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**DECLARAÇÃO  
DO PORTO**  
PALÁCIO DA BOLSA



# OPORTO DECLARATION

## HEALTH SYSTEMS FOCUSED ON PEOPLE AND OUTCOMES

*Private health cluster: a reference partner  
for sustainable health*



Oporto, may 3<sup>rd</sup> 2021  
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# **OPORTO DECLARATION**

## **HEALTH SYSTEMS FOCUSED ON PEOPLE AND OUTCOMES**

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Considering that Health is the main concern among European citizens and that its importance has been increasing in terms of European priorities;

Considering that Health is one of the principles of the European Pillar of Social Rights, which recognizes that everyone has the right to timely access to affordable, preventive and curative health care of good quality;

Considering that Health is a fundamental instrument for social cohesion and rectification of inequalities;

Considering that both the European Commission and the European Parliament have endorsed a European Health Union that promotes digital health and disease prevention that, without jeopardizing the individual competence of each Member State, guarantees the social right of citizens to equitable and adequate access to care, within the framework of sustainable and resilient health systems, capable of dealing with cross-border health threats;



Considering that health gains and the strategic sovereignty that the EU aims to achieve must include stimulating investment in health and intelligent and transparent articulation between sectors;

Considering that the sustainability of health systems depends on their orientation towards health outcomes and value;

Considering that putting people at the centre of the system makes it possible to meet health needs, increase quality, reduce costs and, consequently, generate health improvements;

Considering that the effective promotion of timely access to quality and innovative people-centred goods and services, which generate health gains, requires the integration by the European Union of health indicators into the criteria of the European Semester;

Considering that citizens and patients' associations must increasingly participate in health policies, and it is therefore essential to invest in health literacy;

Considering that the existence of partnerships between the different healthcare players and the activation of collaborative intelligence are essential instruments for the promotion of access and the efficient allocation of resources;



Considering that private health players (in research, production and development, the pharmaceutical industry, pharmaceutical distribution, pharmacies, the medical device industry, outpatient care providers, hospitals, insurance companies, providers in essential areas such as information and communication technologies and heavy medical equipment) have a significant bearing not only in the healthcare sector but also in the European economy and are natural and relevant partners in the different health systems;

Considering that the integration of the potential brought by new technologies enables a true digital transformation, not only as a tool for simplifying processes and efficiency in the management and performance of health professionals, but also as a powerful instrument at the service of people and a new approach to care delivery, sustainability of health systems and economic development;

Considering that health care and innovative technologies have a decisive impact on health gains, including the longevity and quality of life of European citizens, observing great progress in human health in the European Union, with the average life expectancy at birth increasing by 3,3 years since 2002;

Considering that current and future health challenges bound us to the irreplaceable need to position Europe as a Leader in Health, with the aim of pursuing its Strategic Autonomy, Sustainability and Accessibility;



Considering the need to promote an active, open and transparent collaboration between all Health partners - public, private and social - and the need to expand the capacity of all to collaborate in the decision-making mechanisms of Constitutional States and the European Union, in view of stability, predictability, sustainability and increased health gains, for the benefit of citizens;

**The subscribing entities approve this OPORTO DECLARATION and agree to send it to the European Parliament, the Council of the European Union and the European Commission in order to contribute to more inclusive health systems (universal access), more focused on people and health promotion, more resilient, more sustainable and more innovative:**

1. Health must be a national priority in every EU country, in order to meet people's legitimate expectations, to address demographic, innovation and disease burden challenges and in the EU as a way of responding to pandemic threats across borders and ensuring timely access to inclusive, resilient and sustainable health systems;
2. The value for the individual must be central to all health system reforms;
3. All citizens must have equitable access to the necessary care, namely in terms of diagnostics and therapy, differentiation, proximity, and innovation without prejudice to each Member State to define the most suitable financing conditions;



4. The sustainability, efficiency and resilience of health systems require a better use of existing resources in each health system, a better planning of health care provision and an increasing capability to collective and personalized responses in health, duly articulating the public, private and social sectors.
5. The healthcare sector is a leader in research and development, innovation, digital transition, knowledge, and intelligence in supporting decision-making, as well as in constant adaptation to people's health needs.
6. Private health players (research, pharmaceutical industry, pharmaceutical distribution, pharmacies, medical device industry, outpatient providers, hospitals, insurance companies, providers in essential areas such as information and communication technologies and heavy medical equipment) pledge their commitment to the health of citizens and their cooperation for the sustainability of health systems, investing in research and development, creating qualified jobs, producing goods with high added value and contributing to the competitiveness of the European economy;
7. To enhance the provision of innovative goods and services in health and improve access, it is essential to simplify bureaucracy and reduce the associated costs which distort the market and inhibit private investment in health;



