HIGH-LEVEL CONFERENCE
ON POLICIES FOR EQUAL AGEING: A LIFE-COURSE APPROACH
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SESSION 2
Ensuring equal access to health prevention and care

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Life expectancy gaps between high- and low-educated groups at ages 25 and 65 are large

Males, around 2011

Note: New collected data – although from 2011 – improve on currently available data by better accounting for mortality differences across educational groups at older ages.

Source: OECD data and calculations.
Unmet needs for medical care by income group, EU countries (2015)

Source: Eurostat Database, based on EU-SILC
Many factors affect health inequalities

- Socio-economic disadvantages
- Early childhood development
- Income
- Education
- Employment conditions
- Lifestyles
• To reduce health inequalities, multipronged strategy that addresses the wide range of social determinants is necessary.

• Cost effective prevention, primary care and screening services should be provided for low or no cost to prevent diseases and encourage early detection of diseases.
Policy challenges & recommendations

1. Break the links between socio-economic disadvantages and health status

2. Put improving the health of the most disadvantaged over the life course as the top of the policy agenda

3. Promote healthy ageing by developing multi-sectoral strategy and through equal access to health prevention and care services