



# DECLARATION OF COOPERATION

German Collaborative Network for Equity in Health

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Health inequalities in the population result from social conditions into which people are born, and under which they grow up, live, work and age. Education, employment, income, housing, gender and ethnicity are key factors here. Population groups such as children and young people from families living in poverty, the unemployed, refugees and older people are more often affected by poorer health in general, or face increased risks of physical and mental illness. Health and social status reports issued by federal, state, and local governments, as well as results from social epidemiology and health services research have for years demonstrated the **urgent need for action** to achieve more equitable access to health in our society. The unevenly distributed effects of the coronavirus pandemic and climate change underline its urgency.

The Collaborative Network for Equity in Health`s mission is to contribute to the development and strengthening of initiatives and measures for health equity. **Health is a human right.** Every person must be guaranteed the highest attainable level of health. This requires that social settings are designed to promote health, and that the healthier choice is also the easier choice.

The **participation** of all individuals, as well as relevant groups and organisations, is necessary for the development and implementation of successful health promotion in social settings. In order to jointly develop needs-based solutions in neighbourhoods, districts and communities, coordinated strategies for education, counselling and capacity building, as well as networking structures in the municipalities and the federal states are required.

The Collaborative Network supports integrated approaches that take the social, economic and ecological determinants of health into account, and promotes cooperation between policy, research, practice, and people in local municipalities. The Collaborative Network is underpinned by its **vision of a society based on the solidarity principle**, where everyone enjoys a basic right to the highest attainable level of health – regardless of social status, origin, age or gender!

**The member organisations of the German Collaborative Network for Equity in Health declare their active commitment to reducing health and social inequalities, and to enabling better access to health for those who are socially disadvantaged. To this end, we collaborate closely.**



## The German Collaborative Network for Equity in Health

... is a **forum for nationwide cooperation** from the fields of health, social affairs, the environment, urban development, education, child and youth welfare, and additional relevant areas such as science and politics. It jointly uses its expertise and skills to strengthen the structures and the practice of health promotion that addresses the social determinants of health.

... has, since its foundation in 2003, been able to make significant contributions to structural development and quality in health promotion and prevention that address the social determinants of health:

- It was able to develop generally recognised criteria for health promotion addressing the social determinants of health in the form of its Criteria for Good Practice, and a large number of good practice examples from all relevant fields of intervention were already selected.
- In all federal states, the work of Health Equity Coordination Centres – from the state to the municipal level – contributes significantly to the coordination and support of activities for health promotion that addresses the social determinants of health.
- The municipal 'Health for All' partnership approach has created a steadily growing network of municipalities that have set out to develop and implement local government strategies to promote health.
- Together with many other practice-based projects, these are collated in the Health Equity Practice Database, the largest nationwide overview of health promotion and prevention services and interventions.

... is embedded in the European EuroHealthNet network, where member organisations throughout Europe collaborate on this overarching issue.