

BUILDING A EUROPEAN HEALTH SYSTEM



ESEC OPINION – APRIL 2022

The Covid-19 crisis has been a wake-up call to the importance of the European level and has forcefully demonstrated the need to **build a coordinated, efficient and protective European health system for citizens.**

74% OF EUROPEANS

want the EU's powers to be extended to deal with future health crises and pandemics (*Eurobarometer, June 2021*)

Taking as its starting point the lessons to be learned from the management of the Covid-19 pandemic and in the context of the current French Presidency of the European Union, ESEC's draft opinion sets out **17 recommendations** for laying the foundations for an effective European Health System, capable of meeting these challenges and the expectations of its citizens.



A EUROPEAN HEALTH SYSTEM IS:

- **A political challenge** to make health an EU priority
- **A public health challenge** for better prevention and targeted action plans (cardiovascular diseases, mental health, cancer, infectious diseases, etc.)
- **A scientific challenge** for more investment in research
- **An industrial challenge** for strategic autonomy
- **A digital challenge** for better management of health data and digital access

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ESEC'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BUILDING A EUROPEAN HEALTH SYSTEM

1 DEVELOP A EUROPEAN HEALTH DEMOCRACY

Make the construction of a European Health System, based on a unique model, in line with the values of Europe and adapted to the needs of its citizens, a political priority on the agenda of the European authorities and the Member States

- **Define a European health strategy** that will strengthen Europe's voice on the international stage.
- **Ensure better representation of citizens and organised civil society** in the governance system of European health agencies.
- **Build a common European health model according to the integrated One Health approach**, based on the EU's values of solidarity and social and territorial cohesion, its international commitments (Sustainable Development Goals) and integrating interactions with animal health and the environment.



2 ENSURE BETTER COORDINATION, STRENGTHEN PREVENTION AND ADDRESS THE CHALLENGES:

- **Mandate the European Commissioner for Health and Food Safety to be responsible for the coordination of EU health agencies**, under the control of the European Parliament, and promote articulation with other European public policies.
- **Lift patents, in the event of pandemics and health crises**, to provide third countries with the capacity to manufacture and administer vaccines because health is a common good.



- **Support the proposed EU Directive on psychosocial risks and well-being at work**, in consultation with the social partners, so that every citizen has the same rights and protection in terms of occupational health.

