



EXPERT PANEL ON EFFECTIVE WAYS OF INVESTING IN HEALTH

Opinion on Benchmarking access to healthcare in the EU.

In April 2017 the European Commission published a recommendation establishing the European Pillar of Social Rights. The Pillar serves as the reference framework to screen the employment and social performance of participating Member States, to drive the process of reforms at national level and, more specifically, to serve as a compass for renewed convergence within the euro area. The recommendation includes a principle on healthcare stating that «Everyone shall have timely access to good quality preventive and curative health care».

The Expert Panel on effective ways of investing in Health has been requested by the Commission to provide its views on Benchmarking Access to Healthcare.

Access to healthcare is a complex issue. As noted in a previous opinion of the Panel on access to health services, «policy responses should reflect the multi-dimensional nature of access problems, the importance of intersectoral action and the specificities of national and regional contexts.» The Panel is expected to use the conclusions of that opinion and other relevant knowledge to build a framework that can be operationalized and can help guiding the improvement of access to healthcare in EU Member States, taking into consideration the different contexts and the multi-dimensional nature of the challenges.

Specifically the Panel has been asked to:

- 1.** suggest a quantitative benchmark/target for the EU and a target which can be adapted to the context of each Member State on access to healthcare based on the unmet needs for medical examination indicator.
- 2.** propose a qualitative benchmark, based on principles and policy levers and which can be operationalised, to improve access to healthcare in the EU Member States.
- 3.** discuss the possible utilization of EU funds and/or other mechanisms to support the improvement of access to healthcare according to the benchmarks proposed.

The opinion of the Panel is expected to be finalised in September 2017.

The expert Panel

The Expert Panel on effective ways of investing in health is an interdisciplinary and independent group established by the European Commission to provide non-binding advice. The Expert Panel aims to provide the necessary evidence that will support the EU countries in delivering high quality care and making their health systems more resilient and efficient whilst improving accessibility to all.

They currently work on questions related to:

Innovation in pricing models for innovative medicines

Access to healthcare in the EU

Assessing the performance of health systems