

## Rome Declaration

### *35 Years of the European Union of Private Hospitals (UEHP)*

The national associations of private hospitals, members of the European Union of Private Hospitals (UEHP), together with the UEHP Bodies, gathered in Rome on the occasion of the 35th anniversary of UEHP, reaffirm their shared commitment to stronger, more resilient, accessible and sustainable European health systems.

The current leaders welcome the initiative of those who, 35 years ago, had the vision to create, from Rome, an association that represents private hospitals and, from the beginning, aims "to promote humane and personalized medicine tailored to the patients and their special needs."

For thirty-five years, UEHP has represented private hospitals and clinics across Europe, fostering cooperation among national associations, promoting dialogue with European institutions, encouraging the exchange of best practices, and defending health policies that place patients and citizens at the centre of care.

Aware of the current context, marked by profound demographic changes, rising healthcare demand, including mental health needs, workforce shortages, financial pressure, and rapid technological transformation, but also by the growing perception that health is a European priority, assuming values of care and the rights of patients in a geopolitically unstable world, the members of UEHP jointly declare the following:

1. **Private hospitals are an essential pillar of European health systems**, representing a significant share of hospital capacity and contributing decisively to access, continuity and quality of care for citizens.
2. **Private hospital providers play a key role in strengthening the resilience of health systems**, through long-term investment, flexibility of organisation, innovation and the ability to respond effectively in times of crisis.

3. **Over the past 35 years UEHP and its members have made substantial investments** in professional education and training, infrastructure, medical technology, digitalisation, safety and quality, contributing to modern, efficient and patient-centred healthcare services across Europe.
4. **Private hospitals are fully committed to innovation and sustainability**, including digital health, data-driven medicine and the responsible adoption of new treatments and technologies.
5. The shortage of healthcare professionals is one of the most critical challenges facing European health systems. **Private hospitals call for coordinated European and national policies to attract, train and retain healthcare professionals**, recognising the contribution of all healthcare providers in workforce planning and education.
6. **The sustainability of private hospital care requires fair, transparent and realistic financing frameworks**, taking into account rising operational costs, inflation, workforce constraints and continuous investment in innovation and quality.
7. **Cooperation between the public and private sectors is fundamental** to enhancing the capacity to deliver high-quality care, improve patient outcomes, and contribute to a healthier and more prosperous life for European citizens and should be promoted based on fair, efficient and sustainable relationships.
8. **Private hospitals are ready to make a greater contribution even in matters of public health.** In matters such as screenings, vaccinations, prevention programs, and literacy, mental health promotion and care, occupational health and active aging private hospitals can, and should, work side-by-side with the public system.
9. **UEHP members support the effective implementation of the European Health Data Space**, recognising that health data belongs to citizens and must be used securely, ethically and inclusively, with the involvement of all healthcare providers and appropriate mechanisms to finance the required investments.
10. On the occasion of its 35th anniversary, **UEHP reaffirms its commitment to continue working with European institutions, national authorities and all stakeholders to improve healthcare systems, strengthen resilience, and ensure high-quality care for all European citizens.**