

Health for All

From a Slogan to a Reality for Europe

Friday 15 March 2024 | 10:00 – 15:00
Krytyka Polityczna in Cieszyn, Poland
(English & Polish interpretation)

TO REGISTER

CONTEXT

The conference aims to exchange the views of European social democracy circles ahead of the upcoming elections in Poland and the EU. European social democracy has always been historically sensitive to the link between the right to health and human rights. This connection has rarely been as close as it is today. The complex political situation and growing systemic crises call for an in-depth analysis. The physical condition of the population is an issue affecting the security of the European project. Lessons from pandemics remain a major source of political controversy and political instability.

Health is a political and economic issue. Social democracy must offer viable solutions for the area that has always constituted its core: public health. As part of the discussions, we will address the phenomena of privatisation of health services, tendencies towards a geographical centralisation of the services offered by hospitals and clinics, the mental health crisis and the systemic burden of the long COVID phenomenon.

AGENDA

10:00 – 10:10

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTORY REMARKS

- **Mateusz Piotrowski**, Europe a Patient
- **David Rinaldi**, Director for Studies and Policy, FEPS

10:10 – 10:45

Health as Priority for European Action

Keynotes by

- **Paulina Piechna-Więckiewicz**, Deputy Minister for Education in charge of mental health and young people
- **Vytėnis Povilas Andriukaitis**, WHO Special Envoy for the European Region, former EU Commissioner for Health and Food Safety, and author of the book '[A European Health Union](#)'

10:45 – 11:30

Addressing Mental Health Crisis in Europe / 45min

The discussion panel aims to delve into the challenging situation of psychiatric care in Poland/Central Europe in the context of growing mental health issues within Polish/CE society, it is important to identify the causes of the crisis and seek constructive solutions. Aspects such as the availability of psychiatric services, and the quality of care and prevention in this area, especially targeting children and youth, will be discussed, as well as the challenges facing the healthcare system related to these aspects.

Scene Setting:

- **Tomáš Petříček**, Director of the Progressive Centre and former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Czechia
- **Andrzej Kłoda**, Psychiatrist, Mental Health Center, Cieszyn

Panel discussion with:

- **Natalia Kallio**, Board member, European Youth Forum

- **Tomasz Szafrański**, Head of Department of Psychiatry, Lazarski University & Wolski Mental Health Center, Warszawa, President-Elect, Polish Association of Community Psychiatry
- **Sara Bojarczuk**, Research Assistant Professor, Centre of Migration Research, University of Warsaw

Q&A

- Chair: **Monika Helak**, Sociologist, publicist

11:30 – 12:45

Privatisation and regional inequalities in access to hospitals and care services

The consequences of privatising healthcare services and their impact on accessibility and quality of medical care, as well as the deepening social stratification in this context, will be analysed. Trends toward centralisation of healthcare services and their effects on the functioning of the healthcare system will be discussed.

Panel discussion with:

- **Maria Libura**, Head of the Department of Medical Didactics and Simulation at the Medical College of the University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn, vice-president of the Polish Medical Communication Association
- **Jerzy Przystajko**, Left Together, Expert on healthcare

Q&A

- Chair: **Paulina Nowak**, Europe a Patient

12:45 – 13:30

NETWORKING LUNCH

13:30 – 14:15

The systemic burden of Long Covid and well-being in the workplace

Long Covid is a topic almost absent from the public sphere, but the phenomenon's scale means it can no longer be overlooked. We need a debate about both treatments, diagnosis and prevention options.

Panel discussion with:

- **David Steadson**, Epidemiologist, patient advocate
- **Vicky van der Togt**, Research Aid Networks, Expert advisor Long Covid SOS

Q&A

- Chair: **Aleksander Temkin**, Europe a Patient

14:15 – 15:15

Towards a European Health Union

Can Europe deliver better health for all? It should and it can. The EU can have a transformative power to help deliver better access and quality for care and health services all across the Union. This session will explore how political cooperation at the EU level can determine our well-being and what policies should be constructed to build a solid European Health Union. For instance, steps must be taken to better pool European resources and make health and pharma products more affordable, to tackle health disparities and improve quality standards.

Panel discussion with:

- **Mihály Kökény**, Lecturer, University of Debrecen, co-author of the book [A European Health Union - A Blueprint for Generation](#) and former Minister of Health of Hungary

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- **Svatopluk Němeček**, President of the board of Municipal Hospital of Bohumin and former Czech Minister of Health
- **Nicolas Moravek**, Member of the Citizens' Panels, Conference on the Future of Europe, Working Group on Health

Q&A

Chair: **David Rinaldi**, Director for Studies and Policy, FEPS

15:15 – 15:25

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Konrad Golota, Chief of Cabinet of the Deputy Prime Minister