



# Health policy and health system challenges in Europe



World Health Organization

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR

Europe



Organisation mondiale de la Santé

BUREAU RÉGIONAL DE L'

Europe



Weltgesundheitsorganisation

REGIONALBÜRO FÜR

Europa



Всемирная организация здравоохранения

Европейское региональное бюро

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IME-META conference, Budapest

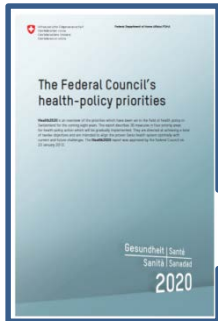
24 June 2015

# What is Health 2020?

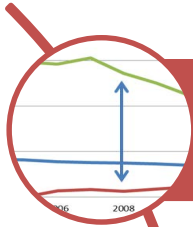
## Health is a political choice

- Public health policy framework to improve health and reduce inequities
- Focus on upstream actions and address root causes of ill health; address all determinants systematically early on, before diseases emerge.
- Reach higher and broader

# Countries are taking up the Health 2020 challenge



# Outline – key challenges



Closing disparities in health status



Addressing social determinants of health



Securing public funding for health and improving financial risk protection



Strengthening health systems

# European health report 2015



## HEALTH 2020

A European policy framework  
and strategy for the  
21st century

### Main aims:

- To report on progress towards the Health 2020 targets (since 2010 baseline)
- To highlight new frontiers in health information and evidence, including subjective measurements of well-being



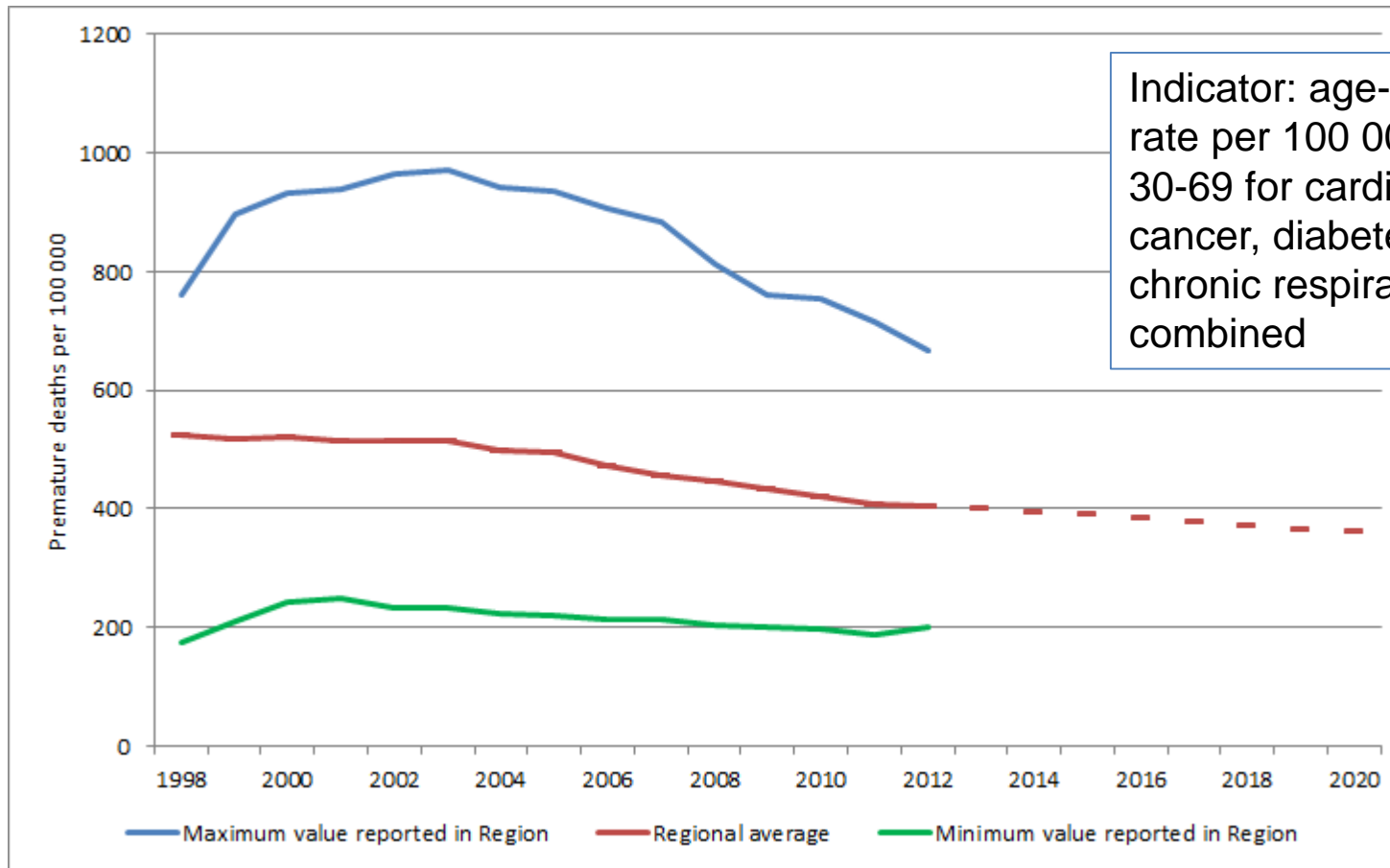
# Premature mortality

**Regional Health 2020 target:** a 1.5% relative annual reduction in premature mortality from cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes and chronic respiratory diseases by 2020.



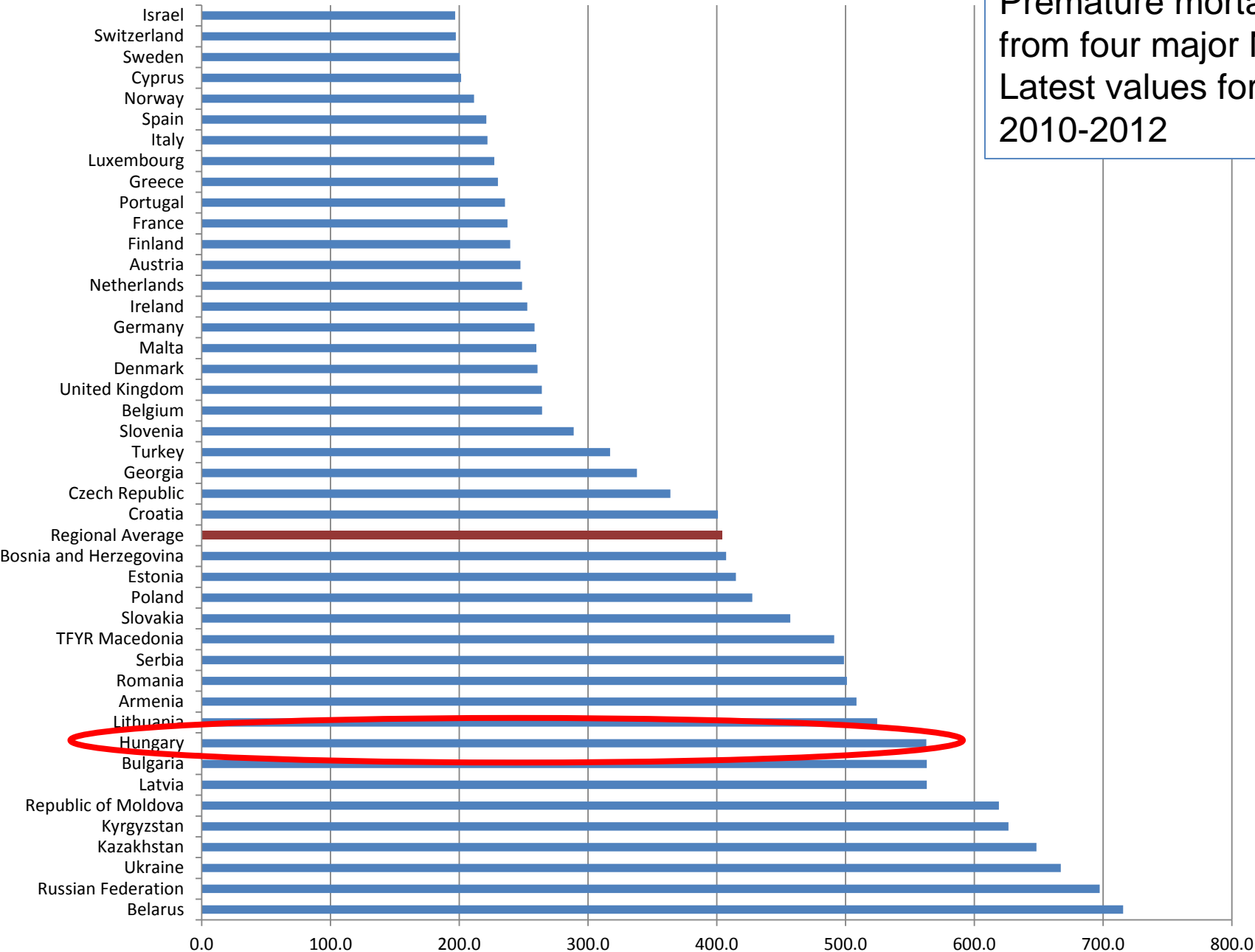
Although the European Region is on track to achieve the Health 2020 target to reduce premature mortality, much more can be done to reduce major risk factors.

