



Health for All Now!  
People's Health Movement



Sheet 4: health democracy

## **Health before profit ...**

## **... Let's change Europe!**

**We want a Europe that champions health democracy  
by involving patients and health workers.**

**For our health, develop health democracy**  
by involving civil society, workers and patients  
in shaping the objectives and means of health policies.

People's participation is crucial in healthcare.

The management of healthcare often widens the gap between bureaucratic decision-makers and the public, who should be the focal point of organizational choices. Healthcare workers should also be part of decision-making processes, as too often, managerial decisions are imposed unilaterally.

Health democracy strives to engage citizens in health-related decision-making, improve the quality of care through patient participation, and eliminate the influence of financial factors over patient behavior and access to healthcare.

As active citizens, we must play a dynamic role in shaping health policies that align with the needs of the people.

This implies participating in the organization of health and social protection systems. Such participation should foster inclusivity, and be free from discrimination based on age, gender, disability, or ethnic origin.

Participation enhances:

- The quality of care
- Patient autonomy
- Adherence to treatment

Responsibility should focus on establishing a participatory democratic framework that prioritizes representing the diverse needs of the people, rather than being centered on controlling consumption or inducing feelings of guilt.

Participatory prevention and epidemiology empower people to take center stage in approving and overseeing policies, extending beyond just health policies, especially post-Covid.



Health for All Now!  
People's Health Movement



## Our priorities

- Acknowledge health democracy as a determinant of health
- Foster horizontal collaboration among healthcare actors
- Recognize patients as partners
- Acknowledge the role of patient associations
- Extend patient participation to relations with:
  - healthcare providers
  - healthcare institutions
  - political actors to prevent undue influence from lobbies.