Open Call to Youth Organizations in the World Health Organization (WHO) European Region

Online Consultation on the Voices of Future Generations

Deadline: 20 May 2021

Youth Organizations, have your say! Shape tomorrow by speaking up today!

How can you participate?
Youth organizations formally established as nongovernmental entities with non-profit, public-interest goals are invited to present their views. This could include, for example, grassroots community organizations, civil society groups and networks, faith-based organizations and professional groups with members not older than 30 years of age.

Your organization is invited to:
- Consider the Commission's statement 'Rethinking policy priorities in the light of pandemics';
- Reflect on how the actions proposed in this statement address the needs of future generations;
- Consult with members of your youth organization to consolidate your feedback to this call;
- Enter your organization's inputs in the SurveyMonkey (link);
- If you have a story you wish to share, reach out to us at eurofuturegenerations@who.int

To participate, your youth organization or chapter should have active membership anywhere in the 53 Member States of the geographical WHO European Region. Individual or anonymous responses will not be considered.

If you have any questions about this Online Consultation, please write to eurofuturegenerations@who.int prior to the deadline.

Background:

The Pan-European Commission on Health and Sustainable Development is an independent commission convened by Dr Hans Henri P. Kluge, Regional Director of the WHO European Region, and chaired by Professor Mario Monti, to rethink policy priorities on health and sustainable development in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 16 March 2021, the Pan-European Commission on Health and Sustainable Development released a Call to Action. It reflects on how health and sustainable development should be prioritized to set systems and societies on the right track for present and future generations to come, calling on national and supranational bodies for:

1. operationalizing the concept of One Health at all levels;
2. acting at all levels of societies to fix the fractures that left so many people vulnerable to the pandemic;
3. making changes to the global financial system;
4. promoting global public goods for sustainable improvements in health;
5. supporting innovation in health systems.

More details on the actions proposed can be found in this link. After reflecting on the list of actions proposed:

Tell us what you think can be done to help protect and benefit future generations under each of the actions proposed:

1. **Operationalizing the concept of 'One Health' at all levels.** The 'One Health' approach is a holistic view of how humans, animals, and the environment all interact together. It is critical to addressing health threats, including infectious respiratory diseases, such as COVID-19. The areas of work in which a 'One Health' approach is particularly relevant include: food safety; the control of zoonotic diseases (those spread between animals and humans); laboratory services; neglected tropical diseases; environmental

health; antimicrobial resistance. All these areas cover complex issues that require close collaboration across sectors, stakeholders and countries.

Insert examples of interventions to better harmonize the sustainable interaction between humans, animals, and the environment.

2. **Acting at all levels of societies to fix the fractures that have left so many people vulnerable to the pandemic.** These actions include, for example, making health systems more accessible; addressing inequalities; better identifying vulnerabilities; and, communicating more effectively with populations.

Insert examples of interventions to make societies more resilient, equitable, responsive, and inclusive to all.

3. **Making changes to the global financial system.** The global financial system is the worldwide framework of legal agreements, institutions, and both formal and informal economic actors that together facilitate international flows of financial capital for purposes of investment and trade financing. How should the needs and aspirations of future generations be included in such systems? For example, current government debt will be left to future generations to pay off. In what ways should financial systems support future generations to achieve their aspirations, and not be a barrier for their future prosperity?

Insert what changes are needed in financial policy to ensure the prosperity of future generations.

4. **Promoting global public goods for sustainable improvements in health** (global public goods are public goods that benefit people worldwide, regardless of borders. Examples of global public goods include climate change mitigation efforts, infectious disease eradication, etc.)

Insert examples of global public goods for sustainable improvements in health, and how these should be promoted.

5. **Supporting innovation in health systems (**This includes the discovery and development of medicines, medical technologies, digital solutions and organizational innovations within health systems, as well as enhancing transparency of public–private partnerships and their ability to deliver effective and equitable health care**)**

Insert examples of innovations for health systems that would better attend to the needs of the youth and future generations.

6. **Infodemics – the overabundance, false or misleading information (**What have been the experiences of youth in seeking out health information (for example, regarding COVID-19)? Where do you seek out health information? What determines it as reliable, trustworthy, or useful?**)**

Insert examples of ways youth consume health information, and how health information can be better framed, made available, and communicated towards youth.

7. **Digital Technology and Health Systems.** The pandemic has shown both the potential and shortfalls in the use of digital technologies in health and health systems: What can we do to better exploit the potential of digital technologies, and how can we avoid some of the pitfalls (i.e., privacy issues, creating inequalities) and overcome these shortcomings? What are some examples of technologies that have been used well in health care? How should we embrace digital technology innovations in health care?

Insert examples of how digital technology can support youth with their health and interaction with health care.

- Are other concrete measures needed? For example, think about changes in the health and social care system, in how services are financed, digitalization of healthcare, research and innovation, consumption and production of goods, migration, gender equality, disability inclusion, etc.

  Please insert your response (max 2500 characters)

- In operationalizing this call to action, how do you recommend governments and international organizations to engage with youth? For example, how can the participation and voices of youth be institutionalized in decision-making bodies, advisory groups or similar engagement mechanisms, or in the adoption of specific laws and regulations, etc.

  Please insert your response (max 2500 characters)

- To elaborate on your response to the previous question, please share examples of how youth have been meaningfully engaged in past decisions that affected their health and well-being, from agenda-setting, decision-making, and implementation of actions:

  Please insert your response (max 5000 characters)

  Add document, weblinks or similar to support the example(s) shared.