# Regional trends



# Premature mortality

Premature mortality  
from four major NCDs  
Latest values for  
2010-2012





# Hungary health status overview

One of the lowest life expectancies in the European Union and below the average for the European Region. The gap from the European Union average is constant.

Mortality rates converging to European Union levels for people under 45 years, but a constant gap for older people

# Public health response in Hungary

- Many good initiatives initiated by the health sector
- Hungary should make a strong commitment to health at the highest level and a coherent Government programme, with a whole-of-government approach linking health to development.

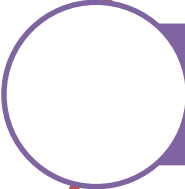
# Outline – key challenges



Closing disparities in health status



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Strengthening health systems

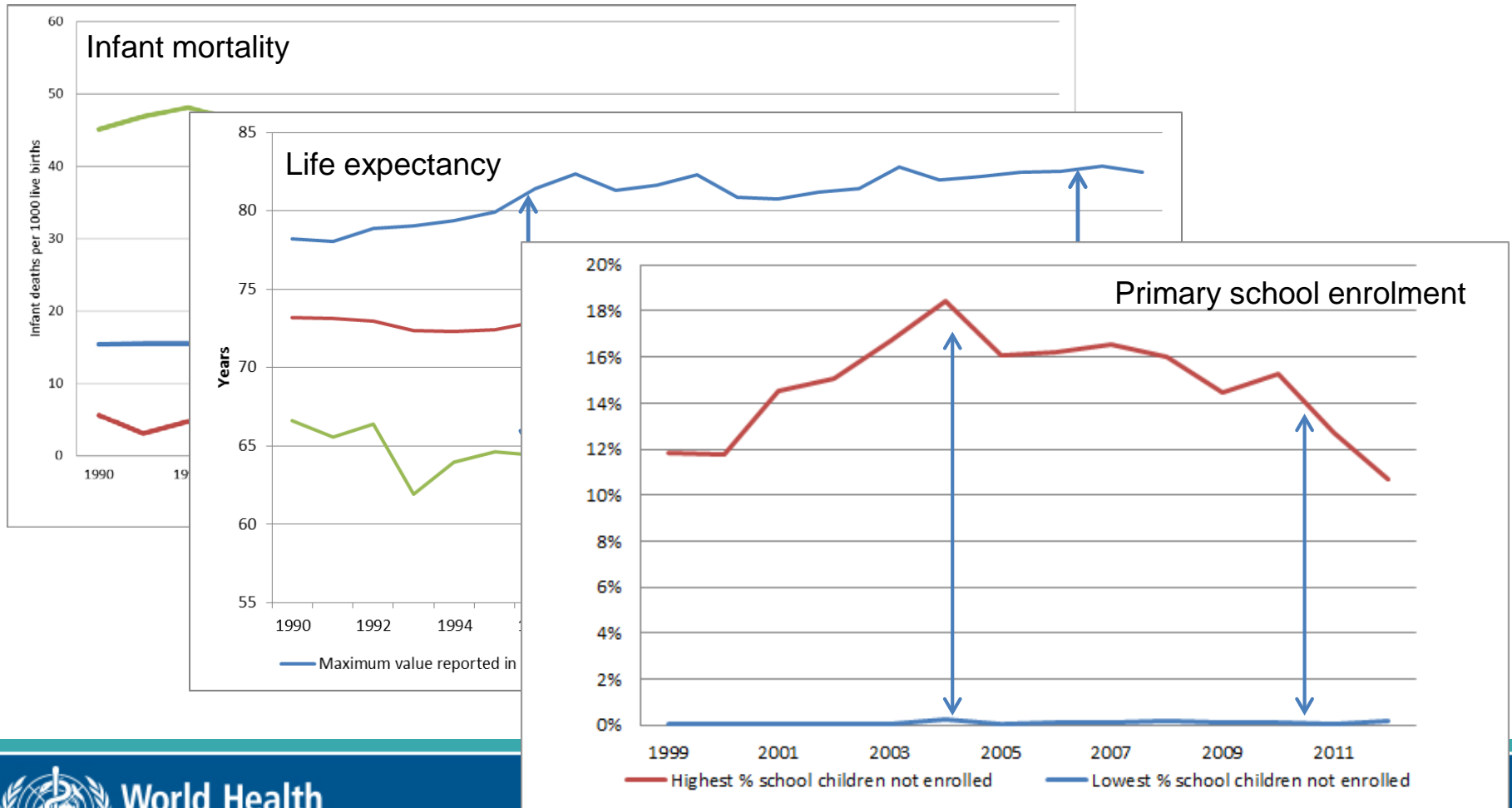
# Health inequities

**Regional Health 2020 target:** Reduce the disparities in health status associated with social determinants in the European population.



The disparity between the highest and the lowest values reported in the Region for the Health 2020 indicators linked to social determinants of health – infant mortality, life expectancy, primary school enrolment and unemployment – has diminished over time, but the absolute differences between countries remain large.

# Disparities have shrunk



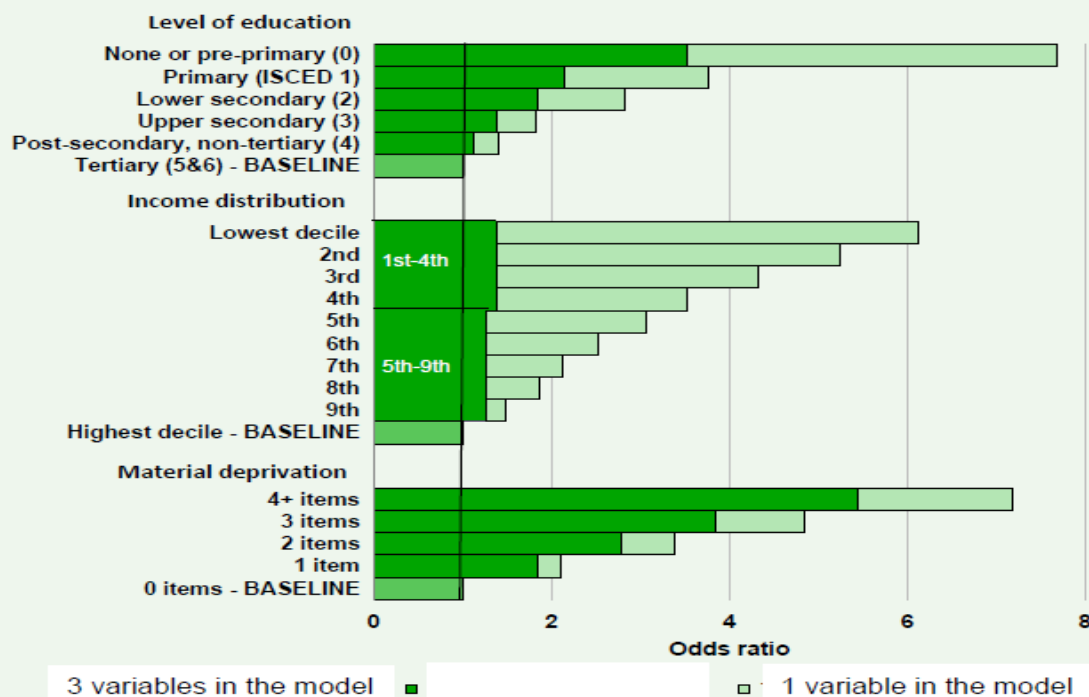
# Absolute differences still large

*Absolute difference between the highest and lowest value reported in the Region for the Health 2020 core indicators linked to social determinants of health*

