

**Scroll down for:**

- **Editorial**
- **This Month's Top Stories**
- **EPHA Updates**
- **Events**
- **EPHA Membership**
- **News From EPHA Members**

---

## Editorial

### DisQo continues

Tackling racism and discrimination to achieve greater equity in health is what binds the people and organisations who have joined forces in the DisQo network. What started with 24 organisations applying to run a Thematic Network on DG SANTE's EU Health Policy Platform end last year, has now grown into a movement of 66 organisations (and counting) represented by almost 120 people, who are committed to act against racism and discrimination.



Over the last eight months, DisQo has organised a [series of webinars](#) with key experts exploring some of the priority areas that the network identified. These priorities, including DisQo's own commitments and areas where the network envisions stronger leadership by the European Commission, are written up in [DisQo's Joint Statement](#). The statement, which was [presented to DG SANTE on 19 April](#), has also been endorsed by three members of the European Parliament and was picked up by scientific and media outlets, including Politico and [Nature](#).

First and foremost, it's about people. About meaningful participation and inclusive language when engaging them, for instance to develop anti-discrimination policies or to gather evidence in a research setting. Meaningful participation, however, can only happen if the issue is recognised in the first place – that racism and discrimination are indeed fundamental determinants of health, impacting both physical and mental health irrespective of one's socioeconomic position in society. Operating in silos, whether that is at the highest governance level in the EU, or within smaller, local organisations, is a key barrier to progress on mainstreaming anti-racist and anti-discrimination efforts, as well as not having diversity and representation in positions of power. A quote that I took from the Anti-racism and diversity week 2023 at the European Parliament in March of this year is: "diverse decision makers make different policies". However, as long as we have discussion panels in high-level settings (e.g., at the

World Health Organization's World Health Assembly in May) that consist entirely of white men above a certain age, we don't get crucial voices heard and the equitable policies that particularly the underserved and discriminated groups in society are entitled to.

## The real work starts now

The Joint Statement forms the basis for the next phase of DisQo. On 20 June, the network convened again to brainstorm and agree on next steps. The diversity among the people, the expertise, and the energy around the virtual table – and in the network as a whole – is precious and makes that there is huge potential for DisQo. To transform this potential into sustainable impact, however, additional resources will be required and securing these will be one of the first steps. Action is required at all levels, now and in the future, so if you think that your organisation can contribute, do not hesitate to get in touch!

## More on health equity

This issue of EPHA's newsletter on health equity also features [the story of Sunny](#). In this first video of EPHA's People Behind the Numbers project, Sunny openly speaks about the struggles in his life and how obtaining a house has helped him getting on the right track. That housing is one of the crucial factors affecting health, can be seen in EPHA's latest [infographic on Achieving Health Equity in the EU](#); although society should be providing a fair platform for all citizens to reach good health, this platform is not equal for all.

Finally, we highlight the work of some of our members. For example, on child poverty by Eurochild; on how 83% of Roma children live in households at risk of poverty, and how 2,000 children each year are being separated from the families and institutionalised in Bulgaria. There is also an article on the [refusal of healthcare to people in precarious situations in France](#), which is recorded by an observatory of the French Federation of Solidarity Actors for cases of discrimination, describing how people in the precarious situations are refused healthcare. Led by our member Wemos, the AHEAD project has developed and validated a [bottom-up participatory policy-making methodology](#) in the context of medical deserts. Lastly, there is [a call for an EU Strategy for Women's Health](#). In their manifesto, the European Institute of Women's Health urges the EU to address the societal challenges that lead to health disparities; improve data collection and analysis; harmonise current legislation; and ensure that women's voices and needs are embedded in all EU policies.

On behalf of EPHA's Health Equity team, I wish you happy reading!



**Raymond Gemen**  
Head of Policy, EPHA

---

## This Month's Top Stories



Multidimensional child poverty: family separation and institutionalisation among Roma

By Eurochild

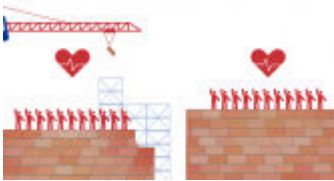
[READ MORE](#)



Discrimination in France: refusal of healthcare for people in precarious situations or migrants (ENG & FR)

By FEANTSA

[READ MORE](#)



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

By EPHA

[READ MORE](#)



It is Time for an EU Strategy for Women's Health

By EIWH

[READ MORE](#)



Participatory policy-making in action

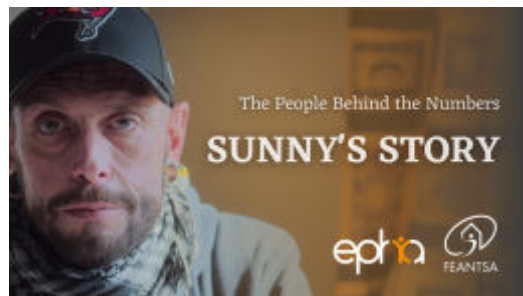
By Wemos Foundation

[READ MORE](#)

## The People Behind the Numbers

Approximately 700,000 people sleep on the street or in emergency accommodation each night in the European Union. But who are the #PeopleBehindTheNumbers?

