

Executive summary

A realistic résumé consists in the demand for an integrative approach aimed at combating the causes of inequalities:

- The health care sector alone, however, is not in a position to cope with this task (see also Health Report by the European Commission 1996).

Health policy measures intended to combat inequalities in health only seem reasonable and effective if they are integrated into a number of socio-political interventions (social security, labour market policy, educational policy, housing policy, immigration policy, etc).

- On the other hand, the required integrative approach does not allow to derive a strategy which would take the load off the shoulders of the decision makers in health policy in the stricter sense of the term. Positive and promising approaches of corresponding initiatives are in many ways available in the European Region.

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