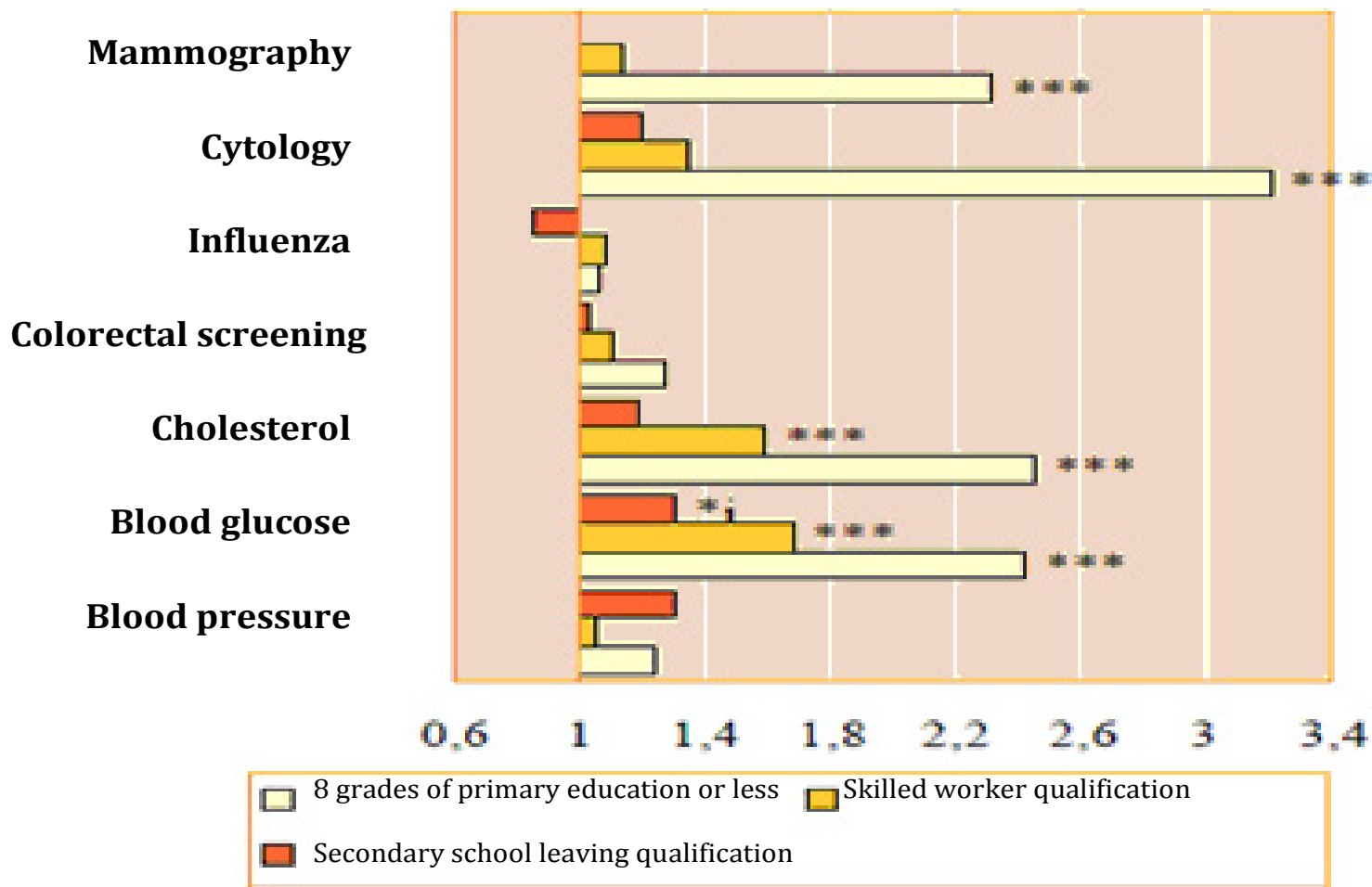
Health 2020 indicator (source)	Year	Absolute difference between highest and lowest value reported in the Region (range)
Infant mortality (WHO HFA)	2010	20 infant deaths per 1000 live births (22.3 – 2.3)
Life expectancy at birth (WHO HFA)	2011	11.5 years (82.5 – 71.0)
Primary school-aged children not enrolled (UNESCO)	2012	10.5% (10.7% - 0.2%)
Unemployment rate (WHO HFA)	2012	30.5% (31% - 0.5%)

# Persistent health inequity reflects differences in life circumstances and opportunities.

## Estimated odds of reporting poor or very poor general health by socioeconomic characteristics, 25 EU Member States\*, 2010



## Odds of not participating in a given preventive procedure according to educational attainment (higher education = 1)



Source: Draft SDH report on Hungary, KSH European Health Interview Survey (EHIS), (Kovács, 2012)



# What could Hungary do?

- Take action on the recommendations of the study on inequalities in health, and build them into policy in the various sectors.
- Integrate the recommendations into a Government programme on health and well-being, if developed.

# Conclusion

The European Region is on track to achieve the Health 2020 targets, but many further health gains and reductions in inequity could be attained.