8. For the EU to take the global lead in a true economy based on knowledge and innovation, but also on independence and competitiveness, it is necessary to invest in a stable, predictable, and shared regulatory framework, which encourages research, development of solutions for the problems that still remain unanswered and in the provision of technological and industrial capacity that make Health more European, more innovative and more sustainable;
9. The ability to attract investment for the development of future health innovations, for the benefit of patients, depends on the EU's ability to ensure the global competitiveness of the European Industrial Property (IP) legal framework, in a clear and unambiguous regime, and of the incentives for innovation;
10. The debates dedicated to the impact of health technologies on the environment must take into account the benefits they bring to citizens, to society and to the economy, and their absolutely essential role in the preservation of public health;
11. The private health sector, in its multidimensionality, is a strong and knowledge-based industry that is fundamental for economic recovery and for an effective response to new societal challenges at a time when the EU recognizes the need to invest in industrialization and innovation;
12. In the context of the Covid-19 pandemic and at a time when the intention is to strengthen the strategic autonomy of Member States and the EU, the right conditions must be created for increased investment in Europe by the health-related industries (pharmaceuticals, medical devices, specific equipment and consumables) and a resilient supply chain;



- 13.* Since proximity is a key factor for the correct monitoring of health conditions and for social inclusion, the articulation between entities and services based in the community, such as pharmacies and other local primary care providers as well as pharmaceutical distributors, should be facilitated to promote the centrality of people in health systems, integrated models of care delivery and a better follow-up and monitoring of patients which ensures health gains, safety, and well-being;
- 14.* Investment in prevention must be recognized as a priority, with the reinforcement of health budgets in this area;
- 15.* Health is a sector that can greatly contribute to climate transition and digital transformation defined as strategic by the EU;
- 16.* The EU must not lose the unique opportunity that information and communication technologies provide for radical transformation and improved care delivery, to support health research and ensure the sustainability of health systems,
- 17.* Improving resilience, the interoperability of systems, the gathering, processing, and sharing of quality health data and indicators strengthens health literacy and education in health which favours patients' autonomy and facilitate patients but also funders' informed decision-making;
- 18.* Emphasis should also be placed on the adoption of integrated and continuous models of health care delivery based on added value for people and health systems, as well as equity in access and sustainability that ensures quality, safety and personalization, namely through the promotion of integration of outcomes reported by patients to support health decisions;





19. The added value of health technologies for society must be considered in their full scope, assessing them according to the health results they generate and developing and implementing new financing approaches;
20. The EU's digital health strategy should serve Europeans, set standards, safeguard the confidentiality and security of personal health data and people's confidence in sharing their data within the health system to support research and decision making in health;
21. Within the framework of the European Semester, social issues must continue to be included, strengthening the link with the European Pillar of Social Rights and ensuring that Member States demonstrate the performance and improvements achieved in terms of quality, safety and equitable access to care.

## *The Signatories*

### *Active Citizenship Network*

*ADIFA – Portuguese Full-Service Pharmaceutical Distributors Association*

*AESGP – Association of the European Self-Care Industry*

*Altice Portugal, SA*

*ANF – Portuguese National Association of Pharmacies*

*APHP – Portuguese Association of Private Hospitals*

*APIFARMA – Portuguese Association of Pharmaceutical Industries*

*APOGEN – Portuguese Association of Generics and Biosimilar Medicines*

*APORMED – Portuguese Trade Association for Medical Devices Companies*

*CIP – Confederation of Portuguese Business*

*COCIR – European Coordination Committee of the Radiological, Electromedical and  
Healthcare Information Technology Industry*

*EAASM – European Alliance for Access to Safe Medicines*

*EBN – European Biosafety Network*

*EFPIA – European Federation of Pharmaceutical Industries and Associations*

*EUMCA – European Medicinal Cannabis Association*

*FNS – Portuguese Federation of Health Care Providers*

*GIRP – European Healthcare Distribution Association*

*GROQUIFAR – Wholesalers Association of Chemical and Pharmaceutical Products*

*Medicines for Europe*

*MedTech – European Association of Medical Technology Industries*

*PPTA – Plasma Protein Therapeutics Association*

*SCIE – Self Care in Europe*

*UEHP – European Union of Private Hospitals*

*Oporto, may 3<sup>rd</sup> 2021*