

BULLETIN DECEMBER 2023



Dear colleagues

This edition follows the Board meeting held on 9 November and our fruitful General Assembly from 10–11 November, where we were generously hosted by the Estonian Medical Association. Thank you to everyone who participated for making the meetings such a success.

We adopted and disseminated policies on the <u>health affects of cannabis</u> and <u>doctors' wellbeing</u>, and a <u>statement</u> on doctors' right to strike. We also adopted campaign messages for the upcoming European elections next year.

During the meetings we also reflected on the sad fact that two of our members are facing wars. Elsewhere, on 30 November, the Central Council of the Turkish Medical Association was dismissed by a court in a trial based on unfounded charges. In these challenging times we emphasise solidarity and the importance of a united voice of European doctors.

Dr Christiaan Keijzer CPME President



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – 9 NOVEMBER 2023

Finances

Accounts 2023

• The Board noted that the preparations have started for the final accounts for 2023.

Internal Affairs

General Assembly, 10-11 November 2023, Tallinn, Estonia

The Board discussed the draft agenda of the CPME General Assembly and Policy Sessions meetings to be held the following days from 10–11/11/2023 in Tallinn, Estonia.

Risk register

• The Board took note of the risk assessment 2023.

In the context of the external audit of the 2022 accounts in February 2023, the auditor requested an assessment of the political, administrative and financial risks CPME may be exposed to. It will be renewed for the next audit.

Call for nominations for WG Chairs and Rapporteurs

• The Board took note of the open vacancies and agreed to consider suitable candidates.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING - 9 NOVEMBER 2023

Policies

European Commission's Advisory Committee on Public Health

Emergencies

The Board agreed that Dr Ole Johan Bakke should apply for the European Commission's new Advisory Committee on Public Health Emergencies (PHE) in his personal capacity.

The Commission is looking for independent experts of 16 different economic sectors (e.g. human health sector and civil society, including representatives from health and social professional associations) to join this multidisciplinary expert group.

eCAN – Joint Action for strengthening eHealth for cancer prevention

and care

The Board decided to send to members a survey on the implementation and sustainability of telemedicine services in Member States, via the monthly Bulletin (see more info on page 22).

Doctors' Right To Strike

The Board decided to present an amendment to the statement for approval to the GA (see more info on page 9).

Pharmaceutical legislation

The Board took note of the Secretariat's analysis of the EP Rapporteurs' draft reports on the EU pharmaceutical legislation.

Several important issues are not covered by CPME policies i.e. transparency laws, a European Medicines Facility, and regulatory sandboxes, and will require further discussion.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – 9 NOVEMBER 2023

European Health Data Space

The Board took note of the state of play of the EHDS, on the latest lobby activities and the key areas that required further advocacy

The European Parliament delayed the adoption of its report, now expected to be on 28-29 November 2023 in the Joint Committee (the monitoring report on page 20 confirms this took place). The vote in the plenary was expected on 11 December 2023.

The Secretariat prepared a second lobby package for Members to use comprising of i) a template letter with the current key areas, ii) the CPME joint statement on the European Health Data Space; iii) an explanatory briefing note on the state of play of the negotiations in relation to CPME proposed amendments; iv) short slides with key messages; and v) an updated social media campaign document.

The Board noted a letter from the European Commission (DG SANTE and DG CNECT) to CPME replying to the joint statement presented at the eHealth Stakeholder Group in July 2023.

EMO's workgroup on health care workforce

• The Board took note of a concept note for an EMO's working group on health workforce.

At the meeting of the EMOs' presidents on 30 June 2023, it was proposed to create a working group on the situation of the health workforce. It was suggested that CPME lead this topic. The Board agreed that Dr Martin Balzan should chair the working group. In addition, it was reported that EJD recently published its study on health workforce titled "From tradition to transition".

Turkish Medical Association

The Board took note of a hearing of the Turkish Medical Association (TMA) taking place the following day on 10 November, in which the entire Central Council of the TMA remains at risk of dismissal.

CPME published a joint letter with the World Medical Association on 6 November.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING – 9 NOVEMBER 2023

Letter addressed to Ukrainian authorities

The Board discussed a draft letter to Ukrainian authorities advising one unified doctors chamber, as opposed to the creation of two chambers as currently proposed. The Board decided that the President will review the draft letter and decide on co-signature.

