



## Editorial

### Making Headway on Health Equity

When wrapping up last year in EPHA's December newsletter, I wrote about how we were at a crossroads when it comes to health equity. At that point, we were looking ahead to a year full of ambitious plans to help make healthcare access and health outcomes more equitable in Europe. The first quarter of 2024 is soon behind us, and I am proud to say that we have picked our path and are making headway, slow and steady, but determined.

Many of those planned activities are already taking place or being prepared. With the [DisQo Stakeholder Network](#), we are hard at work preparing a conference on the health of People of African Descent on 26 and 27 June. On Roma Health, the EPHA-led Roma Health Network released a [consultation response](#) on the National Roma Strategic Frameworks. Together with our members and network, we continue covering Early Childhood Development through the Child Guarantee. [An article](#) written by Luna Ali provides an insight to how we shape this work.

EPHA prides itself on its large focus on factors influencing our health that may sit outside of the healthcare system; the Social Determinants of Health. An extremely important concept to consider, yet one incredibly broad and thus difficult to take concrete action on. We began unpacking the concept with an [infographic](#) in June, and also address the topic through the FH Europe-led PERFECTO project, which launched on [29 January in Warsaw](#). Since then, we have made further progress exploring the concept with our members. With renewed (bilateral) cooperation, we will consolidate our position in a paper, strengthening our advocacy approach. The efforts and perspectives offered by our members are crucial in establishing this position, both within and outside of the Health Equity Cluster.

Thanks to our members, EPHA has been able to further shape this approach, for example on cancer inequities. FEANTSA has been engaged in the [CANCERless project](#), an EU-funded project aiming to leave no one behind in the context of quality cancer screening and prevention services for people experiencing homelessness. With the preliminary results and CANCERless stakeholder meeting on 19 March, a great basis for future action has been created. This is underlined by the activities of the European Cancer Organisation's [Inequalities Network](#), with a meeting of the LGBTQI+ workstream and a workshop on inequities in cancer care. Taken together, the opportunity to reduce inequities through Europe's Beating Cancer Plan looks extremely promising.

In addition to engaging in these activities, we are actively trying to further connect the dots on the Social Determinants of Health through this month's guest articles. Our member IDF Europe writes about what [health inequities mean in the context of diabetes](#). In addition, thanks to EPHA's other clusters, we further our understanding through a reflection on the [EU Climate Risk Assessment Report](#), an article on [food environments and equity](#), and an overview on the risks of [shrinking civic space in](#)

[health](#). Finally, the International Longevity Centre sheds a light on [ageing, longevity and health prevention](#).

With those first activities taking shape, and with a number of thought-provoking articles, we have plenty to keep us on the road this year. While heading for the elections, building on our current priorities, we keep developing our message. With the start of the new mandate, we will be ready to take the next step to work towards a true Union of Equality, with health equity at its core.



**Tomas De Jong**

Policy Manager, EPHA

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## This Month's Top Stories



In an ageing Europe, investing in preventative health is key

By International Longevity Centre (ILC)

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Diabetes – a marker of health inequities

By International Diabetes Federation (IDF)

[READ MORE](#)



Equity for thought: The power of food environments

By EPHA

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European Environment Agency publishes a first EU Climate Risk Assessment Report

By EPHA

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Health civil society engagement in a shrinking civic space

By EPHA

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## EPHA Updates

### Everything you always wanted to know about genes, or why does it matter who wins elections

Discover the fusion of genetics and politics in our latest article by our Director General, Milka Sokolović. Drawing from her three decades of expertise, Milka unravels the role of genes in health and highlight the significance of environmental factors. Discover why informed voting matters, particularly in the upcoming EU Parliamentary elections of 2024.

[READ THE PUBLICATION](#)



Health organisations call on EU environment ministers: swiftly adopt the Ambient Air Quality Directive deal

[READ MORE](#)



Joint Letter: Integrating Social and Health ambitions into the next EU Strategic Agenda 2024-2029

[READ MORE](#)



Extended periods of data protection are not the best solution for either health budgets or access to medicines for all

[READ MORE](#)

## EPHA Events



11 April 2024 | 14:00 - 15:30 CEST | Webinar

During this event we will launch our latest position paper "*Addressing the health and care workforce crisis: ways forward for policymaking*", with a panel discussion on the topic. The paper, developed in collaboration with EPHA members, provides an overview of the challenges of the health and care workforce and tackles them from a public health perspective, bringing forward recommendations for policymakers and relevant stakeholders.

[REGISTER HERE](#)



30 April 2024 | 12:00 - 16:00 CEST | Online Seminar

Join the ROBUST project's early findings seminar where you are invited to participate in 4 online sessions. Our project aims to identify strategies for leaders in the public sector to responding robustly to turbulent crises. Following interviews with more than 110 public sector decision makers in municipalities and regions, local health care, schools, and civil society organisations who were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, we will be sharing our early findings and invite you to share your perspectives.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

## News From Members



### Mental Health Europe

In preparation for the EU Elections, read our manifesto outlining our top priorities. We aim to keep mental health a focal point in the next EU mandate, ensuring that no one is overlooked as we transition towards an EU where everyone's mental well-being can thrive.

[READ MORE](#)



### CANCERLESS EU

Stakeholder meeting on improving access to cancer screening and prevention among people experiencing homelessness in Europe organised by FEANTSA and hosted by MEP Stelios Kympouropoulos at the European Parliament.

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## European Cancer Organisation (ECO)

The EU-funded smartCARE project is a flagship initiative in Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, under the EU4Health Programme 2021-2027. It is now midway through its mission to develop a mobile app that will improve health and wellbeing for cancer patients, survivors and their caregivers.

[COMPLETE THE SURVEY HERE](#)

### EATG

Joint Statement: Open Letter supporting COE Commissioner's Commentary on Human Rights of Sex Workers

[READ MORE](#)

### VAS EU

Paper on Venous Leg Ulcers (VLUs), affecting quality of life and can lead to social isolation and depression.

[READ MORE](#)

## Other News

### Medics 4 Clean Air

#### Look out for: Voices on Healthcare Decarbonisation!

We are excited to announce the launch of a series of video interviews with healthcare champions, showcasing their impact in driving positive change towards healthcare decarbonisation. These interviews will be shared on a weekly basis and are designed to inspire action, provide practical insights and resources into implementing sustainable practices at a local level and national level.

[SIGN UP TO THE NEWSLETTER](#)



### Movendi International

## Join the campaign to end Olympic Sponsorship deals with Big Alcohol

The campaign highlights the contradiction between the IOC's goal of using sport for the harmonious development of humankind and the proliferation of harmful alcohol marketing targeting billions of children through the Olympics. Supporters worldwide are invited to join by signing an email petition, demanding that the IOC prioritise children's well-being over the profit motives of alcohol companies.

[SIGN THE EMAIL PETITION](#)

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EPHA (AISBL) is the European Platform bringing together public health organisations representing health professionals, patients groups, health promotion and disease specific NGOs, academic groupings and other health associations. The European Public Health Alliance has received funding under an operating grant from the European Union's EU4Health Programme (2021-2027). The content of this email represents the views of the author only and is his/her sole responsibility; it cannot be considered to reflect the views of the European Commission and/or the European Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA) or any other body of the European Union. The European Commission and the Agency do not accept any responsibility for use that may be made of the information it contains. Transparency Register Number: 18941013532-08

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