

Investing in Europe's recovery: forging the future



Resilient healthcare systems



ISSUE

COVID-19 has demonstrated the critical importance of the life science sector and the ecosystems that support healthcare research and innovation. Investment in healthcare brings value to European citizens and the economy, building resilience in health systems and preparedness for potential future pandemics.



PRINCIPLES

- **Strengthen public health crises frameworks:** We welcome the European Health Union initiative and encourage the Commission to consider simplified EMA/ECDC emergency processes for deployment of approved vaccines and treatments and European-wide emergency authorisations for medical devices and In-Vitro Diagnostics.
- **Resilient global supply chains:** EU collaboration with international partners, notably the US, and stakeholders to improve global supply chain flexibility and resilience is key. We advocate for a strengthening of open trade and caution against trade restrictive or protectionist measures that may impact on production.
- **Investments in healthcare innovation:** Policy-makers should see healthcare as an investment, rather than merely a cost. Next Generation EU, RescEU, EU4Health and Horizon Europe must provide an integrated, forward-looking budget to encourage life sciences R&I and improve healthcare systems' infrastructure.
- **A world-class IP incentives ecosystem:** The EU must ensure a world-class IP incentives framework to attract investment in biopharmaceutical innovation benefitting patients, particularly those with rare or paediatric diseases. We welcome the broad objectives of the Pharmaceutical Strategy for Europe to address unmet medical need and to encourage healthcare innovation, but caution against weakening the existing ecosystem of incentives that have helped deliver life-changing treatments for patients.
- **Capitalise on the digital transition:** Access to high-quality interoperable data and standardised eHealth records will drive advancements in AI, the use of Real-World Evidence/Data in clinical trials and more. Sensitive health-related data must be used in a trusted manner to catalyse Europe's recovery and data-driven innovation. This can be facilitated by a strong European Health Data Space, but data sharing must be considered in a global context to deliver its true potential and ensure innovation is unhindered.
- **More adaptive regulatory frameworks:** Flexible approaches incorporating HTA and payer frameworks will accelerate patient access to innovative healthcare solutions. We call for increased administrative support at EMA to facilitate shorter approval times and simplified post-approval processes while continuing to ensure the quality and safety of our technologies.
- **Rethinking our models of care:** Making our health systems more resilient means ensuring that all patients receive the treatment they need – pandemic or not. Rethinking provision of care includes an increased focus on prevention, early diagnosis and on keeping patients out of the hospital by moving care closer to communities.