The German Medical Association informed CPME of a draft letter addressed to the Ukrainian authorities and invited co-signature. The letter responds to a draft law proposing the creation of two chambers of doctors, one for general practice and one for other specialists respectively. The letter proposes one unified chamber, a call which is supported by the Ukrainian Medical Association.

Webinar on Quality of **Basic Medical Education**

13 December 2023

| 10:30-12:30 (Brussels time) | <u>Register here</u>

Speakers will include:

Dr Harm Peters (AMSE President) Dr Martin Balzan (CPME Vice President)

Prof. Colin Macdougall, (British Medical Association) Prof. Ricardo León Bórquez (WFME President) Prof. Dr Trevor Gibbs (Independent Consultant)





Invitation to Webinar on Quality of Basic Medical Education

The Standing Committee of European Doctors (CPME) extends a warm invitation to you for our upcoming webinar on The Quality of Basic Medical Education on Wednesday, 13 December 2023, from 10:30 AM to 12:30 PM CET, bringing together key stakeholders and expert panellists. The primary aim of this event is to delve into the intricacies of basic medical education's quality and explore strategies to uphold its highest standards. Please <u>register here</u> by 10 December.

Norwegian Medical Association study visit to CPME office

Frode Solberg spent a week at the CPME office in Brussels, participating in meetings and observing the daily work of the Secretariat. Please contact sarada.das@cpme.eu if you are interested in organising a study visit.

First Members Communication Network meeting held

On 30 November, the first Members Communication Network meeting brought together communication professionals from many national medical associations to exchange knowledge and discuss future communication efforts. Meetings are planned to be held every 6 months.

CPME celebrated antimicrobial awareness day

To celebrate European Antibiotic Awareness Day, CPME <u>published</u> a summary of European doctors' actions on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in 2023, and <u>a video</u> highlighting our recently updated policy. A press release <u>reaffirmed</u> the commitment of medical and veterinary professionals to join forces in the fight against antimicrobial resistance (AMR), recognising its significant impact on public health, animal health, and the environment.



European doctors warn of adverse health effects of cannabis

CPME published a <u>policy</u> cautioning policy-makers and the public of the serious public health concern of cannabis The policy highlights evidence of substantial health harms related to cannabis use across Europe. Adopting the core principle of medicine, of 'first do no harm', European doctors oppose further legalisation of cannabis and urge policy-makers to make efforts to reduce cannabis use by citizens.

CPME Vice-President Prof. Dr Ray Walley said "Evidence shows that cannabis is an addictive drug with many hazards. These risks are heightened for adolescents in particular. The weight of current evidence indicates that legalisation adds to health harms across the population. European doctors encourage local, national, and European public health agencies to improve surveillance efforts to ensure data is available on the short- and long-term health effects of cannabis."

Cannabis is the most consumed illicit drug in Europe. Latest estimates from the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) indicate that about 23 million adults used cannabis in 2022, and 1.7 million people have a cannabis use disorder.

Cannabis use has acute health risks, and it tops the list of drug-related attendances at hospital emergency departments in Europe. In addition, regular use is associated with a range of chronic harms, many of which relate to mental health, such as psychosis, mania, depression and anxiety disorders.

CPME President Dr Christiaan Keijzer said "We need stronger public health messaging to ensure that the people in Europe, especially youth, are fully aware of the many risks associated with cannabis use.

"There is a need to develop comprehensive addiction treatment response for the many Europeans who currently have a cannabis use disorder, including accessible, comprehensive and evidence based treatment."

The policy does not focus on cannabis-based products in specific medical conditions.



Recommendations to improve doctors' well-being: promoting work-life balance and supportive environments

CPME has published a <u>policy</u> providing recommendations to enhance the well-being of doctors across Europe, with the aim of improving patient care, professional excellence, and overall job satisfaction

Doctors face significant challenges in maintaining their own well-being while caring for others. The demanding nature of their work, long working hours, and high levels of stress can take a toll on their physical and mental health. These challenges are further compounded by workforce shortages, which create barriers to the pursuit of a work-life balance that accommodates family life. The new policy makes a range of recommendations, each designed to support the holistic well-

being of doctors at all stages of their careers.

CPME Vice President Dr. Martin Balzan said "European doctors call on the EU and Member States to ensure effective enforcement of EU directives like the Working Time Directive and Parental Leave Directive. We must ensure that all available tools are aligned to improving the well-being of doctors.

"We urge healthcare institutions to implement benchmarks for minimum workforce capacities to ensure safe staffing levels, which is only possible with fair financial remuneration.

