

Highlights of the work of WHO/Europe

Meeting of the EU Chief Medical Officers

Copenhagen, 12–13 April 2012

Zsuzsanna Jakab

WHO Regional Director for Europe

Agenda

- **Tackling Europe's health priorities**
- **Health 2020: a European policy framework supporting action across government and society for health and well-being**
- **Relations between the Regional Office and the European Union**
- **WHO reforms for a healthy future: an update**



World Health Organization
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR Europe



Всемирная организация здравоохранения
Европейское региональное бюро



World Health Organization
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR Europe



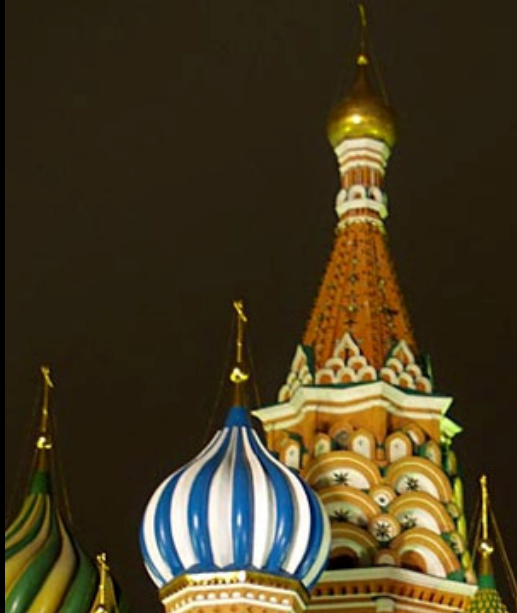
Всемирная организация здравоохранения
Европейское региональное бюро



Organisation mondiale de la Santé
BUREAU REGIONAL DE L'Europe



Weltgesundheitsorganisation
REGIONALBÜRO FÜR Europa



World Health Organization
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR Europe



Всемирная организация здравоохранения
Европейское региональное бюро



Organisation mondiale de la Santé
BUREAU REGIONAL DE L'Europe



Weltgesundheitsorganisation
REGIONALBÜRO FÜR Europa

Tackling Europe's health priorities



World Health Organization

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR Europe

Chief Medical Officer Meeting
Copenhagen, 12–13 April 2012

The changing environment for health

- Demographic (fertility, ageing)
- Globalization and migration (including health workers)
- New technologies (including medical genetics)
- More informed and demanding citizens
- Recognition of the importance of health to human development

During the past two years, the Regional Office has systematically and gradually adapted its work to its changing environment through:

- a vision approved by the Member States at the sixtieth session of the Regional Committee (RC60), which set the agenda; and
- WHO reform, globally and regionally

This work has been taken through RC61 and will be completed this year at RC62 and next year at RC63

RC61: tackling the most urgent health issues

Technical topics

European action plans adopted and now being implemented:

- To prevent and control noncommunicable diseases, 2012–2016
- To reduce the harmful use of alcohol, 2012–2020
- To combat antibiotic resistance
- To prevent and combat multidrug- and extensively drug-resistant tuberculosis, 2011–2015
- For HIV/AIDS, 2012–2015

Consulting for the future

- Developing the new European policy for health – Health 2020
 - (a) Governance for health in the 21st century
 - (b) The health divide: European experiences in addressing the social determinants of health
- Health systems strengthening in the WHO European Region
 - (a) Interim report on implementation of the Tallinn Charter: Health Systems for Health and Wealth and the way forward
 - (b) Strengthening public health capacities and services in Europe: a framework for action

RC62: laying the foundation for the future

- This year (2012) at RC62, the main focus will be **the new European policy for health – Health 2020** (mandated at RC60), which has been developed over two years through a truly participatory process. Two documents:
 1. Health 2020: policy framework for Europe
 2. Health 2020: policy framework and strategy.
- Implementation arm of Health 2020: the European Public Health Action Plan
- Healthy ageing
- Country strategy and policy on geographically dispersed offices
- Communication strategy
- WHO reform



Health 2020

A European policy framework supporting action across government and society for health and well-being

THE EUROPEAN HEALTH POLICY FORUM
FOR HIGH-LEVEL GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS



What is Health 2020?



