# Panel 2: Privatisation/MNCs/PPPS: Strategic considerations for action

# Background

The corporatization of health and social services which has been on the fast lane since the beginning of the global economic crisis a decade ago has not abated. In its different forms, commodification of health has continued with governments’ policies that promote privatisation, and PPPs being spurred by MNCs and through the instrumentality of bilateral, regional and plurilateral free trade agreements.

PSI has commissioned a number of studies into this menace to the public health system and realisation of the right to health with severe consequences for the health and social workforce, mainly through PSIRU. It was also a major item of discussion at the 2016 HSSTF meeting. Affiliates in several countries and regions have also been at the fore of fightbacks, which have included communities and/or civil society organisations.

Examples include the mobilisations done by several affiliates in Europe within the European Network Against Privatisation and Commercialisation of Health and Social Protection, which has organised mass demonstrations every 7 April and the impressively successful anti-privatisation campaign in New South Wales, Australia which stopped PPP arrangements designed for five hospitals by the government.

It is quite important for us to collectively deepen our understanding of the problem and forge a more strategic approach that would draw from the lessons of our diverse experiences towards strengthening our collaboration across borders which is necessary for defeating big businesses interests in the health and social services “economy”.

The panel will thus:

* Present an updated version of the 2015 briefing paper: *Health Care Reforms and the Rise of Global Multinational Health*;
* Sharing experiences on anti-privatisation campaigns and activities of affiliates to curb corporate power, in defence of public health;
* Relate our anti-privatisation campaign to the tasks of organising as building workers’ power;
* Consider challenges and prospects for the PSI anti-privatisation campaign in the health and social services sector;
* Consolidate on the introduction of the PSI **People Over Profit** platform unveiled at the 30th World Congress.

**Panellists**

Jane LETHBRIDGE (PSIRU), Mark KEARIN (NSWNMA, Australia), Maryvonne NICOLLE (CFDT, France), Sandra VERMUYTEN (Head of Campaigns, PSI)

**For background information:**

<http://www.psiru.org/sites/default/files/2015-05-H-Healthcarereforms&riseofglobalhealthcarecompanies.pdf>

<https://globalizationandhealth.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/1744-8603-7-19>

<http://www.world-psi.org/en/taking-back-control>

<http://www.theherald.com.au/story/5190911/going-public-government-to-build-and-run-new-maitland-hospital/>

<https://newint.org/blog/2018/01/18/UK-exporting-PPPs>

<http://www.world-psi.org/en/double-standards-how-uk-promotes-rip-health-ppps-abroad>