In collaboration with FEANTSA, we share the powerful story of Sunny, whose experiences show the reality behind the need for housing.



[WATCH SUNNY'S STORY](#)

---

## Giving Health a Voice - Podcast



## Martin McKee: the Importance of Politics in shaping our health

In this episode, Milka is joined by [Martin McKee](#) – professor, researcher, and top European public health expert. Best known for his research on the health effects of the collapse of the Soviet bloc, European law and health policy, Martin has published over 1,000 papers in peer-reviewed journals, with his contributions highly valued and globally recognised.

[LISTEN HERE](#)

## New Publications

### The Illusion of Choice: why someone already decided what you will eat for lunch

Who decides what you eat: new report explores what's secretly influencing consumer diets. The way foods are presented and choices framed needs to change to make sustainable healthy diets easy.

[READ MORE](#)



### Last Miles to Go: The EU Global Health Strategy

Although the proposed actions that this strategy hopes to achieve are ambitious, they do not fully address the extent of the health challenges that Europe and neighbouring countries will face.

[READ MORE](#)



### The Heavy Duty Vehicle CO2 Emissions Standards: why biofuels will continue to harm European health

The Heavy Duty Vehicles CO2 Emission Standard is an EU initiative under the EU Green Deal to clean the heavy transport sector; a sector comprising only 2% of Europe's transport, but responsible for 28% of the carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions from transport.

[READ MORE](#)



## EPHA Updates



**Terms of reference for a scoping paper** on the opportunities for engagement on European policies related to the health systems and the economy of wellbeing

[FIND OUT MORE](#)

EPHA has defined its priorities and recommendations ahead of the upcoming European elections in 2024. The manifesto presents five key priorities, aiming at strengthening public health, improve wellbeing and prepare for future health crises.

[READ MORE](#)



## Clean Cooking for Public Health

### **Policies must protect us from the health dangers of cooking with gas**

Gas stoves are one of the main sources of indoor air pollution, releasing emissions that have negative impacts on health. Most notably, gas stove use has been linked to increased risk of asthma in children. Across the EU, it is estimated that 700 000 children would not suffer from asthma symptoms in the absence of gas stoves.

With this manifesto, the health community comes together to caution against the health dangers of cooking with gas, and to demand decisive action from decision-makers to protect the health of all Europeans.

[READ AND SIGN THE MANIFESTO](#)

---

## Upcoming Events



12 July | 11:00 - 13:00 CEST | Online

During this event, we delve into the urgent intersection and current state of play of public health inclusion in climate EU policies and initiatives. In doing so, we aim to bridge the gap between scientific research, ethical considerations, and effective communication strategies to advocate for a future that prioritises global health equity.

[FIND OUT MORE AND REGISTER HERE](#)

---

## EPHA Membership

We are delighted to announce that two new members have joined EPHA!

### Greek Patients' Association

The Greek Patients Association is the confederation of more than 60 patients' organizations from all over Greece and across the spectrum of disease. It was founded in May 2019, with the aim of defending the rights of health care recipients, the equal participation of patients in designing and implementing policies concerning them and their contribution to the promotion of public health.



[FIND OUT MORE](#)

### Renaloo (France)

Renaloo is the first French-speaking web community on kidney disease, dialysis and transplantation. It is also a patient association committed to the field of health democracy, aiming to improve the quality of life, support and care for people living with kidney disease.



[FIND OUT MORE \(FR\)](#)

---

## News From Members



### AGE Platform Europe

Joint call for stronger legal protections for air passengers with disabilities

[READ MORE](#)



### Mental Health Europe

Join the Mental Health in all Policies Stakeholders Network

[READ MORE](#)



### Health Action International

AI can threaten health equity for marginalised populations: the EU must act now

[READ MORE](#)



## Association of European Cancer Leagues

### Intensifying the fight against cancer - a call to action

A new case of cancer is diagnosed in the European Union (EU) every nine seconds. Cancer mortality is set to increase by more than 24% by 2035, making it the leading cause of death in the EU. Therefore, ECL sets out a call to action ahead of the 2024 EU elections urging policymakers for a timely rollout of cancer initiatives.

[FIND OUT MORE AND SIGN THE MANIFESTO](#)

## European CanCER Organisation

Joint Statement: Health Organisations Define the European Health Data Space Opt Out Required for Life Saving Research



[READ MORE](#)

### Wemos

Recording: webinar on missing pieces of health worker mobility data in Europe

[WATCH HERE](#)

### Eurochild

AI Act trilogues: the EU's last chance to protect children

[READ MORE](#)

### European Institute of Women's Health

EU Manifesto for Women's Health ahead of the 2024 EU elections

[READ MORE](#)

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](#)

Our mailing address is:  
European Public Health Alliance AISBL, Rue de Trèves 49-51, Brussels 1000, Belgium

[UPDATE YOUR MAILING PREFERENCES](#)

[UNSUBSCRIBE FROM EPHA COMMUNICATIONS](#)

Copyright © 2023 European Public Health Alliance AISBL All rights reserved