# Outline – Key challenges



Closing disparities in health status



Addressing social determinants of health

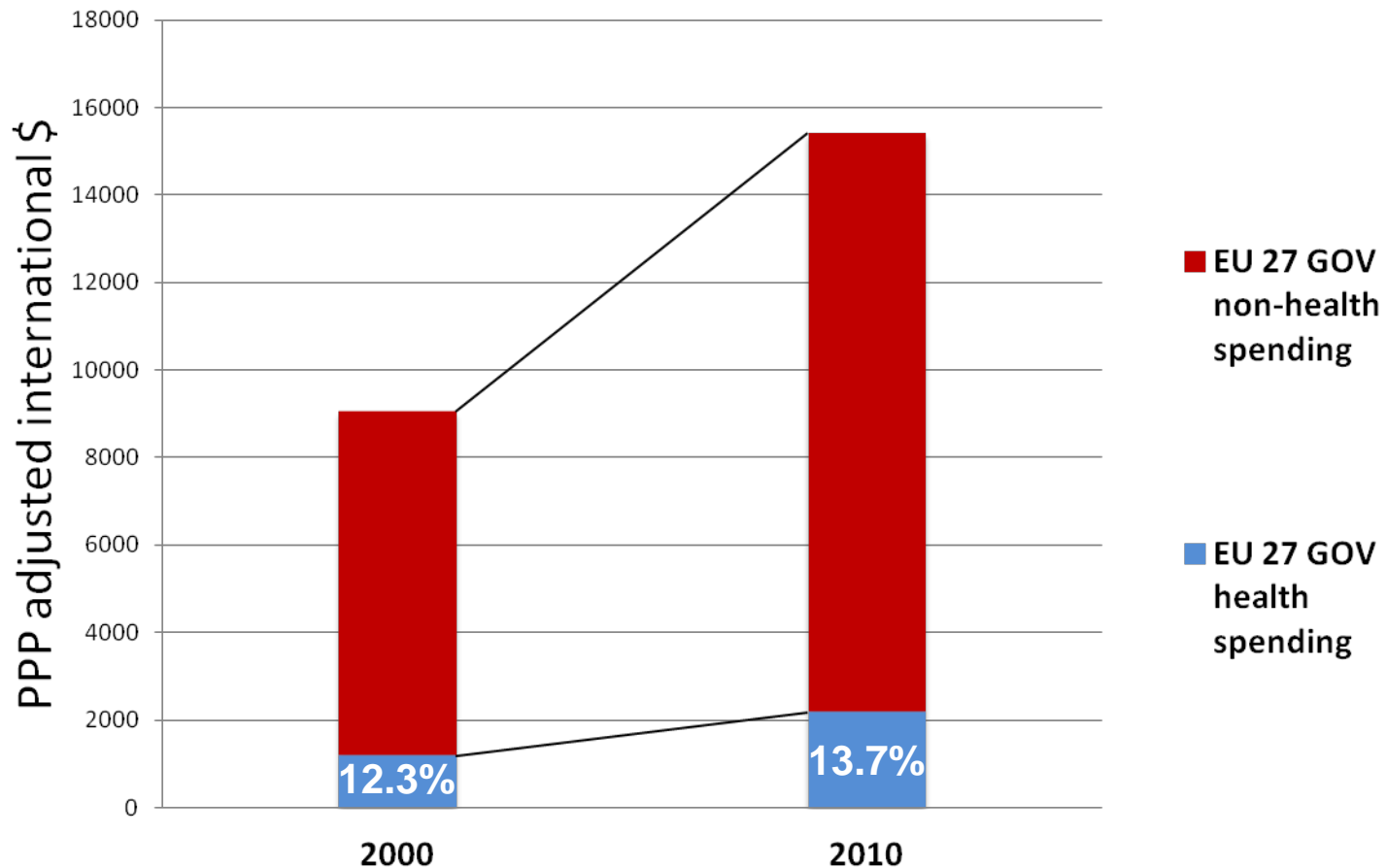


Securing public funding for health and improving financial risk protection

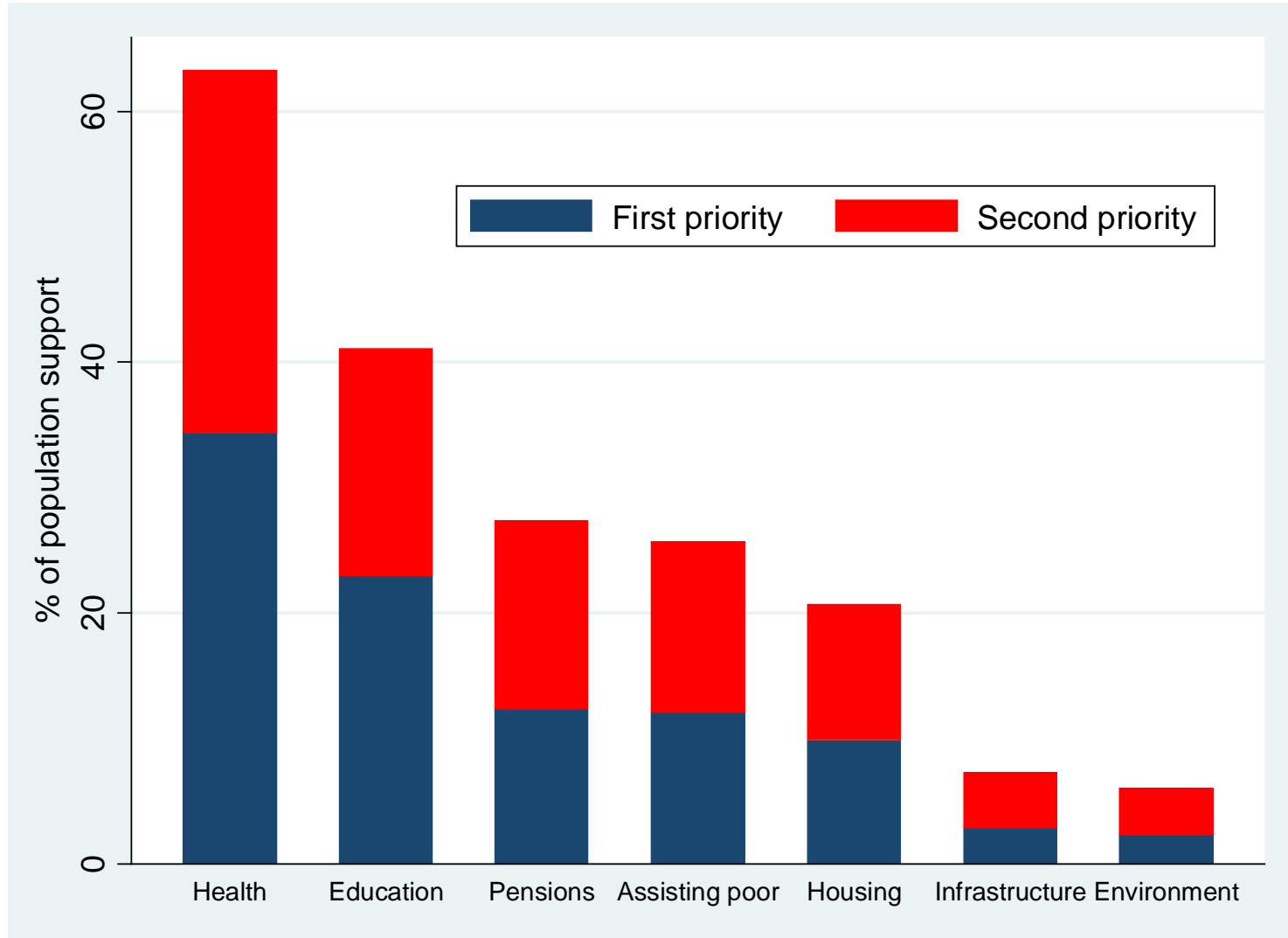


Strengthening health systems

# Health is receiving an increasing share of government spending in Europe...

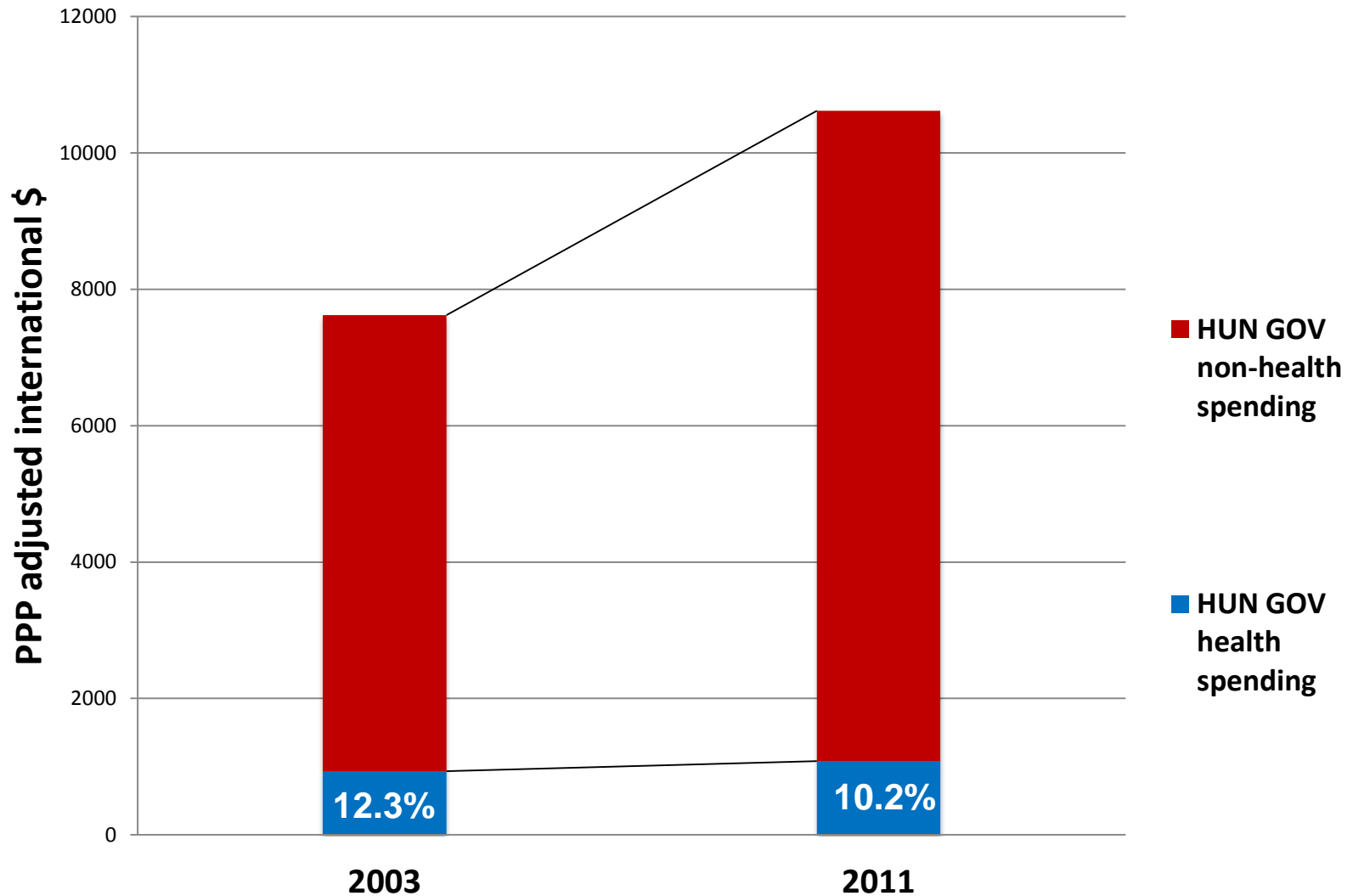


...which reflects the preference of citizens of Europe for more public spending.



