



JAHEE statement on the COVID-19 pandemic

Issued on May 8, 2020

The **Joint Action Health Equity Europe** (JAHEE) brings together national institutions from 24 European countries. JAHEE aims to foster greater equity in health outcomes and good health and well-being for all people in Europe. Its various strands of work include setting up monitoring systems for health inequalities, designing healthy living environments, promoting health of migrants, improving access to health care and related social services, and overall governance for health equity across all policies. The emergency that sprang from the COVID-19 pandemic demonstrates that this work is now more important than ever. In addition to the direct impact on people's health and wellbeing, the socioeconomic consequences of the pandemic affect a wide range of social determinants of health. The effects on more vulnerable groups are of particular concern. The pandemic may exacerbate existing health and social inequalities. European cooperation and shared learning are vital to answer this health emergency and creating more resilient societies. Holistic approaches will be needed at all levels. While COVID-19 will affect the line-up of JAHEE's implementation actions in the short term, extra efforts will be undertaken by the Joint Action to contribute solutions which will mitigate health equity impacts of this pandemic.

JAHEE partners **recognise the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic**, especially on the most vulnerable groups. They therefore commit to:

- Ensure that the **principles of health and social equity** are taken into consideration in the design and implementation of **all future actions** aimed at addressing the impact of the pandemic.
- Ensure that **no one is left behind**, in tackling the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Recognise that the **economic crisis** expected as a result of the pandemic will have detrimental effects on those who already experience financial, social, and employment insecurity.
- **Encourage that all efforts to tackle the COVID-19 pandemic are based on scientific evidence and best practices.**
- Foster principles of solidarity and non-discrimination, backbone of the European Union society, and **cooperation to, equally, withstand the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.**
- **Adjust JAHEE objectives and workplan according to the new challenges resulting from the COVID.19 pandemic.**

To find out more about JAHEE visit <https://jahee.iss.it/>

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