Health 2020 is a value-based action-oriented policy framework that can be adapted to different realities in the countries of the WHO European Region.

Health 2020 is addressed to health ministries but also aims to engage ministers and policy-makers across government and stakeholders throughout society who can contribute to health and well-being.



Health 2020 documents

The **short** Health 2020 policy framework contains the key evidence, arguments and areas for policy action to address the public health challenges and opportunities for promoting health and well-being in the European Region today.

The **longer** Health 2020 policy framework and strategy document provides the contextual analysis and the main strategies and interventions that work and describes the capacity required to implement the Health 2020 policy.

Health 2020 – a common purpose, a shared responsibility

Health 2020 vision

A WHO European Region in which all people are enabled and supported in achieving their full health potential and well-being and in which countries, individually and jointly, work towards reducing inequities in health within the Region and beyond

Health 2020 goal

To significantly improve the health and well-being of populations, to reduce health inequities and to ensure sustainable people-centred health systems

Health 2020 strategic objectives: stronger equity and better governance

1. Working to improve health for all and reducing the health divide

2. Improving leadership and participatory governance for health

Health 2020: four common policy priorities for health

The four priority areas are interlinked and are interdependent and mutually supportive
Addressing the four priorities will require a combination of governance approaches that promote health, equity and well-being

Investing in health through a life-course approach and empowering people

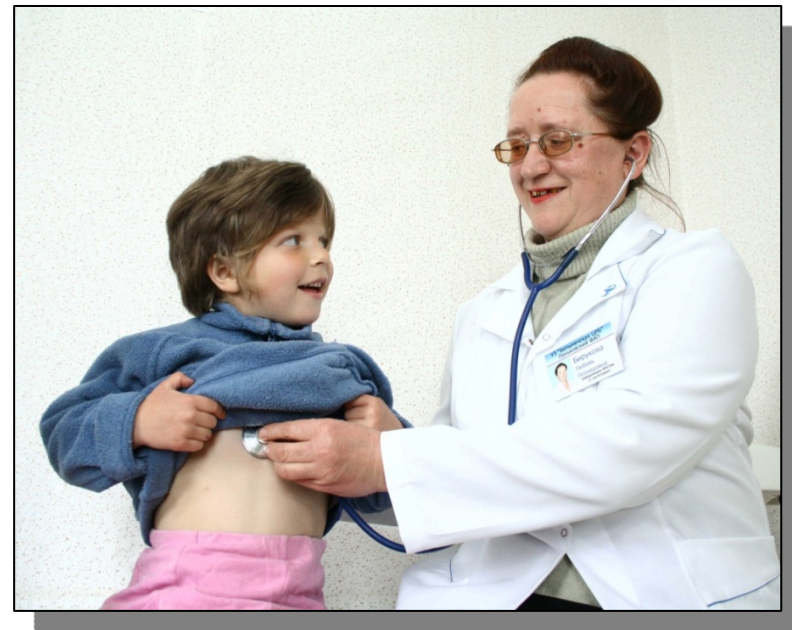
Tackling Europe's major health challenges of noncommunicable diseases and communicable diseases

Strengthening people-centred health systems, public health capacity and emergency preparedness

Creating supportive environments and resilient communities

Health as a major societal resource and asset

- Good health benefits all sectors and the whole of society – making it a valuable resource
- What makes societies prosper and flourish also makes people healthy – policies that recognize this have more impact
- Health performance and economic performance are linked – improving the health sector's use of its resources is essential



Why Health 2020?

Health in the WHO European Region has greatly improved in recent decades – but not everywhere and equally for all; this is not acceptable

Countries have different starting and entry points but share common goals and challenges and use different pathways:

People live longer and have fewer children.

People migrate within and between countries, and cities grow larger.

Noncommunicable diseases dominate the disease burden.

Depression and heart disease are the leading causes of healthy life years lost.

Infectious diseases, such as HIV and tuberculosis remain a challenge to control.

Antibiotic-resistant organisms are emerging.

Health systems face rising costs.

Primary health care systems are weak and lack preventive services.