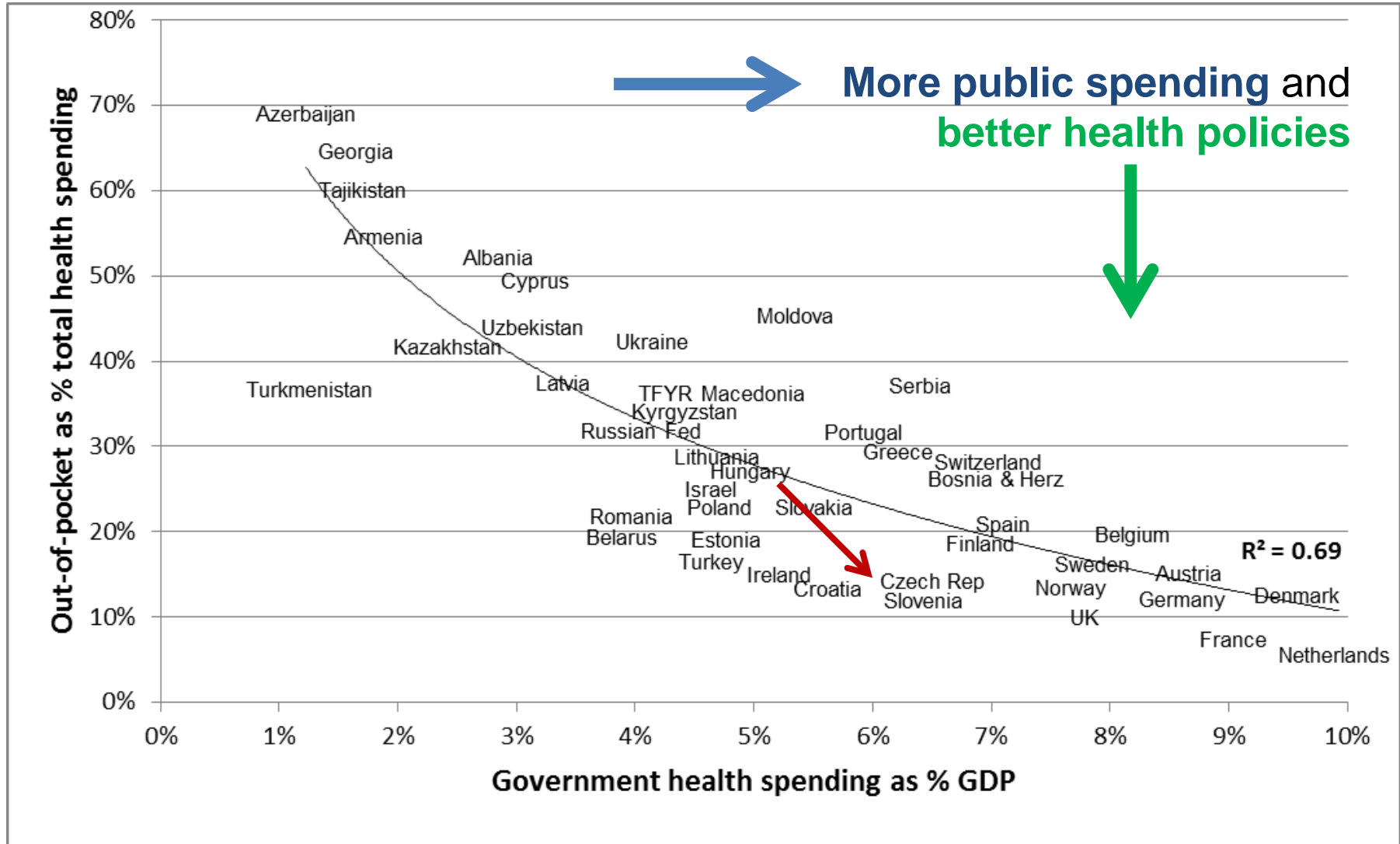
Source: Life in transition survey 2010, EBRD

# But, in Hungary, health is a decreasing priority in Government public spending.



Source: WHO NHA database, 2013

# Where governments spend more, patients pay less.



Source: WHO estimates for 2012, selected countries with population > 600,000

# Reducing public spending on health is a poor solution for fiscal sustainability

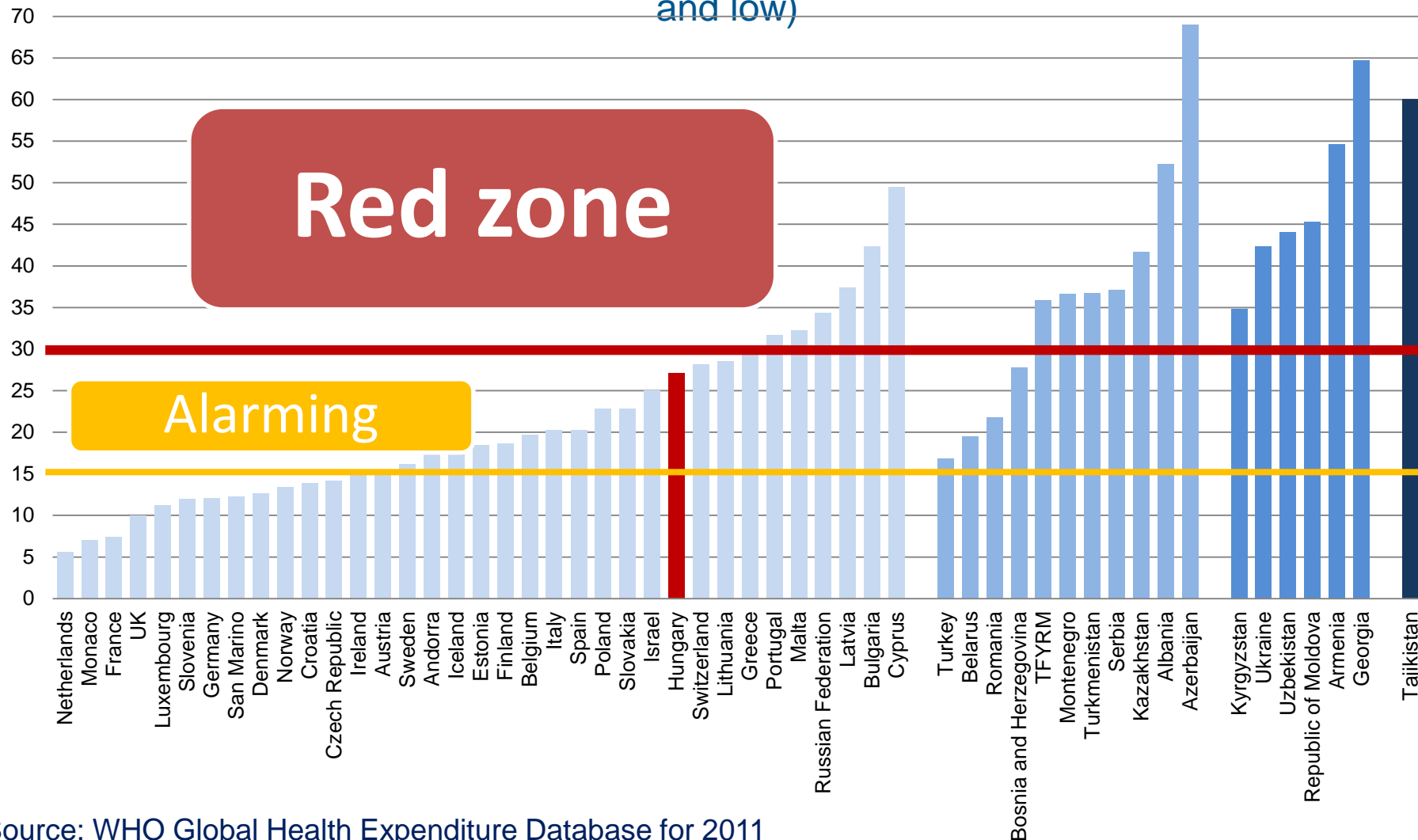
When out-of-pocket spending is more than 15% of total health expenditure, the incidence of catastrophic and impoverishing levels of spending by households increases sharply.

