

## Editorial

### Health equity at a crossroads: marking milestones and charting EPHA's path forward

*"It will be December before you know it"* I remember saying all throughout the year, and still I find myself surprised by how quickly it came around. Luckily, the end of the year falls in a time that is perfect for contemplation. The dark and cold days of the winter months are perfect to both reflect on the year that has been, and to look ahead at the year that is to come. This time around, that pivotal moment is health equity-themed, which is quite fitting given that it touches on all of EPHA's work in diverse ways.

When it comes to our activities on health equity, this year was marked by significant momentum. We are particularly proud of the developments in the [DisQo Stakeholder Network](#). Since its establishment in October 2022, we have expanded to over 70 members, hosted 3 webinars, released a joint statement, and held a successful event titled '[Racism, discrimination, and health: a human rights-based approach](#).' The event brought together stakeholders spanning from the local to the European and international level and was a significant step forward in putting racism and discrimination in health on the policy agenda. The [recordings](#) are available, so definitely check it out if you have missed the event. Importantly, it would not have been possible without the valuable cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR); a cooperation we will remain committed to in 2024.

What we have achieved with our members and with DisQo is emblematic for our mission to raise awareness and drive policy action on the Social Determinants of Health; non-medical factors that have profound effects on our health, such as place of birth, educational background, type of employment, or even the colour of our skin. To make these determinants more tangible, we released an [infographic in June](#), and shared testimonies of people facing health inequities directly. On the latter, the most recent example is a [blog written by Siófra Kelleher](#) on being diagnosed and living with diabetes in a rural area.

To further deepen our knowledge on health inequities, we proudly feature guest articles from our members and partners. Read for example about the [intersection of homelessness and cancer inequity](#) in a piece written by FEANTSA, the status quo of Roma inclusion policy on the EU level, or on the national level about the [difficulties faced by Roma in Ireland](#) in accessing healthcare or social support, in an overview provided by Cairde. We also released testimonies throughout the year in the [People Behind the Numbers](#) video series, an approach which will be carried over into 2024 to cover an even wider range of topics. Accounts like these articles and videos are crucial to raise awareness and drive change in public health policy. We will continue to raise these voices in 2024 to ensure that such policy leaves no one behind, especially those that are too often pushed to the margins.

While contemplating the past year and preparing for the coming one, we realise the importance of sometimes taking a moment to slow down and reflect on whether our activities align with our goals. Naturally, we are very excited to keep advocating for good and equitable public health next year with you and want to wish you a lovely and reinvigorating holiday season. Still, do try to take a breather because before you know it, we will find ourselves in December again.



**Tomas de Jong**

Policy Manager, EPHA

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## This Month's Top Stories



The National Roma Infoline: Roma operators respond to nearly 10,000 calls in Ireland

By Cairde

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Bridging the Gap between the Dual Burden of Homelessness and Cancer across Europe

By FEANTSA

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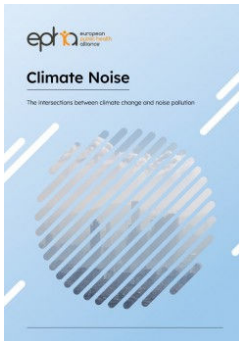
Roma Inclusion in 2023 – Housing as a social determinants of health

By EPHA

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## EPHA Updates



### The intersections between climate change and noise pollution

While high in the public and political discourse, as well as in public health, other environmental stressors, such as noise pollution, are much less researched, talked about and visible. However, the impact of noise pollution on public health is significant, across Europe, and globally.

[READ THE PUBLICATION](#)



### How public health should bridge justice gaps, break silos and promote health co-benefits

Human health cannot be separated from the Earth's systems, including animal and environmental health. This lens is known as Planetary Health; it also focuses on justice, inclusive equity, and collaboration to break through silos and achieve the greatest positive impact in facing climate change.

[READ THE PUBLICATION](#)



EPHA welcomes the 2024 workplan for EU4Health that includes the continuation of OPGs

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Better and healthier households will improve the quality of life for all generations

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Using access-to-document requests to support health policy advocacy | Workshop Report

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## EPHA Events



This event aims to raise awareness on the impact of racism and discrimination on health outcomes. It brings together key stakeholders across sectors and policymakers across EU institutions to provide an overview of the concrete impacts of racism and discrimination on mental and physical health, citing the most recent research developments and the challenges faced at the national and European levels.

[WATCH THE EVENT](#)



The 2023 edition of EPHA's annual Access to Medicines (A2M) Forum aligns with the revision of EU pharmaceutical legislation, aiming to rebalance public and private interests for affordable access to quality, safe, innovative medicines. It will address the need for more effective incentives for antibiotic development and improved transparency in pharmaceutical R&D costs to ensure fair medicine pricing as part of the EU pharmaceutical legislation revision.

[WATCH THE EVENT](#)

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## News From Members



### Alcohol Action Ireland

Poll shows high level of public concern about the knock-on impacts of government proposals for later opening hours for pubs and clubs

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### Eurochild

Collaboration is Crucial Between Governments and Civil Society in Combating Child Poverty and Social Exclusion

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### AGE Platform Europe

#### 2024 EU election: kick-off of AGE campaign for a Europe for all ages

Six months before the votes for a new European Parliament, we want to recall the importance of working towards a Europe for all ages and suggest some strong, concrete measures at EU level to achieve tangible changes.

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### ASPHER

Dark forces are acting on Climate Change Policies in Europe, and the World

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### Wemos

Challenging the World Bank's privatization model for health systems

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### SFP

No country in Europe is immune to the Tobacco Industry's Influence

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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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