



Health in action: reforming the Greek national health services to improve citizens' health



**World Health
Organization**

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR

Europe



**Organisation
mondiale de la Santé**

BUREAU RÉGIONAL DE L'

Europe



Weltgesundheitsorganisation

REGIONALBÜRO FÜR

Europa

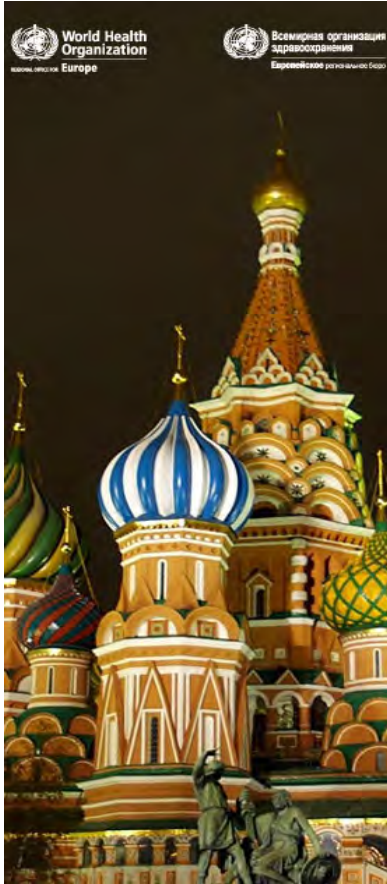


**Всемирная организация
здравоохранения**

Европейское региональное бюро

Zsuzsanna Jakab
WHO Regional Director
for Europe

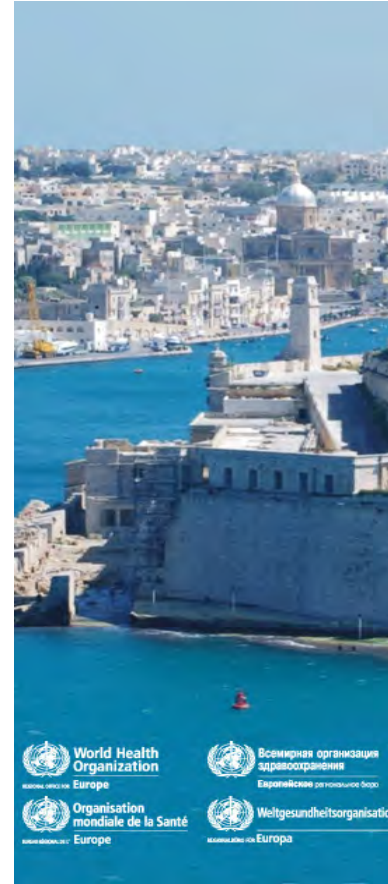
Health systems and the right policies go hand in hand



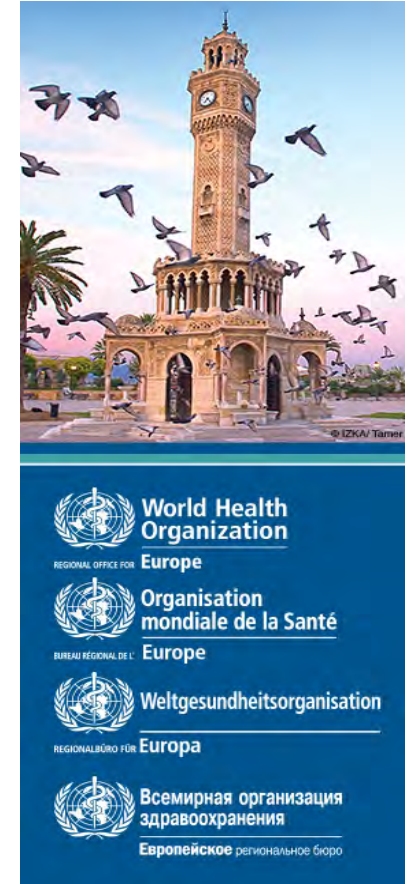
2010



2011



2012



2013

The changing health landscape

- The global health architecture has become more extensive and very complex
- Demographics are changing and the population is ageing
- Migration is increasing
- Health has improved, yet deep inequities remain
- Health challenges are multifaceted and require active involvement at all levels of government (international, national and local)

The changing health landscape

- Noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) dominate the disease burden – depression and heart disease are leading causes of healthy life-years lost
- Infectious diseases remain a challenge – antibiotic-resistant organisms are emerging
- Primary care systems are weak and lack preventive services
- Public health capacities are outdated
- Health systems face rising costs

Health 2020: strategic objectives

Working to improve health for all and reduce the health divide

Improving leadership and participatory governance for health

Health 2020: four common policy priorities for health

Investing in health through a life-course approach and empowering people

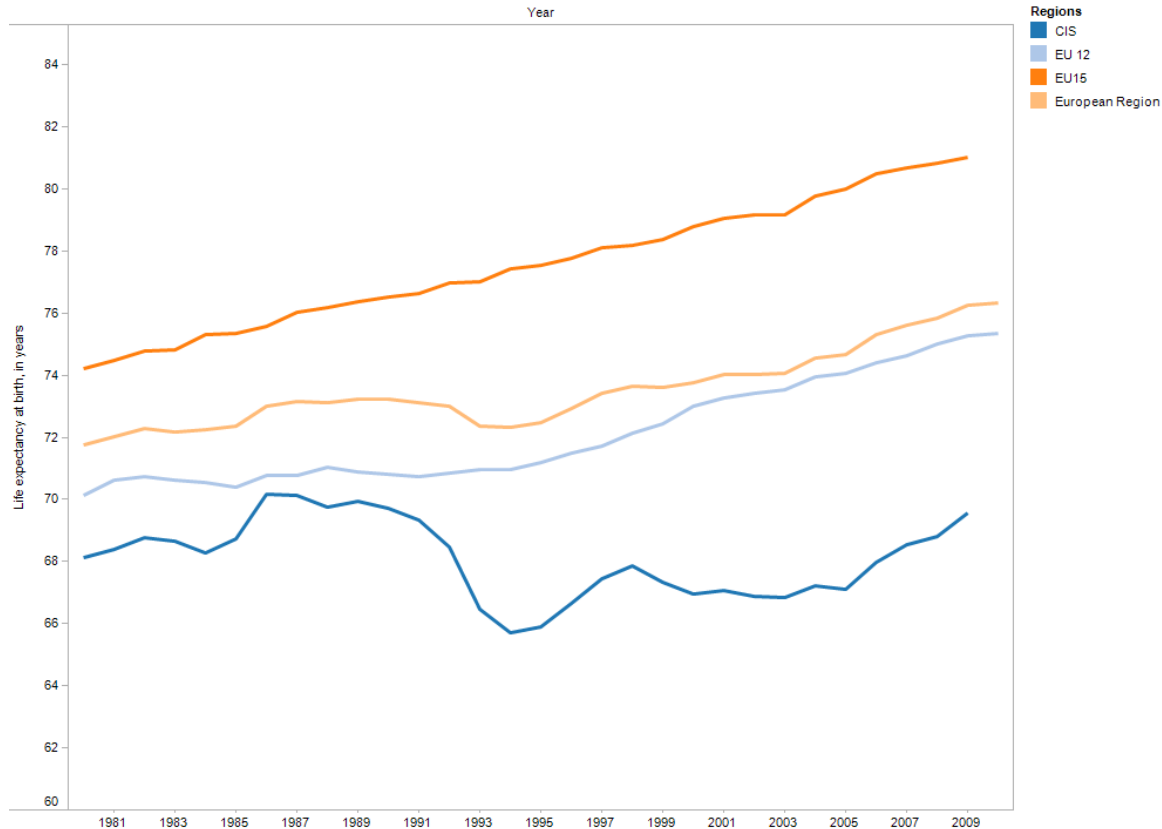
Tackling Europe's major health challenges: NCDs and communicable diseases

