1. Summary

Lacking

While mentioning public health on several occasions, the manifesto fails to make the connection between healthy environment and healthy people, and does not make a reference, nor a hint, to the concept of health in all policies. The manifesto also does not address the question of antimicrobial resistance (AMR), nor does it mention the concept of One Health. Although mentioning on several occasions the role of the EU on the global stage, the manifesto does not address the current commitments of the EU on global and multilateral initiatives. Current files are also omitted, such as the Pharma Package, the European Health Data Space (EHDS), or the Fit for 55 dimension of the Green Deal.

The manifesto contains elements that could be detrimental to public health. While the Green Deal is extensively mentioned, the vision shown could lower the level of ambition needed from the EU regarding climate. Finally, while the manifesto mentions several initiatives that are equity-related, the proposals regarding asylum policy could present a mismatch with the respect of EU values and fundamental rights. Moreover, they could hinder anti-discriminatory policy measures.

Insufficient to meet EU goals and commitments

While public health is mentioned in the manifesto, it does not develop a vision that would bring the necessary ambition regarding disease prevention and health promotion. The manifesto does not refer to determinants of health, or risk factors of NCDs. The question of sustainable food systems is insufficiently addressed, with, a focus on food security instead. Environment and climate are addressed, without a sufficient link to health, and a focus only on some topics (energy, fossil fuels). The question of medicines shortages is briefly mentioned. Similarly, the health and care workforce alongside their mobility are mentioned but then not sufficiently addressed. The resilience of health systems is hinted at, but not developed enough. The manifesto addresses issues relevant for access to care, and on digital transformation. However, these two topics lack concrete measures to be implemented.
Addressed

The manifesto provides several insights targeting public health, including a mention of an EU Health Union, and several mentions of wellbeing. The document also addresses food security, from a farming perspective. The question of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) is also quite well developed, with several proposals, but lacks a prevention aspect. Equity is developed in several aspects, in terms of health, gender, age, but also territorial equity. Particularly, funding for health research is extensively covered. The manifesto provides several elements relevant to pandemic and crisis preparedness. It also addresses mental health. As for environmental elements, the manifesto touches upon the issues of circular economy, phasing out of fossil fuels, emissions and the electrification of the transport fleet. It also hints on several occasion to a just transition, by mentioning “leaving no one behind”. Finally, institutional elements are significantly addressed, with the EU Health Union mention, and a call for a Vice President tackling the demographic issues in an overarching way.

Key proposals: European plan to address Alzheimer’s disease, dementia and Parkinson’s disease; European Cardiovascular Health Plan; New Pact for intergenerational fairness; European Guarantee for older citizens; EU Action Plan for Mental Health; European Workers’ Guarantee for the Digital Market; implementation of Europe’s Beating Cancer Plan; strengthen the EU strategy for Outermost Regions; strengthen the European Care Strategy: implementation of the Net-Zero Industry Act and the Critical Raw Materials Act.

Additional relevant elements to public health

The manifesto provides a proposal in terms of health equity and inclusion, that would be relevant to public health, supporting the establishment of a European Guarantee for older citizens. Regarding crisis preparedness, the manifesto proposes the creation of a Civil Protection Union force, targeting “strategic reserves of food, water, medicines and medical equipment”. The manifesto mentions EU enlargement and treaties change to strengthen the EU, calling for a European Convention.

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2. Focus

Assessing content related to health
by number of topics

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1 Disclaimer: this visual reflects the coverage of the 16 topics listed in the analyses. Some of the topics comprise more elements than others.