

MEP Interest Group on Health Promotion

Context

In recent decades in Europe, life expectancy has grown faster than healthy life expectancy; this has increased the number of years lived with disabilities by European citizens. The increase in social, economic, human and environmental costs creates a self-reinforcing vicious circle. This phenomenon is closely linked to lifestyles and the quality of the environment in which we live, factors which, in recent decades, have been decisive in increasing the incidence of chronic non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and, therefore, in reducing the quality of life, especially with advancing age. We believe that this model of life is no longer sustainable and that a paradigm shift is necessary and urgent. Now is the time for us, as a united European community, to build an alliance that promotes healthy longevity through effective health promotion strategies.

Why a Health Promotion Interest Group?

The Interest Group (IG) aims to be a transversal platform for MEPs from different parties and nations to discuss and exchange opinions on issues related to health education and promotion as a basis for building healthy longevity in the European population.

It was born as a proposal of the European Manifesto for healthy longevity published by the SALUS European Network for the first time in 2021 and updated in 2024, on the occasion of the European elections. <https://www.salusnetwork.eu/pubblicazioni/#manifesto>

The IG aims to be the reference point for education and health promotion at a European level, allowing regular meetings between experts, stakeholders and political decision-makers, starting from the innovative strategy identified by the aforementioned Manifesto.

Composition dell'Interest Group

L'IG It has an informal character and recognizes MEP Michele Picaro as the first chair.

It is open to the participation of MEPs from different political groups, cultivating a transversal vision of the health theme. He can elect vice presidents who perform a representative function.

Operation of the Interest Group

The IG meets in the premises of the European Parliament, in external premises if necessary or online, at least once per year to define the priorities and the initiatives to be implemented.

The IG's actions may include drafting reports, resolutions or amendments, submitting parliamentary questions and sending letters to authorities, organizing internal or public events, in some cases within dedicated working groups, with the aim of improving legislative proposals and launching EP initiative reports.

The IG can promote meetings with other interest groups or intergroups on related topics.

It organizes at least one event a year to disseminate the topics covered.

It defines a list of stakeholders to be involved in the group's activities: European Commission, Council of the European Union, national and international institutions, civil society organisations, trade representatives.

It has a secretariat that carries out operational coordination functions of activities.

Secretariat

The secretariat function is assumed by the LUMEN International Foundation, a non-profit organization registered in the Transparency Register of the European Parliament (ID no. 693755753091-85) and leader of the SALUS European Network.

The SALUS European Network was born in April 2019 and currently has several organizations in 9 European countries. <https://www.salusnetwork.eu/rete-europea-salus/>

In the last mandate, the European SALUS network managed the secretariat of the SALUS Interest Group <https://www.salusnetwork.eu/interest-group-2019-2024/>