



Comité économique et social européen
European Economic and Social Committee

Access, Treatment, Care and Responsive Healthcare

Taking action to achieve Universal Health Coverage for all patients

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Celebrating 21 Years of Setting the Agenda in Women's Health



Background



Healthcare should be **accessible** in a timely way to every patient who needs it, not only to those who can pay and regardless of gender, age, employment and residence status. Regrettably, **this is not a reality for all.**



EPF's 2017 thematic Campaign on Access to Healthcare for All calls on Member States and the EU to commit to a long-term vision where equity of access and universal health coverage is a reality for all patients in the EU – a target of the third UN Sustainable Development Goal on ensuring healthy lives.



Central Issues

1. Persistent **multi-dimensional barriers to access** for patients across the EU at individual, provider and health system level
2. The safety and **quality of healthcare** in the EU is unequal, and key aspects of patient centered healthcare are not implemented
3. **There is a lack of appropriate resources being efficiently invested in healthcare** e.g. restrictive policies, overburdened frontline health workforce, medicine shortages
4. Too many patients in the EU are confronted to **financial hardship** as a result of healthcare costs
5. Systematic **failure of European health systems** for many people living in this region, particularly **people in situations of precarity, social isolation or vulnerability**
6. **Health inequalities** within and between EU countries are **increasing**
7. Patients and informal carers are reporting experience of **discrimination and stigma** (on the grounds of health status or other) while seeking or receiving healthcare
8. Europe currently lacks **inter-sectoral action and collaboration** **for health**

Recommendations



Provide **equitable access to high-quality care** to all patients, regardless of which country they live in or their country of origin

EPF ACCESS CAMPAIGN MEETING

6 DECEMBER
13.00-16.00



EUROPEAN
PARLIAMENT



Commit to **sustainable investment in health**



Ensure the delivery of healthcare products and services that are **affordable for all**



Promote **better coordination of care** and implement access to a **holistic range of health and related services**, ensuring that the package of services covered by the healthcare system is tailored to the needs of patients

5. End the discrimination and stigma that patients face and make sure that no population is excluded

