



**World Health  
Organization**

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR **Europe**

**Regional Committee for Europe**

Sixty-second session

**Malta, 10–13 September 2012**

EUR/RC62/R5

13 September 2012

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ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

## **Resolution**

### **European Action Plan for Strengthening Public Health Capacities and Services**

The Regional Committee,

Having considered the European Action Plan for Strengthening Public Health Capacities and Services (document EUR/RC62/12 Rev.1);

Acknowledging the progress in implementing the decisions contained in its resolution EUR/RC61/R2 “Strengthening public health capacities and services in Europe: a framework for action” related to applying the essential public health operations for public health services evaluation in Europe;

Mindful of the extensive evidence that has been accumulated across the WHO European Region on public health status, performance, capacities and services and the shared challenges described therein, and in the relevant information documents submitted to it at its sixty-second session;

Recognizing the continuing need of the commitment of governments to upgraded and strong public health policies, operations, services and structures, and to the further development of health-promoting and disease-preventing services delivered by primary health care;

Recognizing that the essential public health operations are aimed at providing guidance to governments concerning public health policies, operations, structures and services, fostering intersectoral collaboration;

Recognizing that the European Action Plan complements the ongoing work called for by the Tallinn Charter on Health Systems for Health and Wealth 2008 on strengthening of health systems with regard to the delivery of population- and individual-level public health services;

1. ENDORSES the European Action Plan for Strengthening Public Health Capacities and Services as a necessary component of health improvement in the WHO European Region;

2. CALLS FOR the implementation of the action plan in synergy with the European policy framework Health 2020;

3. ACKNOWLEDGES the ten essential public health operations and the ten respective avenues for action identified in the European Action Plan, stressing the voluntary nature of the essential public health operations and of corresponding options for action by the Member States, as follows:

- Surveillance of population health and well-being
- Monitoring and response to health hazards and emergencies
- Health protection including environmental, occupational, food safety and others
- Health promotion including action to address social determinants and health inequity
- Disease prevention, including early detection of illness
- Assuring governance for health and well-being
- Assuring a sufficient and competent public health workforce
- Assuring sustainable organizational structures and financing
- Advocacy, communication and social mobilization for health
- Advancing public health research to inform policy and practice;

4. CALLS UPON Member States<sup>1</sup> and international partners to collaborate in the implementation of the European Action Plan and using the essential public health operations as appropriate, including self-assessments, for strengthening of public health capacities and services;

5. CALLS UPON Member States to maintain a sufficient capacity for developing and undertaking public health action, including investment in public health training, expertise and research;

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<sup>1</sup> And, where appropriate, regional economic integration organizations

6. REQUESTS the Regional Director:
- (a) to promote renewed political commitment to public health and ensure that WHO works hand in hand with Member States upon their request to support them in strategic development of their policies to improve health outcomes and strengthen public health services;
  - (b) to develop partnerships with relevant international stakeholders and partners to make a real commitment to and investment in a new generation of prevention and health promotion activities and in the implementation of the European Action Plan;
  - (c) to update and further develop the essential public health operations, as appropriate, in a dialogue with Member States to ensure that they increasingly match the specificities and challenges of health systems in the Region;
  - (d) to further develop the internet self-assessment tool in order to allow interested Member States to carry out self-assessments of public health services and capacities;
  - (e) to give feedback to Member States on their self-assessment of public health services and capacities as appropriate, and provide the Regional Committee, at its sixty sixth session, with a synthesis of the results, including practical recommendations; and
  - (f) to report to the Regional Committee at its sixty sixth session on the implementation of the European Action Plan and the development of essential public health operations and to propose for consideration, as appropriate, further actions to be carried out in the period until 2020.