

ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

Why an EPF Campaign on Access to Healthcare?

Patients across the EU are facing barriers to access to healthcare, whether it's because it's not available, not adapted to needs, or not affordable. According to the UN Sustainable Goal (SDG) on Health, EU Member States have committed to achieve Universal Health Coverage for all by 2030.

This campaign is an opportunity to build on the current political momentum and aims at fostering more EU cooperation on access to healthcare, prompting Member States to act on their engagements towards achieving the UN SDGs.



But what is Universal Health Coverage?

According to the World Health Organisation, Universal Health Coverage is “to ensure that all people obtain the health services they need without suffering financial hardship when paying for them”.

The WHO describes four essential elements to achieve this: *A strong, efficient, well-run, people-centred health system; affordability; access to essential medicines and technologies and a well-trained and capacity-sufficient health workforce.*

And what is Access to Healthcare?

EPF considers that access to healthcare encompasses 5 key dimensions needed to ensure equitable access to high quality healthcare from the perspective of patients:

1. AVAILABILITY

Healthcare services and products are available in the healthcare system of a country



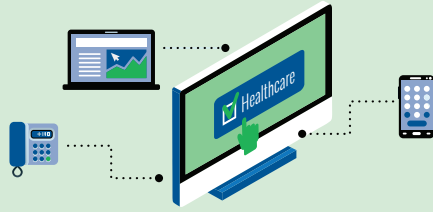
2. AFFORDABILITY

Healthcare does not cause financial hardship to patients



3. ACCESSIBILITY

No barriers stopping patients from accessing healthcare



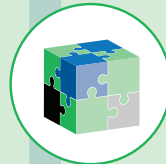
4. ADEQUACY

Quality healthcare and involvement of patients in shared decision making with healthcare professionals



5. APPROPRIATENESS

Healthcare meets the needs of different groups in the population



What is the overarching goal of the campaign?

“ To contribute to making **universal access a reality for EU patients by 2030**, through defining and promoting concrete actions, in concert with the health community, to which decision makers need to commit, to ensure we achieve the Health SDGs by 2030.



EPF Working Group on Access

The Campaign will focus on 5 areas for political action

For each of the 5 areas, EPF and the campaign's partners will develop a set of policy recommendations and actions to achieve the objective set out by the campaign. All the recommendations from the different areas will be presented in a policy document at the end of the campaign, setting priorities and measures to be taken in order to reach Universal Health Coverage for All by 2030.



Providing access to quality of care



Committing to sustainable investment in health



Encouraging affordability of healthcare products and services



Implementing access to a holistic range of health and social services



Ending discrimination and stigma patients are facing in healthcare