Strengthening people-centred health systems, public health capacities and emergency preparedness, surveillance and response

Creating resilient communities and supportive environments

Life expectancy has improved but the Region is scarred by inequalities

Life expectancy at birth trends by European regions, 1980-2010

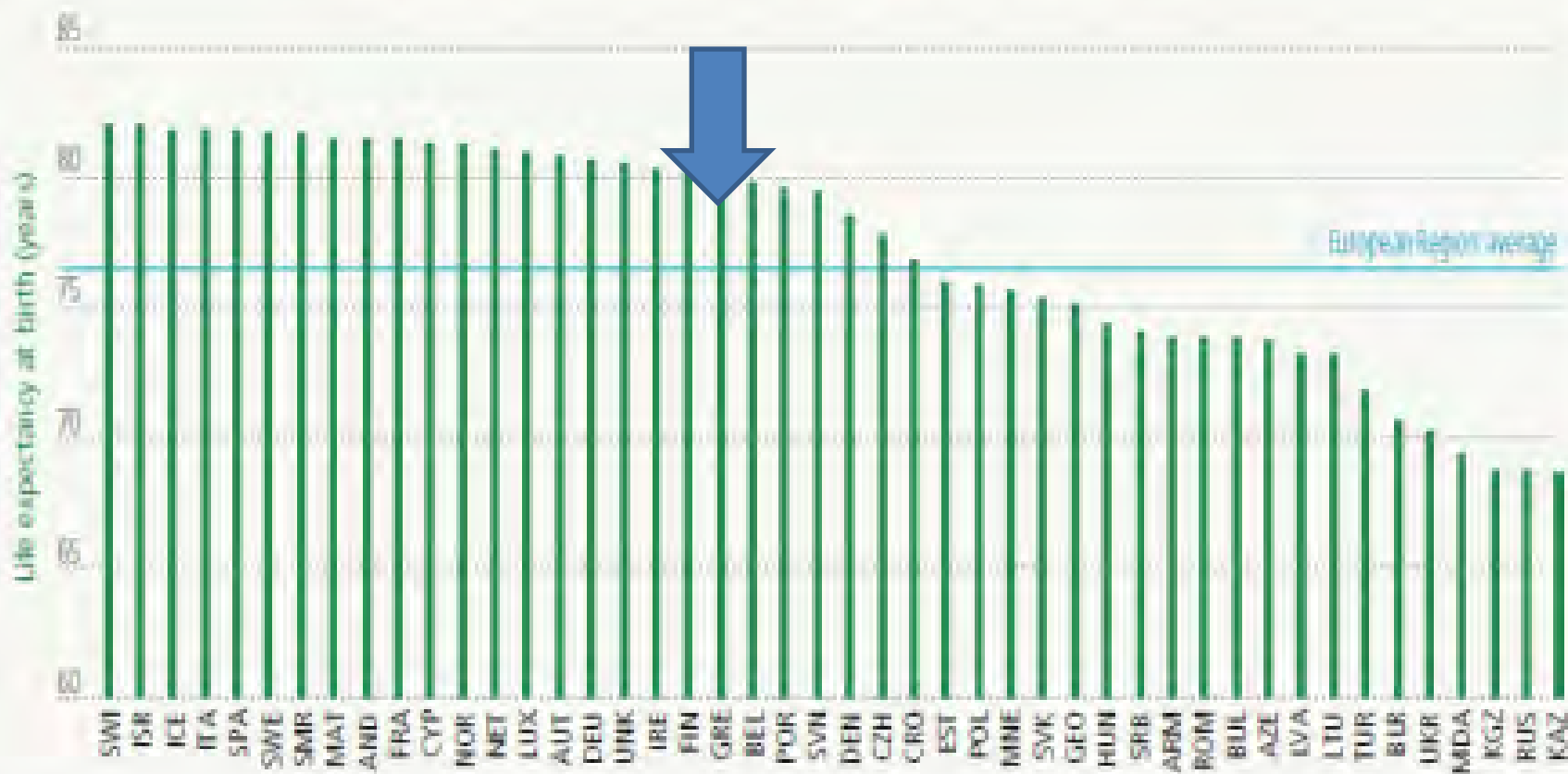


CIS: Commonwealth of Independent States.
EU12: countries belonging to the European Union (EU) after May 2004.
EU15: countries belonging to the EU before May 2004 .

Source: European Health for All database.
Copenhagen, WHO Regional Office for Europe, 2010.

