



Press Release

Luxembourg, 19 December 2019

Auditors across the EU scrutinise public health

An overview of how auditors across the European Union scrutinise public health has been published today by the European Court of Auditors (ECA) on behalf of the Contact Committee of EU supreme audit institutions (SAIs). Altogether 24 SAIs have contributed to this second Audit Compendium of the Contact Committee.

Public health is mainly the responsibility of the Member States, resulting in considerable differences between health systems. The EU supports efforts at national level with a specific focus on complementing or coordinating the Member States' actions. Over the last few decades, national health systems have been facing numerous challenges, such as ever-rising costs, ageing populations, or patients as well as healthcare professionals becoming more and more mobile.

“Public health requires coordinated efforts between the EU and its Member States, and the topic will undoubtedly continue to command a prominent place on the political agenda for generations to come”, said the President of the European Court of Auditors, Klaus-Heiner Lehne. “It is therefore essential to raise awareness of recent audit findings across the EU.”

The *Compendium* provides some background information on public health, its legal bases, main objectives and related responsibilities at Member State and EU levels. The *Compendium* also illustrates the main challenges the EU and its Member States are facing in this field. Public health is a complex area to audit. Nevertheless, the large number of audits carried out in recent years reflects the great significance of this domain for EU citizens.

The *Compendium* draws on recent results of audits carried out by the ECA and the SAIs of 23 EU Member States: Belgium, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Germany, Estonia, Ireland, Greece, Spain, France, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Hungary, Malta, Austria, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia and Finland. These audits addressed important performance aspects and scrutinised different public health issues, such as prevention and protection, access to and quality of health services, the use of new technologies and eHealth, as well as the fiscal sustainability of public health services.

The purpose of this press release is to give the main messages of the audit compendium by the [Contact Committee](#) of the EU Supreme Audit Institutions and the European Court of Auditors.

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Notes to editors

This audit compendium is a product of cooperation between the SAIs of the EU and its Member States within the framework of the EU Contact Committee. It is designed as a source of information for everyone interested in this important policy field and will shortly be available in 23 EU languages on the EU [Contact Committee website](#).

It is the second edition of the Contact Committee's Audit Compendium. The first edition on [youth unemployment and the integration of young people into the labour market](#) was published in June 2018.

The Contact Committee is an autonomous, independent and non-political assembly of the heads of SAIs of the EU and its Member States. It provides a forum to discuss and address matters of common interest relating to the EU. By strengthening dialogue and cooperation between its members, the Contact Committee contributes to an effective and independent external audit of EU policies and programmes.