



# Did the European Semester become more suitable to reduce health inequalities?

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# Health equity as a common goal

- *Improving health and well-being for all, reducing health inequities and ensuring no one is left behind will bring wider economic, social and environmental benefits to Member States.*

WHO, The Health Equity Status Report, 2019

- European Semester

- Annual cycle of clearly scheduled steps enabling Member States to coordinate their **economic and social policies** throughout the year and address possible challenges the EU may face.



# Key changes to European Semester since 2011 European Semester

Growing focus on social/investments:

- Social scoreboard
- Sustainable Development Goals
- Cohesion funds (2014-2020) mid-term review and “Investment CSRs”
- Sustainable Competitiveness: focusing on inter-connected dimensions of productivity, environmental sustainability, macro-economic stability and fairness
- Recovery and Resilience Facility

## Key changes to European Semester since onset COVID-19

- All 27 country reports now contain thematic annexes discussing population health and health systems.
- Country Specific Recommendations will “complement” reforms and investments under way via the Recovery and Resilience Plans

# “Health CSRs” from 2023 European Semester

Country	CSRs
EE	3. Strengthen social protection, including for older people to reduce old-age poverty, and for unemployed by extending the coverage of unemployment benefits, in particular for those with short work spells and in non-standard forms of work. <b>Improve access to and affordability of health and long-term care, in particular by ensuring their sustainable funding.--</b>
EL	3. To ensure <b>adequate and equal access to healthcare</b> , complete the roll-out of the primary healthcare framework and adopt stronger incentives for the enrolment of an adequate number of family doctors in order to achieve full population coverage and population registration.
LV	1 Broaden taxation, including of property and capital, and <b>strengthen the adequacy of healthcare</b> and social protection.
LT	1. <b>Strengthen the adequacy of healthcare</b> and social protection and improve general public services.
	3. <b>Strengthen primary care and scale up preventive care to reinforce the resilience of the health system.</b> Improve the planning and delivery of social services. Improve access to and quality of social housing.
AT	1. [Fiscal CSR] + Ensure the <b>adequacy and fiscal sustainability of the health and long-term care systems.</b> Simplify and rationalise fiscal relations and responsibilities across layers of government and align financing and spending responsibilities. Improve the tax mix to support inclusive and sustainable growth.
SI	1. [Fiscal CSR] + Ensure the <b>long-term fiscal sustainability of the healthcare and long-term care systems.</b> Rebalance tax revenues towards more green and growth-friendly sources.

# Thank you