h) Every NFP should be aware and overall knowledgeable regarding the objectives, principles and programme content and should aim to identify opportunities for health stakeholders, provided by related programmes:
 - Horizon Europe
 - Digital Europe
 - Erasmus+
 - Technical Support Instrument
 - Next Generation EU
 - NRRPs (National Recovery and Resilience Plans)
 - ESF+ (European Social Fund Plus)
 - ERDF (European Regional Development Fund)



- LIFE
 - Connecting Europe Facility
 - Invest EU
 - ETC (European Territorial Cooperation)
- i) NFPs should be knowledgeable with the relevant sources of advice on related programmes in their country (NCPs, Managing Authorities, National networks...etc.)
 - j) Considering the collaborative nature of EU programmes and the European Health Union's objectives, the Health in All Policies (HiAP) approach and intersectoral action capacities, NFPs should participate actively in transnational networks (according to each national ecosystem in each MS) /European platforms in the field (NFPs Interaction Platform, EU Health Policy Platform. Etc.) and develop mutually supporting relationships.
 - k) NFPs should acquire technical/ soft skills and ensure an excellent communication and information channel, adapting to the variety of relevant stakeholders involved. In the framework of the JA NFP4Health, a dedicated training programme is being implemented aiming at strengthening and developing the transversal skills of NFPs.
 - l) NFPs should ensure timely and comprehensive exchange of relevant information with their national representatives on the EU4Health Programme Committee and Steering Group where applicable.
 - m) Considering the collaborative nature of EU Programmes and the European Health Union's objective and the Health in All Policies (HiAP) approach and inter-sectoral action capacities, NFPs should participate actively in transnational networks (according to each national ecosystem in each MS) /European platforms in the field (NFPs Interaction Platform, EU Health Policy Platform. Etc.) and develop mutually supporting relationships
 - n) Obtain first-hand information needed to effectively support implementing the EU4Health programme from relevant committees and expert groups that are involved in the set up and implementation of actions foreseen under the annual EU4Health programmes, where feasible through formalized cooperation with these entities.

5- Nomination process

National Focal Points have been explicitly quoted for the first time in the (EU) No 282/2014 on the establishment of a third Programme for the Union's action in the field of health (2014-2020). According to article 15, "Member States shall designate National Focal Points which shall assist the Commission in the promotion of the Programme and, as appropriate, the dissemination of the results of the Programme and the available information on the impact of the Programme as referred to in Article 13(2)".

According to the Regulation (EU) 2021/522 establishing a Programme for the EU's action in the field of health (EU4Health Programme) for the period 2021, there is not a specific article dedicated to the National Focal Points. According to Recital 55, "Member States and participating countries have designated NFPs to assist the Commission in the promotion of the third Programme for the Union's action in the field of health (2014-2020) established by Regulation (EU) No 282/2014, and, where relevant, in the dissemination of its results and the information available on its impact in the Member States and participating countries. Given the importance of such activities, it is appropriate to



support such activities under the Programme in order to continue them”. In addition, according to Annex I – point 8e), one of the specific objectives according to article 4h) is “Supporting national contact and focal points in providing guidance, information and assistance related to the promotion and implementation of Union health legislation and of the Programme”.

The list of NFPs is published on the HaDEA [webpage](#).

6- Confidentiality

NFPs are expected to protect the confidentiality of information, even from other NFP colleagues. A written declaration from the relevant national authority will be required by the European Commission, confirming that the measures in accordance with national law are in place with regard to the handling of any confidential information, (e.g. the outcome of the evaluations).

7- Conflict of Interest

NFPs must be free from conflicts of interest between their NFPs activities and the rest of their professional activities. In all circumstances, NFPs must act to avoid any real or perceived conflict of interest and ensure that they provide equal treatment to all participants.

NFPs are not allowed to be appointed as proposal evaluators or ‘observers’ in EU4Health proposal evaluations.