

Editorial

Strengthening Public Health Across the European Union

In 2024, **2 billion people** around the world will be voting. The European elections will take place between the 6th and 9th of June 2024, and already promise to be decisive for the future of the EU. The next mandate will have to act on dire challenges and crises, from climate change, pollution, and their health impacts to future pandemics, antimicrobial resistance (AMR), non-communicable diseases (NCDs), but also, to tackling the ticking time bomb that is the health and care workforce crisis. These challenges now seem even more dire with the announced cuts to the EU4Health programme.

As a civil society organisation, EPHA seeks to inform the ongoing elections debate, and brings health to the table of the next mandate of the EU institutions. Last June, ahead of the elections, EPHA defined its priorities for the next mandate. In November, these were further developed into suggestions for concrete measures. Making health a priority, with a committed European Commission Vice President on health, well-being, and social rights, but also ensuring an ambitious budget for health, will be key in paving the way to a stronger Health Union promoting cross-sectoral approaches to tackle the determinants of health. The vote in the European Council to **redeploy EU 1 billion** from the EU4Health programme, 20% of its overall budget, only shows how crucial this call for an ambitious budget is. Our manifesto also calls for improved access to care, addressing inequities, supporting civil society, and providing healthy environments to ensure people are healthy (AMR, climate change, tackling NCDs, ensuring sustainable food systems).

EPHA has as well coordinated the publication of the EU4Health Civil Society Alliance's manifesto last June, gathering over 40 signatories, and calling for health to be a priority on the agenda, a stronger Health Union, and increased support for health civil society organisations.

EPHA has also organised the development of the DisQo manifesto, focusing on anti-discrimination and health equity. The manifesto calls in particular for racism and discrimination to be recognised as fundamental determinants of health, as well as equity and wellbeing. The document calls for stronger and more inclusive participation of racialised, marginalised and discriminated communities, particularly through co-creation mechanisms.

Finally, we have actively taken part in the **Civil Society 4 EU** campaign, calling for a reverse of the shrinking civic space and strengthened civil dialogue, and in the campaign of the **Food Policy Coalition** calling for truly healthy, sustainable, and resilient food systems.

In the run-up to the elections, we will remain committed to sharing these priorities to make sure they are part of the debate. Indeed, in the coming months, EPHA will carry out an analysis of the EU political parties' manifestos and identify their plans and ambitions related to public health, especially in a multicrisis context. This analysis will show what the different political manifestos bring forward compared to international and EU objectives on public health, and in doing so will inform EU citizens on specific health topics.

Throughout this newsletter, we invite you to have a closer look at the different manifestos initiated or coordinated by EPHA. Our members' elections advocacy activities are also presented below, as well as EPHA's upcoming events and updates. This June, put Health on the ballot.



Clémentine Richer Delforge
Policy Manager, EPHA

EPHA's Elections Engagement



A closer look at EPHA's priorities ahead of the European elections

Ahead of the 2024 European Parliamentary elections, EPHA has identified five key priorities to keep health high on the political agenda, advance public health for all, and promote more resilient and equitable public health systems across the European Union.

[READ THE MANIFESTO](#)

Securing Stronger Action against Racism and Discrimination to Achieve Health Equity

The pan-European network **DisQo** has defined its priorities and recommendations ahead of the upcoming European elections in 2024, with the overarching goal of securing stronger action against racism and discrimination to achieve health equity. The manifesto gathers **5 key priorities**, focusing on the recognition of racism and discrimination, enhancing social participation, increasing the clarity of definitions, ensuring the collection of equality data and breaking policy silos.

[READ THE MANIFESTO](#)

DisQo
and discrimination & health equity



[#EU2024Elections](#)

Health needs strong support from the Commission and its future Commissioner, and be maintained **high on the political agenda.**

EU 2024 Elections: 10 priorities to secure health on the political agenda

The EU4Health Civil Society Alliance, has defined its priorities and recommendations ahead of the upcoming European elections in 2024. The manifesto gathers 10 key priorities, focusing on strengthening EU policymaking in public health, delivering stronger policies improving public health, and breaking policy silos.

[READ AND ENDORSE THE MANIFESTO](#)

EPHA Updates



Concerns Over EU4Health Cuts: Letter to Prime Minister De Croo and Health Minister Vandenberghe

Public health is a clear priority of the Belgian Presidency. This disproportionate cut would have a significant negative impact for the future of EU health policy and the health of EU citizens.

