



Collaboration with the European Commissioner for Health and Animal Welfare

On January 15, 2025, Mr. Olivér Várhelyi, European Commissioner for Health and Animal Welfare participated to the EUDF strategy workshop.

It was a great honor to welcome the Commissioner. The Commissioner announced that the Commission will prepare a plan covering the cardiovascular-diabetes-obesity triangle, which would focus on prevention, early detection and equitable access to care.

This mounting political pressure for action on diabetes and related diseases is timelier than ever due to the disease's escalating prevalence but also due to greater therapeutic efficacy and improved prevention strategies. It is time to take full advantage of present and future therapeutical solutions through a pan-European strategy.

The diabetes community fully supports the intention to take the European Cancer Plan as an example for addressing diabetes and other chronic diseases. The Cancer Plan's success in bringing innovative treatments to people demonstrates the transformative power of promoting and funding clinical trials.

- **Promoting Clinical Trials:** Clinical trials are essential for turning groundbreaking research into accessible treatments. While the EU has funded extraordinary diabetes research, implementing these discoveries at scale requires dedicated investments in clinical trials.
- **Learning from the Cancer Plan:** The Cancer Plan highlights how strategic funding can overcome barriers, accelerate innovation, and deliver life-saving treatments to patients. By adopting a similar framework for diabetes care, we can achieve comparable progress and ensure that no one is left behind.
- **Addressing Bottlenecks:** the diabetes community will collaborate to identify obstacles and policy barriers, preventing the rapid adoption of existing and new treatments, ensuring that all European citizens living with diabetes irrespective of where they live and of their individual circumstances, have timely access to pharmaceutical, digital, and technological innovations and to new approaches to care and education.
- **Promising Research:** Together with research, academic and industry partners, the diabetes community can update the Commission on promising research in the field of diabetes and pinpoint where additional and more targeted funding is needed for research and testing of new approaches.

By committing to funded clinical trials and building on the model of the Cancer Plan, we can bridge the gap between research and implementation, transforming diabetes care for millions across Europe.



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What also made the Beating Cancer Plan successful was its focus on ensuring that its approach was grounded in the understanding that only care that is person-centred and co-created with all key stakeholders, including people with lived experience, can deliver successful outcomes and reduce disparities at European level.

The Commissioner highlighted the **vital role of health data** as the next raw material and how data must be optimally used as a competitive advantage to bring innovative treatments faster to the people who need them and to keep Europe competitive at the global level.

- EUDF has been advocating for the need of comprehensive data collection, facilitated data sharing and optimal use of data to improve and enable state of the art clinical care, policymaking, and research.
- EUDF published recommendations on diabetes data registries and convened people working on diabetes registries from all member states to draw a European map of dedicated data collection.

The Commissioner emphasized the **importance of early detection and screening** as the first line of action to prevent and/or to optimally manage diabetes after diagnosis with effective and personalized treatments. One in three of all people living with diabetes in the EU are unaware of their condition.

- An optimal use of health data will be crucial to predict what is ahead at the individual level and intervene appropriately.
- The diabetes community can support the Commission on how to roll-out early detection and screening programs for all forms of diabetes (type 1, type 2, monogenic, secondary,...), enabling the accurate diagnosis and initiation of appropriate tailored treatments.
- Health check programs would also enable detection of people at risk of diabetes, obesity, cardiovascular disease, and loss of kidney function.

EUDF stands ready to support the Commission's efforts with our unique scientific expertise and collaborative network, which brings together Europe's leading scientists, people living with diabetes, clinicians, European and national diabetes associations and industry.





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The diabetes community offer is aligned with the Commissioner's request to the united diabetes community: "I need science, background, and content to base my policies on."

- **Providing Expert Information:** The Commission can rely on EUDF and its partners to provide all the necessary data, insights, good practices and evidence-based recommendations to take informed decisions. This includes ensuring that the needs and preferences of all people living with diabetes and those at risk are fully understood and considered in developing and implementing the required treatment and care options to move the needle on diabetes and CVD.
- **Translating Research into Policy:** The diabetes community can help bridge the gap between groundbreaking research and actionable policy, ensuring that discoveries lead to meaningful improvements in diabetes care.
- **Prioritizing Actions:** In the face of limited resources, EUDF can offer targeted advice to help the Commission to identify and prioritize the most impactful actions for improving diabetes outcomes across Europe.

Together, we can ensure that innovative treatment options reach people living with diabetes, transforming research into real-world solutions that make a difference in their lives.

EUDF shared the diabetes community proposal for the development of a modern and effective treatment for diabetes and the prevention of its complications in the diabetes community pledge. It has been signed by all the representatives of key European stakeholders; it is a testament to our shared commitment to improving the lives of millions of people with diabetes, and ensuring that they can remain active citizens of our societies.

EUDF and its partners are keen to continue the dialogue and to assist the Commissioner and his team in developing the plan.