"We also encourage a supportive organisational culture, emphasising autonomy, a peer support network, and a sense of dialogue, trust, and belonging. A culture of well-being among young doctors can be promoted by highlighting role models who exemplify a healthy work-life balance."

CPME President Christiaan Keijzer added "The well-being of doctors is not only a personal matter but also a critical factor that directly influences patient safety and healthcare quality. Our policy is a reflection of our commitment to creating an environment where doctors can thrive both personally and professionally."



Central Council of the Turkish Medical Association dismissed

On 30 November, a civil court in Ankara arbitrarily dismissed the eleven elected members of the Central Council of the Turkish Medical Association,.

CPME, together with Physicians for Human Rights, the World Medical Association, the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture Victims have published a <u>press release</u> calling for the doctors' immediate reinstatement.

European doctors' concern over right to strike and physician substitution

The General Assembly of CPME has <u>adopted</u> a statement of concern over UK government action seeking to limit doctors' right to strike and an increasing use of 'Physician Assistants'. The statement was requested by the British Medical Association in support of its national action.

CPME is concerned that laws such as the UK's Strikes Act infringe on doctors' right to strike. The Act gives the UK government the power to pass regulations that define a minimum service, with barely any consultation, that would undermine legitimate strike action.

Minimum service levels are an important ethical consideration for doctors, which CPME supports, but this Act would undermine workers' rights to representation and could leave unions unable to effectively represent their members.

The statement also expresses support for United Kingdom colleagues over their concern and opposition to the trend of physician substitution by 'Physician Assistants' and is concerned at the implications for patient safety with uncertain and potentially severe health implications.



The Secretariat monitors the news and uploads <u>weekly monitoring reports</u> the members' section of the website. In the following pages we include a selection of the most relevant news items.

EU Political Outlook

Council for employment, social, health and consumer affairs policy (EPSCO) discusses health topics and ongoing legislative files

The EPSCO council convened on 30 November to discuss <u>health topics and files</u>, and to conclude on the progress made by the Spanish Presidency on health. Ministers first discussed the issue of medicine shortages and measures necessary to ensure that all EU citizens have access to safe, accessible, and affordable medicines, notably the reform of the pharmaceutical legislation and the Critical Medicines Alliance. The debates then covered the European Health Data Space and the advancement of negotiations in the Council. The ministers adopted <u>Council conclusions</u> on mental health, discussed an EU comprehensive approach to childhood obesity, and exchanged views on the impact of climate change on health in light of the COP28 starting in Dubai.

Council for Foreign Affairs approved conclusions on a social, green and digital transition

The Council reaffirmed the EU's commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and SDGs and acknowledged the threats of climate change and geopolitical crises. The <u>conclusions</u> urge for strengthened strengthened policies on education, health, work, social protection, public services, and others, both in the EU and with external partners. The Council committed to supporting partner countries in their efforts to implement all SDGs and the three dimensions of the 2030 Agenda – economic, social and environmental.



The European Parliament wants to see the primacy of EU law written in the treaties

The Parliament approved on an <u>own-initiative report</u> regarding the principle of primacy of EU law. This principle is not in the EU Treaties but is included in the annex of the Lisbon Treaty and has developed through the decisions of the Court of Justice of the EU. MEPs argue that enshrining this principle in the Treaties will mitigate possible conflicts, protect the effectiveness and uniformity of EU law from national courts which challenge or fail to apply it, and ensure the equal protection of all EU citizens' rights under EU law.

The European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) is preparing for its new agency mandate.

The EMCDDA will become the European Union Drugs Agency (EUDA) as of July 2024, and will benefit from stronger powers to tackle current and future drug problems. A delegation of MEPs are visiting the agency in Lisbon this week to discuss this new mandate with them and civil society representatives.

Parliament's committee on Public Health (SANT) elected a new chair

MEP Adam Jarubas (EPP, Poland) has been <u>elected</u> as the new chair of the SANT committee. He is a member of the ENVI committee and a substitute member of the ITRE committee on industry. He has no medical training. In his introduction, MEP Jarubas stated that he would like to focus on European pharmaceutical sovereignty, and fighting health inequalities.

MEP Michèle Rivasi dies

MEP Michèle Rivasi, a French Green MEP, has passed away at the age of 70. She dedicated her political career to environmental protection and public health, always striving for transparency and democracy. Her office salute "her courage, integrity, and closeness to the people".



