



European
Commission



INVESTING

IN HEALTH

KEY MESSAGES

February 2013

Health and
Consumers

Investing in Health

As part of the Social Investment package, the Commission paper:



- Extends the EU Health Strategy by reinforcing its key objectives
- A healthy population and sustainable health systems are decisive for economic growth



- Establishes the role of health in the Europe 2020 strategy
- Recognises the contribution of health to prepare a job-rich recovery



- Reaffirms that health is a value in itself
- Makes the case that health is a growth-friendly type of expenditure



Investing in health is:

- Investing in health systems
- Investing in people's health
- Investing in reducing inequalities in health

Investing in Sustainable Health Systems

Cost-effective spending, structural reforms and sound innovation can bring efficiency gains and secure better health outcomes

Cost effective spending: No linear relation between spending and health outcomes. The OECD estimates that reforms could lead up to 2 % of GDP savings by 2017

Structural Reforms: 2010 Commission/EPC report on health systems: e.g.

- Reducing the unnecessary use of specialists and hospital care
- Improving primary healthcare services
- Better health promotion and disease prevention (at work, in school, in health institutions and through incentives)
- Increased use of generic drugs

Cost effective technologies based on Health Technology Assessment (HTA) for an informed decision

Investing in People's Health as a Human Capital

Health can boost economic growth by enabling people to remain active longer and in better health

Health status influences labour market participation and productivity. Poor health leads to absenteeism (3-6 % of working time) or job loss (10 % for health reasons). 23.5 % of working people have their activities restricted

Only 3% of current health expenditure is dedicated to prevention

Devoting resources more directly to disease prevention and health promotion can reduce the human and economic burdens of chronic diseases

Health Workforce

Job creation potential up to 8 million by 2020 (mainly due to replacement needs)

Investing in Reducing Inequalities in Health

Health outcomes vary considerably within and between Member States

Life expectancy gap up to 11,6 years (males) and 7,9 years (female)

Health coverage can help reducing poverty and fighting social exclusion

Universal access to healthcare services

Health promotion and intersectoral action require a 'health in all policies' approach

Addressing the social determinants of health

Investing in Health: EU Level Tools

Cooperation between Member States:

- The European Semester mechanisms (AGS, CSRs, NRPs)
- Council Reflection Process on health systems
- Mechanisms put in place by the Cross-border healthcare Directive (HTA network, European Reference Networks etc.)

Commission initiatives:

- Action Plan for the health workforce
- Expert panel to advise on investing in health
- Studies and Indicators to inform policy making
- European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing
- Report on the 'Solidarity in Health' Communication

Funding mechanisms:

- Health Programme
- European Structural and Investment Funds
- Horizon 2020

