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Strengthening public health capacities and services in Europe: a framework for action

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Health challenges of Europe in the 21st century

1. Addressing health inequities and the social determinants
2. Current burden and patterns of disease
3. Impact of globalization
4. Changing role of citizens
5. Financial stability
6. Governance and monitoring
7. Intersectoral actions and health in all policies

While these are not all-inclusive, they capture the core disease and contextual challenges of European health systems today.

Public health / Health system challenges in Europe

- **Challenges to health and equity**
 - How can we improve the level and distribution of health, wealth and social well-being through health systems and public health policies?
- **Challenges to societies and health systems**
 - How can we ensure that public health and health systems are sustained in the future?
- **Challenges to individual health services and public health services**
 - Many countries in the Region still have inadequate public health services.
 - In 2009-2010, 14 countries in the European Region were working individually or in a multi-country setting on PHS reform and strengthening.
 - How can we monitor, manage and improve performance for greater effectiveness and efficiency?



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Technical document



Definitions

Public Health

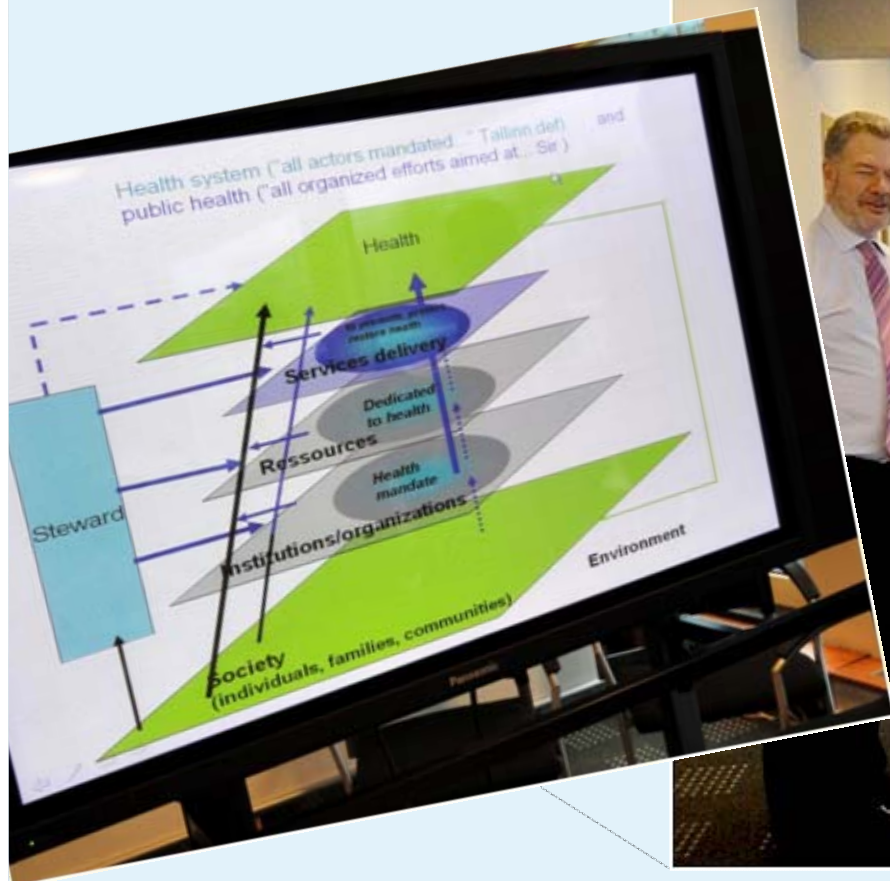
“Public health is the science and art of preventing disease, prolonging life and promoting health through organized efforts of society.”

Sir Donald Acheson, 1988

Health System

The ensemble of all public and private organizations, institutions and resources mandated to *improve or restore health*. Health systems encompass both personal and population services as well as activities to influence the policies and actions of other sectors to address the social, environmental and economic determinants of health.

