



Editorial

Launch – EPHA healthcare workforce paper

EPHA has launched its newest position paper on the question of the health and care workforce challenges, and ways forward to address those. The paper sets out the public health civil society's position on the most important challenging points and bottlenecks, and where the focus should be in terms of action, including recommendations for policy.

This paper comes in a policy context with a strong focus on the question, and with a call for urgent action. The [Bucharest Declaration](#) and an [EESC Opinion](#) have recently highlighted the vital role of the health and care workforce and the challenges that they are facing. The paper also comes after the publication of the [WHO's Framework for Action on the Health and Care Workforce](#), and in the context the Belgian Presidency of the Council, which plans to strengthen the health agenda. The Presidency also organised in March 2024 a High-level Conference on the Future EU Health Union, where Hans Kluge, Regional Director of WHO Europe, unpacked the health and care workforce crisis as a coming together of multiple crises: a labour, education, mental health, gender equality, and financial investment crisis; reminding the audience as well that behind, there is a human side. He referred to the situation as a 'ticking time bomb' in very insecure times with increasing competition in terms of where to invest budgets.

The EPHA paper touches upon the different sides of this multifaceted crisis, tackling the question of shortages, difficult working conditions, and growing skills needs. The paper also addresses transversal issues such as the lack of long-term planning, which participates in the shortages. Planning in the long term would allow to map what health systems need in terms of workforce. For this, data collection needs to be improved.

The challenges that the workforce is facing have been reinforced and worsened by the COVID-19 pandemic, and are only expected to worsen in the coming years given the ageing population and an increasing demand for care. The consequences of the crisis are not only affecting people across Europe in the short-term, but they will also have an impact on future generations. Our paper then proposes ways forward, by focusing on having a strong and overarching governance approach and reinforcing primary care. For both elements, strong political will and support are needed. Ahead of the elections, EPHA has also called for a Vice-President of the European Commission on health, social rights and well-being to be set in the next mandate, who could steer the whole process. In this approach, we also call for engagement with a wide range of stakeholders, including civil society and health and care professionals. A central point is also to provide key investments to support the implementation of such policies and address the aforementioned challenges.

Our position paper contains several recommendations, to the EU institutions, Member States, and other relevant stakeholders from the sector. It calls for the EU and the Member States to take into account the urgency of the situation and act, in particular through the allocation of sufficient budget to strengthen health systems. Several recommendations to the EU and Member States also tackle the question of skills, training and mentoring, as well as recognition of qualifications and skills standards across the EU. Then, another group of recommendations focuses on improving working conditions, mental health, and making the professions more attractive. Finally, recommendations for the sector focus on encouraging interprofessional collaboration and promoting the professions.

[READ THE PAPER](#)

The paper's recommendations overall call for strong investments in the sector. The recent redeployment of EUR 1 billion from the EU4Health budget brings concerns on the priority that public health and the health and care sector will represent in the future. The upcoming European elections are an essential moment to call for urgent action regarding the health and care workforce crisis, and will be decisive in steering EU action on the matter.



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EPHA Updates



Moving forward with the European health data space: the need to restore trust in European health systems

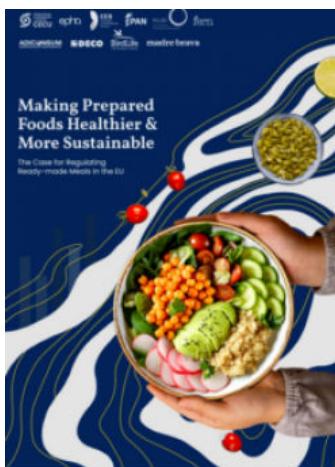
Read EPHA comment published in *The Lancet Regional Health – Europe*, representing diverse positions around the European Health Data Space (EHDS)

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Support the trilogue deal for cleaner air and better health – EU Healthy Air Coalition call

Ahead of the EU elections, we urge you to support the trilogue deal, as a sign of your commitment to cleaning up the air that hundreds of millions of people across Europe breathe.

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Making Prepared Foods Healthier and More Sustainable

EU could slash 48 million tonnes of emissions and save €2.8 billion annually with healthier ready meals. The study unveils a path toward reducing diet-related diseases such as cancer, cardiovascular disease, liver disease, and diabetes by aligning ready-made meals with health & sustainability guidelines.

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EPHA Events

PRIORITISING HEALTH IN EUROPE'S MOBILITY PLANNING:

Transformative Pathways Beyond 2024

Thurs 30th May | 9:15 - 13:15 | COMET, Pl. Stéphanie 20



30 May 2024 | 9:15 - 1:15 CEST | Hybrid Event

Today, road transport is the only sector where emissions have consistently risen in recent years. The links between transport and health and wider co-benefits have long been recognised in European partnerships and European policies. Recently, countries of the WHO European Region adopted the Budapest Declaration which includes a commitment to promote healthy, safe, climate-friendly and inclusive mobility and transport for all. How can we leverage these favourable conditions to achieve transformative change across Europe?

EPHA is pleased to invite you to our event to explore the critical interlinkages between clean mobility policies and health outcomes, as crucial for transformative change from city to European level beyond 2024. Join us to explore why and how to prioritise health in mobility planning for sustainable, affordable, accessible, and healthy transport solutions for all.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

News From Members



Wemos - Pillars of Health

Read the summary of the research Wemos did with the Pillars of Health consortium, its findings and conclusions. This paper provides inspiration for occasions where EU level stakeholders discuss matters related to access to healthcare in general and access to health workers in particular.

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Read the infographic about health worker mobility and migration in the European region provides a snapshot of the main mobility patterns of health workers in the European region. It also explains why better data is needed to acquire a more comprehensive picture of these patterns.

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Read their cross-country analysis of available data on health worker mobility across the European Union and neighbouring countries. The infographic mentioned above is based on the findings from this report.

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Wemos - AHEAD Project

Learn about Wemos' AHEAD Project which aims to reduce health inequalities by addressing the challenge of medical deserts and medical desertification in Europe. This projects goal is to achieve better access to health services, especially in underserved areas, and more equitable access to sufficient, skilled and motivated health workers.

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AHEAD



**ACTION FOR HEALTH AND EQUITY
ADDRESSING MEDICAL DESERTS**

Explore Wemos' tool that visualises the availability of health workers per geographic unit and/or per population, taking into account distances to services.

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Wemos' powerpoint presentation about the AHEAD methodology for participatory consensus building, developed to support the formulation of policy options with multiple stakeholders.

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The AHEAD Call to Action that Wemos presented during their event in the European Parliament on 27th of April 2023.

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ASPER

Summary: Global PH Week webinar: Fostering Peace as a prerequisite for Equitable Health

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Safe Food Advocacy Europe

Does tax on “unhealthy” foods lower obesity rates?

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Other News

Medics 4 Clean Air

Voices on Healthcare Decarbonisation!

We are excited to announce three out of five videos from the interview series with healthcare champions, showcasing their impact in driving positive change towards healthcare decarbonisation. The videos are designed to inspire action, provide practical insights and resources into implementing sustainable practices at a local level and national level.

[WATCH THE VIDEOS](#)



Clean Cooking for Public Health

Read the manifesto!

As members of the health, medical and scientific community, we have joined together under the banner of Clean Cooking for Public Health to voice our concerns regarding the impact on human health and wellbeing of the continued use of gas for cooking.

[READ THE MANIFESTO](#)

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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