Manifesto Analysis



European Left (EL)



1. Summary



Lacking

The manifesto fails to address the biggest health burden in the EU: **non-communicable diseases** (NCDs). Although there are elements targeting the protection of people's health, through guaranteeing a healthy environment, healthy food and stronger public healthcare systems, there is a lack of emphasis on disease **prevention**. **Mental health** is also absent from the manifesto, as well as the topic of **anti-microbial resistance** (AMR), currently a top global health challenge. **Digital transformation** is only tackled in very general terms and with no link to health. In addition, key current files are not mentioned or addressed such as Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, Global Health Strategy, European Health Data Space (EHDS), the Pharma Package.



Insufficient to meet EU goals and commitments

While the manifesto emphasises the need for free universal access to health and care, the dimension of access to medicines is completely omitted. Although no mention is made of the current shortages of health and care workforce, nor of the need to solve the challenges it is facing, a special mention is made of the care economy and the important place that women occupy in it. Health crisis preparedness is also insufficiently addressed as the manifesto only mentions global cooperation in the response to health crises. While research is addressed, no reference to health is made. While the manifesto stresses the importance of environmental policy, it lacks concrete measures in that regard. The manifesto also emphasises the urgency of mitigating and adapting to climate change, with a specific focus on the concept of a just transition. However, the topics are also tackled on a rather superficial level. Finally, the topic of energy is only timidly addressed, and a One Health approach is not directly mentioned in the manifesto, although a few hints point to it.



Addressed

Throughout the manifesto, there are various references to the importance of **public health**. Several **institutional elements** that could be linked in various degrees to further action on public health are provided. The manifesto explicitly mentions the importance of strengthening public **healthcare**...



Addressed (cont.)

...systems and proposes concrete measures to do so. The manifesto aligns well with many global and multilateral commitments, such as the SDGs. It stressed the importance of achieving the Paris Agreement goals and targets and of the fight against pandemics. Health and equity is the section that is the most well addressed in the European Left manifesto. Special attention is given to inequalities, gender equality, LGBTQIA+ rights, housing and poverty (including energy poverty), with specific measures foreseen. On food systems, the manifesto highlights the need for an "environmentally sustainable agriculture", and it promotes a model that can foster healthy food.

Key proposals: European Fund for public services; EU directive on inequalities and discrimination; permanent Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) to reduce inequalities; EU Equal Pay Directive; recognition of unpaid and underpaid care work; EU Directive on reproductive health; EU policy framework to eliminate gender-based violence; recognition of the term 'feminicide' in EU and national legislation; common EU definition of rape; Anti-poverty strategy; European Basic Income Directive; legal right to free access to energy for basic needs, EU directive on housing; marriage and parenthood right for all couples; depathologisation of trans identities and access to treatment; implementation of the Sustainable Mobility Directive; changes in the banking policy of the ECB to foster green investments; reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 65% by 2030 and achieve climate neutrality by 2035.

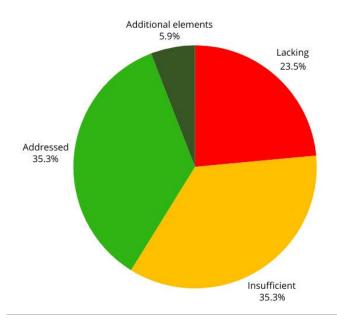


Additional relevant elements to public health

The manifesto mentions **treaty changes** and a more central role of the European Parliament, which could be linked to further action on public health. Indeed, it foresees enshrining universal and free access to health and care in EU primary law, as well as a "European public pharmaceutical/medial hub".

2. Focus¹

Assessing content related to health by number of topics



Non-communicable diseases Mental health Digital transformation Antimicrobial resistance

Access to care
Health crisis preparedness
Health workforce
Research in health
Environment and health
mate change adaptation/mitigation

Public health as a priority
Health equity
Sustainable food systems
Global and multilateral initiatives
Institutional elements
Resilience of health systems

Treaty changes and institutional tools

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



