



SAFEGUARD LIFESAVING EUROPEAN SCIENCE:

A call to action for Team Europe to champion health innovation to protect future generations

Dear Team Europe representative(s),

We send this letter to you in solidarity with the global health research community, which is today facing an unprecedented challenge to its very foundation. We represent a diversity of roles and walks of life across the European public health community, from leading researchers and students to civil society advocates and scientific partners across the world. Together, we call upon Team Europe – the European Union and its Member States – to do everything in its power to uphold the integrity of science in Europe and around the world.

Science has the power to shape a better, safer, and healthier world. Through scientific excellence, we continue to develop innovations to address multiple global challenges, from sustainability and health to climate change and the digital transformation.

Europe maintains a longstanding tradition of global scientific leadership. Driven by freedom of enquiry, the contributions of European-supported science to global public health cannot be overstated. In the last 25 years, Team Europe's investments in neglected disease research and innovation (R&I) alone have saved almost 1 million lives, while investments in COVID-19 R&I were instrumental in delivering multiple life-saving vaccines. Moreover, experts estimate that every €1 of R&I activity ultimately generates €5.67 in additional output in Europe.¹

But the true potential of science for society can only be realised through independent, responsible, and evidence-based practice in service of the human right to freely participate in and benefit from science.

Today, this foundation is under threat.

Policy shifts from the United States are jeopardizing scientific independence, environmental protections, and public health initiatives across the world, Europe included. These actions compromise global disease surveillance, undermine decades of progress in public health, and hinder international collaboration and data sharing so crucial to addressing the threat of existing and future pandemics. The immediate impact of the cuts is huge—halting vital clinical trials, in areas including sexual and reproductive health, HIV and TB treatment and prevention, and cancer drugs, and leading to the loss of over 175,000 jobs worldwide.

It has never been more urgent to preserve and strengthen Europe's R&I ecosystem. The current situation presents a unique opportunity: to take leadership, accelerate innovation, and attract and nurture talent.

¹ Impact Global Health. (2025). [Global health R&D makes a strong investment case for Team Europe](#).

With the legislative proposal for the next European Framework Programme for R&I (FP10) set to be published by the European Commission this summer, we call upon Team Europe to step up and commit to:

Increase investments in R&I as key drivers of Europe's competitiveness and strategic resilience *by* **securing at least €200 billion for FP10 with at least 10% earmarked for health;**

Prioritise global cooperation in health R&I to more effectively address health challenges that transcend national borders *by* **strengthening support for international research partnerships that mobilise expertise around the world;** and

Promote collaborative, open science and equitable and affordable access to public health solutions, in Europe and globally, *by* **attaching enforceable conditions to European R&I funding in support of these principles.**

At this critical juncture, the path forward is clear. Reinforcing Europe's commitment to global health R&I will safeguard health, drive prosperity, and position scientific outputs as global public goods for generations to come.

This is not just the right thing to do, it's the smart thing to do.

Sincerely,

The undersigned