Professional Practice and Health Systems

WHO released new learning resources to help health workers provide better care and support for women subjected to violence.

Ahead of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls (25 November), the WHO launched a new <u>e-learning programme</u> to boost health workers' capacity to identify and support survivors.

Eurostat published an article on migrant integration and health.

The <u>article</u> presents an overview of the self-reported health status of non-nationals in the EU and compares it with the self-reported health status of EU nationals. It finds that in 2022, non-EU citizens living in the EU declared more unmet needs than EU citizens living in their own country, and EU citizens living in another EU country, for both medical and dental care.



Pharmaceuticals and Healthcare

18 November 2023 was European Antibiotic Awareness Day

The European Commission issued a <u>press release</u> providing data on the cost of antimicrobial resistance and highlighting the current EU initiatives to counter AMR, including the revision of the pharmaceutical legislation and the One Health Approach.

The European Medicines Agency published a <u>surveillance report</u>, stating that the consumption of antimicrobials in animals had reached its lowest level ever in Europe.

The WHO released data from the <u>Annual Tracking AMR Country Self-Assessment Survey</u>; publicised its <u>Access</u>, <u>Watch</u>, <u>Reserve antibiotic book</u> to improve antimicrobial use in humans globally and published a <u>core package of 13 interventions</u> to guide country prioritisation when developing, implementing and monitoring national action plans on AMR.

WHO Europe <u>warned against inaction towards antibiotic misuse</u> and conducted a survey across the WHO European Region to shed light on the knowledge, attitudes and behaviours surrounding antibiotic use and AMR.

Deadline for amendments on the pharmaceutical package has passed in the Parliament

In total, around 3000 amendments were tabled. Two <u>draft reports</u> are currently under consideration in the ENVI committee, which notably aiming to simplify and accelerate marketing authorisation procedures and include the consideration of medicines' environmental impact in the authorisation process.



Novel antibiotic presents promising results during Phase 3 clinical trials of zofilodacin

The development of Zofilodacin, developed through the Global Antibiotic Research and Development Partnership, was funded by public bodies from Denmark, the UK, Japan, the Netherlands, China, Luxembourg, and South Africa. This demonstrated the possibility of a new approach to antibiotics development and has been proven to be as effective as ceftriaxone and azithromycin to cure gonorrhoea.

European Parliament's Panel for the Future of Science and Technology (STOA) suffers controversy because of a study on access to medicines

The STOA panel organised a panel discussion on access to medicines at the end of October, during which the study *"Improving public access to medicines while promoting pharmaceutical innovation"* was presented. The full study was published on 27 October but was retracted a few days later, sparking <u>debate and suspicion</u> regarding the cause of removal. The STOA Secretariat published a <u>statement</u> explaining that the study was *"prematurely and erroneously published"* before the editing process was fully finished. The <u>final study</u> is now available online.

First electronic product information (ePIs) will be published for selected human medicines

Product information of a medicine accompanies every medicine authorised in the EU and explains how they should be prescribed and used. The creation of <u>electronic product information (ePIs</u>) is being explored through a 1-year pilot initiative to facilitate the transition to the electronic system. The use of ePIs is addressed in the review of the pharmaceutical legislation, where CPME supports the parallel availability of electronic and paper leaflets.



Public Health and Disease Prevention

The European Commission organised the Fourth EU Clean Air Forum in Rotterdam

The event took place on 23 and 24 November, bringing together stakeholders from across the EU to discuss clean air issues and the EU Ambient Air Quality Directives currently undergoing negotiations. Commission Vice-President Maroš Šefčovič opened the event, and CPME Vice-President Ole Johan Bakke spoke at the session on Spreading Knowledge for Air.

Call for increased HIV testing ahead of ECDC event on HIV stigma

The ECDC <u>presented</u> a study on health-related quality of life among people living with HIV during a meeting of the SANT Parliamentary committee, and is organising an <u>event</u> on HIV stigma on 6 December. The WHO also <u>called for</u> increasing testing for HIV in the European region, as well as measures to address stigma.

New Zealand's new government scrap their predecessors' tobacco legislation

In 2022, the previous New Zealand government <u>passed</u> the Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products Amendment Act, which included measures on the nenicotisation of cigarettes, the reduction of tobacco outlets, and the implementation of a smokefree generation policy. This Act will be repealed over concerns regarding the development of a black market. The Smoke Free Partnership has created a <u>petition</u> to call on the government to keep these commitments.



