

# Achieving health equity in the EU

Society should provide a fair platform for all citizens to reach good health

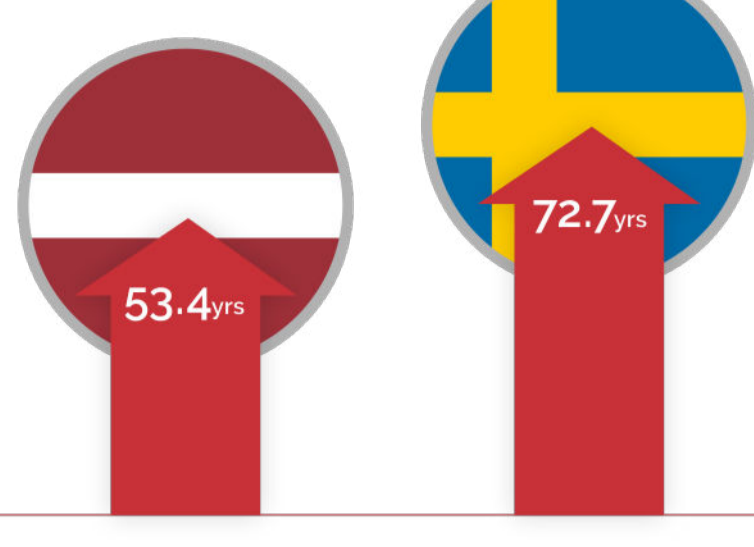


**Differences in health outcomes across the EU suggest the platform for health is not equal in our society.**

People in Latvia can expect to live in good health for

**19 years**

fewer than those in Sweden<sup>1</sup>



Older migrants in the EU are

**1.25x**

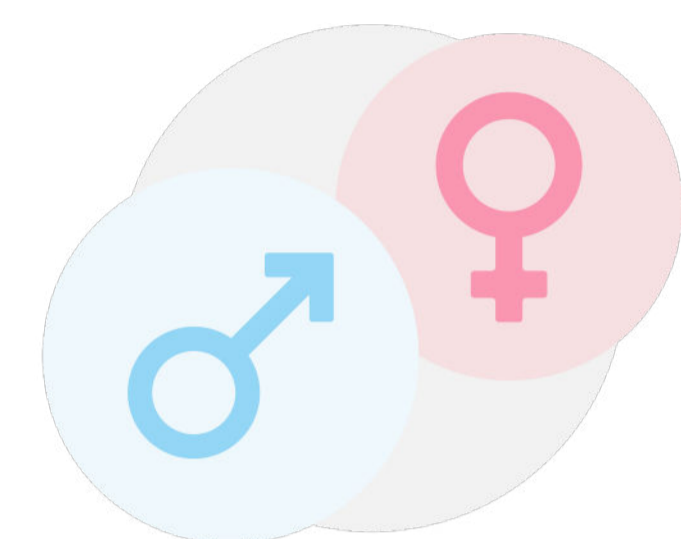
more likely to report being in "bad or very bad" health than native EU residents<sup>2</sup>



Those on the lowest incomes are

**36%**

less likely to be in "very good" health compared to those on the highest incomes<sup>3</sup>



Men are **2.7x** more likely than women to die from preventable causes,<sup>4</sup> whilst women are **1.14x** more likely to report living with a long-standing illness or health problem<sup>5</sup>



**Societal factors, such as housing and education, play a crucial role in determining the platform people have to reach good health.**

**Unjust or avoidable differences** in the distribution of these determinants are known as **health inequities**.<sup>6</sup> As more data is collected, **a picture of inequity** becomes apparent across the EU.

