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# Commission Publishes Summary and Responses to the Consultation on the Ongoing Review of the Digital Markets Act



The European Commission published recently a [summary and the individual contributions](#) received in response to the consultation on the ongoing review of the **Digital Markets Act (DMA)**.

The Commission welcomes the high level of participation, with over 450 contributions submitted by a broad range of interested parties, including small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), gatekeepers, civil society organisations, academics, and individual citizens. The contributions generally show respondents' broad support for the DMA's objectives and indicate that the regulation has already brought benefits. Some contributions ask to strengthen interoperability, data access and data portability, as well as support for SMEs. Some also ask to expand the DMA's scope, particularly in relation to AI and cloud services. Gatekeepers on the other hand expressed criticisms such as regarding impact on user experience, as well as concerns about proportionality.

The assessment of these contributions will feed into **the Commission's review report to be presented by 3 May 2026 to the European Parliament, the Council, and the European Economic and Social Committee**. The regular review of the DMA every three years is a legal requirement, mandated by the regulation itself, to ensure that the DMA meets its objectives and maintains its effectiveness in the evolving landscape of digital markets.

The [public consultation](#), which was launched on 3 July 2025 as part of the ongoing review, was accompanied by a [call for evidence](#) and a dedicated [questionnaire on Artificial Intelligence \(AI\)](#), which were published on 26 August 2025. The [contributions to the call for evidence](#) are already public.

# New Measures to Make EU Health Sector More Innovative, Competitive and Resilient



The European Commission has recently proposed an ambitious package of measures to **improve the health of EU citizens, while ensuring the long-term resilience and competitiveness of the health sector.**

The package includes a Biotech Act, revised rules for medical devices, and a Safe Hearts Plan, which will:

- strengthen the EU biotechnology sector;
- accelerate the development of innovative new treatments and therapies for patients;
- make rules for the development of medical devices from lab to market simpler and more efficient for EU companies, while ensuring a very high level of patient safety;
- tackle Europe's leading cause of death, cardiovascular diseases, with a comprehensive EU approach to prevent, detect, and treat them in time.

Together, these initiatives will contribute to a **more modern, efficient, and resilient health ecosystem for all EU citizens**, while incentivising growth and innovation in this strategic sector.

## Biotech Act

Biotechnology is one of the fastest growing sectors in the EU. It currently accounts for more than 900 000 jobs – 75% of which are in the health sector – and contributes close to **€40 billion to the European economy**. Biotech can revolutionise healthcare, as a source of ground-breaking new treatments and therapies, more precise diagnoses and personalised medicines. However, as clearly pointed out in the [Draghi report](#), the EU is lagging behind global competitors in this area, due to insufficient funding, regulatory bottlenecks and barriers to innovation.

**The proposed Biotech Act will increase Europe's biotechnology potential by supporting the transition of innovative ideas from laboratory to market. It will explore new means of funding and investment for biotech companies, through a new health biotech investment pilot to be developed in cooperation with the EIB Group. It will aim to boost bio-manufacturing via targeted support.**

**The Act will incentivise companies to conduct research and production within Europe, accelerate clinical trials authorisations across countries, and fast-track the development of cutting-edge new therapies using AI, data and regulatory sandboxes. Furthermore, it will simplify EU regulations to reduce costs and burdens for companies. For complex innovative products it will establish single regulatory pathways.** Ultimately the Act aims to build a world-leading health biotech industry that delivers for European patients.

## Safe Hearts Plan

Cardiovascular diseases are the leading cause of premature death in the EU and they are preventable. They kill 1.7 million Europeans every year. Without urgent action, cardiovascular diseases are [projected](#) to rise by 90% by 2050. Furthermore, cardiovascular diseases [cost the European economy €282 billion annually](#).

The Safe Hearts Plan is the **first ever comprehensive EU approach to tackling this immense public health challenge**. It presents targeted measures to improve prevention, detection and treatment of cardiovascular diseases.