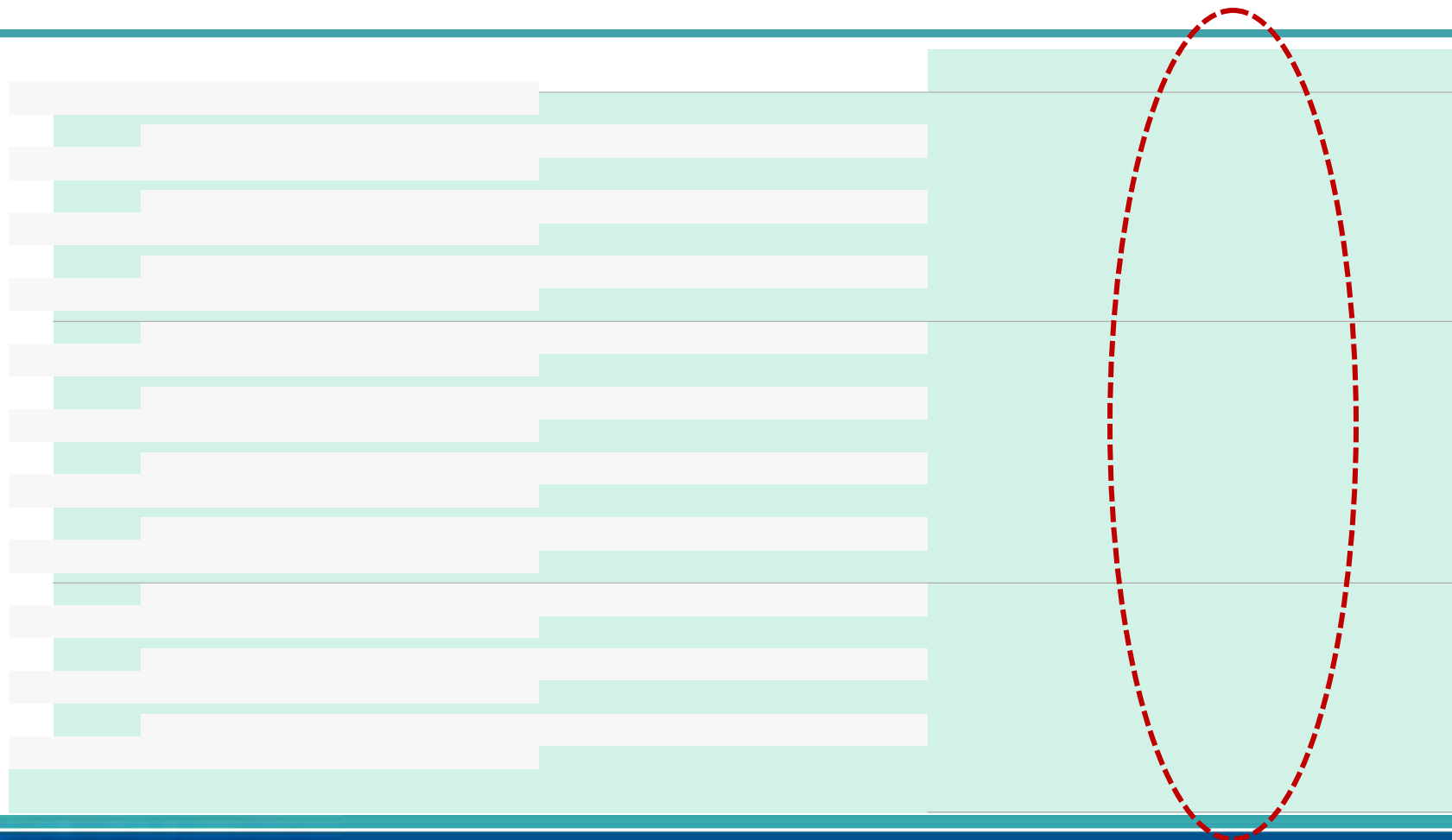
Greece has good health status

Life expectancy at birth in countries in the European Region, last reported data, 2006-2010



Source: European Health for All database(5)

Health-related indicators, Greece



Marking two key anniversaries: the Tallinn Charter: Health Systems for Health and Wealth and the Declaration of Alma-Ata on primary health care



Tallinn: 2008 and 2013
(governance)



Almaty: 1978 and 2013
(primary health care)

Health systems for health and wealth in the context of Health 2020

17–18 October 2013, Tallinn, Estonia



The Tallinn follow-up meeting:

1. provided a platform for understanding new frontiers to improve population health
2. enabled an exchange of inspiring examples of health-system strengthening
3. resulted in agreement on future directions, interweaving the commitments of the Tallinn Charter and the Health 2020 policy framework.

The Tallinn meeting: basis of WHO's work to strengthen health systems

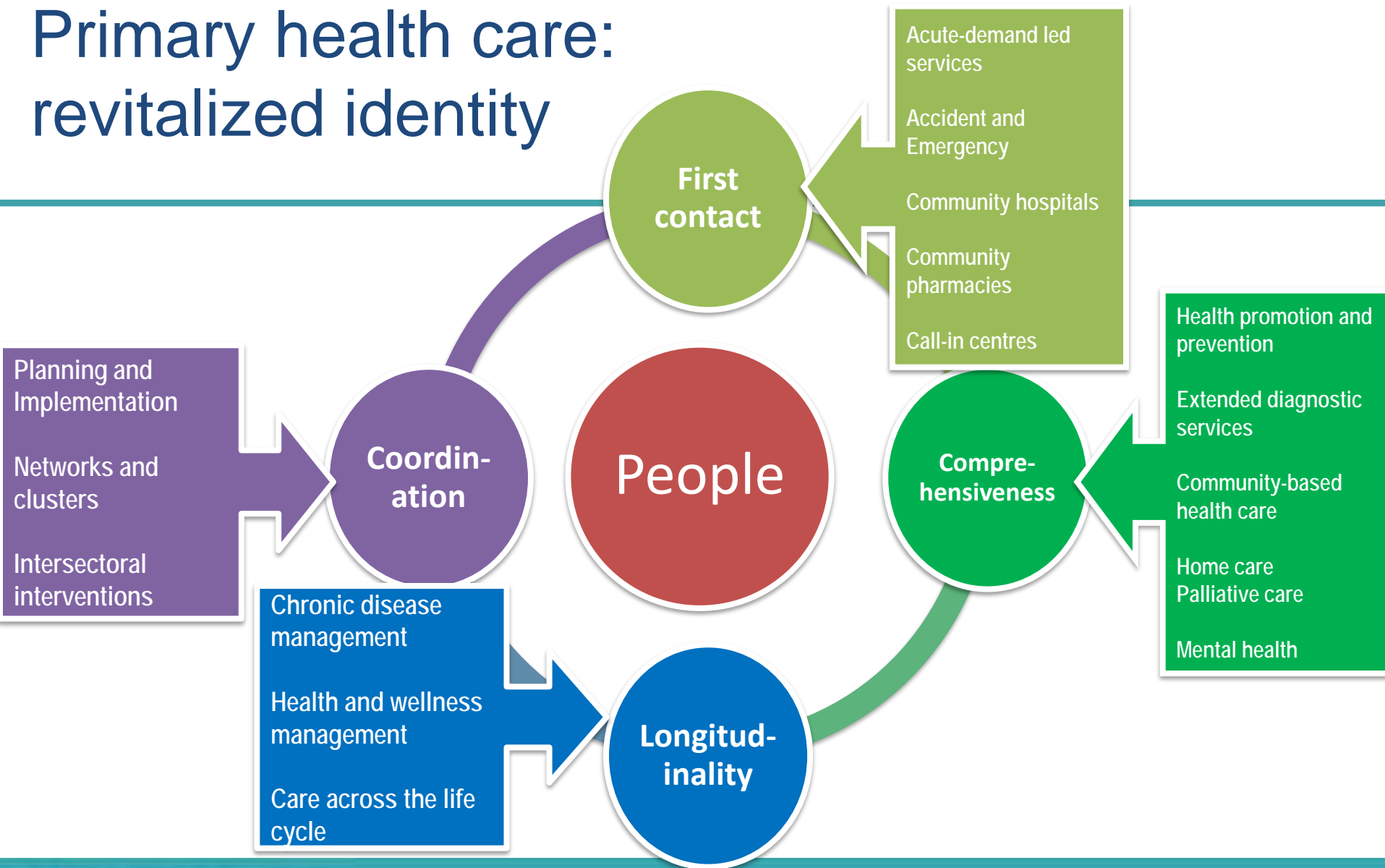
Supporting Member States in keeping or moving towards universal health coverage (guided by the mission and vision of Health 2020) by

- transforming financing arrangements to overcome sustainability concerns
- positioning primary health care as the hub of other levels of care
- ensuring coordination across primary health care and public health services
- revitalizing a flexible, multiskilled workforce with aligned task profiles
- strategizing the use of modern technology and medicines for maximum benefit