The Global Centre for Good Governance on Tobacco Control (GGTC) released the 2023 Global Tobacco Industry Interference Index

The Global Tobacco Industry Interference <u>index</u> measures how well governments worldwide respond to tobacco industry interference and protect their public health policies from commercial interests. The Smoke Free Partnership, of which CPME is a coalition partner, worked on the <u>European</u> <u>Index</u> and described the results as "worrisome". Scores of 9 countries deteriorated, while only 6 improved.

The European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) published new data on cannabis

The <u>analysis</u> describes the illegal European market for cannabis products and reveals a significant increase in the potency of cannabis products. The average potency of herbal cannabis in the EU rose by 57% between 2011 and 2021, and the average potency of cannabis resin increased by 200% in the same period, raising additional health concerns for users.

A new report from WHO and CDC reveals estimated number of annual global measles cases

Following years of declines in measles vaccination coverage, measles cases in 2022 have <u>increased</u> by 18%, and deaths have increased by 43% globally (compared to 2021). In 2022, 37 countries experienced large or disruptive measles outbreaks compared with 22 countries in 2021. The global vaccine coverage rate of the first dose, at 83%, and second dose, at 74%, were still well under the 95% coverage with two doses that is necessary to protect communities from outbreaks.



The ECDC called for expression of interest for an Observership

This <u>Observership</u> will be a five-day orientation programme to provide an overview of the ECDC activities, role, and mandate in supporting public health actions to control and prevent infectious disease in the EU and globally. Deadline to apply is 8 January.

WHO advances on healthy ageing and geriatric care

A WHO <u>special journal issue</u> was released on measuring healthy ageing, identifying the best available tools to measure what truly matters to older people and how to tackle the lack of consistency across data sources and analysis methods.

The WHO also signed a <u>Memorandum of Understanding</u> with the European Geriatric Medicine Society (EuGMS), under which the two organisations will work to promote quality, integrated health and long-term care necessary for healthy ageing.

Finally, WHO and UN partners launched the first <u>UN Decade of Healthy Ageing Progress Report</u>, which charts efforts to improve the lives of older people in 2020.

WHO unveiled framework for climate resilient and low carbon health systems

The <u>framework</u> emphasises the optimisation of resource use and the implementation of strategies to curtail greenhouse gas emissions, while continuing to prioritise climate resilience. It presents different pathways to strengthen resilience and decarbonise, including specific considerations in low-income countries that need to increase energy access and health service provision to provide UHC.



COP28 begins in Dubai

The conference will take place from 30 November to 12 December. For the first time, there is a <u>day</u> <u>dedicated to health</u> on 3 December. The EU will be attending, represented by Charles Michel, Ursula von der Leyen, and the Spanish Presidency. The <u>EU ambitions</u> for this COP include a global phaseout of unabated fossil fuels and their subsidies, tripling installed renewable energy capacity, improving energy efficiency, more efforts towards climate change adaptation, and mobilisation of finance to support climate action.

This proposals come in parallel to <u>rising concerns</u> about fossil fuel lobbies and their interference during the conference.

Ahead of the conference, the WHO has <u>called for</u> urgent action on climate and health and mobilised the health community to put health at the centre stage of negotiations. On 23 November, WHO <u>published</u> its "2023 review of health in nationally determined contributions and long-term strategies", highlighting the actions needed to ensure that people's health is fully prioritised and integrated in national plans to fight climate change. Along with WIPO and WTO, the WHO also organised a <u>symposium</u> on interrelatedness of climate change and human health.

UN Agencies released a call for action on climate change as an urgent threat to pregnant women and children. The <u>report</u> states that the effects of climate events on maternal and child health have been neglected, underreported and underestimated. It highlights that very few countries' climate change response plans mention maternal or child health.

Lancet Countdown report calls for climate-driven health action

The 8th annual <u>report of the Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change</u> was released on 15 November. The findings indicate that health systems are increasingly strained due to ageing populations, heatwaves and droughts, and an increasingly alarming threat of waterborne diseases. The <u>European Launch of the Report</u> took place on 29 November to present the key findings and messages specific to the region, linking them to the preparation of the COP28.



