

Principle 16: Health Care

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



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

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;

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;

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;

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

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

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

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2 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.

3 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.

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



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