



European  
Commission



# INVESTING

# IN HEALTH

KEY MESSAGES

February 2013

Health and  
Consumers

# Investing in Health

*As part of the Social Investment package, the Commission paper:*



- Extends the EU Health Strategy by reinforcing its key objectives
- A healthy population and sustainable health systems are decisive for economic growth



- Establishes the role of health in the Europe 2020 strategy
- Recognises the contribution of health to prepare a job-rich recovery



- Reaffirms that health is a value in itself
- Makes the case that health is a growth-friendly type of expenditure



## **Investing in health is:**

- Investing in health systems
- Investing in people's health
- Investing in reducing inequalities in health

# Investing in Sustainable Health Systems

*Cost-effective spending, structural reforms and sound innovation can bring efficiency gains and secure better health outcomes*

Cost effective spending: No linear relation between spending and health outcomes. The OECD estimates that reforms could lead up to 2 % of GDP savings by 2017

**Structural Reforms: 2010 Commission/EPC report on health systems: e.g.**

- Reducing the unnecessary use of specialists and hospital care
- Improving primary healthcare services
- Better health promotion and disease prevention (at work, in school, in health institutions and through incentives)
- Increased use of generic drugs

Cost effective technologies based on Health Technology Assessment (HTA) for an informed decision

# Investing in People's Health as a Human Capital

*Health can boost economic growth by enabling people to remain active longer and in better health*

Health status influences labour market participation and productivity. Poor health leads to absenteeism (3-6 % of working time) or job loss (10 % for health reasons). 23.5 % of working people have their activities restricted

Only 3% of current health expenditure is dedicated to prevention

Devoting resources more directly to disease prevention and health promotion can reduce the human and economic burdens of chronic diseases

## *Health Workforce*

Job creation potential up to 8 million by 2020 (mainly due to replacement needs)

# Investing in Reducing Inequalities in Health

*Health outcomes vary considerably within and between Member States*

Life expectancy gap up to 11,6 years (males) and 7,9 years (female)

*Health coverage can help reducing poverty and fighting social exclusion*

Universal access to healthcare services

*Health promotion and intersectoral action require a 'health in all policies' approach*

Addressing the social determinants of health

# Investing in Health: EU Level Tools

## Cooperation between Member States:

- The European Semester mechanisms (AGS, CSRs, NRPs)
- Council Reflection Process on health systems
- Mechanisms put in place by the Cross-border healthcare Directive (HTA network, European Reference Networks etc.)

## Commission initiatives:

- Action Plan for the health workforce
- Expert panel to advise on investing in health
- Studies and Indicators to inform policy making
- European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing
- Report on the 'Solidarity in Health' Communication

## Funding mechanisms:

- Health Programme
- European Structural and Investment Funds
- Horizon 2020

