

## **Round Table 7 April 2017**

Mobilisation of Trade Unions and Civil Society against the impact of austerity policies and the privatization, marketisation and commercialisation of health care and social services.

### **Situation in Italy**

The right to health is not a commodity, is not for sale!!!

This is what our workers will tell in the various initiatives all around Italy to present the second European Action Day against the negative impacts of privatization, marketisation and commercialization of health and social care.

In Italy public health is guaranteed by the Constitution, the Article 32 says: "The Republic safeguards health as a fundamental right of the individual and as a collective interest, and guarantees free medical care to the indigent." That's why the National Health System has always been important to us, it's the result of struggles and demands of citizens, it guarantees the universality of benefits.

Unfortunately, today we can say that health care, as a public service, is at serious risk in Italy.

As a result of health funds cuts, due to austerity policies, now 11 million Italians stopped caring about their health.

Because of the cuts are increasing people in need, particularly the disabled and the elderly.

The government promises more services and benefits to citizens, but, in fact, impoverishment and retreat of the public health system is continuing.

The number of workers in the health care sector is decreasing as their workload increases more and more.

We know that we lost 50 thousand workers in 2009, about 8.000 doctors, almost 10.300 nurses and 2.200 health care assistants and 20 thousand technical, rehabilitation, prevention and administrative workers. The average age of the employees in the health sector in Italy is more than 50 years.

We need at least 50 thousand new jobs in health care sector, not further cuts.

In Italy the health care collective agreements have not been renewed for at least eight years. Moreover, social and bargaining dumping is getting

stronger. Instead we must have equal pay for equal job, uniform rules for all actors who perform public functions, whether public or private state founded. We need universal health public services.

Entrusting health services to market imperatives produces inequality.

Reaffirming all over the country the universal right to health and care must be our main goal.

The universal and public health system must be defended. It should be defended from the logic of trade treaties such as the TTIP, CETA or TISA. For us a public health system is not a cost, rather it represents an opportunity for economic development, an opportunity for job creation. An investment in the future.

Our Europe has to invest on health care as a universal public service and must have the courage to prevent that national governments continue on this suicidal path.

We need public investments in public and universal National Health Service, starting from social and health care in the territory. It will be essential for the future development of our countries and our continent.

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