**The Plan improves heart health by helping individuals with personalised disease prediction tools and therapies, while addressing risk factors like tobacco, unhealthy diets, and alcohol. It seeks to bridge research gaps and integrate data, digital solutions and artificial intelligence to strengthen health systems. With levels of early cardiovascular deaths varying significantly across EU countries, the Plan emphasises reducing health inequalities and improving access to healthcare and therapies.** For example, the Commission will support Member States in developing national cardiovascular health plans, establish dashboards monitoring health inequalities, and launch an Incubator to speed up the use of AI. Beyond public health benefits, the Safe Hearts Plan also strives to bolster the EU economy and stimulate innovation in cardiovascular care, with clear goals set for 2035.

## Medical Devices

The EU is a world leader in medical devices. The sector employs close to one million people, mostly in small and medium-sized enterprises, and the EU market is worth around €170 billion. However, current EU rules are creating unnecessary costs, bottlenecks, uncertainty for companies, and delays for patients.

The plan's proposals will simplify EU rules for medical devices, support the digitalisation of procedures, and offer a coherent framework so that companies can respond to changing market conditions and patient needs. To speed up access to medical devices and guarantee a continuous supply, timelines to complete conformity assessments will be introduced.

A stronger role for the European Medicines Agency (EMA) will strengthen coordination at EU level while companies will be offered more scientific, technical and regulatory expertise. The EMA will also monitor shortages of medical devices, and a list of critical devices will be created. The reform will ensure that patient safety remains the highest priority, while enabling faster access to safe and innovative devices and strengthening the EU's competitiveness in this vital sector. Finally, the proposal will ensure uniform and coherent rules for medical devices incorporating AI applications. Altogether, these measures should lead to **overall cost savings of €3.3 billion per year**, including €2.4 billion annual administrative savings.

## Next Steps

**The legislative proposals for a Biotech Act and simplification of the Medical Devices and In vitro Diagnostics Regulations will now be submitted to the European Parliament and the Council for adoption.**

# Building Europe's Research and Innovation Communities



The effects of cross-border research and innovation projects are not felt evenly across the EU. Some countries face obstacles such as less developed infrastructure, difficulties retaining skilled talent, and structural barriers at the regional or national level. This is particularly the case in **Poland and Portugal**, which ends up limiting their involvement in high-impact projects and reducing the benefits they gain from EU research and innovation. Launched in 2024 to address the hurdles these two countries face, the EU-funded [Unite.WIDENING](#) project is working to accelerate reforms and competence building by strengthening collaboration across Europe.

## Kicking off training

With research and innovation excellence as its goals, the project held its first Unite.WIDENING Training Action in Autrans, France, from 3 to 7 November 2025. Titled ‘Building Research Communities’, the event brought together 12 researchers from project partner Wrocław University of Science and Technology (Poland) and project coordinator University of Lisbon (Portugal). The goal was to explore how research communities form, expand and endure across institutional and disciplinary boundaries. Participants had the opportunity to work with researchers from the nine universities in the [Unite! European university alliance](#), of which Unite.WIDENING is a part. “This proximity helped initiate concrete collaborations, identify shared research interests and outline concrete next steps, and foster early-stage research communities,” reports a ‘Unite!WIDENING’ [news item](#). Four areas were prioritised: **health and biotech, urban and resource sustainability, circular economy and materials, and digital and autonomous technologies**. The programme eschewed traditional lectures in favour of practical methods and shared tools for building long-term research partnerships. These included a matchmaking session promoting new collaborations, success stories of projects that have grown into larger initiatives, a session presenting useful tools for researchers and workshops. The event was the first in Unite.WIDENING’s training series that comprises 21 training actions, a number of workshops and four staff weeks – all intended to improve the research capacity of participating institutions and strengthen collaborative ties within the Unite! alliance. The training series will continue throughout 2026 and 2027.

