



# Increasing equity in health and leaving no one behind in the WHO European Region

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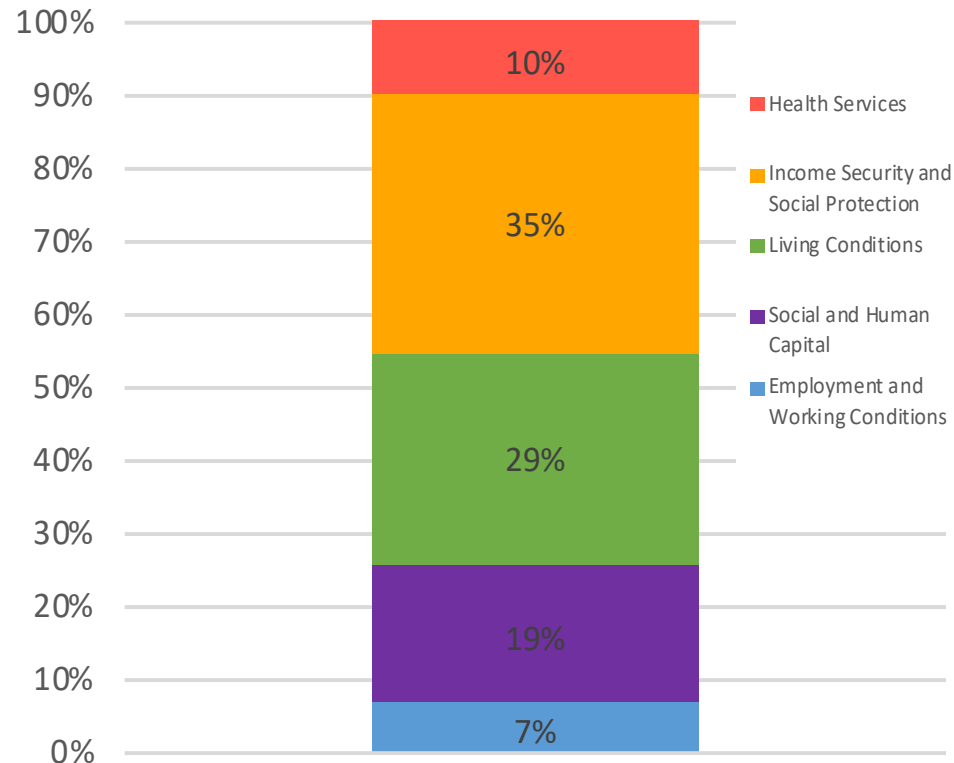


|       | Average life expectancy | Gaps in life expectancy |
|-------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Women | 82.0 years              | 1.0 – 7.4 years         |
| Men   | 76.2 years              | 3.4 – 15.5 years        |

**"THE HEALTH GAP"**

# What is holding many of our citizens back from good health and a decent life?

Decomposing the gap in health status between poorest and richest income quintiles over 36 European countries



% of the gap explained by differences in 5 factors, controlling for age & gender (based on analysis of EQLS 2003-2016)

- 1. Inequity in access to and quality of health care**
- 2. Financial Insecurity: 'not being able to make ends meet'**
- 3. Poor quality housing and neighbourhood environment**
- 4. Higher levels of social exclusion in more disadvantaged groups**
- 5. Lack of decent work and poor working conditions**