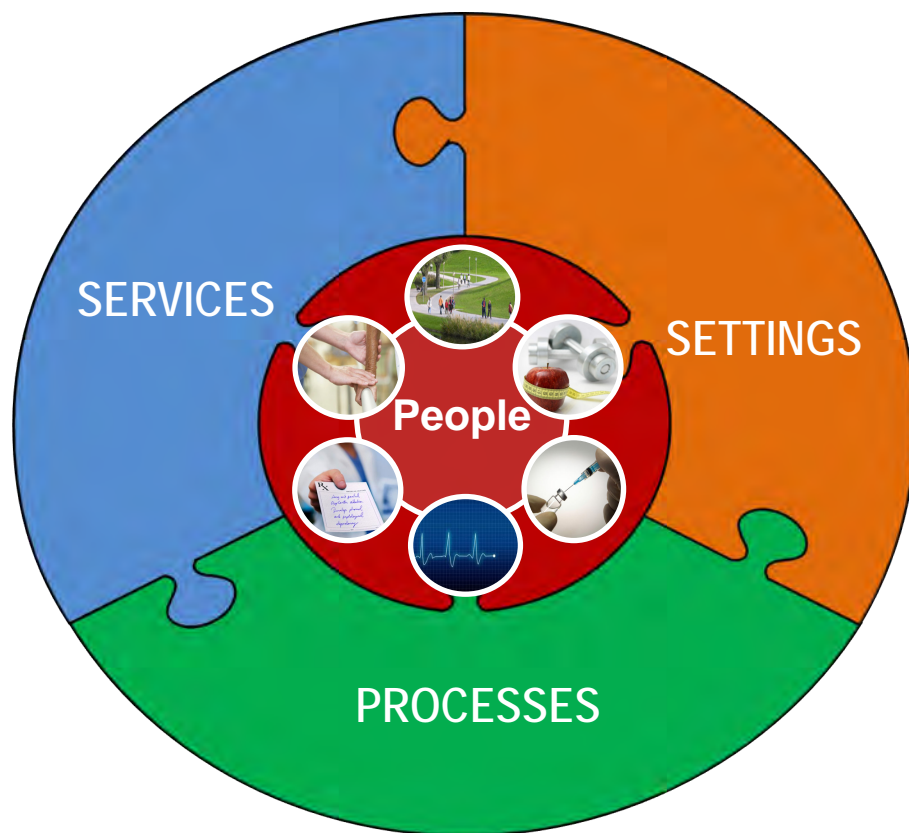
International conference to mark the 35th anniversary of the Declaration of Alma-Ata, Almaty, Kazakhstan, 6–7 November 2013



Primary health care: revitalized identity



Greek health system towards more people-centred services' delivery with primary health care at the centre



SERVICES

- Health protection
- Health promotion
- Disease prevention
- Diagnosis
- Treatment
- Rehabilitation
- Palliative care

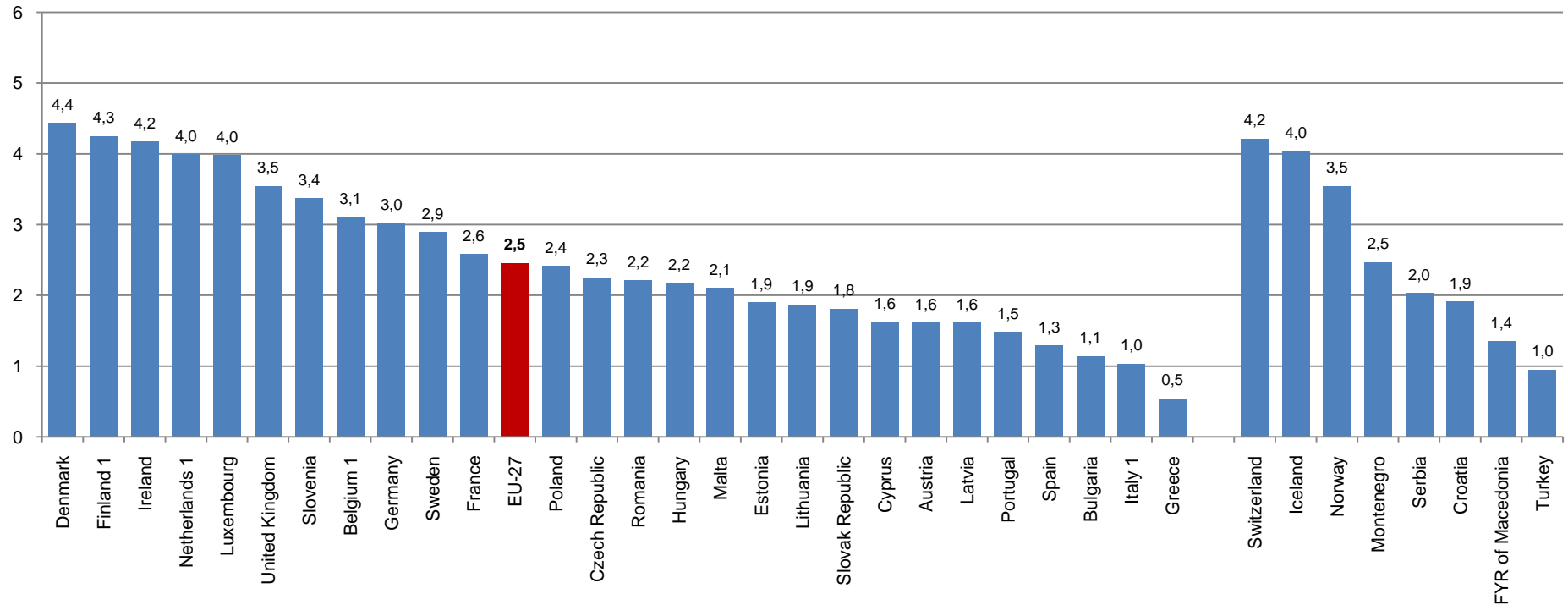
SETTINGS

- Public health (NHS)
- Primary health care (NHS)
- Secondary care (EOPYY)
- Long-term care
- Community, home and social care
- Pharmacies