Public health capacity is outdated.

New opportunities and challenges

New concepts

Well-being as a measure of development
Anticipatory governance
Collaborative leadership

New drivers of health

Technologies and innovation
Health literacy: information, participation and accountability
Globalization and urbanization

New evidence

The macroeconomics of health and well-being
The social gradient and health equity
Genomics

New demographics

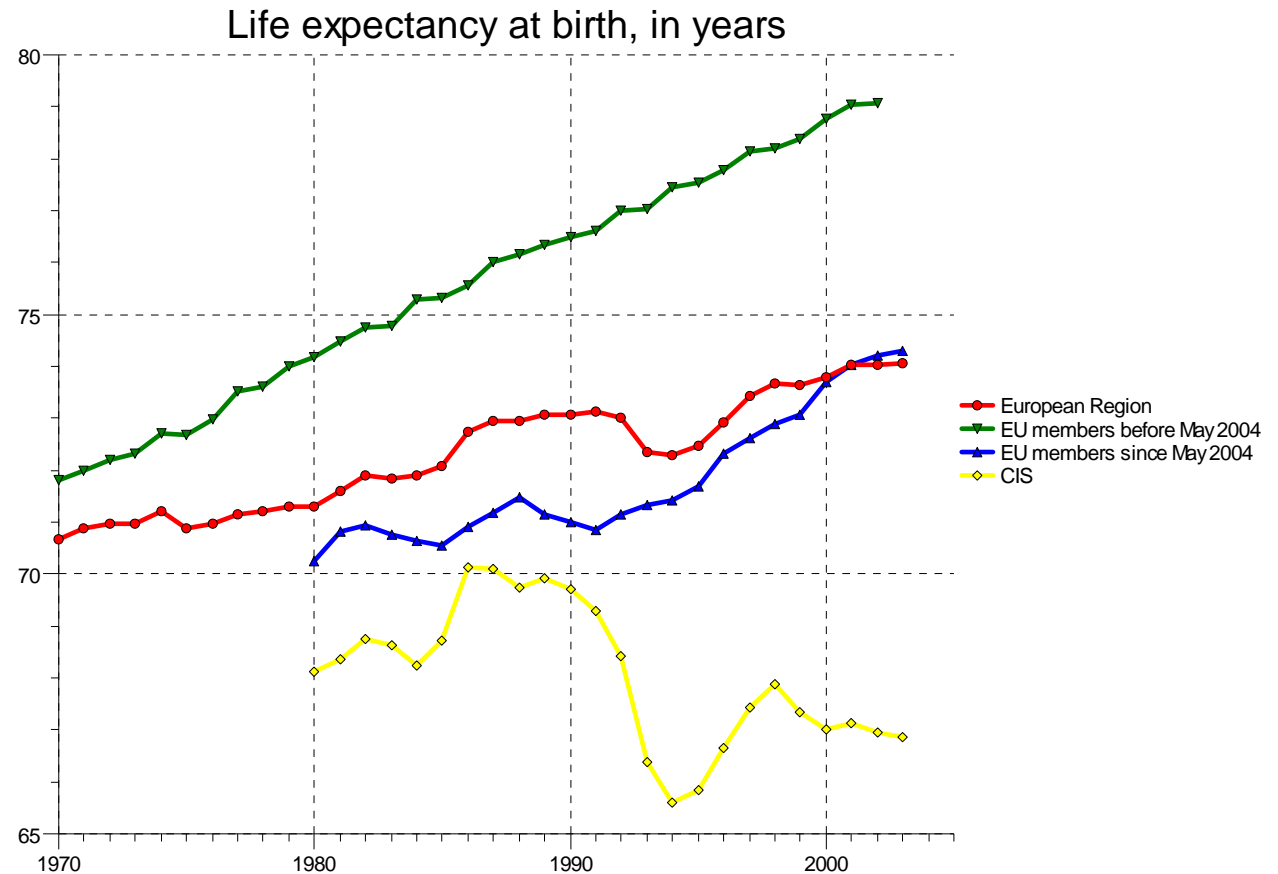
Fertility levels dropping
Ageing
Migration