## Connecting academia and industry

‘Digital Campus Hub for companies and SMEs Presentation’, another Unite.WIDENING initiative, focused on fostering collaboration between universities and industry. This was held in two sessions in the second half of November – one at the University of Lisbon and the other at Wrocław University of Science and Technology. At these two hybrid events, representatives from universities, research centres and businesses came together to explore new opportunities for collaboration in innovation and digital transformation. The initiative

centred around the [AGORA digital platform](#) that was inspired by the ancient Greek concept of the agora as a meeting place where people gathered to trade goods and exchange ideas. The platform provides a shared digital space where universities and businesses can access acceleration services and share resources, knowledge and expertise. It was created by another EU-funded project, [aUPaEU](#), that brings together five academic institutions from the Unite! and [EPiCUR](#) university alliances to accelerate the transformation of higher education institutions across Europe. The Digital Campus event showcased the AGORA platform's first features: access to digital resources, virtual mobility and integrated collaboration tools. Through Unite.WIDENING (Raise excellence in R&S&I in HEI for widening countries), future efforts will revolve around extending the platform's reach beyond academia to industry partners.

# Women Need to Work 15½ Months to Earn What Men Make in a Year According to New Data Sources from EIGE’s Gender Equality Index 2025



**Despite progress across Europe, full gender equality remains at least 50 years away, according to EIGE’s 2025 Gender Equality Index which introduces new indicators and a renewed pace of change...**

Other key findings from the Index include:

- **The EU Gender Equality Index score for 2025 is 63.4 out of 100**
- **Progress is uneven, ranging from 47.6 (Cyprus) to 73.7 (Sweden)**
- **Impressive gains in economic decision-making result from ambitious legislation**
- **Most Member States have seen gender equality setbacks in health and education**

The European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) can today reveal that women across the EU earn just 77% of what men earn annually. This means they must work on average 15 months and 18 days to take home the same as men in a year.

This shocking earnings gap between women and men is exposed by EIGE’s Gender Equality Index 2025. The annual report, which tracks Europe’s progress towards full equality, gives the EU an overall score of **63.4** out of 100.

While that’s up 10.5 points since 2010, at the current and renewed pace, it means we are still a half-century away from full gender equality.

**“Put simply, women are working the equivalent of an entire ‘ghost quarter’ for free. Those three months and 18 days that are lost to the earnings gap each year are unfair. They’re a brake on equality and competitiveness for all of Europe,”** says EIGE Director, Carlien Scheele.

The “ghost quarter” economics outlined in the report matter because those lost months represent time not spent with family, studying, training or resting. And it compounds across pensions and lifetime income.

The Index tracks progress across the six domains of work, money, knowledge, time, power and health, ranking performance on a scale of 0 to 100 (which means full gender equality). It also monitors violence against women and intersecting inequalities, taking into account multiple life factors such as age, sexual orientation, disability or a migrant background.

- **Work:** The Index shows women’s employment is growing, but few reach managerial, ICT or higher-paid roles. And, while parenthood advances men’s career prospects, it restricts them for women.

- **Money:** Women earn 77% of men's annual earnings (up from 69% in 2015), while women in couples earn on average 30% less than their partners.
- **Knowledge:** Young women outperform men in higher education but are steered into 'caring professions like education, health or social work which are typically undervalued, leading to limited opportunities in leadership and pay.'
- **Time:** Women continue to shoulder most unpaid care and housework, limiting their engagement in leisure and public life.
- **Power:** This measure of gender equality in decision-making across politics, economics and society, has been the main driver of progress in the Index since 2020. Yet, despite these gains, it is still the lowest scoring domain (40.5) due to persistent inequalities.
- **Health:** While this is the highest domain score (86.2), progress has stagnated, and inequalities persist as far as health behaviours and the amount of healthy life years especially for women with low education. Here, we see men falling behind in engaging in healthy behaviours such as smoking and drinking.

The Index also finds that violence against women remains pervasive and under-reported with data pointing to an alarming 31% of women experiencing physical and/or sexual violence in their adult lives -with higher exposure among women under 45.

**“Europe has inched forward, but far too slowly. The Index shows more women are in work, yet not enough in the jobs that pay well nor at the top tables where budgets are set,”** says Carlien Scheele.

“We need to make equal pay a reality, build care systems that are not just about freeing up women’s time but sharing the load equally with their partners. And setting leadership targets that turn women’s potential into power. This is how we move from progress on paper to gender equality in people’s lives.”