Tallinn Charter, 2008



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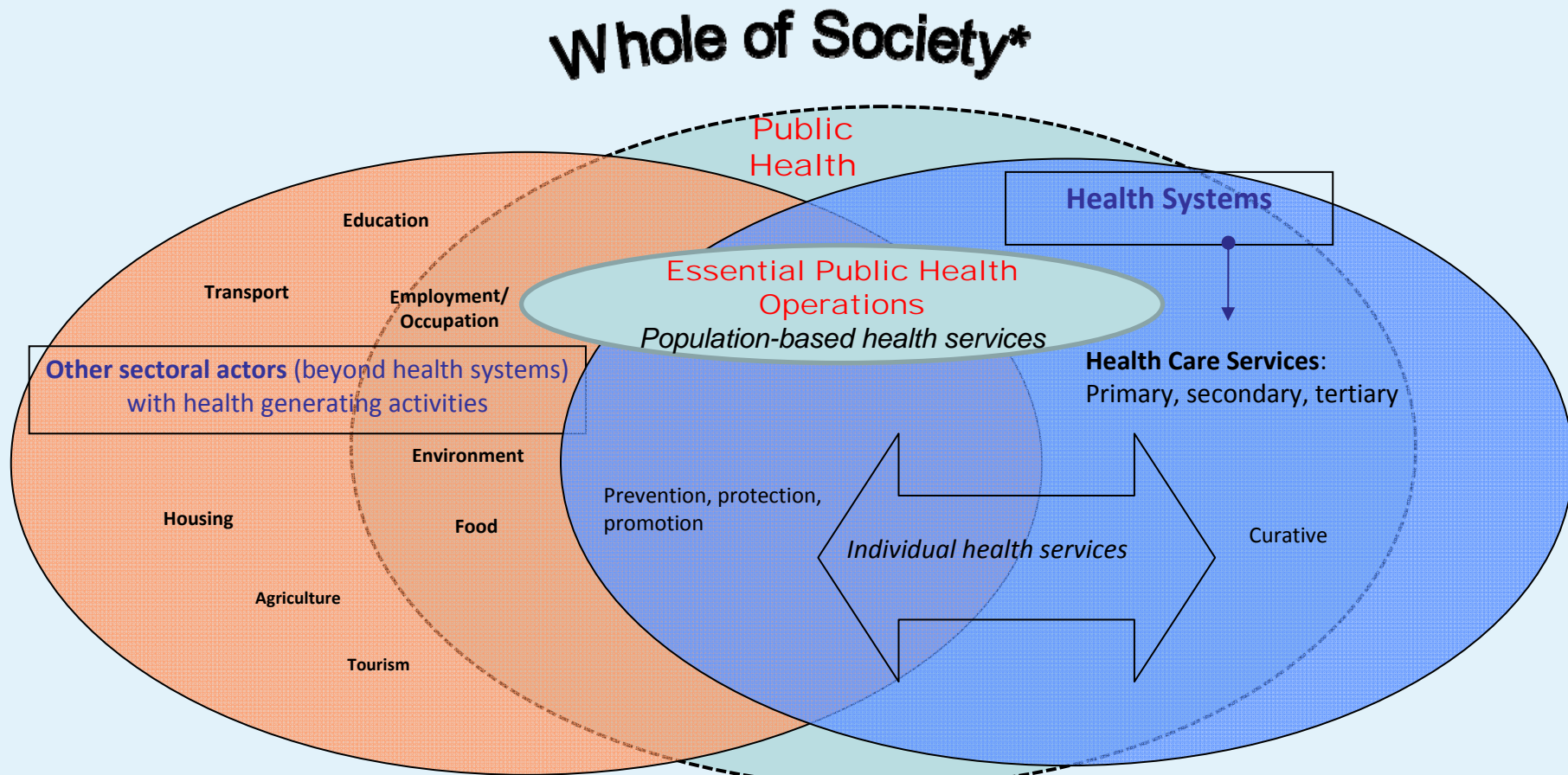
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Baku, Azerbaijan, 12–15 September 2011

Public health and health systems

Fig. 2: Boundaries of public health competencies and responsibilities



* Link to Health 2020, its governance, the whole of government and the whole of society approach

Strengthening public health: guaranteeing delivery of 10 essential public health operations (EPHO)

Vary according to institution (PAHO, WHO, CDC), but these constitute the backbone of the proposed public health operations for Europe (piloted for the last 4 years):

1. surveillance and assessment of the population's health and well-being;
2. identification of health problems and health hazards in the community;
3. health protection services (environment, occup, food safety);
4. preparedness for and planning of public health emergencies;
5. disease prevention;
6. health promotion;
7. assurance of a competent public health and personal health care workforce;
8. governance, financing and evaluation of quality and effectiveness of PHS;
9. communication for PH; and
10. health-related research.

Evaluation of Public Health Services in SEE

A self-assessment tool



Framework for action

1. Conceptual framework
2. Strengthening **regulatory frameworks** for protecting and improving health
3. Improving health outcomes through **health protection** operations and services
4. Improving health outcomes through **disease prevention** operations and services
5. Improving health outcomes through **health promotion** operations and services
6. Assuring a competent **public health workforce**
7. Developing **research and knowledge** for policy and practice
8. **Organizational structures** for public health services



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Thank you



- From values to action -

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