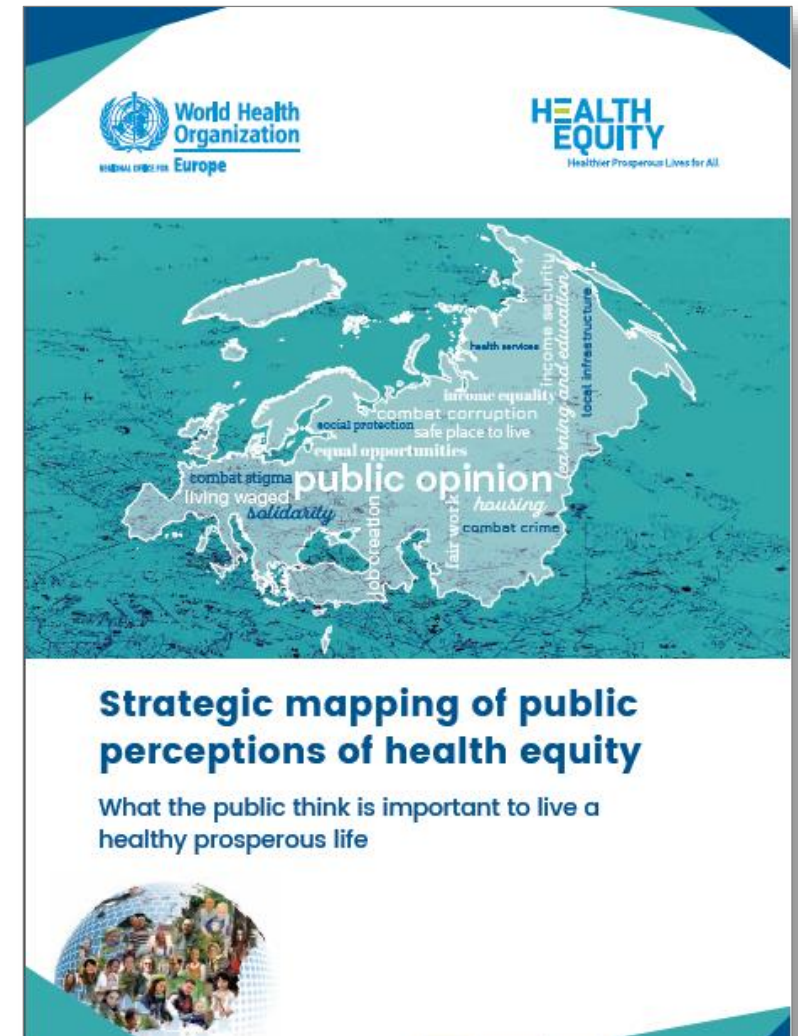


# Reducing inequities is achievable, a good investment and has strong public support !

- A 50% reduction in gaps in life expectancy would provide monetized benefits to countries ranging from 0.3% to 4.3% of GDP
- Opinion polls show that having good health is the most important factor for getting ahead in life
- The public are concerned about growing inequities
- Health sector contribution to social and economic development

A shift of 10% of the total spend by the health sector to local suppliers contributes US\$ 206 - US\$ 240 million / year to the local economy

- based on a city/region of 3m people



# Solutions

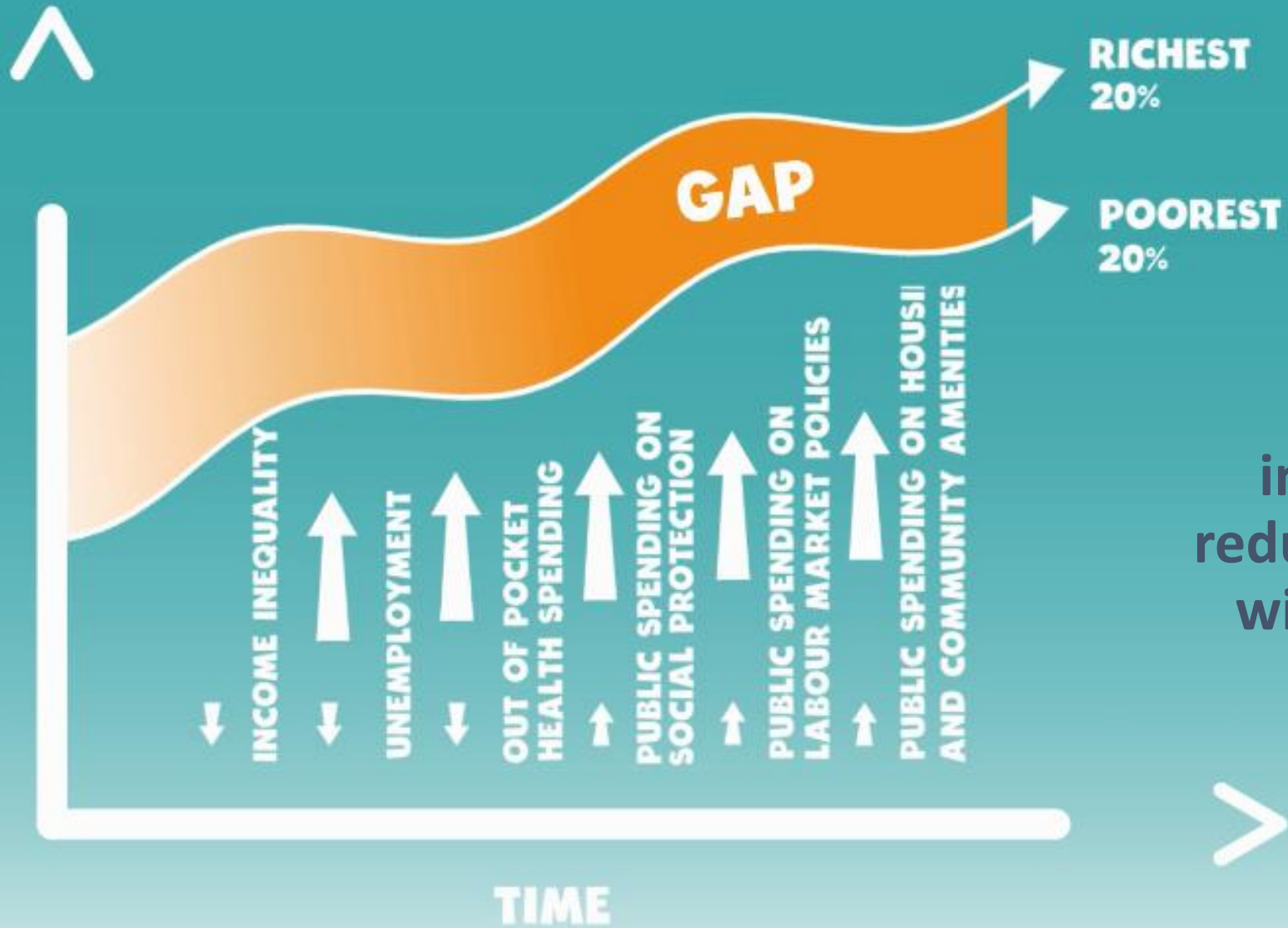
Our most important partner is the child, the young person, the woman or man who is not able to prosper and thrive.

