



Research funding and data collection: Addressing the disparities

Health economics



- Collect **economic data at national level** to achieve a better understanding of the associated costs and burden.
- Improve **vital statistics** and other types of **health data** that inform evidence-based policies.
- Perform **further cost-analyses** of the impact of chronic diseases, comorbidities, and complications to strengthen health economic data.
- Support the implementation of an **EU registry of non-communicable diseases** to allow a harmonised and centralized mechanism for the collection, monitoring and analysis of data on chronic diseases at EU level.

Research



- **Identify barriers** to conducting research in neglected areas to inform the development of effective strategies that encourage increased research activity and funding.
- **Prioritize** funding and research efforts in **disease areas with significant gaps** such as irritable bowel syndrome, pancreatitis, and alcohol-related liver diseases.
- Increase levels of research and funding for **neglected digestive cancers**, such as pancreatic cancers, to allow non-invasive population-based screening, particularly in higher at risk groups.
- Invest in **interdisciplinary research on primary and secondary prevention** of chronic digestive diseases including digestive cancers and foster **international collaborations** to facilitate analyses in large multi-national cohorts.
- Distribute **Horizon Europe grants** to fund research on **underfunded conditions** like irritable bowel syndrome, gastroesophageal reflux disease, eosinophilic oesophagitis and coeliac disease, ensuring resources reach areas with limited or no funding.
- Incorporate perspectives from **marginalized and disadvantaged patient groups** to guide research priorities and decisions on further avenues of study.
- Implement coordinated strategies to enhance surveillance, research activity, and funding, facilitating **collaboration and targeted support**.

This paper has been produced by United European Gastroenterology (UEG) in January 2024. UEG is a professional non-profit organisation combining all the leading European medical specialists and national societies focusing on digestive health. For more information visit www.ueg.eu.

Resources

1. Michl, P, Lohr, M, Neoptolemos, JP, Capurso, G, Rebours, V, Malats, N, et al. (2021) UEG position paper on pancreatic cancer. Bringing pancreatic cancer to the 21st century: prevent, detect, and treat the disease earlier and better. United European Gastroenterol J. 2021; 9(7): 860– 871. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ueg2.12123>
2. Rose, TC, Pennington, A, Kyridemos, C, Chen, T, Subhani, M, Hanefeld, J, et al. Analysis of the burden and economic impact of digestive diseases and investigation of research gaps and priorities in the field of digestive health in the European Region—White Book 2: executive summary. United European Gastroenterol J. 2022; 10(7): 659–64. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ueg2.12298>
3. ECDA (2023) Recommendations to advance NCDs prevention and management in the EU ([accessible here](#)).