

**Invitation for public comment: Global Action Plan for Healthy Lives and Well-being – EFA comment on the Global Action Plan outline**

EFA is the European voice for over 200 million people living with allergies and airways diseases. We bring together national associations from 25 countries and channel their knowledge and demands to European institutions.

EFA welcomes the joint vision expressed by the 12 global health and development organisations to strengthen their collaboration and advance collective action towards the achievement of the '*Sustainable Development Goal 3 – Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages*'. EFA is glad to see that the draft Global Action Plan for Healthy Lives and Well-being for All acknowledges the cross-cutting nature of health challenges and the subsequent need for multi-sectoral action to accelerate progress on the SDG3.

Despite benefiting from public health action and healthcare systems based on solidarity, 200 million Europeans living with allergy, asthma and COPD still suffer daily from these chronic diseases. Even if preventable, many end up dying from them. In particular, our comments are meant to weight the actions Europe should apply to achieve health in our continent. Below we offer our insights on how EFA understands the opportunities presented by the draft Global Action Plan, and ways to enrich the current text to support progress towards the SDG3 and related health and development goals:

- In line with its multi-sectoral approach, the Global Action Plan presents an opportunity to further link **SDG3 with other international thematic initiatives on addressing human health**, such as the 2015 Paris Agreement, the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, the WHO work on Ambient and Indoor air pollution, and the joint FAO/WHO Codex Alimentarius Commission. The Plan should ensure efficient connection with and between the different initiatives, focusing especially on risk factors and emerging health threats.
- By supporting actions of health-related inequalities, the Plan should become **the vehicle to promote awareness on the challenges facing vulnerable groups of the society**, including the poor, the chronic patients, the women/children/elders, the stigmatised, and the discriminated. These challenges need to be further studied, measured, and anchored in real-world evidence.
- Building on the intersectoral perspective of the current initiative, EFA believes that a future Plan needs to **embed, enable and emphasize on vertical aspects of governance**. That would entail the further engagement of international, regional, national and local actors in addressing health challenges and contributing to the SDG3. Having a better grasp of what each level can offer and how actions at one level translate and diffuse to the others can lead to better results, replicable all along the policy chain. Finally, such an approach would result in a comprehensive action plan that enables collaborative schemes and participation, taking full advantage of civil society experiences and resources in the area of health and well-being.
- When it comes to multilateral initiatives in the area of health and particularly the health-related goals of SDG3, it is **important to have all relevant UN agencies and programs on board**. For example, the UN Environmental Programme should be part of the discussions on challenges as persistent as air pollution.

Submitted on 2 July 2019 by Panagiotis Chaslaridis, Policy Officer at the European Federation of Allergy and Airways Diseases Patients' Associations.