Strategic objective 1: tackle the health divide

Address the social determinants of health

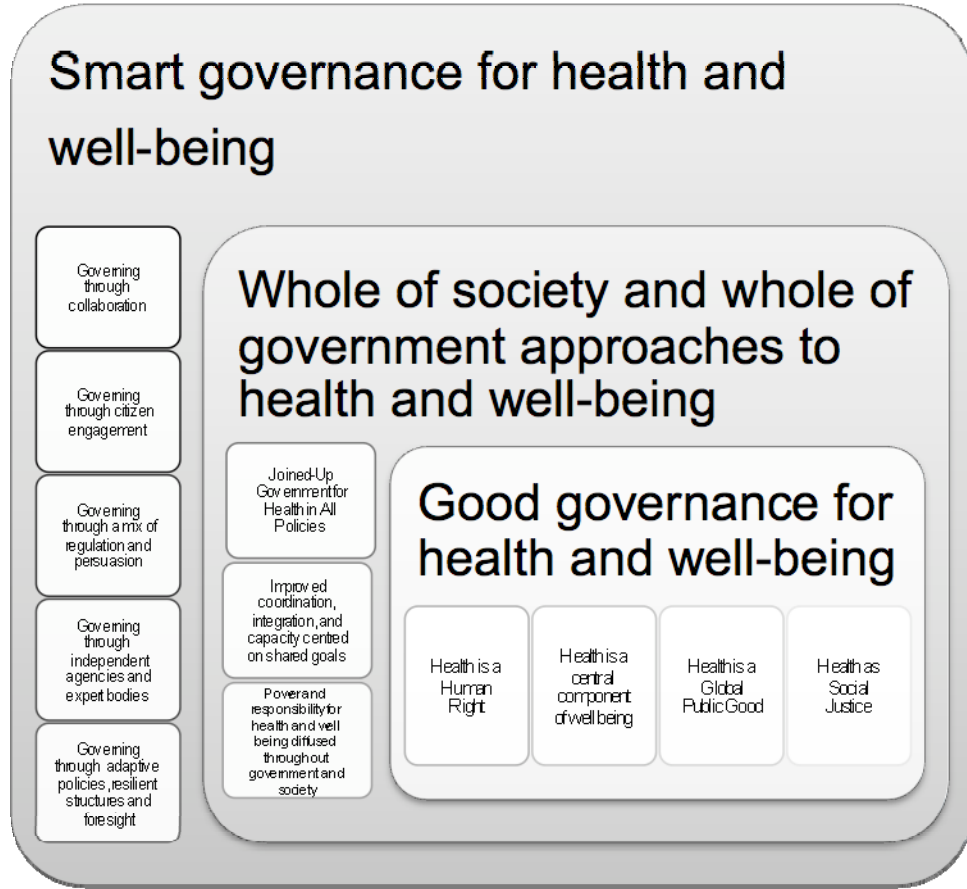
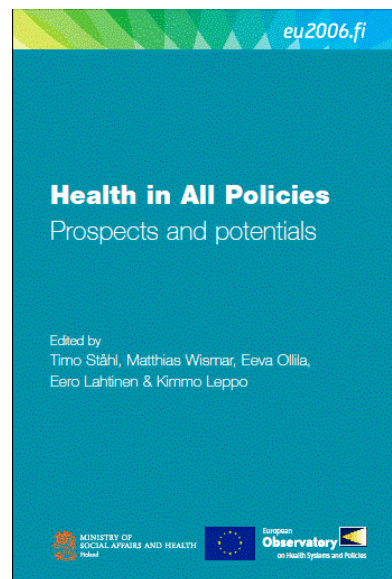
Emphasis on action across the social gradient and on vulnerable groups

Ensure that continually reducing health inequities becomes a criterion for assessing health system performance



Strategic objective 2: improve leadership and participatory governance for health

Promote and adopt health in all policies and whole-of-government and whole-of society approaches



Policy priority 1: invest in health through a life-course approach and empowering people

- Supporting good health throughout the lifespan leads to increasing healthy life expectancy and a longevity dividend, both of which can yield important economic, societal and individual benefits
- Health promotion programmes based on the principles of engagement and empowerment offer real benefits



Policy priority 2: tackle Europe's major health challenges

Implement global and regional mandates (noncommunicable diseases, tobacco, diet and physical activity, alcohol, HIV, TB, International Health Regulations, antibiotic resistance, etc.)