It is their voice, their lived experience, their passion, drive and resilience that we must nurture to make equitable progress in health and for sustainable development.

Ljubljana conference on health equity, June 2019



**HEALTH AND PROSPERITY**



**Smart investments reduce inequities within 4 years**

# Policy options

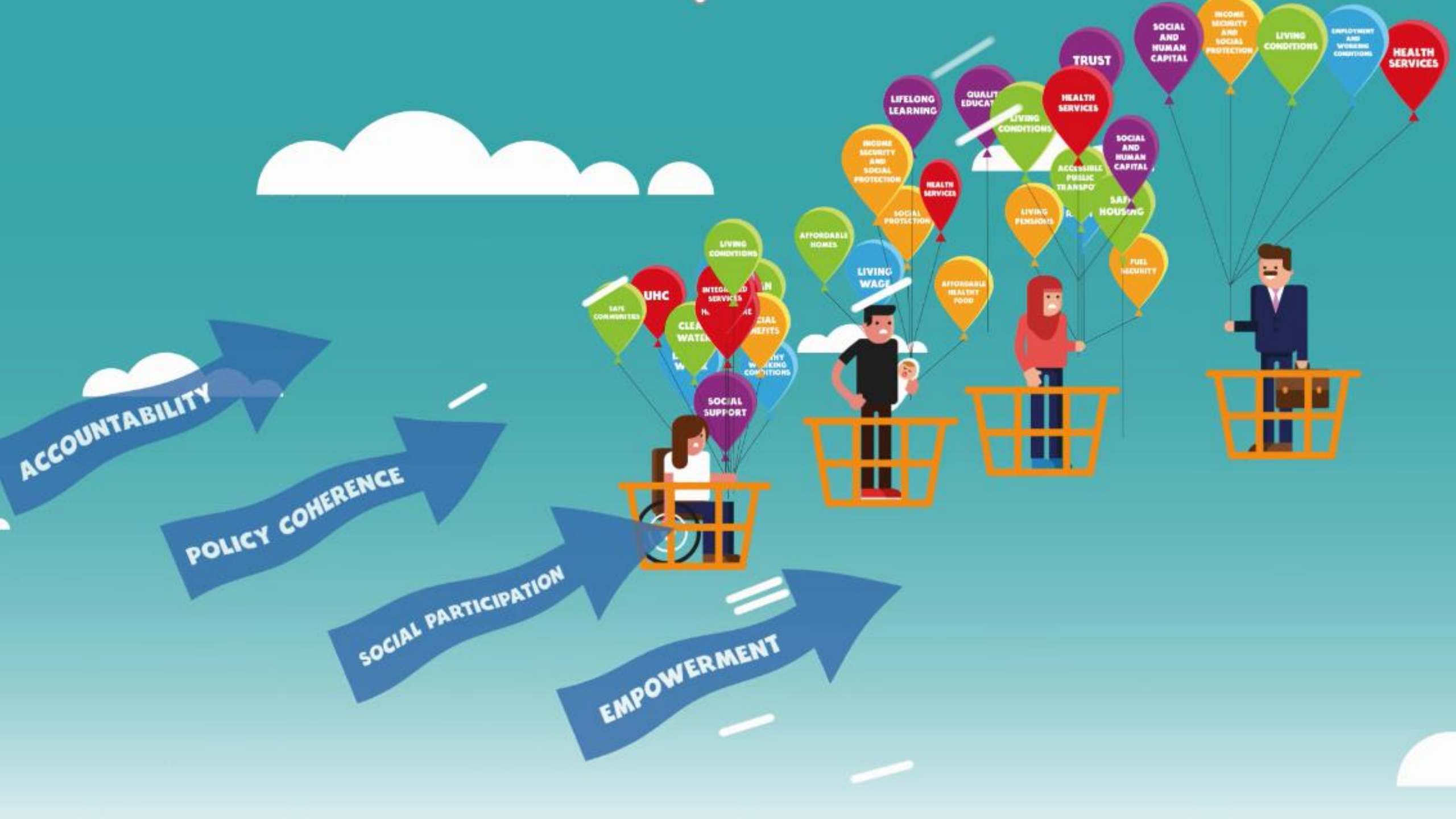
Equity-proofing our policies benefits everyone's health

