

# The EndoCompass Research Roadmap

Policy priorities for better hormone health in Europe



# EndoCompass

Research roadmap for better hormone health

**Hormones affect health and disease from conception to older age. Some of Europe's most costly health challenges are linked to endocrine disease, weakening Europe's capacity to live, work and age well.**

**>66 million**

living with diabetes in Europe

More than half of adults and nearly a third of children are overweight or obese

**440+**

rare endocrine diseases, affecting millions collectively

**Nearly 80,000**

new cases of thyroid cancer each year

**€228 billion**

annual cost of cancer in Europe

**Funding gap**

despite the burden to society, endocrine research receives less than 4% of EU biomedical and health funding

## Investing in endocrine science delivers results

**We need sustained and coordinated investment in research and innovation to improve prevention, diagnosis and treatment of endocrine-related diseases.**

Endocrine research has already led to real innovations that are changing how we treat disease (such as the discovery of GLP-1 therapies that are transforming treatment for obesity and type 2 diabetes).

Endocrine science also contributes to many of the EU's existing health, research and industrial initiatives. Hormone health must be recognised in national and EU policies if these wider ambitions are to be achieved.

## EndoCompass Research Roadmap – a shared framework for investment

No single country can tackle these challenges alone. Progress requires coordinated action at national and EU level to support collaboration and enable high-impact research.

The [EndoCompass Research Roadmap](#), published by the European Society for Paediatric Endocrinology (ESPE) and the European Society of Endocrinology (ESE) in October 2025, sets out a shared vision for endocrine science, developed by experts from across Europe.



**228**

**Endocrine Experts**

Developed by clinicians and researchers covering all endocrine specialties



**10**

**Specialist Partners**

A collaborative effort involving partner organisations across Europe



**8**

**Patient Advocacy Groups**

Recognising the vital role of the patients' voice in identifying research priorities



**14**

**Chapters**

A framework that spans 8 endocrine specialties and 6 overarching areas

A policy paper, [The EndoCompass Research Roadmap – Policy Priorities for Better Hormone Health in Europe](#), published in May 2026, identifies four areas where targeted investment and action can make the biggest difference, summarised on the next page.

## Four priorities for investment in endocrine research

### 1. Tackling high-prevalence endocrine diseases – diabetes, obesity and metabolism

#### Invest in:

- **Genetic and molecular research** to improve understanding of disease mechanisms and differences in treatment response.
- **Research into hormonal signalling between the brain and other organs** to understand how they affect appetite, metabolism and energy balance.
- **Long-term cohort studies integrating environmental and biological data** to understand how diet, stress and environmental exposures contribute to metabolic diseases across the life course.
- **Programmes that translate scientific discoveries into new, personalised therapeutic strategies.**

### 2. Addressing the endocrine causes and consequences of cancer

#### Invest in:

- **Evidence on hormone-based therapies** for oestrogen receptor-positive breast cancer.
- **Strategies to overcome treatment resistance** in prostate cancer, including the role of metabolic health and immunotherapy.
- **Better monitoring and care for those with long-term endocrine complications** after cancer treatment, including toxicity risk and fertility.
- **Earlier diagnosis and personalised treatment** through international registries, biobanks and precision medicine.

### 3. Finding cures for rare endocrine diseases

#### Invest in:

- **Increased capacity for earlier and more accurate diagnosis of rare diseases**, including standardised data-sharing and genomic research.
- **Readiness to run innovative clinical trials** for small patient populations, through cross-border collaboration and disease progression modelling.
- **Clinical outcome assessment**, using patient-reported outcome measures and digital tools.
- **Faster development of and access to innovative therapies** and work to map disease-specific patient pathways including the transition from paediatric to adult care.

### 4. Promoting endocrine health across the lifespan and environment

#### Invest in:

- **Integrated life-course research** to understand endocrine health from conception to older age, improve care transitions and support healthy ageing.
- **Fertility and reproductive health research**, focussing on how hormone regulation and disruption before conception and during early development affects lifelong health.
- **Research into endocrine-disrupting chemicals, pharmaceuticals and other environmental exposures** to identify vulnerable populations and long-term and transgenerational effects.
- **A One Health approach, registries and artificial intelligence-based analysis** to understand links between environment, ageing and hormone health.

**Endocrine science is an investment in Europe's future. The endocrine community calls on policymakers to recognise hormone health as a strategic priority and ensure endocrine science is supported in future European funding programmes.**

To discuss the EndoCompass recommendations, please contact ESE or ESPE by emailing [info@ese-hormones.org](mailto:info@ese-hormones.org) or [secretariat@eurospe.org](mailto:secretariat@eurospe.org)  
Find out more about the EndoCompass Research Roadmap: [ese-hormones.org/endocompass](https://ese-hormones.org/endocompass).



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