EN
E-004765/2020
Answer given by Ms Kyriakides
on behalf of the European Commission
(13.11.2020)

As referred in its reply to written question E-003786/2020, the Commission approaches non-communicable diseases, including structural heart disease, by focusing on prevention across policy fields, combined with efforts to strengthen health systems. The Commission has set up a Steering Group on Health Promotion, Disease Prevention and Management of Non-Communicable Diseases to support exchanges of experience, policies and best practices between the Member States.

To improve prevention and to strengthen health systems the Commission has proposed a standalone EU4Health health programme[1]. It is still under consideration by the co-legislators. It is premature to indicate future projects that can be considered.

The Commission will publish in early 2021 a Green Paper on Ageing, based on the Report on the impact of demographic change[2] to launch a debate on the impacts of ageing in Europe, including healthy and active ageing, and the required crosscutting and comprehensive policy responses.

The 2016-2020 Strategic Plan of the Directorate General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture recognises the impact of demographic ageing and attaches great important to lifelong learning. The symptoms of age-related diseases not fall within its competences.

The Commission agrees on the need for Member State joint actions on this issue. The Commission co-funds two relevant projects called CHRODIS PLUS[3] and YOUNG50[4] that promote implementation of successful policies and practices.

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[1] https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX:52020PC0405
[2] https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/new-push-european-democracy/impact-demographic-change-europe_en
[3] CHRODIS PLUS is a three-year initiative (2017-2020) which, among other areas, focuses on cardiovascular diseases: http://chrodis.eu/
[4] YOUNG is being implemented in Lithuania, Romania, Luxembourg and Spain on the basis of a best practice in Italy, called CARDIO 50 project: https://www.young50.eu/