

## HEARING LOSS IN CHILDREN AND ADULTS

### How Policy Makers Can Help to Change Lives

*Awareness, strategy, and access*

Hearing loss is a global phenomenon. The World Health Organisation (WHO) estimate that by 2050 over 900 million people – or one in every ten people – will have disabling hearing loss due to changing population demographics and increasing exposure to risk factors. As a result, a global resolution on hearing loss has been adopted reaffirming that people with hearing loss can greatly benefit from timely and targeted interventions.

To engage the principles of WHO's resolution on hearing, national policy makers can act:

- Raise awareness of the importance of hearing health, the impact of hearing loss and the benefits of hearing loss treatment among the public and healthcare professionals.
- Promote the need for robust national hearing health strategies including diagnosis, rehabilitation, service and maintenance.
- Introduce a national New Born Hearing Screening Programme.
- Launch a national Over 55 Hearing Screening Programme.
- Acknowledge access to professional hearing care as a right.
- Promote access to effective treatments including hearing aids, bone conduction devices, and cochlear implants.
- Explore and invest in effective methods of prevention and rehabilitation for hearing loss.
- Share best practices among EU Member States.

To discuss hearing loss policy development in your country and global best practice, please contact the Hearing Health Forum EU team via [contact@hearinghealth.eu](mailto:contact@hearinghealth.eu)