



Conference on Public Healthcare through  
the Vision and Principles of Andrija Štampar,  
Father of Modern Public Health

On the occasion of the 95<sup>th</sup> anniversary of  
the Andrija Štampar School of Public Health,  
School of Medicine, University of Zagreb

# CONCLUDING REMARKS



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## **A MESSAGE FROM THE EU PARLIAMENT: ŠTAMPAR IS STILL STRONG AND RELEVANT FOR THOSE WHO CARE FOR THE HEALTH OF THE PUBLIC**

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**A**ndrija Štampar's legacy is strong and relevant. Strong because of the relevance of his concepts and ideas, relevant because of the unresolved problems and burning need for accessible, equal, and fair health care.

The ten principles written almost a century ago are still an intense and vivid guide for scientists, educators, policymakers, and governments to work in favor of a healthy and fair society. His focus was on the population's context and problems and the use of the existing public health methods and health technologies. As a visionary and revolutionary, Štampar tried to find innovative ways to fight infectious diseases and tackle burning socio-medical problems, such as the social determinants of health.

During the 20th century, Štampar's vision was integrated into all international organizations forming the basis of global health standards. It has shown persistence, timelessness, and global appeal, surviving different stages and conceptual transitions of healthcare systems and health policies. He also knew that the blueprint of his health care system organization ideas could only be successfully implemented by the unification of ideas, politics and communities, and features of countries' governance.

Following Štampar's legacy, it is clear that:

- Now and in the future, strong and resilient health systems must be developed by an educated, skilled, and motivated health workforce, which is fundamental to successful health policy and equitable healthcare, that is, by consequence, essential for the achievement of human-centered health coverage for all and the "right to health", as recommended by the Conference on the Future of Europe.
  - The Covid-19 pandemic has exposed fragmentation and dispersion of healthcare provision and funding in the many Member States, indicating the need for better integration between healthcare systems on the EU level.
  - The European Health Union should improve protection, prevention, preparedness, and response against human health threats within European Union and on the global level.
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- The management of the healthcare systems must be considered a strategically important activity and must be implemented in a multisectoral way, considering different perspectives and priorities.
  - It is necessary to consider the development of digital technologies, as innovations in these areas facilitate opportunities for creating new work environments and settings in which healthcare is delivered.
  - Special attention should be paid to the better availability of health promotion, disease prevention, treatment options, and rehabilitation in local communities, especially in sparsely populated areas, remote or isolated rural areas, and islands, where modern transportation and telemedicine solutions need to be used more actively.
  - Focus and sufficient investments in primary health care will enable the education of the needed health workforce that could help adequate health care interventions.
  - Effective leadership is crucial for managing health professionals at all levels; it is a complex and highly valued component of healthcare provision that is increasingly recognized as essential to achieving high standards of medical education, research, and clinical practice.
  - Prerequisite for all of the above is preserving the mental health of the population and health care workers to ensure complete and unrestricted access to public services for all health professionals and patients.
  - According to the definition of health as “a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity”, emphasis should be playtesting on preserving mental health and prioritizing the investment in the improvement of the social determinants of health.
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