



THE FUTURE
OF HEALTH

Advancing the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda in Europe

Preamble

The Patient Access Partnership and its Partners reiterate the importance of continued and strengthened cooperation in the field of health policy, underpinned by the Sustainable Development Goals. The time for action is now!

THE HEALTH PACT

The European Parliament and European Commission should act with the Member States through continued and enhanced European cross-border cooperation, and to live up to Europeans' expectations and every individual's right to health.

We call upon the European Union's institutions to work hand in hand to:

1. Increase policy efforts and dialogue directed to achieving Goal 3 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) "Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages" of the United Nations Sustainable Development Agenda, including achieving Universal Health Coverage by 2030;
2. Strengthen health and well-being as a distinct policy priority pillar, with clear leadership and coordination at European level;
3. Assure that health and well-being is a prerogative across all EU policies, fulfilling the Health in All Policies obligation;
4. Implement a cross-sectoral, whole-of-government approach, necessary to address the multi-dimensional determinants of health and well-being (social, economic, academic, environmental and care systems related);
5. Strengthen cross-border, cross-sectoral collaboration to address access¹ barriers within and across Member States;

¹ Defined by the [5A's of access to Healthcare](#)

6. Strengthen the EU's role in supporting research, policy, and exchange of international and good practices between health experts, researchers, policymakers and civil society, thus adding value to Member States' efforts in constantly improving the health of their people;
7. Reduce inequalities by aiming at universal, people-centered, high-quality health care services to all people in Europe regardless of which EU country they live in or their socio-economic status;
8. Ensure that no one is left behind, recognizing that universal health care is fundamental to achieving the SDGs related not only to health and wellbeing, but also to eradicate poverty, achieve gender equality and women's empowerment, ensure just societies, reduce inequalities, provide decent work and sustainable economic development;
9. To increase EU action and leadership addressing cross border health challenges such as:
 - The burden and prevention of communicable and non-communicable diseases (including rare diseases) with special focus on the social, commercial and environmental determinants of health and quality of life
 - Tackling Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR)
 - Significantly reducing outdoor and indoor air pollution and harmful chemicals
 - The effective implementation of the Cross-Border Healthcare Directive
 - Equitable digital transformation of health systems
 - Prevention, early detection, and health literacy
 - Accessibility, affordability, and availability to the best quality diagnostic tools and treatments in the EU
 - Fragmented healthcare systems and local labor markets
 - Migration of the healthcare workforce and "brain drain"
 - Adequate, quality training, skills and education for patients and healthcare professionals including sharing of good practices

To ensure that such collaboration and partnership between the Member States and the European Institutions is realized, we propose strategies that give greater priority to:

1. Prevention (primary, secondary, tertiary), health literacy and health promotion considering its cost-effectiveness and potential future impact for all health indicators;
2. Enhancing the role of healthcare professionals who play a key role as points of contact with people in a variety of health and non-healthcare settings
3. Incentivize the role of home-based, community and primary care while relieving unnecessary hospital-based care;
4. Support the implementation of standardized, patient-centered measurements of health outcomes and the creation of data sharing that facilitates that all health stakeholders have access to the best practices regardless of location
5. Encourage the development of digital health technologies that support patient-centered innovation, research, the sustainability of healthcare systems, reinforce patient and citizens'

participation and sharing of good practices while addressing equal digital health literacy and data sharing, which meets the highest ethical standards;

6. Include patients and their representatives as central actors in health policy design and implementation processes as well as in health research, development and care delivery;
7. Draft and implement legislation against discrimination on the grounds of health, socio-economic, ethnic or other status;
8. Establish strong leadership and cross-sectoral coordination through the creation of the role of a Vice-President for Health and Well-being in the European Commission

The Health PACT builds upon PACT's [Statement on the Future of Health in the European Union](#) and other ongoing efforts by Partners that call for continued and strengthened EU health cooperation² and the Finnish EU Presidency's focus on the Economy of Well-being. The document aims at providing a framework for change and will be developed further as a roadmap towards the year 2030, to ensure Europe has an ambitious health agenda that leads the way for other regions to follow.

² [These include initiatives such as:](#) EU4Health, EU Health Coalition, All Policies for a Healthy Europe and the European Patient's Forum congress and #Europeforpatients campaign.