BUILDING HEALTH EQUITY IN EUROPE

Call for research papers on tackling health inequalities

Background

COVID-19 has brought a substantial change on the socio-economic context across Europe causing critical disruptions in healthcare and prevention services. It demonstrated many gaps and limitations in public health and social protection systems intensifying existing inequalities between population groups.

Disparities in access to essential rights and services are rarely quantified. Measuring such gaps is, therefore, essential to build knowledge about the impact of such inequalities and advance policy responses which can effectively meet the needs of people who are in a disadvantaged situation.

Existing national data is very limited, in many cases, outdated, and often not disaggregated by ethnicity, social and legal status, making it difficult to analyse the extent of disparities between vulnerable groups, such ethnic minorities, including Roma, people with disabilities, LGBTQI+, migrants and refugees, homeless persons, and the general population.

Purpose

Inequalities in health, housing, employment, living and working conditions, environment and climate are not a theoretical issue, they have concrete implications on the lives of individuals and communities. However, often the lack of or limited data makes it difficult to adequately assess the state of health of vulnerable groups and address intersectional inequalities they may face. Assessing the physical and mental health status of migrants and refugees, ethnic minorities, including Roma, LGBTQI+, prisoners, people with disabilities contributes to adequate respond to health inequalities. Investing in data collection will contribute to better identify the communities' health needs and implement targeted measures proportionate to the challenges that each community/vulnerable group experiences.

The call for papers aims to mobilise young researchers and policy analysts in building knowledge about inequalities in employment, housing, education, healthcare (social determinants of health), environment and climate (environmental determinants of health) in COVID19 and beyond and how these inequalities are addressed through national responses to the pandemic and post-2020 mainstream policies.

It focuses on European and national public policies such as European Pillar of Social Rights and its action plan; the European Semester; national recovery and resilience plans; European Child Guarantee and national action plans; the European anti-Racism Action Plan; other European and national health programmes.

Researchers and policy analysts will contribute to building a database composed by case studies, and therefore strengthen the mobilization of policy and decision makers as well as European and national civil society actors around specific issues intensified by the pandemic.

Possible topics for your research:

Public health

- ➢ Public investment in health and how it meets the needs of vulnerable groups
- ➢ Lessons learned from the pandemic in health/social/economic/human rights protection of vulnerable groups
- ➢ Prevention of non-communicable diseases, including cancer and vulnerable groups
- ➢ Health impact of housing exclusion (e.g substandard housing, poor access to decent and affordable housing, evictions and house demolition, homelessness)
- ➢ Mental health and lockdowns
- ➢ Healthy diets and people at risk of poverty and exclusion
- ➢ Good practices for building capacities of health workforce to better meet the needs of vulnerable groups
- ➢ Gender-based violence and mental health protection

Child health

- ➢ Prevention of child obesity
- ➢ Barriers in access to early childhood development services (health, nutrition, safety, early learning)
- ➢ Child protection in COVID-19
- ➢ Social support for children and parents from vulnerable groups

Health in All Policies

- ➢ Environment and climate
- ➢ Mitigating energy poverty at national and local levels
- ➢ Climate divide and vulnerable groups
- ➢ Urban transportation/connection to public transportation
- ➢ Digital divide and access to health services
- ➢ Accessibility of e-learning in COVID19
- ➢ Digitalisation in healthcare
- ➢ Good practices for increasing digital literacy among vulnerable groups
- ➢ Access to COVID19 vaccines and digitalisation

How to submit your proposal for a case study

Applications should be sent by 10 August 2021, 23:59 CEST, to radost.zaharieva@epha.org, with "EPHA call for papers health inequalities" in the subject line.

Applications can be submitted by individuals or consortiums involving many reserchers or policy analysts.

The application must contain:

- ➢ CV in English (maximum 2 pages)
- ➢ BIO
- ➢ A proposal including a description of the issue which will be addressed/analysed, geographical region, the research structure and a methodology which will be applied (maximum 600 words)

Geographical and gender balance will be respected.

Methodology

The paper should be 5-6 pages in length (Times New Roman, 12, space between lines: 1,15)

1. Executive summary (one page)

2. Introduction (one page), including a description of the topic and issues which will be analysed in the paper, geographical scope and information about the methodology

2. Main discussion including policy recommendations

3. Conclusions

References, pictures, tables and other resources should be presented in an annex. There is no imitation of the number of pages.

Proposed Timeline

- 10 August 2021: submission of proposals
- 16 August-20 August 2021 : selection process
- 21 August-30 September 2021: research activities
- 1 October 2021: Deadline for submitting papers
- 8 October 2021: feedback from EPHA
- 20 October 2021: publication of the final papers

Guiding documents

European Charter on Health Equity

Health inequalities: a public health challenge for policy makers

Leaping forward: adapting the post-2020 EU Roma Framework to the real needs of beneficiaries

Ensuring equitable access to COVID19 vaccines

Should governments consider Roma a priority in their Covid-19 vaccination roll-out plans?

The Marmot Review 10 Years On: New EPHA study on its lessons for the European Union

Ensuring a good start in life for all Roma children