Digital Health

MEPS from the committees on environment (ENVI) and civil liberties, justice and home affairs (LIBE) vote on the Proposal for a European Health Data Space

The joint LIBE-ENVI committee has <u>adopted its report</u> on the EHDS proposal. The report will now go to plenary, where MEPs are scheduled to vote on the proposal on 11 December. While the majority of CPME amendments is reflected in the draft report, CPME is engaging with MEPs to underline in particular the call for the exemption of small enterprises from obligations to provide data for secondary use, which the European Parliament dropped in the final stages of its negotiations.

Parliament and Council reached an agreement on the Interoperable Europe Act to improve online public services for people and businesses

The regulation aims to set up a new cooperation framework for EU public administrations to ensure the seamless delivery of public services across borders. The co-legislators notably <u>amended</u> the scope of the legislation and the concept and definition of 'trans-European digital public services'. The agreement will now be submitted to both institutions for final approval.

The Commission welcomes G7 leaders' agreement on Guiding Principles and a Code of Conduct on Artificial Intelligence

G7 leaders agreed on a final version of the "<u>Hiroshima Process</u>", guiding principles for all actors working on AI. The Commission welcomed the agreement and stated that these principles reflect "EU values to promote trustworthy AI". Principles include transparency, data protection and information sharing, as well as a commitment to prioritising the advancement of AI to address the climate crisis and global health and education challenges.



The Council of the EU adopts a set of recommendations on digital education and training.

The <u>recommendations</u> identify key enabling factors for successful digital education and training, and ways to improve the provision of digital skills and competences in education and training. They include taking measures targeting priority groups, promoting the teaching of digital skills transversally, and giving adults opportunities to acquire digital skills.

The Court of Justice of the EU published a decision on the protection of personal data (case C-307/22)

The CJEU was asked by the German Federal Court of Justice to interpret a case regarding access to dental records. The patient was asking for a free copy of his records, and the dentist asked him to cover the cost of providing the copy. In its judgement, the CJEU stated that the GDPR enshrines the right of the patient to obtain a first copy of their medical records free of charge, because this is essential to understand the personal data they contain. The data controller can only charge a fee if the patient already obtained a first free copy of their data.

The European Data Protection Board (EDPB) took an urgent binding decision on processing of personal data for behavioural advertising by Meta

The EDPB adopted an urgent binding decision, instructing the Irish Data Protection Authority to impose a ban on Meta regarding the processing of personal data for behavioural advertising. The EDPB considered that a contract is not a suitable legal basis for the processing of personal data carried out by Meta, and that it was "high time to bring its processing into compliance and stop unlawful processing".



The European Health and Digital Executive Agency (HADEA) published a service contract for a study on guidance to increase access healthcare for people with disabilities.

The <u>study</u> will consider three dimensions of access to healthcare: population coverage, health services and goods coverage, and out of pocket payments. It will also work on aspects related to access to cancer screening, diagnosis, and care for people with disabilities. CPME was invited by the European Disability Forum and ICF SA to take part as a member of the 'Contact Group', which provides feedback and guidance on the development of the study, deliverables, dissemination, and more. CPME Secretariat declined, since we have no specific policy in this area. We redirected them to the WMA, in a better position to provide guidance, and mentioned that the CPME Board would be informed, and we would be happy to receive the final outcome or attend a conference that the project organises during the process.

Survey for eCAN Joint Action

CPME was contacted by the Cancer Centre at Sciensano (Belgian Institute for Health) within the scope of the <u>eCAN – Joint Action</u> (Joint Action Strengthening eHealth including telemedicine and remote monitoring for healthcare systems for cancer prevention and care) to participate in an online survey. This online survey aims to develop a roadmap towards a sustainable and broad implementation of e-health initiatives in cancer care that proves to be beneficial.

The online survey aims to collect the opinions of the EU Member State experts experienced in policymaking in the field of digital health (ministries, sickness funds, e-health expert groups, etc.). The survey questions are part of a foresight exercise and focus on the adoption of telemedicine services in the future. eCAN aims to gather the opinions of experts and develop a roadmap that could be acceptable to many.

Experts can <u>answer the survey</u> until 31 December 2023. Those wishing to contribute further will be invited to an online workshop in early 2024.



Ukraine

WHO Europe and Ukrainian Ministry of Health opened new modular primary healthcare clinics to serve affected communities.

The <u>project</u> began in July and has opened 8 facilities so far. The facilities are a temporary solution but are essential to bolstering trust in the healthcare system and serving as replacements for damaged facilities for up to 10 years.



BULLETIN DECEMBER 2023

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