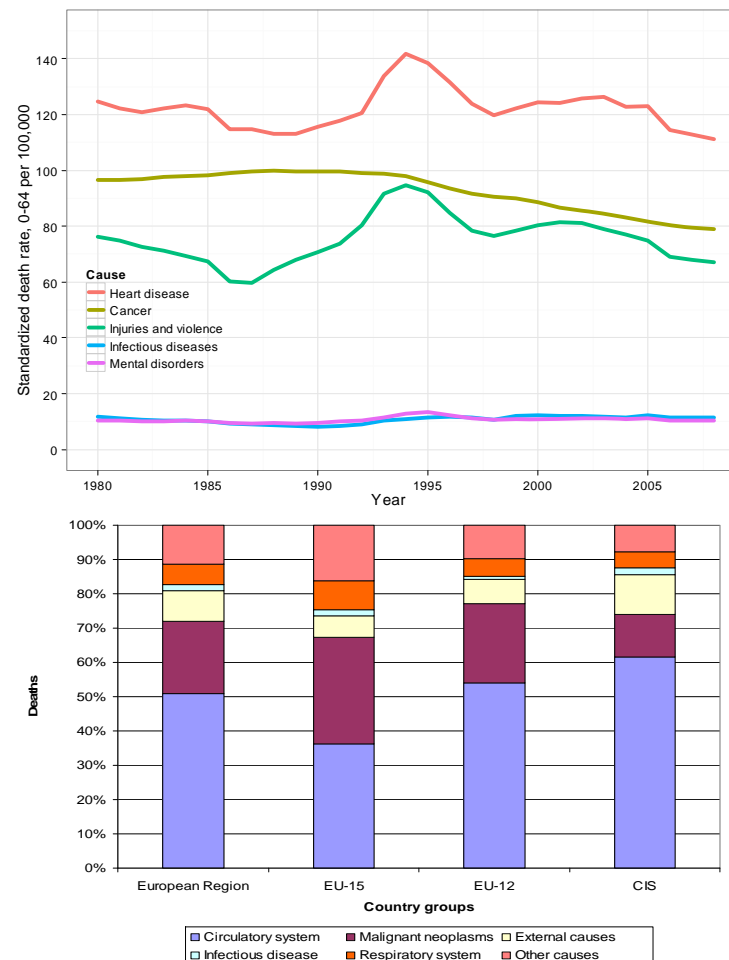
Promote healthy choices

Strengthen health systems, including primary health care, health information and surveillance

Reach and maintain recommended immunization coverage

Develop healthy settings and environments

Attention to special needs and disadvantaged populations



Policy priority 3: strengthen people-centred health systems, public health capacity and preparedness for emergencies

Strengthen public health functions and capacity

Strengthen primary health care as a hub for people-centred health systems

Ensure appropriate integration and continuum of care

Foster continuous quality improvement

Improve access to essential medicines and invest in technology assessment



Policy priority 3: strengthen people-centred health systems, public health capacity and preparedness for emergencies

Ensure universal access

Make health systems financially viable, fit for purpose, people centred and evidence informed

Revitalize and reform the education and training of key professionals

Develop adaptive policies, resilient structures and foresight to deal with emergencies

Foster continuous quality improvement



Policy priority 4: create healthy and supportive environments

Assess the health impact of sectoral policies

Fully implement multilateral environmental agreements

Implement health policies that contribute to sustainable development

Make health services resilient to the changing environment





Relations between the Regional Office and the European Union

Regional collaboration: the European Commission and WHO/Europe share a vision for joint health action

Six flagship initiatives as part of a joint declaration:

- **One health security system** to protect Europe
- **One health information system** to inform Europe
- Share and exploit **good practice and innovation**
- Exchange information and advocate for policies to **tackle health inequalities**, also for future generations
- Inform and facilitate efforts for **investing in health** to mitigate the effects of the economic crisis
- Strengthen **in-country cooperation** through joint advocacy, information exchange and health assessment

