# THE EUROPEANIZATION OF LIVING CONDITIONS AND HEALTH

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*(see* [*http://www.thl.fi/en\_US/web/en/whats\_new/events/15th\_eshms/first\_announcement*](http://www.thl.fi/en_US/web/en/whats_new/events/15th_eshms/first_announcement)*)*

The purpose of the article is to set out in how far social processes promoted through the European integration have let to changes in the health status within the EU Member States over the last decade. On the one hand, the political and market integration has offered a new opportunity structure to European citizens allowing for increased mobility and market chances; on the other hand the EU’s increased interconnectedness on all levels has also led to a progression of liberalization and re-commodification tendencies. Therefore multiple scenarios are be conceivable for the evolvement of health status and inequalities across Europe.This article aims at filling the gap of European cross-country analysis by studying the macro-level factors on the health status and the incidence of bad health among different societal groups in Europe. This is done on the basis of cross-sectional analyses of EU-SILC data comparing health status and inequalities from 2005 to 2011. The study observes better living conditions and health for those Central and Eastern European Member States not hit by the crisis. While the health status is worsening in the Baltic Member States and within the austerity-shaken Mediterranean countries. Most importance for health status across Europe is exerted by those factors influencing decommodification, namely the unemployment rate and pension replacement rate. Also the structure of the labour market and their rigidities, which are expressed through the long-term unemployment rate and fixed-term jobs play a role. In sum, the “Europeanization” of the health dimension through European rules and structures is undeniable.