Fiscal consolidation should not lead to greater poverty.

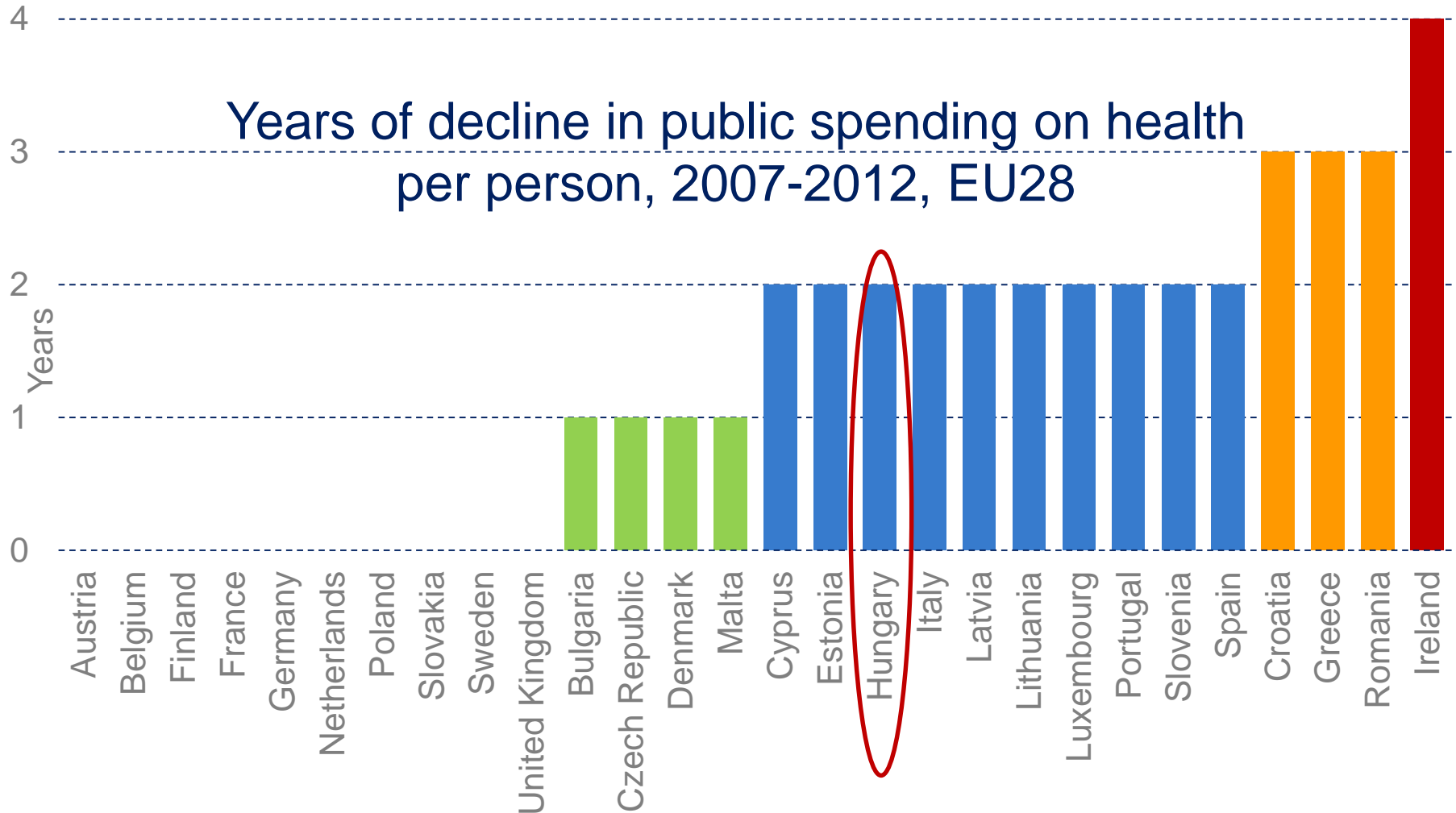


# Out-of-pocket spending in Hungary is approaching the red zone.

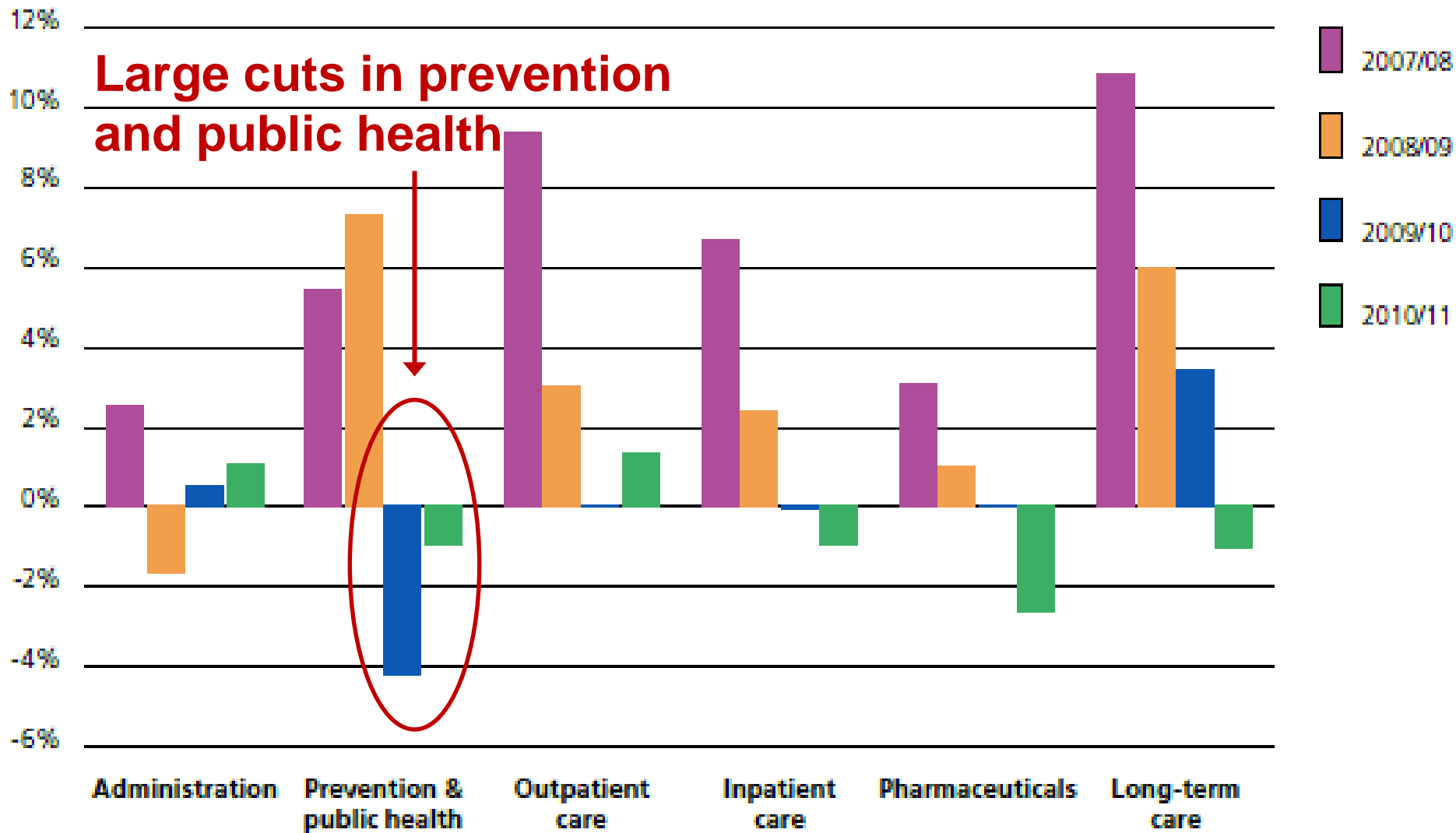
Out-of-pocket spending as a share (%) of total expenditure on health ranked from low to high by income country groups (high, upper-middle, lower-middle and low)



