



EuroHealthNet Oral / Video Statement for the 64th Session of the Regional Committee for Europe

Agenda Item: First report on the implementation of Health2020

- 1.1 EuroHealthNet welcomes the Health2020 policy framework that has come at exactly the right time, but wonders whether Europe is really prepared for its implementation.
- 1.2 As EuroHealthNet's activities are mainly geared towards EU policy and advocacy we are pleased to see a strengthened cooperation between WHO and the European Union. However, we argue that more can be done, also through national cooperation, to better align strategies and activities.
- 1.3 Health2020 is a strong aspirational framework, but at the same time, care must be taken that this vision remains attainable. This implementation report does not cover to what extent the national Health2020 based strategies have been backed up by financial and human resources. We advise measuring inputs, outcomes and performance and providing learning opportunities. This report could have set out the difficulties or discussed what needs to be done to overcome future hurdles.
- 2.1 We know that bold measures are needed to structurally address a wide range of key determinants. We call on Member States to provide leadership in shifting resources and capacities from dealing with the symptoms of unsustainable societies to integrated approaches that promote health and wellbeing. This "big shift" to prioritizing health in governance processes and trade-offs has, in this stage of the Health2020 implementation, not yet been made.
- 2.2 We also know that many public health professionals and policy makers face complex realities that are resistant to change. Other sector decision makers are not easily convinced that health is relevant to their policy goals and examples of effective inter-sectoral cooperation for health are scarce. We recommend to invest in and step up the proposed training and capacity building activities in a systematic way, using 'train-the-trainers' concepts and further develop practical collaborating centers of expertise.
- 2.3 We should not underestimate the effects that austerity measures have on the social determinants of health. We need more emphasis on inequalities in all public health actions. In addition, new strategies, such as social entrepreneurship, community based integrated services, new technologies, social innovation and working with businesses committed to improving health as well as with sustainable development actors, need further exploration and scaling up within the Health2020 context.
- 3 EuroHealthNet is committed to support the implementation of Health2020. We contribute by acting as a bridge between EU and WHO activities and prepare briefings, webinars, and study visits. We provide advice on policy and funding opportunities, coordinate joint actions and generate evidence-based knowledge on key determinants. EuroHealthNet also supports the WHO European Action Plan on strengthening public health capacities.

About EuroHealthNet EuroHealthNet, the European Partnership for improving Health, Equity and Wellbeing, is a Partnership consisting of primarily responsible public health authorities and institutes working at regional, national and international levels across Europe. Our mission is to help improve population health and reduce health inequalities. The EuroHealthNet Office is based in the EU quarter in Brussels, Rue de la Loi 67. Please see www.eurohealthnet.eu or contact Caroline Costongs, Managing Director c.costongs@eurohealthnet.eu.