

Regional Committee for Europe
Sixty-third session

EUR/RC63/R5

Çeşme Izmir, Turkey, 16–19 September 2013

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Resolution

Health systems in times of global economic crisis: an update of the situation in the WHO European Region

The Regional Committee,

Conscious of the continuing financial and economic crisis in the WHO European Region and its effects on human health;

Aware that, since the onset of the global financial and economic crisis in 2008, unemployment has increased sharply and government finances have deteriorated in many countries;

Also recognizing that not all Member States in the WHO European Region have been affected, or have not been affected to the same degree, by the financial and economic crisis;

Recognizing that the tight fiscal context and high unemployment are likely to continue in the near future, and that it is therefore critical to take stock of the latest evidence and draw lessons in order to inform future policy responses that mitigate the negative impact on population health and protect the health gains made in recent decades;

Recalling resolution EUR/RC59/R3, which took note of the recommendations for action agreed at the meeting held in Oslo, Norway in April 2009, and which urged Member States to ensure that their health systems continued to protect those most in need;

Bearing in mind the European policy framework for health and well-being, Health 2020, that it adopted in 2012;¹

Having considered *The European health report 2012: charting the way to well-being*² and the *Report on social determinants of health and the health divide in the WHO European Region*³,

1. COMMENDS the WHO Regional Office for Europe on its technical leadership in response to the financial and economic crisis, including developing analytical frameworks to review government policies in response to the crisis, synthesizing evidence of the impact on health and health system performance, holding policy dialogue and knowledge brokerage events, conducting training courses and providing direct technical assistance;
2. EXPRESSES its gratitude to the Government of Norway for generously hosting a high-level meeting to review the impact of the economic crisis on health and health systems in the WHO European Region (Oslo, 17 and 18 April 2013);
3. ENDORSES the policy lessons and recommendations set out in the outcome document of the high-level meeting (EUR/RC63/13);
4. URGES Member States⁴ to take account of and, as appropriate, act on these lessons when shaping their responses to the continuing financial and economic crisis;
5. REQUESTS the Regional Director:
 - (a) to continue to provide Member States with tools and support for policy analysis, development, implementation and evaluation;
 - (b) to cooperate closely to that end with partners such as the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the European Commission, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

¹ Resolution EUR/RC62/R4

² *The European health report 2012: charting the way to well-being*. Copenhagen, WHO Regional Office for Europe, 2013 (<http://www.euro.who.int/en/what-we-do/data-and-evidence/european-health-report-2012>, accessed 6 May 2013).

³ *Report on social determinants of health and the health divide in the WHO European Region, Executive summary*. Copenhagen, WHO Regional Office for Europe, 2012 (<http://www.euro.who.int/en/who-we-are/governance/regional-committee-for-europe/sixty-second-session/documentation/background-documents/report-on-social-determinants-of-health-and-the-health-divide-in-the-who-european-region.-executive-summary>, accessed 6 May 2013).

⁴ And regional economic integration organizations, where applicable