

Childhood obesity, rare diseases on ministers' Malta agenda

-- By Carmen Paun
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Childhood obesity, HIV/AIDS, health workers' mobility and improving cooperation between countries on treatments for rare diseases all feature on the [agenda](#) for EU health ministers' meeting in Malta on March 20.

The ministers will discuss how to tackle rising obesity-levels among children, which Malta [said](#) is burdening health systems across the bloc. The tiny island, now chairing the rotating EU presidency, also holds the unflattering title of the EU's [fattest population](#) with one in four adults in 2014 considered obese.

Ministers will also discuss ways to cooperate in procuring health technologies for rare diseases with [members of](#) patient organization EURORDIS, the European Medicines Agency's committee on orphan medicinal products and the Innovative Medicines Initiative, a public-private partnership.

On HIV, the meeting will look at how to tackle the infection rate in Europe, which has [hardly changed in the last 10 years](#).

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