

Poland's health policy priorities during its first Presidency of the Council of the European Union from 1 July to 31 December 2011 covered the following issues:

- Disease prevention and early detection, treatment of chronic respiratory diseases in children,
- Early detection and treatment of communication disorders in children,
- E-health and innovation in the healthcare sector,
- Promotion of healthy lifestyle,
- Healthy ageing,
- Prevention of neurodegenerative diseases, including Alzheimer's disease,
- Research in brain diseases,
- Pharmacovigilance.

What health priorities will Poland choose for its second Presidency of the Council of the European Union from January to June 2025?

- Rare diseases? Poland has a rare disease plan, a good newborn screening programme and improved access to drug therapies.
- Cardiology? This area of medicine has not yet been identified as a health priority by any Presidency. Moreover, Poland has the National Cardiovascular Programme and KOS-Zawał.
- Treatment of solid tumours and blood cancer?
- Diseases of the brain – neurology and psychiatry?
- Prevention and health education addressing lifestyle diseases to reduce risk factors, such as smoking, alcoholism and obesity?
- Infectious diseases, such as COVID-19, HCV and life-course vaccination?
- Drug safety?
- Digitization in the healthcare system?

This is a topic that we will be discussing with a wide range of stakeholders in the coming months, including in the context of the activities of the Institute for Social Policy Development.



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**HEALTH PRIORITIES
OF THE MEMBER STATES UNDER
THE PRESIDENCY OF THE COUNCIL
OF THE EUROPEAN UNION
2011–2023**



Institute For Social Policy Development

The Council of the European Union is an important decision-making body of the European Union (EU). The tasks of the Council of the European Union include:

1. The negotiation and adoption of European Union law;
2. The coordination of Member States' policies in the fields of economic and fiscal policy, education, culture, youth and sport, and employment;
3. The development of a common EU foreign and security policy, covering development and humanitarian aid, defence and trade, as well as the unity, consistency and effectiveness of the EU's external action;
4. The conclusion of international agreements, which may cover broad areas (such as trade, cooperation and development aid) or specific subjects (such as textiles, medicines, vaccines, human products, fisheries, customs, transport, research or technology);
5. The adoption of the European Union budget.

The Presidency of the Council of the European Union is not elected. Since 2009, under the Treaty of Lisbon, Member States have held the Presidency of the Council of the European Union for six months in turn, working closely together in groups of three countries (trios). Accordingly, each country holds the Presidency every thirteen and a half years. Poland held the first Presidency of the Council of the European Union from 1 July to 31 December 2011, while the second Presidency will take place from 1 January to 30 June 2025.

The Presidencies of the Council of the European Union from 2011 to 2026 – from the first to the second Polish Presidency.

Timeframe	Presidency of the Council of the EU by groups (trios)
January 2025 – June 2026	Poland, Cyprus, Denmark
July 2023 – December 2024	Spain, Belgium, Hungary
January 2022 – June 2023	France, Czechia, Sweden
July 2020 – December 2021	Germany, Portugal, Slovenia
January 2019 – June 2020	Romania, Finland, Croatia
July 2017 – December 2018	Estonia, Bulgaria, Austria
January 2016 – June 2017	Netherlands, Slovakia, Malta
July 2014 – December 2015	Italy, Latvia, Luxembourg
January 2013 – June 2014	Ireland, Lithuania, Greece
July 2011 – December 2012	Poland, Denmark, Cyprus

Each trio sets long-term goals and prepares a common agenda of topics and issues that the Council will address for 18 months. On the basis of the common agenda, each of the three countries develops its own, more detailed programme for its six-month Presidency of the Council.

The following is a cross-country analysis of the health priorities of the Council of the European Union Presidencies from 2011 to 2023. Of the health priorities analysed in the context of each Member State's Presidency agendas from the Polish Presidency in the second half of 2011 to the Spanish Presidency in the second half of 2023, most countries (13) have identified activities in the area of health technologies, both medical devices and medicines. Twelve countries indicated activities related to health innovation, including e-health, in their agendas. Nine countries' agendas addressed the issue of cross-border health threats, including the COVID -19 pandemic. Eight countries included the need for a European Health Data Space in their agendas.

The health priorities of the current Spanish Presidency for the period from 1 July to 31 December 2023:

- Improving the protection of vulnerable patient groups,
- Fostering preparedness and response initiatives for facing new health alerts,
- Aligning the European health agenda with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Agenda 2030) and the One Health approach,
- Creation of a European Health Data Space (EHDS),
- A Regulation on standards of quality and safety for substances of human origin intended for human application (SoHO),
- Strengthening the European Medicines Agency (EMA),
- Disease prevention and health promotion culture in the European Union with respect to issues such as childhood obesity and lifelong vaccination,
- Strengthening the capabilities of health systems in areas where the pandemic has exposed shortcomings, such as strategic autonomy in healthcare provision,
- New actions on HIV and mental illness.

Health priorities in Presidency agendas by thematic area and number of countries that chose them, 2011–2023:

