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Technical discussion on developing the new European policy for health – setting targets for Health 2020

Monday 12 September 2011 at 13:00–14:30

Programme

13:00	Dr Agis Tsouros, WHO Secretariat	Welcome Dr Tsouros will present the aim of the Technical Discussion and the way in which it will be structured. He will present the main contributors to the Technical Discussion and the Rapporteur, Ms Åsa Nihlén.
13:05	Dr Claudia Stein, WHO Secretariat	Dr Stein will present the rational and technical considerations for the Health 2020 target setting process.
13:15	Dr Lars-Erik Holm, Director-General National Board of Health and Welfare (Sweden), and chair of the SCRC Working Group on Health 2020 Targets	Dr Holm will share with the participants outcomes of discussions and views of the SCRC Working Group on the development of Health 2020 targets for the WHO European Region.
13:30	Mr Arun Nanda and Dr Roberto Bertollini, WHO Secretariat	Mr Nanda will reflect on the Region's experience with Health For All targets. Dr Bertollini will present an overview of target setting exercises through past Regional Committee resolutions.
13:45		Facilitated Discussion Participants will have the opportunity to make comments, ask questions and offer advice on the scope and development of targets for the WHO European Region.
14:20		Conclusions and Next Steps Dr Lars-Erik Holm and the WHO Secretariat will reflect on the contributions made by the delegates and bring a close to the Technical Discussion.
14:30		End of the Technical Discussion

Scope and purpose

The purpose of Health 2020 is to improve the health and well-being of European populations. This purpose should be reflected in its implementation across the countries of the WHO European Region using the best available evidence and the end result should be achieved. The question relating to targets is whether, and how, targets can assist this purpose, but targets are not an end in themselves.

Targets in Health 2020 should recognize country autonomy by being set at European rather than country level. They should inspire and promote learning and engagement. They should be realistic, achievable, understandable and measurable. They should be limited in number (10–15 is thought to be an ideal number) and there should be a mixture of quantitative and qualitative targets and a mixture of outcomes, determinants, risk factors, and processes.

Targets can be quantitative or qualitative but should always be SMART: Specific, Measureable, Achievable, Relevant and Timely. Every target should represent real progress and should probably be set for inputs, processes, outputs and outcomes of the Health 2020 policy.

This technical briefing aims to:

- address key conceptual, strategic and technical issues on the Health 2020 target setting process using examples of possible targets that would reflect the essence of Health 2020 and would be appropriate for the whole of the European Region;
- present the working process for the target and indicator development and the use of relevant methodologies to define targets;
- provide a roadmap for the implementation of the process; and
- *seek the advice and the views of Member State representatives on all the above issues.*

The Chair and the WHO Secretariat members of the SCRC Working Group will share progress to date on the conceptual and methodological development of the target setting process.

Process and focus of the work

The Working Group which has been established is composed of seven members of the Standing Committee of the Regional Committee with expertise in the area and is supported by the WHO Secretariat and co-chaired by the WHO Regional Director of Europe.

Representatives of the following Member States have been nominated for the Working Group:

- Andorra
- Poland
- Sweden (chair of the group)
- Turkey
- Ukraine
- United Kingdom
- Former SCRC Chair, Dr Vladimir Lazarevik (The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)

The Working Group is co-chaired by the WHO Regional Director for Europe and is supported by the WHO Secretariat.

The terms of reference of the Working Group include: agreeing on the technical methodology/ies used for target and indicator setting; proposing a set of targets corresponding to the main action areas of Health 2020; and providing a conceptual framework with example targets for discussion at the Sixty-first session of the Regional Committee in Baku.

It is anticipated that the final proposed targets will be discussed and agreed by Member States at the Sixty-second session of the Regional Committee in Malta.

At the SCRC meeting of May 12th it was agreed that the targets should reflect the six key action areas of the Health 2020 policy:

- governance for health and well-being;
- tackling determinants of health and health inequalities;
- investing in healthy people and empowering communities;
- tackling the major burden of disease;
- creating healthy and supportive environments and assets for health and well-being; and
- strengthening people-centred health systems.

Material available to the Regional Committee

The following documents will be available at the Regional Committee:

- Working document: The new European Policy for health – Health 2020: Vision, values, main directions and approaches (EUR/RC61/9);
- Draft resolution: The new European policy for health – Health 2020: Vision, values, main directions and approaches (EUR/RC61/Conf.Doc./2); and
- Information document: Setting targets for Health 2020 (EUR/RC61/Inf.Doc./7).