## Principle 16: Health Care

**Ambitious investment in Europe's health care services & reduction of health inequalities**

### Everyone has the right to timely access to affordable, preventive and curative health care of good quality.

### What are the demands of Social Platform & its Members?

1. **Urgently and significantly invest in Europe's health care services** and equip them with ample resources to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic and build their capacity to tackle cross-border public health threats;

2. **Ensure that health care services are available, affordable, accessible, person-centred and of quality for all who need them, for as long as they are required**;

3. **Ensure that human rights are upheld in all Member States in their responses to the pandemic**: access to health care must not be compromised by discrimination on any grounds;

4. **Mainstream health equity as a key objective throughout EU climate, economy, agriculture, environment, and social policies, the MFF and the EU recovery fund**;

5. **Ensure that the response to the pandemic is a holistic one**, compromising both physical and mental health and involving all stakeholders, including policymakers, NGOs and international organisations such as the World Health Organisation.

### Why do we make these demands?

In 2018, in some Member States, between 5% and 20% of the population did not have health coverage;

Health care and prevention have become less accessible for certain socio-economic groups;

People in vulnerable situations are more likely to have pre-existing conditions that increase their risk of contracting SARS-CoV-2 and make them more vulnerable to it.

### How should they be implemented at EU level?

- Ensure ambitious funding for the EU4Health programme to ensure that Member States can adequately strengthen health care systems;

- Promote cross-country and inter-sectoral cooperation to improve the accessibility and affordability of health care and prevention with a focus on groups in vulnerable situations.

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Read more about principle 16 in our [full paper](#).