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International & European Institutions

Beating Cancer Inequalities in the EU

Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development released a report covering the scale and causes of and for cancer inequalities. This covers the different between, but also within EU countries. Some of the main focus points include mortality rates, healthy environments, workforce and screening rates.



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On the 10th anniversary of Zero Discrimination Day UNAIDS calls for the protection of human rights as a path to protecting health for all

UNAIDS

2024 is the 10th anniversary of Zero Discrimination Day, once established by UNAIDS. It takes place in a difficult time, where attacks on the rights of women, girls and LGBTQ+ people, as well as other marginalised communities are on the rise. This underlines once more the need to call out these issues and ensure that everybody's health is protected.

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A vote for non-discrimination is a vote for human dignity and health

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

The largest election year in history, in which over 3.7 billion people across more than 70 countries worldwide are expected to vote, will decide on issues directly impacting health, particularly of those communities most marginalised. Inclusive governments that support the needs of the marginalised will be of utmost importance to ensure better health outcomes. And despite harsh backlash in recent years, communities and civil society around the world do a tremendous job in advocating for human rights and equity.

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Two years on: women fleeing Russia's war in Ukraine need more support

European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE)

As the war in Ukraine goes into its third year, the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) releases another report on the barriers and difficulties faced by Ukrainian women fleeing the war. Through an EU-wide survey and follow-up interviews in 4 Member States, the report covers six healthcare services. The final result shows that there are still many barriers and issues around sexual and reproductive health which must be addressed.

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EU Global Health Strategy: Council approves conclusions

Council of the European Union

The Council of the European Union has approved conclusions on the EU Global Health Strategy, including topics relevant to health equity. It underlines health as a human right, while also covering crucial topics such as mental health, universal health coverage and discrimination, stigma and inequalities. It remains to be seen whether this will lead to concrete action on the member state level.

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The State of Children in the European Union 2024

UNICEF

It is no secret that 2024 will be a pivotal year, not least for the elections. A new report from UNICEF now clearly underlines the same for children in the European Union. By focusing on child poverty, mental health, the environment and digital technologies, the paper outlines some of the largest challenges for the EU's children which should be addressed.

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Commission welcomes political agreement on European Disability and Parking Cards

European Commission

After being proposed in September 2023, an agreement has now been reached between the European Parliament and the Member States on the European Disability Card and European Parking Card. With this, it will become significantly easier for people with disability to move around the EU. It is hoped that this will successfully counteract discrimination against people with disabilities in mobility in the Union.

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Research Developments

Investing in women's health is essential in the era of polycrises

The BMJ

The merge of several global crisis, such as the cost-of-living crisis, ongoing conflict, and the climate crisis, account for devastating negative health effects for women and girls worldwide. To counteract this worrisome development, it is imperative to invest in women's health, particularly through supporting feminist leadership, feminist CSOs, and technical capacity to advance sex and gender integration in policies and programmes. It is important to prioritise women's health in a time of competing priorities for the better of the whole society.

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THE LANCET
Public Health

BMC
Public Health

How outdoor advertising placement relates to health and wealth inequalities

Adfree Cities

This new report sheds light on the location of advertising outdoor billboards and their respective placements across England and Wales. The report finds that advertising is disproportionately prevalent in more deprived areas and calls for a reform in outdated UK planning legislation.

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Social and spatial inequalities in premature mortality across Europe

The Lancet

Health inequities exist in many different forms, but it is often quite difficult to measure these inequities along specific determinants. This Lancet comment discussed the difficulty of finding data on social and spatial inequalities related to premature mortality, specifically between different parts of Europe.

[READ MORE](#)

Trends in socioeconomic inequalities in cause-specific premature mortality in Belgium

BMC Public Health

By comparing deprivation and premature mortality rates, this paper forms an overview of the relation between socioeconomic inequality and premature death. Though premature mortality rates have decreased, the inequalities have grown, meaning more efforts are required to ensure people in deprived areas are not left behind.

