

As per your communication in connection with the circular note of the World Health Organization Council concerning the submission of proposals for innovative funding sources to promote research and development in connection with diseases that disproportionately affect developing countries, please be advised of the following:

Serbia, as a medium-developed European country according to the WHO definition, is characterized by Type I and Type II diseases. Type I diseases include infectious diseases such as hepatitis B and HPV and non-infectious diseases such as diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, malignant diseases and diseases associated with tobacco consumption. Type II diseases according to the same classification include tuberculosis and HIV.

The Ministry of Health of the Republic of Serbia, in compliance with WHO recommendations, recognizes the necessity of establishing a sustainable funding system for health research and development, in particular for diseases that are characteristic for the health condition of Serbia's population. A sustainable research and development system cannot be built without a viable source of funding. In view of this fact, it is necessary to use the existing forms of funding to the maximum and to coordinate all efforts, while at the same time developing new forms of funding to ensure continuing inflow of funds for research and development promotion.

As potential forms of funding we propose the following:

- Excise duty (taxes) on tobacco and alcohol consumption
- Lottery and games of changes
- Incentives for the development of private insurance. Private insurance companies could develop their own centers for research and implementation of new knowledge in the field of health, thereby contributing to R&D efforts
- Incentives for the development of voluntary health insurance
- Public-private partnerships
- Donations and loans

In cases where some of the forms of funding suggested above lack adequate legal basis, it should be provided through the enactment of new laws or amendment of the existing ones and defined in action plans under such laws which would provide for sustainability of specific funding models. Also note that detailed elaboration of each of the above funding models would take some time and would require an expert evaluation by the team.