## Healthcare



People in cities are **1.2x more likely** to report **unmet healthcare needs** than rural populations due to waiting lists<sup>11</sup>

Low-income groups are **1.6x more likely** to report **unmet healthcare needs** than high-income groups<sup>12</sup>

## Housing and Living Environment



Low-income groups are **over 7x** more likely to face **severe housing deprivation** than high-income groups<sup>7</sup>

People in cities are **2.4x** as likely as rural communities to face **pollution and environmental issues**<sup>8</sup>

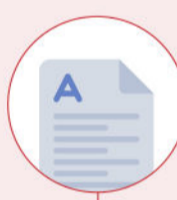
## Social Inclusion



Residents born outside the EU are **2x as likely** as EU native residents to be at risk of **poverty and exclusion**<sup>13</sup>

Women are **1.1x as likely** as men to be at risk of **poverty or social exclusion**<sup>14</sup>

## Education



Residents born outside the EU are **over 2x as likely** as EU native residents to **leave education early**<sup>9</sup>

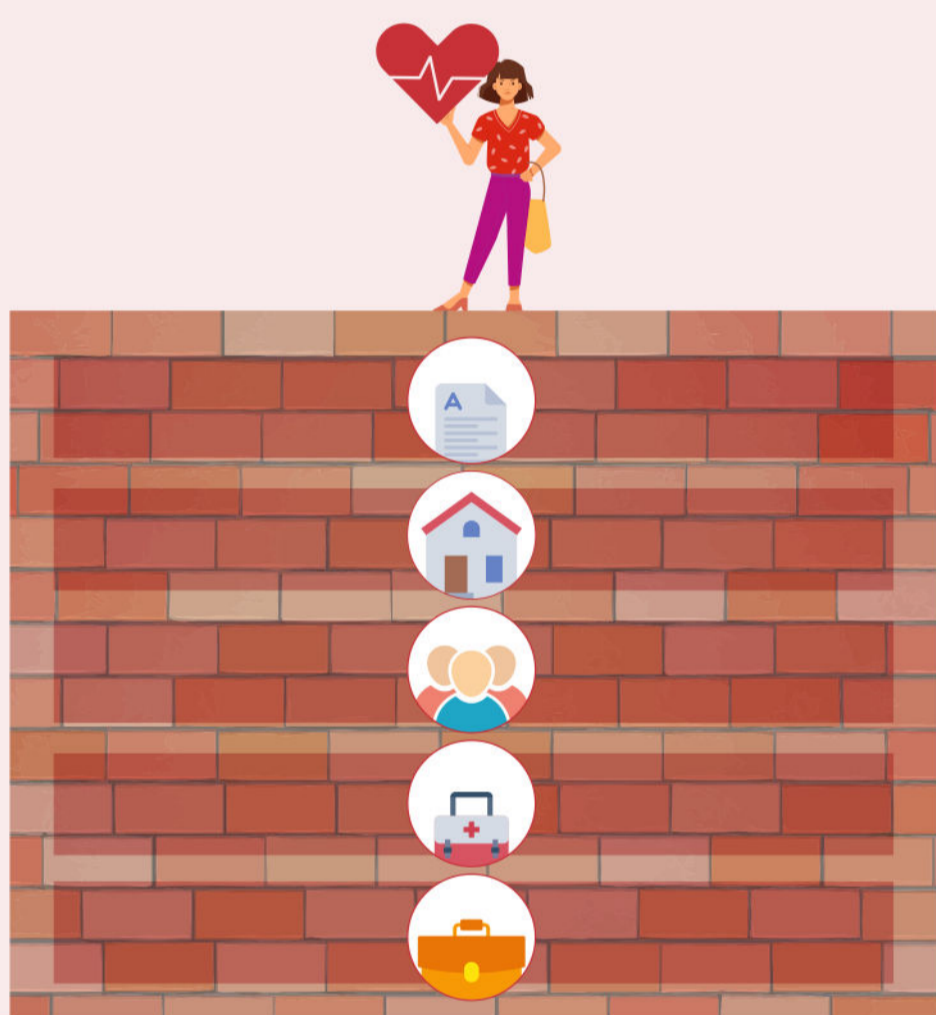
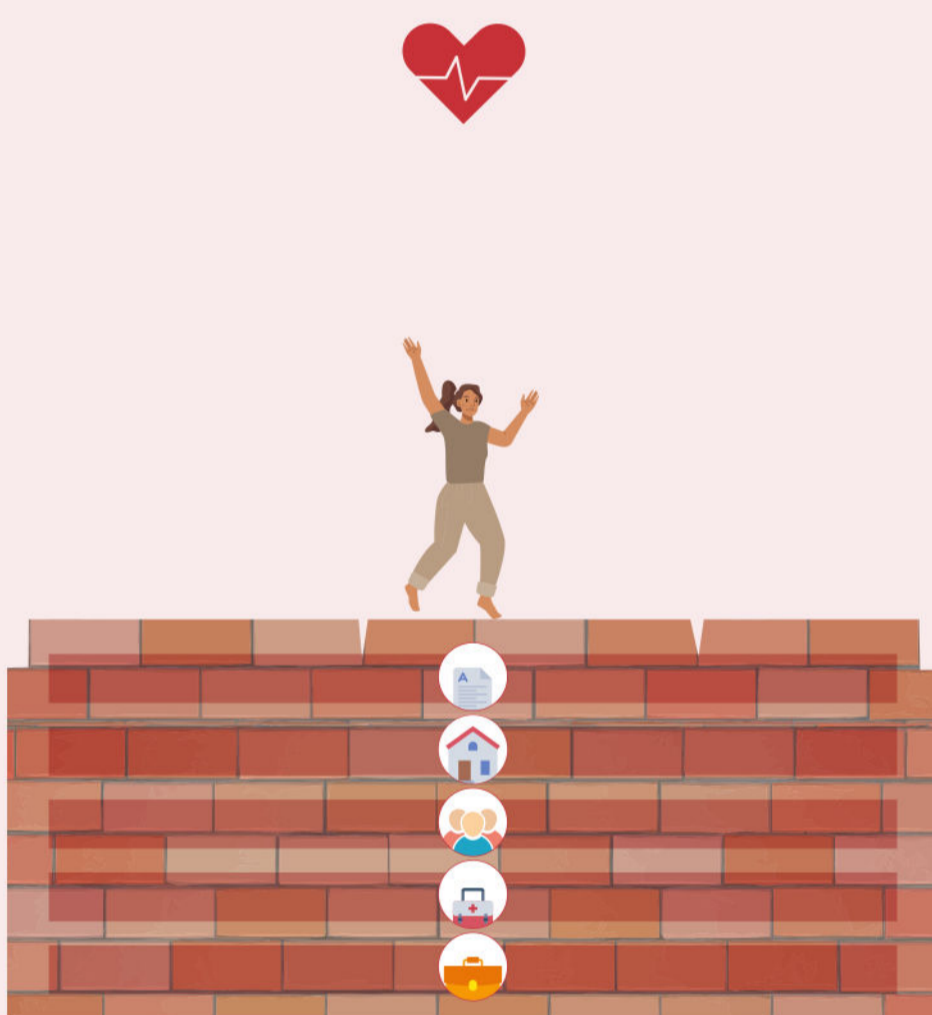
Men are **15% less likely** to complete **tertiary education** than women<sup>10</sup>