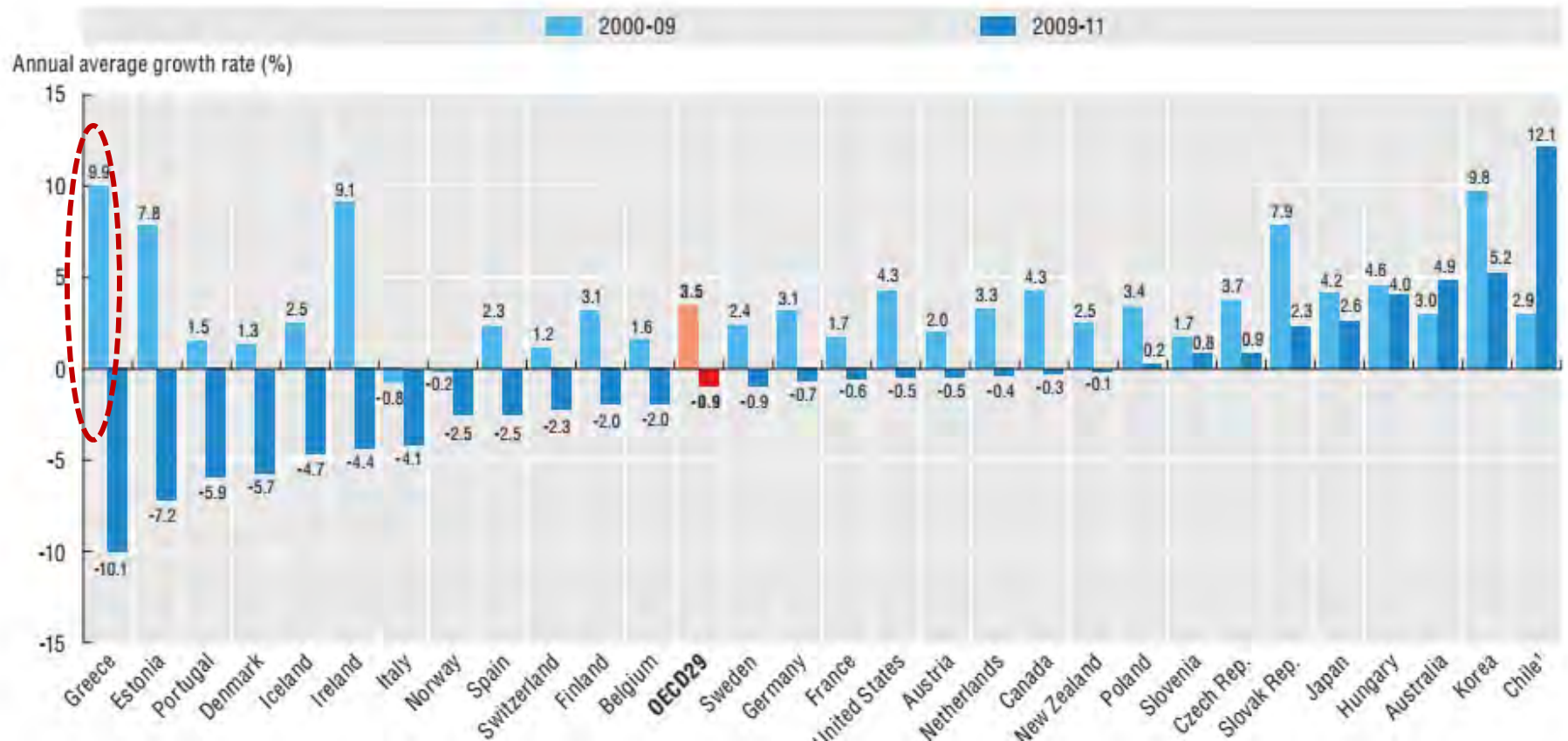
PROCESSES

- Delivery system (re)design (case managers, multidisciplinary teams, co-location of services)
- Alignment of incentives (P4P)
- Common information systems (e records, e-prescription)
- Decision support (integrated care pathways)

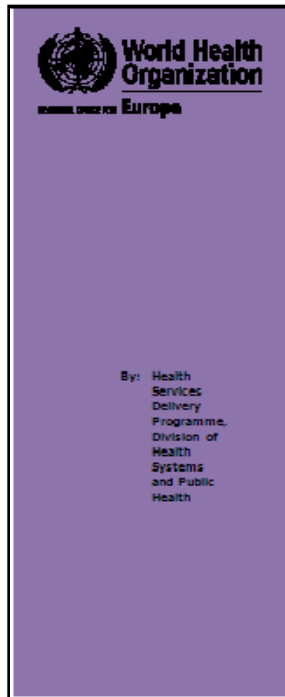
Human health resources – requirements in the Greek context



Average annual growth in pharmaceutical expenditure per capita in real terms, 2010–2011



Transforming service delivery, addressing NCDs, investing in prevention



Using fiscal policy to improve health outcomes



Tobacco

A 10% price increase in taxes could result in up to 1.8 million fewer premature deaths at a cost of US\$ 3–78 per disability-adjusted life-year (DALY) in eastern European and central Asian countries

