

Social inequalities in health in the EU

Are countries closing the health gap?

Webinar

Friday, 26 September 2025, 10h - 12h30 CET

Overview

Social inequalities in health in Europe are not just a challenge; they are a call to action. Health outcomes are inextricably linked to our socio-economic context, education, living and working conditions and access to essential services. Addressing these factors is not merely a health imperative; it is essential for preserving Europe's social model and ensuring its competitiveness.

However, as the **new report on 'Social Inequalities in Health in the EU'** by [EuroHealthNet](#) and the [Centre for Health Equity Analytics \(CHAIN\)](#) confirms, the links between socio-economic disadvantage and poor health remain persistent.

Following a high-level European policy debate hosted by MEP Vytenis Andriukaitis, on behalf of the European Parliament Interest Group on 'Health Inequalities, Prevention and Risk Factors' on 25 September, EuroHealthNet organises this public and expert webinar on **26 September 2025 from 10 to 12h30 CET** to discuss the report's national and subnational data and good practices in more depth.

The online workshop will bring together European, national and regional public health experts, researchers, policymakers and representatives from civil society.

The insights shared will support us all to champion integrated strategies that not only improve public health but also combat poverty and social exclusion.

Agenda

Hyperlink to join the plenary: <https://kurzlinks.de/InequalitiesWebinarPlenary>

10.00 – 10.40 **The evidence: EuroHealthNet-CHAIN report's key findings on 'Social inequalities in health in the EU.'**

Moderated by **Caroline Costongs**, Director at EuroHealthNet

- **Caroline Costongs**, Director at EuroHealthNet - Welcome
- **Mirza Balaj**, Project Leader CHAIN- Centre for Health Equity Analytics/ ROA Maastricht University – *What does the data tell us about social inequalities in health?*
- **Ingrid Stegeman**, Programme Manager at EuroHealthNet – *What are the drivers and why care about health and its distribution across society?*
- **Dominic Watters**, Single dad and poverty expert – *Beyond the data: What can I tell you about social inequalities in health?*

Audience Q&A

10.40 – 11.15 **Panel discussion: What can be done? Policy recommendations and actions**

Moderated by **Caroline Costongs**, Director at EuroHealthNet

- **Silvia Ganzerla**, Policy Manager at EuroHealthNet – *Key conclusions from the launch event in the European Parliament*
- **Christine Brown**, Head of the WHO European Office for Investment for Health - WHO European Health Equity Status Report initiative (HESRI) and recommendations for action
- **Terje Eikemo**, Leader of the Centre for Health Equity Analytics (CHAIN) - *Recommendations to improve data monitoring*
- **Ana Gil Luciano**, Head of Health promotion and Equity, Spanish Ministry of Health – *Actions on social inequalities in health in Spain*
- **Raffaella Bucciardini**, Director of the National Centre for Global Health at the Italian National Institute of Health – *Actions in the EU Joint Action PreventNCD*

11.15 **Coffee/tea break**

11.25 – 12.00

Choose your in-depth case study on how to address social inequalities in health: Parallel breakout session

<p>OPTION 1 - Poland</p> <p>Hyperlink to join the breakout session: https://kurzlinks.de/PolandCaseStudy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Terje Eikemo, Specific data from the report ● Stefan Bogusławski, Deputy Head at the Department of Population Health Monitoring and Analysis at the Polish National Institute of Public Health – Additional national data and specific action taken in Poland <p>Audience Q&A and discussion on closing the gaps</p>	<p>OPTION 2 – Austria</p> <p>Hyperlink to join the breakout session: https://kurzlinks.de/AustriaCaseStudy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Anne Wagenführ-Leroy, Specific data from the report ● Marion Weigl, Head of the Health, Society and Equity Department at the Austrian National Public Health Institute – Specific action and data from the Frühe-Hilfen-Netzwerke to improve the living situation of families <p>Audience Q&A and discussion on closing the gaps</p>
<p>OPTION 3 – Spain</p> <p>Hyperlink to join the breakout session: https://kurzlinks.de/SpainCaseStudy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ingrid Stegeman, Specific data from the report ● Ana Gil Luciano, Head of Health promotion and Equity, Spanish Ministry of Health – Additional national data and Spain's Checklist for Equity in Health Strategies, Programmes and Activities <p>Audience Q&A and discussion on closing the gaps</p>	<p>OPTION 4 – Norway</p> <p>Hyperlink to join the breakout session: https://kurzlinks.de/NorwayCaseStudy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mirza Balaj, Specific data from the report ● Øyvind Gæver, Director of the Department of Social Determinants of Health at the Norwegian Directorate of Health – Additional national data and specific action taken in Norway <p>Audience Q&A and discussion on closing the gaps</p>

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12.00 – 12.10

Wrap-up of key insights from country examples

- Short feedback from the four sessions and discussions

12.10 – 12.30

Conclusions and next steps

- Professor Sir **Michael Marmot**, Director of the Institute of Health Equity, University College London
- **Caroline Costongs**, Director at EuroHealthNet



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