What has happened since

- The WHO Director-General delegated a global function to the Regional Director: to lead on WHO–EU relations
- Global Policy Group mandates the Regional Director to establish and chair a WHO Steering Committee on the EU
- Regional Office takes over high-level relations with the EU and oversight of WHO Brussels office (Roberto Bertollini, Head)
- High-level and senior-official meetings with the **European Commission**, March 2011 and 2012
- Increased collaboration with the **EU Presidencies** of Spain, Belgium, Hungary, Poland, Denmark and Cyprus
- Renewed memorandum of understanding with the **European Center for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)**
- Strengthened relations with the **European Parliament**



WHO reforms for a healthy future: an update



**World Health
Organization**

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR **Europe**

Chief Medical Officer's Meeting
Copenhagen 12-13 April 2012

Status as of March 2012:

1. Programmes and priority-setting

Member States agree:

- Eleventh General Programme of Work (2006–2015) only valid until 2013
- New Twelfth General Programme of Work (2014–2019): 6 years
- Five criteria for priority-setting:
 - Current health situation (burden of disease at the global, regional and country levels)
 - Individual country needs (in accordance with country cooperatin strategies)
 - Internationally agreed instruments (agreements, resolutions and the decisions of WHO's governing bodies)

Status as of March 2012:

1. Programmes and priority setting (cont'd)

Agreement on 5 programme categories (plus 1) for priority setting

- Communicable diseases
- Noncommunicable diseases
- Promoting health through the life course
- Health systems
- Preparedness, surveillance and response

Agreement on a timeline for the Twelfth General Programme of Work (GPW12) and Programme Budget (PB) 2014–2015:

- May 2012: draft outline of GPW12 2014–2019 to the 16th meeting of the Programme, Budget and Administration Committee (PBAC16) and Sixty-fifth World Health Assembly (WHA65)
- Aug–Oct 2012: Draft GPW12 + proposed PB 2014–2015 to RC62 together with regional perspective + other RCs + web consultation
- Nov–Dec 2012: GPW12 and PB 2014–2015 reviewed by PBAC17 (if the 131st session of the Executive Board (EB131) approves the new timing)
- Jan–Feb 2013: EB132 reviews and comments on draft GPW12 and PB 2014–2015
- May 2013: Approval by WHA66, through PBAC18, after incorporating the comments of EB132

Status as of March 2012:

2. Governance

Revised proposals to EB131 (May 2012) through PBAC:

- Revised terms of reference for the PBAC
- Increased linkages between RCs, EB and WHA
- Harmonization of practices of RCs
- Scheduling of sessions of governing bodies
- Roles and responsibilities at the three levels of the Organization

For discussion during WHA65:

- Partnerships and engagement with other stakeholders
- Oversight and harmonization of hosted partnerships
- Principles governing WHO's relations with NGOs.

Status as of March 2012:

3. Managerial reforms

Revised proposals to EB131 through PBAC:

- Detailed proposals for a new financing mechanism
- Contingency fund for public health emergencies
- Proposals for a consolidated resource mobilization strategy
- Draft evaluation policy

For discussion during WHA65:

- Independent evaluation of WHO: report of Stage I, carried out by the external auditor
- Road map for Stage II

WHO Reform: implications for European Region

- Report to RC62 - “work in progress”: next main step WHA65;
- Significant implications likely in following areas:
 - Apart from the 5 + 1 new categories, WHO/Europe applied most of the new concepts in the operational planning (such as the results chain, KPOs), cooperation with headquarters
 - Programmes and priority setting: resource allocation (money and staff time) to programmes likely to change in 2014–2015 and beyond
 - Planning processes hopefully simplified and less staff intensive
 - Governance: best practice in WHO/Europe (SCRC, RD election process) likely to influence other regions
 - Policy of independent evaluations: involvement of SCRC? (discussed by 18th SCRC in Andorra, November 2010)
 - Managerial reforms: probably the area with the most significant implications (money, staffing and structures) but too early to tell

Thank you