



The Marseille Statement: Building bridges for solidarity in public health

The European Public Health Association, the Société Française de Santé Publique - French Public Health Society - and partners, meeting at the European Public Health Conference in Marseille in November 2019, urge all governments to honour the commitments undertaken in pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and specifically the pledge of ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all. We, gathered here in Marseille, therefore call upon decision-makers to intensify efforts to build bridges for solidarity in public health. Particular attention should be given to:

1. Leaving no one behind, by ensuring that migrants are not left behind in policies on health and their needs are fully addressed in health systems; and
2. Translating knowledge, by promoting evidence-informed health policies, taking into consideration cultural and language differences.

Leaving no one behind

The 'health for all' frameworks (such as the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, UNHCHR 1976), undersigned by all countries in the European region, identify access to healthcare as a basic human right for everyone. Governments that have made these commitments must be held accountable for providing healthcare to asylum seekers and undocumented migrants. More concretely, no one seeking asylum or without appropriate documentation should die or be put in danger by limited or no access to healthcare.

Translating knowledge

On a policy level, the emergence of the anti-science movement and anti-immigration sentiment risk undermining our health policies. Science is increasingly criticised and ignored by parts of society, and achievements made in health are negatively impacted (e.g. false information about vaccination is lowering vaccination rates). This undermining of science needs to be combatted.

The public health community:

1. takes its responsibility for supporting migration policies;
2. is determined to the value of solidarity through the health for all policies approach;
3. and calls for action to combat inequities in health.

The European Public Health Association, or EUPHA in short, is an umbrella organisation for public health associations in Europe. Our network of national associations of public health represents around 20,000 public health professionals. Our mission is to facilitate and activate a strong voice of the public health network by enhancing visibility of the evidence and by strengthening the capacity of public health professionals. EUPHA contributes to the preservation and improvement of public health in the European region through capacity and knowledge building. We are committed to creating a more inclusive Europe, narrowing all health inequalities among Europeans, by facilitating,



activating, and disseminating strong evidence-based voices from the public health community and by strengthening the capacity of public health professionals to achieve evidence-based change.

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