

Rethinking Healthcare Systems

EUHA Declaration

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The European University Hospital Alliance (EUHA) unites 10 of the largest leading European university hospitals or networks. EUHA is concerned about the sustainability and resilience of the European healthcare systems. Health systems face multiple challenges with the increasing workforce shortages considered the most urgent, but also the growing need and cost of care and the call for healthcare systems to increase preparedness for external threats. Together, these challenges are affecting the ability of hospitals to provide timely, high-quality and safe care.

To address these challenges, governments and the health sector should focus not only on the workforce problem, but rather on redesigning the healthcare system, including the type and quality of care provided, together with optimising productivity.

University hospitals can be a proactive driving force for change, collaborating with all stakeholders, particularly from primary care and public health. Their strong links to affiliated health and non-health faculties and universities will be essential for the interdisciplinary collaboration and innovation needed to develop and implement innovative solutions.

EUHA calls on the EU:

- **To increase funding for projects and research on health system redesign implementation.** Future-proof healthcare systems will require more integration across primary, secondary, and tertiary care and between the health system and social and community care. They will also demand an increased focus on population health, healthy lifestyle and prevention of disease and social determinants of health. This in turn necessitates better citizen education, and responsibility and broad societal supporting measures.
- **To work towards less complicated EU regulatory frameworks that facilitate innovation in the specific setting of university hospitals.** Future-proof healthcare systems will require innovation. In addition to improving the quality of care, innovation must include researching new financing and reimbursement models, new legislative models that provide the necessary incentives for a shift towards a more sustainable health system. University hospitals should also prepare for new roles in health security, offering expertise to address emerging threats.

- **To stimulate collaboration between healthcare providers at a European level with more active involvement from the EU.** The extent and cross-border nature of the challenges necessitates collaboration at a European level and requires a more active involvement from the EU, complementing the efforts of individual Member States. Evaluating health services research is complicated due to the complexity and context-specific nature of health services. Using a network context across different countries will help to develop more efficient and robust evaluation designs. University hospitals should offer their expertise and cooperation at both the EU and national levels.

Note: An elaboration of EUHA’s declaration and calls for action can be found in the EUHA “Rethinking Healthcare Systems” position paper. For further information please contact the EUHA Secretary-General at secretariat@euhalliance.eu.

About EUHA

The European University Hospital Alliance, founded in 2017, is formed of 10 leading European university hospitals. University hospitals play an essential role in healthcare systems and society, taking care of the most complex patients, performing research, pioneering healthcare and innovation, and training the next generation of healthcare professionals.

