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WEEKLY EU HEALTHCARE NEWS UPDATE

3 DECEMBER – 9 DECEMBER 2022

HERA AND WHO: A PARTNERSHIP FOR STRONGER PANDEMIC PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

On 8 December, the Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA) and the World Health Organization (WHO) initiated a new partnership funded with €15 million from the EU4Health programme. The goal is to foster preparedness, detection, and prevention of various cross-border health threats.

As Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, Stella Kyriakides, explained „the new partnership will strengthen access to and sharing of information, the scaling up of capacities and development of medical countermeasures and technologies. This is yet another concrete example of our actions under the new EU Global Health Strategy...”.

Within the framework of the abovementioned partnership, HERA will fund four global initiatives to support (1) epidemic/pandemic intelligence, access to and sharing of data via the WHO Hub for Pandemic and Epidemic Intelligence; (2) developing new medical countermeasures for tackling antimicrobial resistance; (3) upgrading national capacities for COVID-19 and Emerging Pathogens detection, as well as genomic surveillance in Africa; (4) the COVID-19 Technology Access Pool (C-TAP) to secure fast and coordinated global efforts in terms of developing and facilitating access to technologies to counteract the COVID-19.

Source: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/mex_22_7591

WHO/EUROPE LAUNCHES EVID-ACTION PROJECT TO REDUCE ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION

Evidence into Action Alcohol Project (EVID-ACTION) is a €10 million project to increase awareness among the public and policy-makers of the links between alcohol consumption and health risks, in particular cancer. The project will promote and support the implementation of effective alcohol policies for the communities of the EU MS, Iceland, Norway, and Ukraine.

According to the Global status report on alcohol and health 2018, 8 of the 10 countries with the highest level of alcohol consumption in the world are located in the EU. Almost 300 000 people die each year in the EU because of alcohol. WHO data demonstrate that cancer, cardiovascular diseases are among the EU's leading causes of alcohol-attributable deaths.

The 3 specific objectives of EVID-ACTION focus on the following issues:

- Health warning labels for alcoholic beverages
- Capacity-building, health literacy, public knowledge, and advocacy
- Alcohol screening and brief interventions.

Source: <https://www.who.int/europe/news/item/07-12-2022-new--10-million-who-eu-project-will-translate-evidence-into-action-to-reduce-alcohol-consumption-and-harms>

HORIZON EUROPE WORK PROGRAMME 2023-2024 ADOPTED

On 6 December, the European Commission adopted the Horizon Europe work programme 2023-24, with around €13.5 billion to support European researchers and innovators to deliver advanced solutions in a range of vital areas.

As part of the broader EU, €95.5 billion research and innovation programme, Horizon Europe, this funding will contribute to the EU reaching its climate goals, increasing energy resilience, and developing key digital technologies. Furthermore, a stronger European research and innovation ecosystem, including wider participation of researchers all over Europe, and greater mobility are envisaged. In addition, it will also address targeted support actions for Ukraine, as well as take measures to foster economic resilience.

Moreover, the program will contribute to a post-COVID-19 sustainable recovery. It will direct investments of more than €1 billion from NextGeneration EU to achieve this goal. It will also support research and innovation with €336 million to enhance pandemic preparedness and to respond to health emergencies in line with the European Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA) goals.

Source: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_22_7404

Thank you for your attention!

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