# The economic crisis did not help!



# Annual change in public spending on various health services, 2007-2011



# Economic recession and TB control

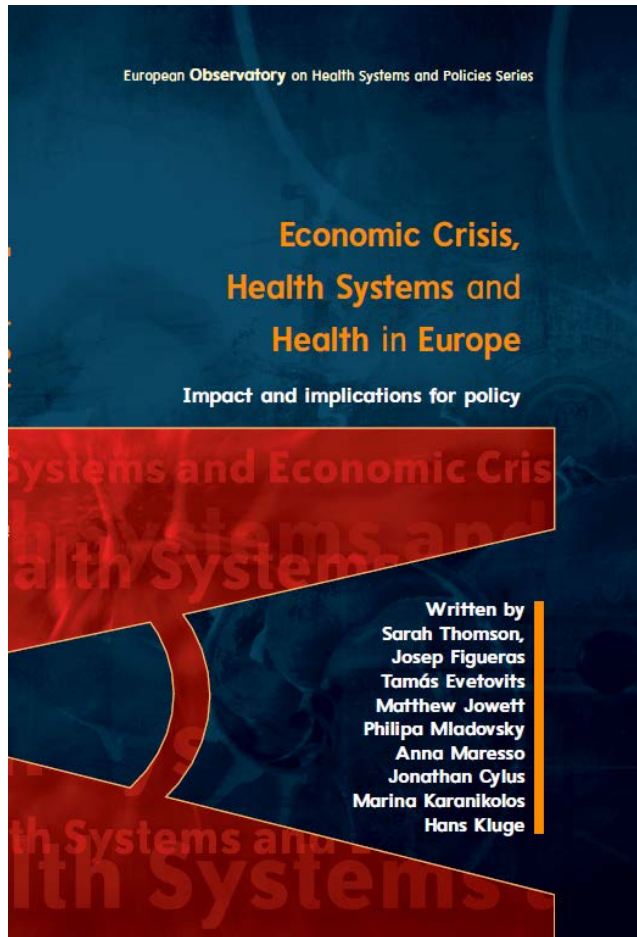
“Across the European Union, reductions in spending on public health services appear to have reduced tuberculosis case detection and to have increased the long-term risk of a resurgence in the disease.”

# In Hungary...

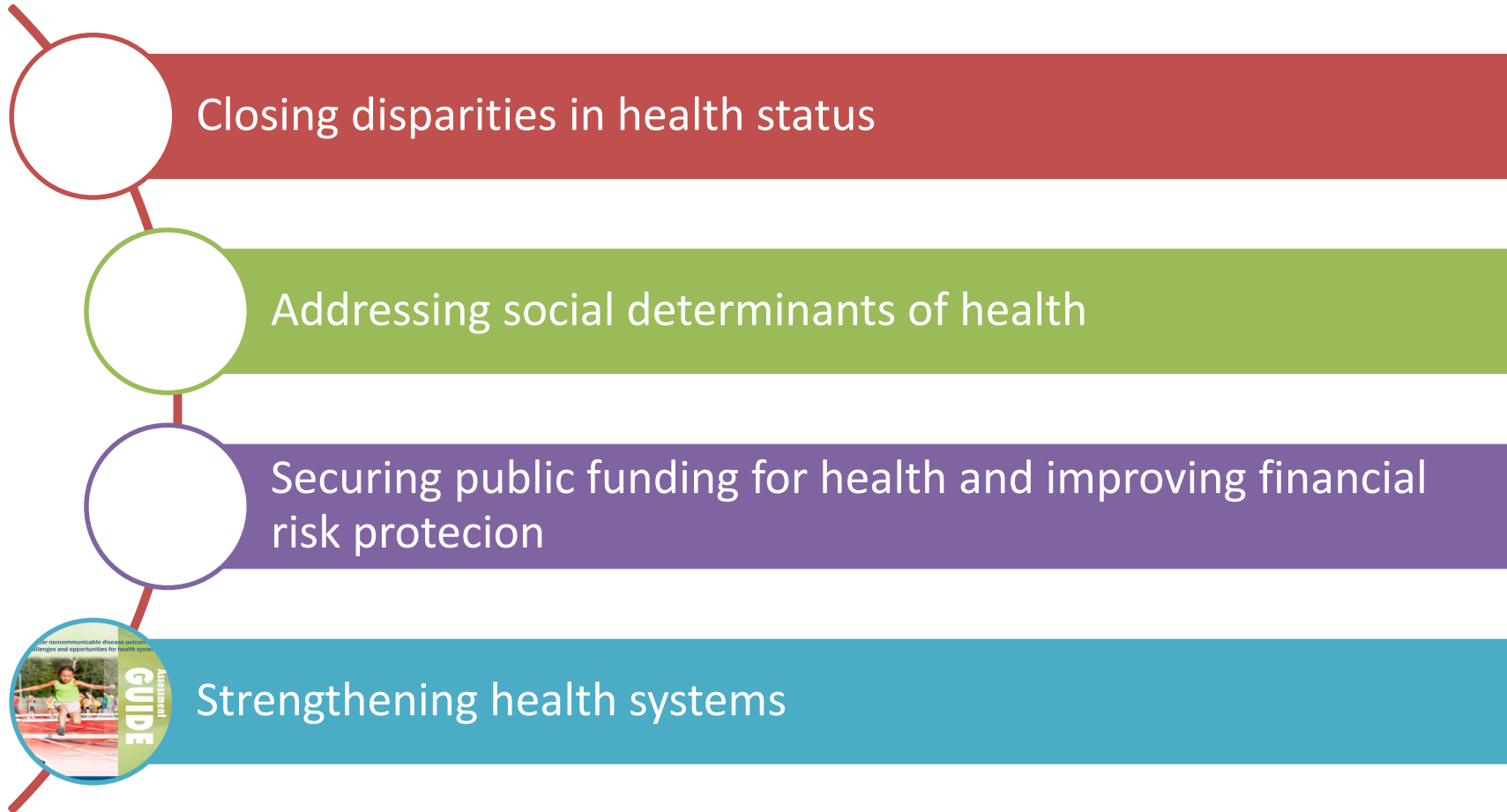
As the economic situation improves:

- Consider health (according to the WHO definition) to be one of the main priorities of the country as an investment in development, and
- Increase the Government share, in line with European Union recommendations

# European experience of the economic crisis and policy responses in two volumes



# Outline – key challenges

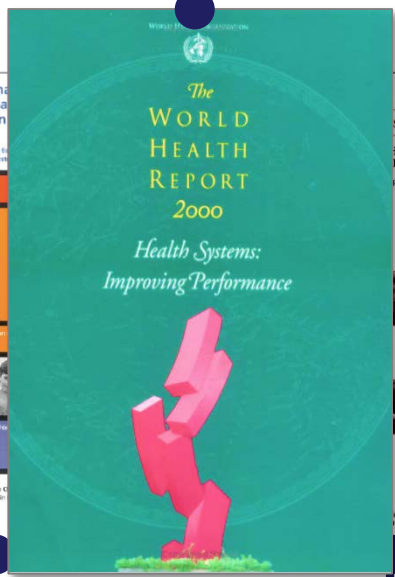


# Health system strengthening

## From the Tallinn Charter to Health 2020

2000

Introduced core health system functions: governance; services delivery; financing; resource generation



2008

Tallinn Charter: health systems for health and wealth



2013

Strengthening people-centred health systems; operational approach to HSS



2020

Regional Committee for Europe  
Sixty-second session  
Malta, 10-13 September 2012

**Health 2020:**  
a European policy framework supporting action across government and society for health and well-being

1978/96  
Alma-Ata Declaration  
Ljubljana Conference on Reforming Health Care  
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE

2007

Building blocks: service delivery; health workforce; information; medical products; financing; leadership