The image shows four overlapping book covers from the World Health Organization Europe. Each cover features the WHO logo and icons representing different health and social determinants. The titles of the books are:

- Perspective 50 Plus: employment pacts for older workers in the regions, Germany** (Icons: Family, Employment)
- Co-producing policy and research with older people in Manchester, England (United Kingdom)** (Icons: Living Conditions, Social and Human Capital)
- PRISMA-7: detecting and mapping frailty among older people in Friuli Venezia Giulia, Italy** (Icons: Health Services, Social and Human Capital)
- The Danish pension system: preventing elderly people from falling into poverty** (Icon: Income Security and Social Protection)

The book cover features the WHO logo and a life-course diagram with four stages: Early years: 0-16, Young adults: 16-24, Working age: 24-64, and Later life: 65+. The title is "Reducing inequities in health across the life-course" and the subtitle is "Later life and healthy ageing". At the bottom, it says "A publication of the European Health Equity Status Report initiative" and shows a globe of people.







# SIX STEPS to put people at the centre of equitable health and sustainable development policies

1. Value individuals' and communities' knowledge and experiences: **'the lived experience'**
2. Maximize the potential of empowering spaces such as youth groups or citizens' assemblies
3. Explicitly move away from stigmatizing narratives of disadvantage
4. Improve accountability through political, social and judiciary systems to reduce inequities in sense of control and trust
5. Work with local communities to identify local issues, devise solutions and build sustainable social action. Tools: community development, asset-based methods
6. Bring social values into fiscal and growth policies



## COMPETENCE MODEL OF THE NO EXCUSE ACTIVIST PROGRAM

- All our work is evidence-based
- Uses Bloom Taxonomy, in line with UNODC/EMCDDA guidelines, works in line with a number of evidence-based programs
- Trainings on life and social skills to
  - become an **activist/advocate**,
  - a better **employee** (on a longer term)
  - or just to be **mentally and physically stronger** (health an wellbeing)

World Health Organization Europe

Health & Social and Human Capital

### Cross-Party Group on Health Inequalities, Scotland (United Kingdom)

World Health Organization Europe

Health & Health Services Health & Social and Human Capital Health & Employment and Working Conditions Health & Income Security and Social Protection

### Gender budgeting in Austria: systematically improving equity between women and men

World Health Organization Europe

Health & Social and Human Capital

### The Wales We Want: empowering citizens to own and drive equity policy solutions

### Health Justice Partnership:

A targeted intervention to advance the health of disadvantaged and vulnerable communities



**HEALTH  
SERVICES**

**INCOME SECURITY AND  
SOCIAL PROTECTION**

**LIVING  
CONDITIONS**

**SOCIAL AND  
HUMAN CAPITAL**

**EMPLOYMENT AND  
WORKING CONDITIONS**