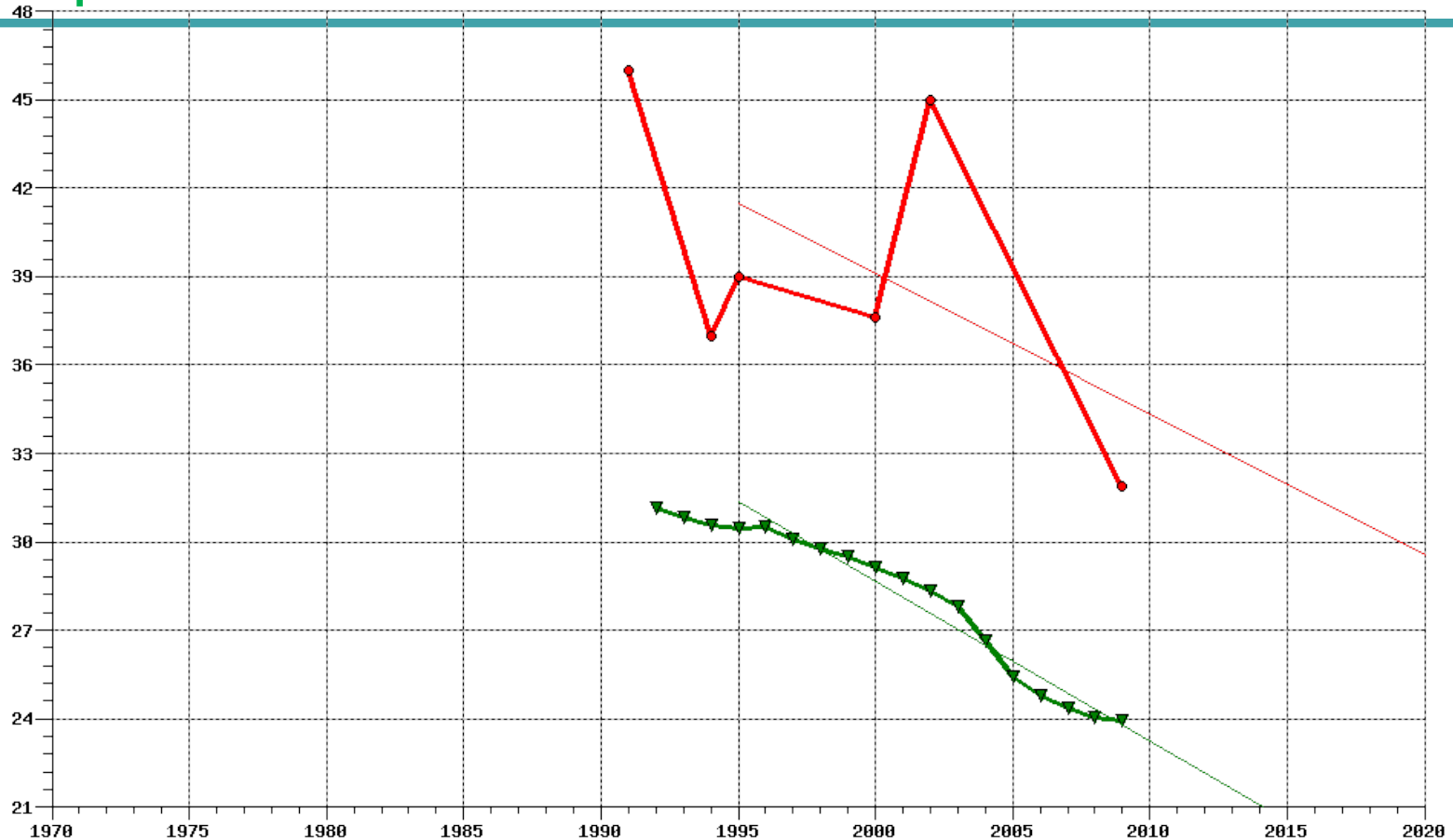


Alcohol

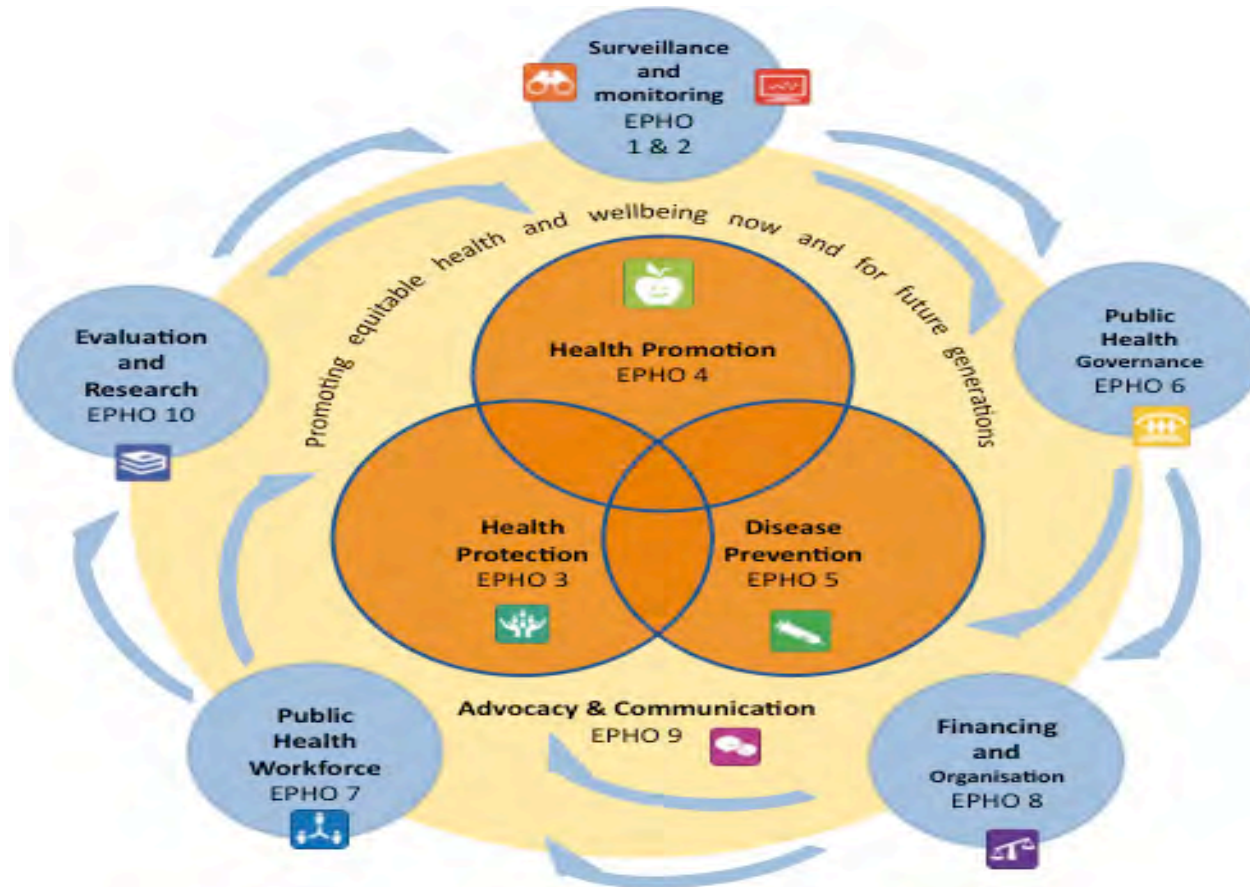
In England, benefits worth close to €600 million in reduced health and welfare costs and reduced labor and productivity losses, at an implementation cost of less than €0.10 per capita

Source: McDaid D, Sassi F, Merkur S, editors. The economic case for public health action, Maidenhead: Open University Press (in press).

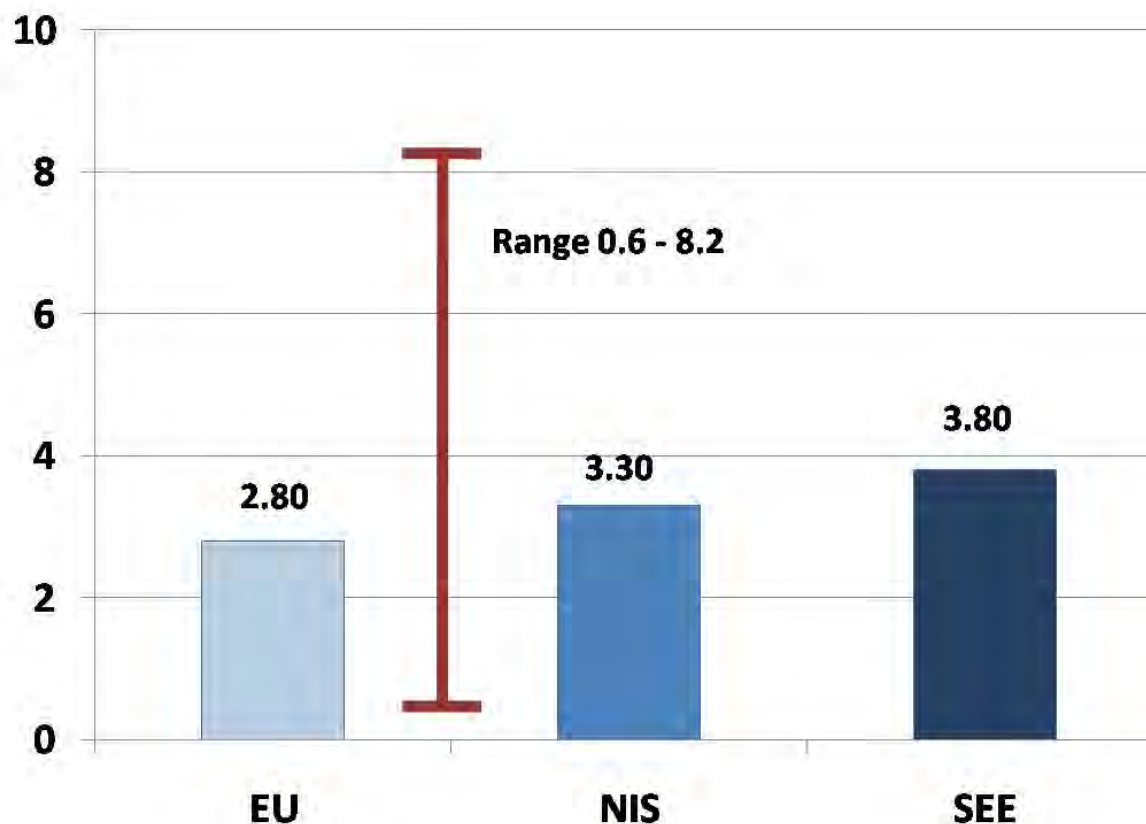
Greece – proportion of regular daily smokers in population aged 15+, 1991–2009, compared with European Union