2009

People at the centre of systems

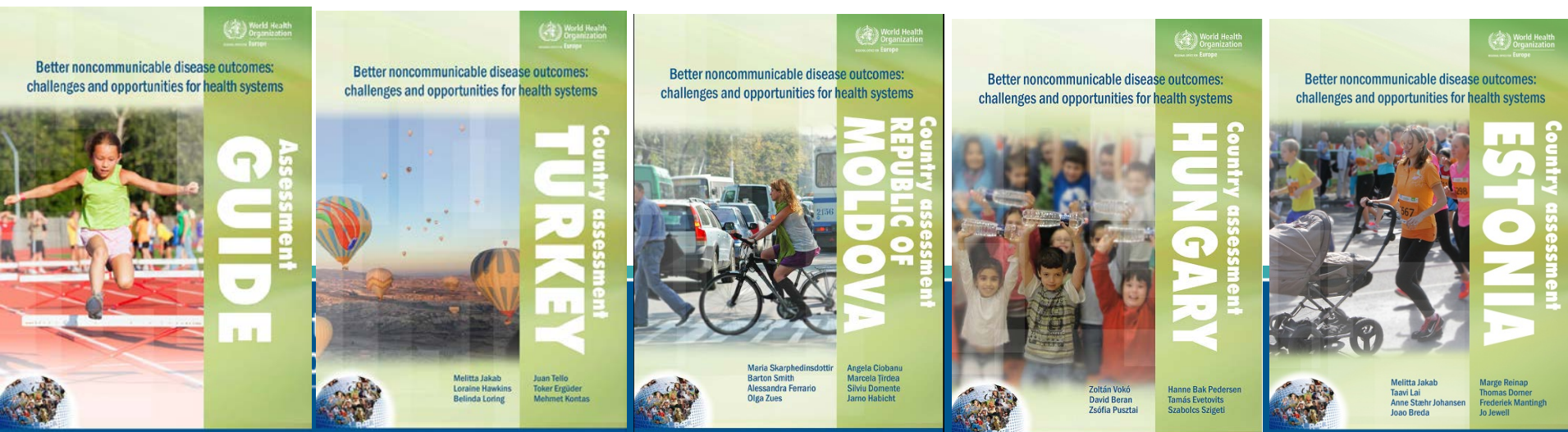
Priority area: strengthening people-centred health systems and public health capacity



# Health system response to NCDs

## A multi-disciplinary WHO work programme

- Background paper and country assessment guide
- 10 country assessments completed: Armenia, Belarus, Croatia, Estonia, Hungary, Kyrgyzstan, Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey
- Good practice cases
- From analysis to action through policy dialogue, media coverage and technical assistance

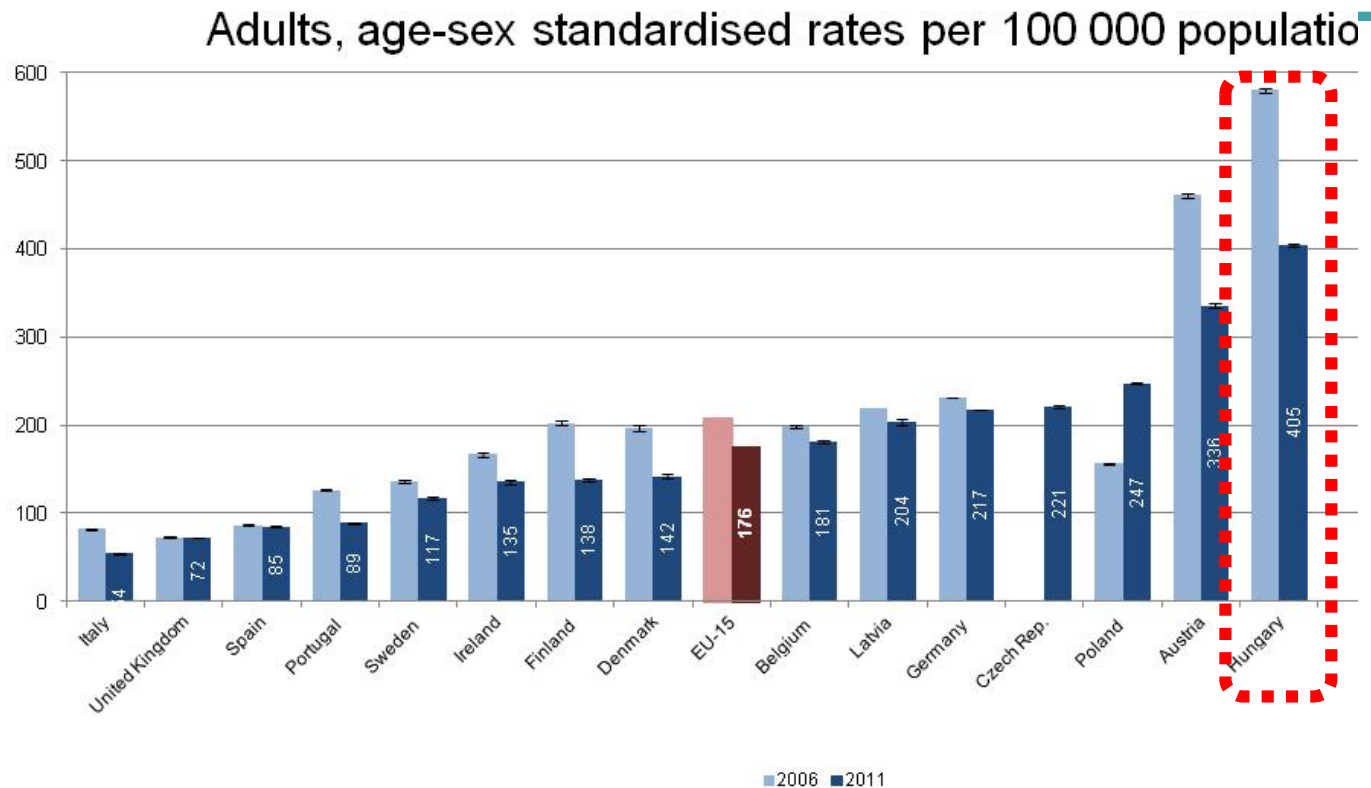


# Barriers in health systems

- Core interventions and services for NCDs are inadequate
- Key barriers include inadequate
  - Population empowerment
  - Model of care and coordination
  - Incentives
  - Human resources



# Hungary: diabetes as a lens



- Late detection of metabolic conditions and diabetes
- Under-management of complications
- Third highest rate of specialist consultations
- Simultaneously, high rates of hospitalization

# Hungary is not alone: Continued challenges to primary health care, despite progress

**Lack of outreach to mobilize people**

**Primary health care is reactive rather than proactive**

**Continued reliance on specialists leads to fragmentation**

**Lack of nurses, dieticians, social workers**

**Home care, nursing care, social care under-developed**

**Information technology not used to help these functions**

# Incentives misaligned, with little attention to coordination of care

Low resolution of cases in primary health care and upward referral to specialists and hospitals

Poor coordination of care across clinical settings and over time

Patients may then be subject to repetitive tests, inconsistent advice and confusion about whom to consult

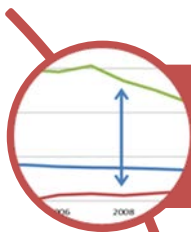
# In Hungary...

- Make health a priority, and prove the macro-economic importance of health and the health sector.
- Adapt health care to the needs of the ageing population, with NCDs as the dominant disease burden (with multiple and co-morbid conditions).

# In Hungary...

- Strengthen primary health care, and make it more proactive, avoid fragmentation, rely on multi-professional teams.
- Ensure better coordinated and integrated care, also by using modern information technology.
- Strengthen home and social care, and ensure continuity in health care.

# Summary by key challenge



While the European Region is on track to achieve the Health 2020 targets, further health gains and reductions of inequities are possible: Health is a political choice



Closing the gap in a generation will not be possible without addressing all determinants of health: lifestyle, social, environmental, commercial and cultural



Hungary should and could spend more on health to reduce the burden on patients and improve health outcomes



Strengthening the health system for better NCD outcomes is one of the key challenges: investing in essential public health functions such as prevention, health promotion and social determinants as well as primary care can lead to major health gains