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From childhood to adulthood: examining the long-term effects of racial discrimination on mental and physical health

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Call for the Commission to leave a legacy of the EU's Farm to Fork Strategy through sustainable public food procurement

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The Strategic Dialogue on the Future of Agriculture must consider public health interests

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Consultation Responses



EPHA and RHN respond to consultation on national Roma strategic frameworks

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EPHA's contribution to the study on the effectiveness of health information on alcoholic beverages

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EPHA's comprehensive feedback to the EU4Health Programme 2021-2027 Consultation

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EPHA Events



As the world rapidly goes through a process of digitalisation, health systems are being transformed. The European Health Data Space aims to empower patients to be in control of their own digital health records; telemedicine services are becoming more widely available; artificial intelligence is revolutionizing clinical decision support systems; infodemics spread faster than ever, leading to mistrust in health authorities. Are all European citizens prepared to advocate for their health in this digital transformation?

[WATCH THE EVENT](#)

News From Members

EU Elections Advocacy

European Cancer Organisation

Time to Accelerate: Together Against Cancer

The recommendations reflect experiences and perspectives gathered during an unprecedented five-year period in EU cancer policy, with landmark attention and investment provided via both Europe’s Beating Cancer Plan and the EU Research Mission on Cancer.

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Association of European Cancer Leagues (ECL)

Intensifying the fight against cancer in Europe!

many challenges in cancer prevention, treatment, and quality of life after diagnosis remain and need to be addressed. Therefore, the timely rollout of remaining initiatives under the Europe’s Beating Cancer Plan and their effective implementation are crucial and should remain on top of the political agenda for the upcoming legislature.

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A new rate of cancer is diagnosed in the European Union (EU) every two weeks. In 2021, 2.7 million Europeans were diagnosed with the disease, and 1.2 million people lost their lives to it. Cancer mortality is still expected to rise from 2020 to 2025, making it the leading cause of death in the EU. With the Cancer Beating Plan (CBP), the EU has strengthened its fight against cancer. However, many challenges in cancer prevention, treatment, and quality of life after diagnosis remain and need to be addressed. Therefore, the timely rollout of remaining initiatives under the CBP and their effective implementation are crucial and should remain on top of the political agenda for the upcoming legislature.

The Association of European Cancer Leagues urges the policymakers in the 2024-2029 legislative cycle to:

- Make Europe a leader in innovative cancer research
- Help to improve the National Cancer Control Programmes
- Take all the necessary steps to enable healthy choices for all
- Promote intersectoral policies that protect planetary health
- Address inequalities in early detection of cancer
- Improve cancer care through national Comprehensive Cancer Infrastructures
- Justify buy-in despite treatments with high added value
- Address unmet medical needs and foster multiple pathways for medicines development
- Harmonise training and care guidelines for supportive cancer care
- Empower patients and caregivers to live with and beyond cancer
- Guarantee social, financial and financial protection and inclusion of those touched by cancer

The overall focus should be on equity and closing the gaps within and among Member States. In addition, all women in cancer patients and survivors should be supported, and those in need should benefit equally despite their socioeconomic situation. We elaborate on these calls to action below.





The Europe we want is for all ages

AGE Manifesto

2024 European Elections

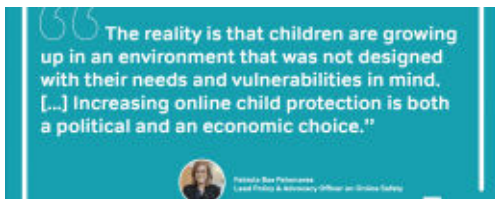
AGE Platform Europe

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

Recalling 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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Other News



Eurochild

Protecting children's rights online is a strategic choice

While it would be easy to assume that the safeguards children have in the offline realm have been translated to the digital environment, the reality is far from this.

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FEANTSA

Ten Facts You Need to Know About Homelessness and Human Rights

FEANTSA understands homelessness as a situation that deprives individuals of fundamental rights, including the right to adequate housing.

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European Network for Smoking and Tobacco Prevention

Supporting youth engagement in policy-making as a dual weapon against the Tobacco, Nicotine and Vaping Industry

In this policy brief, ENSPnext aims to address targeted strategies to encourage and coordinate significant efforts toward safeguarding the well-being of the youth and preventing the initiation of tobacco use among this vulnerable demographic.

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European Alcohol Policy Alliance

Unfinished Business: Lack of Progress on Vital Prevention Measures in Europe's Beating Cancer Plan

To effectively combat NCDs, including preventable cancers, Eurocare firmly believes in prioritising prevention.

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European Respiratory Society

ERS experts in joint call for action on clean air for all in Europe – without delay

Health experts have warned policymakers and political leaders about the devastating impact of a delay in fully aligning the EU's Ambient Air Quality Directive with WHO air quality guidelines.

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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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