WHO Regional office for Europe's essential public health operations (EPHOs) in relation to the policy cycle



Case for investing in public health: estimated expenditure on prevention and public health as a percentage of total health expenditure

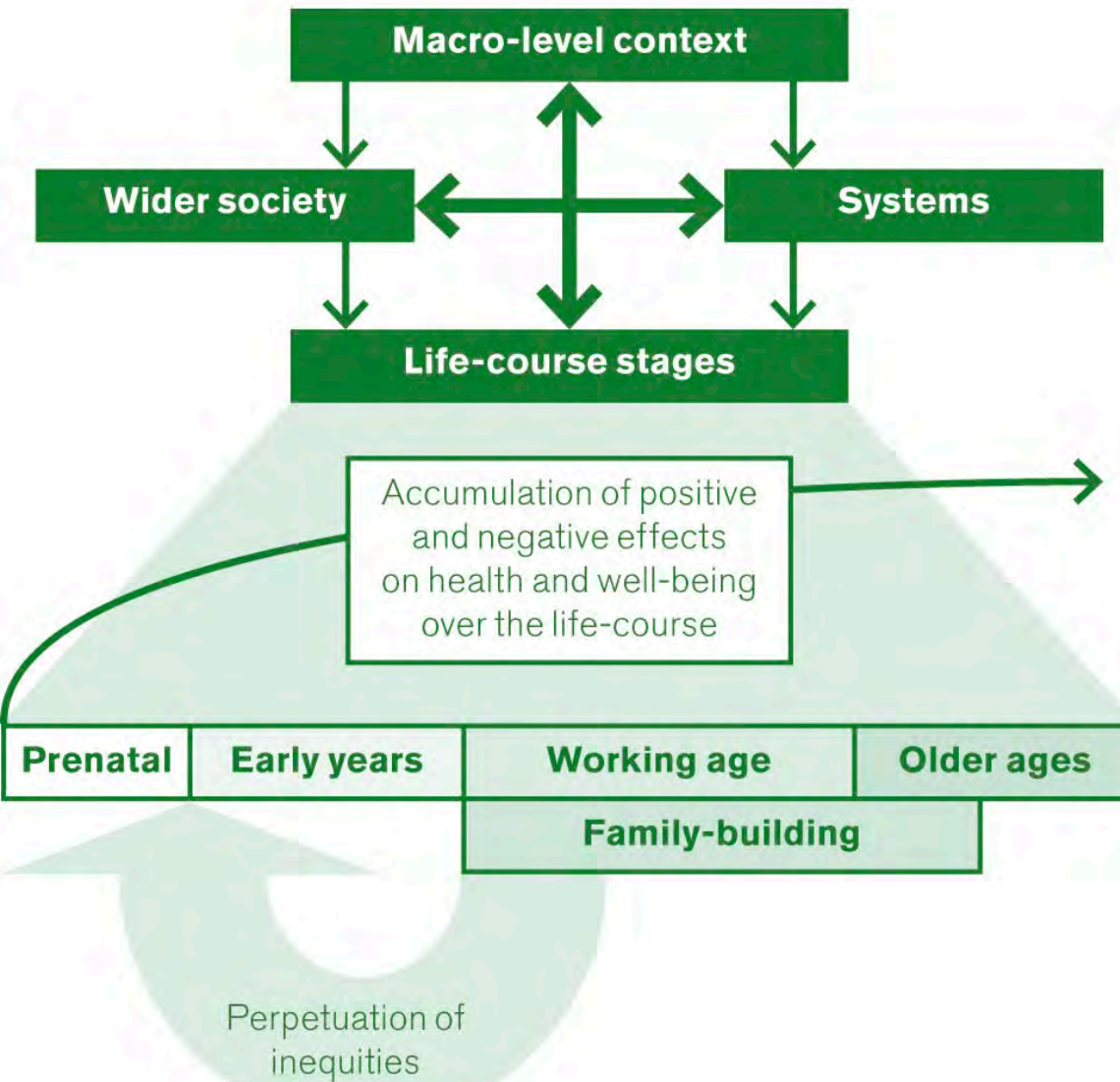


NIS = newly independent states
SEE = south-eastern Europe.

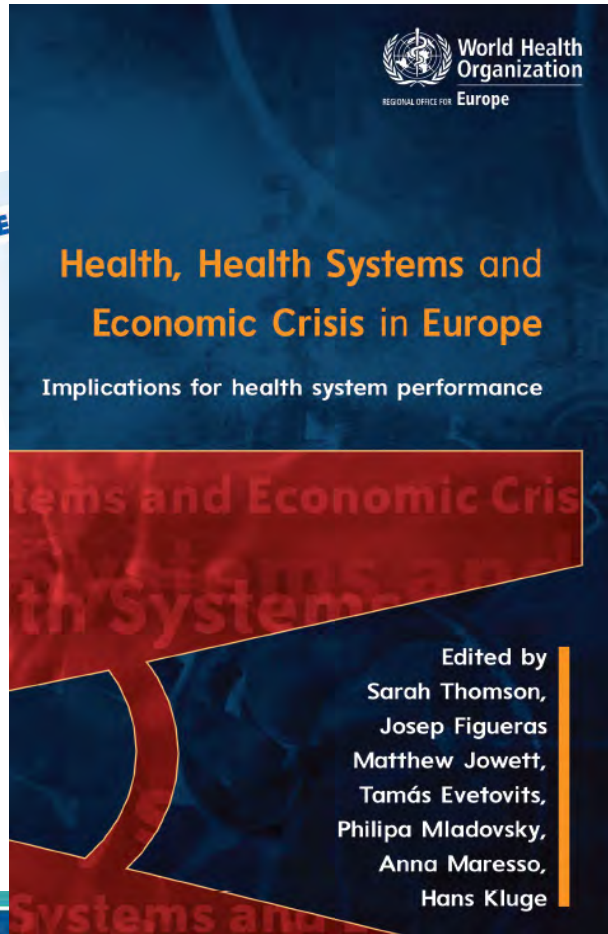
WHO cost-effective public health interventions

- reducing tobacco consumption by raising taxes, introducing tobacco-free environments, health warnings and advertising bans
- reducing harmful alcohol use by raising taxes, introducing health warnings and advertising bans
- improving diet and physical activity by reducing salt intake and content, reducing trans fats, promoting public awareness

Four areas of action to address health inequalities – emphasizing priorities



Health-system responses to economic crisis in Europe



The crisis has been challenging

Severe, sustained pressure on public spending on health

Source: WHO national health accounts, 2013.