## Employment



People living with disabilities are **23% less likely** to be in **employment** than those without<sup>15</sup>

Young people are **2.6x more likely** than older people to be **unemployed**<sup>16</sup>



**These inequities across health determinants create a divide in the opportunities EU citizens have to live in good health.**

**With its commitment to equality and solidarity, the EU has a duty to act.**

## The EU can take the following actions to fix the gap<sup>17-18</sup>

**1**

### Improve understanding of EU health inequity



Data collection/surveillance



Research



Community Engagement

**2**

### Empower member states to act



Guidance



Co-ordination



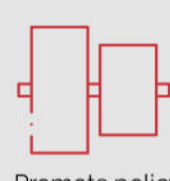
Funding

**3**

### Drive change



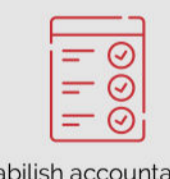
Recommendations/directives



Promote policy coherence

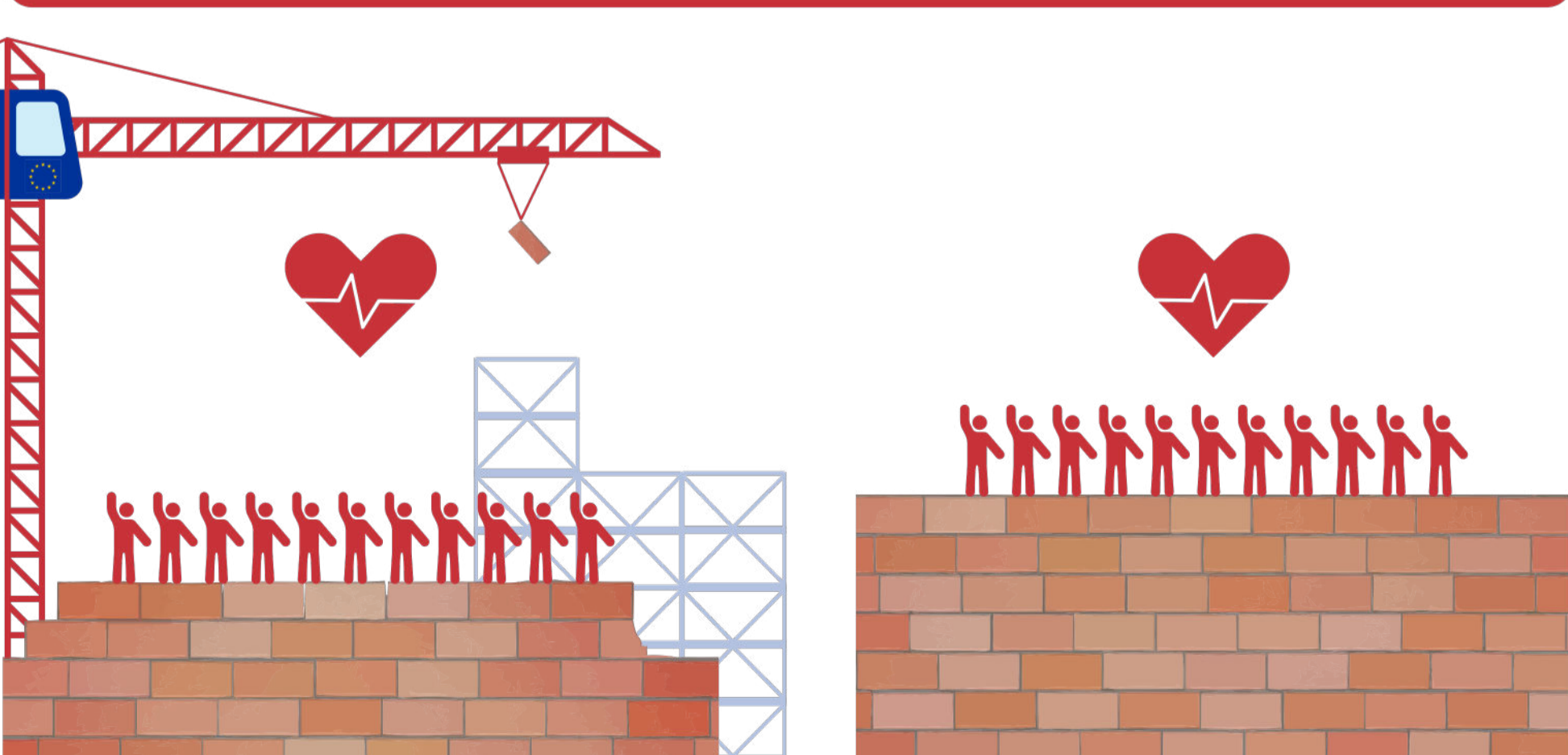


Regulations



Establish accountability frameworks

ENCOURAGE AND FACILITATE SOCIAL PARTICIPATION



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