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Inequalities in healthcare use during the COVID-19 pandemic

Nature Communications

The drop in non-COVID related healthcare use during the pandemic has been unproportionally accounted for by a decline in usage from individuals below the poverty lines, females, older people, as well as people with a migrant background.

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Working conditions and mental health of migrants and refugees in Europe considering cultural origin– a systematic review

BMC Public Health

Making up a large part of the European workforce, migrants and refugees often face hardship in the form of unfavourable working conditions in their host countries. The poor working conditions for these groups are related to poor mental health outcomes.

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In the Media



How weathering affects Black people's health

Vox

Jonquilyn Hill talks about her experience with fibroids. She uses this example to talk about the concept of 'weathering'. This is the idea that racism can have direct effects not only in healthcare access, but on the actual health and wellbeing of ethnic minorities, both mentally and physically.

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Racism in medicine | DW Documentary

Deutsche Welle

The effects of racism in the healthcare sector are not often noticed by the people who do not experience it themselves. Racism is no less present in healthcare, as illustrated in this documentary. Issues from conscious and unconscious bias, exemplified by 'Morbus Mediterraneus', being refused appointments, to hospital equipment not functioning properly when used on black patients.

[WATCH MORE](#)



Ethnic minorities in England have worse access to GPs

The Guardian

A new analysis shows that areas with higher proportions of ethnic minorities in England have the poorest access to general practitioners. According to experts, this is most likely due to an outdated and unequal funding system. Overall, the number of GPs per patients is 13% lower in the most deprived areas than in the most affluent ones.

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Other News



ROMA HEALTH
NETWORK

EPHA and Roma Health Network respond to consultation on national Roma strategic frameworks

European Public Health Alliance

As part of the review process of the EU Roma Strategic Framework, EPHA and the Roma Health Network responded to a Commission consultation. From the perspective

of Roma and pro-Roma health stakeholders the response points out how Roma health could be improved. Among other topics, we call for a more cross-sectoral approach, more engagement with civil society, and capacity building of grassroots organisations.

[BUTTON](#)

Ngozi Erondu: pursuing justice, equity, and dignity in global health

The Lancet

Ngozi Erondu, an infectious disease epidemiologist born in the USA to Nigerian parents, dedicated her career to pursue health equity. Ngozi challenges neocolonial approaches to global health and promotes anti-racist practices and policies in global health, and pushes for equitable global health funding.



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The toll of discrimination on mental health

ERRC

Perceived discrimination as well as simply being a member of a group which is often discriminated against has detrimental effects on one's mental and physical health. Hence, Roma are at an increased risk for mental health problems due to facing widespread antigypsyism and discrimination across Europe as illustrated by research and reports.

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Inequalities in life expectancy: how the UK compares

The Health Foundation

Measuring health inequities is always difficult because of a lack of data, especially when comparing between countries. This article has managed to make such a comparison from the UK perspective. The results show that the UK tends to have larger health inequities based on socio-economic or educational determinants than comparable countries.

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Who can participate in the fight for minority and indigenous rights?

Minority Rights

To be able to fight for your rights, access is crucial. Some of the most marginalised groups are indigenous people, minorities and people with disabilities. If the rights of these people are to be represented, it is crucial that they are able to access channels of information and platforms to voice their needs. But how do we ensure accessibility for these groups?

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Upcoming Events



Heading towards well-being societies in Europe

European Health Forum Gastein

14 March 12:00-13:30 Online - As part of the European Health Forum Gastein, this webinar will go in-depth on the concept of well-being societies, a shift from measuring the economy by economic growth, to an economy measured by well-being along lines of social, economic and environmental conditions. This concept will be discussed by stakeholders from a wide range of sectors.

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Health inequality: a blind spot

Minerva and InES

27 March 9:30-13:30, Auditorium Solidaris Pl. Saint-Jean 1, 1000 Brussels. This event organised by Minerva and InES focuses on health inequalities faced by migrants in the Belgian healthcare system, and how these inequalities can potentially be reduced. The event is in English, Dutch and French, and applications can be sent to info@denktankminerva.be

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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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