2008	2009	2010	2011
Andorra	Andorra	Albania	Andorra
Azerbaijan	Bulgaria	Armenia	Armenia
Belarus	Croatia	Azerbaijan	Azerbaijan
Kyrgyzstan	Iceland	Croatia	Belarus
Turkmenistan	Ireland	Czech Republic	Georgia
	Latvia	Estonia	Germany
	Lithuania	Finland	Greece
	Romania	Greece	Kazakhstan
	San Marino	Iceland	Portugal
	Serbia	Ireland	Ukraine
	Ukraine	Italy	United Kingdom
		Kyrgyzstan	
		Montenegro	
		Republic of Moldova	
		Russian Federation	
		San Marino	
		Slovakia	
		Slovenia	
		Spain	

Countries with negative growth in public spending on health

Percentage of individuals reporting unaffordable health care, EU27, 2007

Hospital		Medical or surgical specialists		Family doctors or general practitioners		Dentists		OOP share of total health expenditure (2009)	
Greece	45	Portugal	78	Greece	43	Portugal	82	Cyprus	48.6
Portugal	40	Greece	71	Cyprus	39	Greece	75	Greece	35.3
Ireland	33	Cyprus	66	Portugal	37	Spain	70	Portugal	20.3
EU27	21	Ireland	53	Ireland	33	Cyprus	62	Spain	19.0
Spain	10	EU27	35	EU27	11	EU27	51	EU27	15.6
Cyprus	10	Spain	22	Spain	7	Ireland	46	Ireland	14.9

Notes: OOP = out-of-pocket (payment); EU27 = the 27 countries of the European Union before 1 July 2013.

Some positive responses in challenging circumstances

- Introduction of needed reforms in countries
- Drug prices lowered with immediate efficiency gains
- Cost-effective services identified and prioritized, also with efficiency gains
- Efforts made to protect people from financial hardship

Also negative implications for health systems' performance

- Countries that reduced population coverage often targeted vulnerable people (poorer people, migrants)
- Over 25 countries increased user charges for essential services
- Some cuts had unintended consequences

Health systems in times of global economic crisis: an update

Oslo, Norway, 17–18 April 2013

Objectives

- To review the impact of the economic crisis on health and health systems in the Region
- To draw policy lessons around three themes: maintaining and reinforcing equity, solidarity and universal coverage; coping mechanisms, with a focus on improving efficiency; improving health-system preparedness and resilience; and
- To identify policy recommendations for consideration by countries and possible future political commitments



Oslo meeting n impact of crisis – ten policy lessons and messages

1. Be con
with long
health s
goal

2. Factor
impac
fiscal p

3. Safety
can miti
many ne
health e

4. Health
respon
influence
health e

5. Protect
funding for cost-
effective public
health services

6. Av
prolonge
excessive
health b

7. H
performin
systems
more re

8. Struc
reforms r
time to c
savin

9. Need f
informatio
monitor
system

10. Good
governance for
prepared, resil-
ient systems

Letter of Intent



LETTER OF INTENT

The Ministry of Health has developed a Road Map for the reform process under the initiative "Health in Action" (hereafter "Health in Action") in co-operation with the EU Task Force for Greece and Germany as the Domain Leader in the health sector as described in the Memorandum of Understanding by and between the Ministry of Health of the Hellenic Republic and the Federal Ministry of Health of the Federal Republic of Germany and in co-operation with the Task Force for Greece-European Commission of 20 April 2012 (Annex 1 to this Letter).

Under Health in Action the Ministry of Health has set up a governance structure including a Health Reform Steering Committee and nine subcommittees in which the MoU parties participate.

The Greek Authorities have decided to request technical assistance for the implementation of Road Map of reforms in the health sector directly through National Authorities, European Institutions, International Organisations, accredited agencies or via the private sector by using financial resources from the 2007-2013 Greek National Strategic Reference Framework financial envelope, as appropriately reserved for this purpose by the Greek authorities.

In this framework the Greek Authorities would like to involve the World Health Organisation (hereafter "the WHO") in addition to its usual normative and technical cooperation role, uniquely (taking into consideration the Greek financial conditions) to deliver support for the monitoring and implementation of reforms in the context of the Health Reform Steering Committee and Road Map, including technical support in the fields of Public Health, and Primary Health Care and the management of financial resources to ensure high quality in project management and effective implementation deriving from the credibility and extensive experience and expertise of WHO in the health sector.

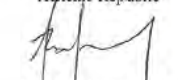
The undersigned are hereby stating their willingness and intention to further examining the possibility of co-operation in the provision of support to the Hellenic Republic for the implementation of reforms in the health sector in Greece as described hereby.

Athens, 10 April 2013

Minister of Health
Hellenic Republic


Andreas Th. Lykouratzos

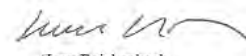
Secretary General for
Coordination
Office at the Prime Minister's
Hellenic Republic


Dimitrios Vartzopoulos

Minister of Health
Federal Ministry of Health
Federal Republic of Germany


Daniel Bahr

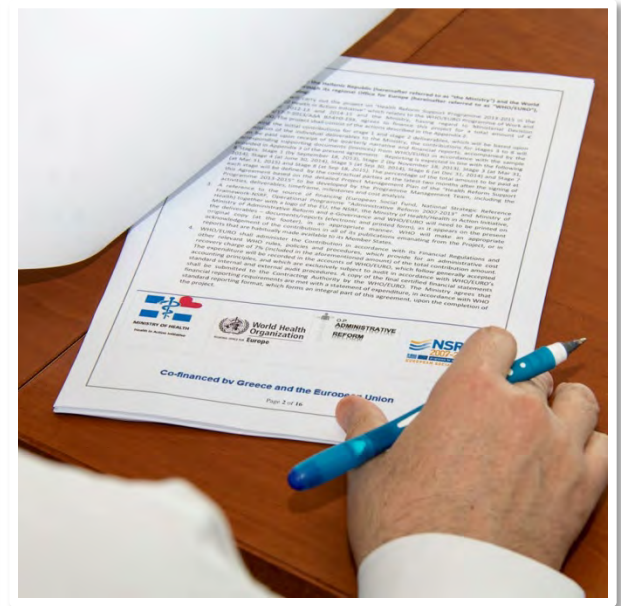
Head of Task Force for Greece
European Commission


Horst Reichenbach

Regional Director World
Regional Office for Europe
Health Organisation


Zsuzsanna Jakab

Contribution agreement between Greece and the WHO Regional Office for Europe



Principles of universal health coverage

Ensure that people have equal access to quality health services and financial protection:

- coverage with health services (promotion, prevention, treatment and rehabilitation)
- coverage with financial risk protection

Potential indicators, focusing on coverage and protection:

- increased equity and financial protection
- increased coverage of essential services
- stronger health systems

A new governance for health

- Strategic role of the ministry
 - Health in Action initiative
 - alignment of governance, regulatory capacity and legal instruments
 - organizational and management changes
- Involvement of stakeholders
- Empowerment of people



WHO Regional Office for Europe
**Division of
Health Systems
and Public Health**

σας ευχαριστώ

THANK YOU

<http://www.euro.who.int/en/what-we-do/health-topics/Health-systems>

