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Organization

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR  
Europe



Всемирная организация  
здравоохранения

Европейское региональное бюро



Organisation  
mondiale de la Santé

BUREAU REGIONAL DE L'  
Europe



Weltgesundheitsorganisation

REGIONALBÜRO FÜR  
Europa

# Report on the work of the WHO Regional Office for Europe

Zsuzsanna Jakab  
WHO Regional Director for Europe



# From the sixtieth session of the Regional Committee (RC60) to today ...





## Health threats: emergencies and public health crises, including major communicable diseases



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Baku, Azerbaijan, 12–15 September 2011

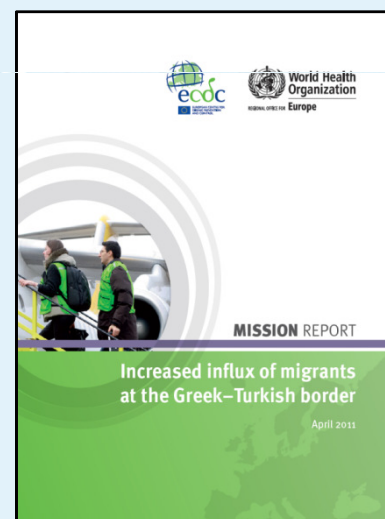
# Emergencies and public health crises

- Chemical spill, aluminium caustic sludge (“red mud”), Hungary
- Civil unrest in southern Kyrgyzstan
- Flooding in the Balkans
- West Nile virus outbreak, Romania: joint European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)/WHO mission
- Cholera outbreak in Ukraine: WHO missions
- Outbreak of enterohaemorrhagic *Escherichia coli* (EHEC) in France and Germany (16 countries affected)
- Health sector preparedness in Greece, Italy (Lampedusa) and Malta in the wake of increased migration



## An evolving priority: migration and health

- “North Africa crisis” – potential to trigger new waves of migration
- Support for enhancing preparedness and harmonizing public health interventions
- Ministerial meeting in Rome, Italy in April 2011, in collaboration with the Government of Italy, the WHO Regional Office for the Eastern Mediterranean and the European Commission (EC)
- Three-year project on public health aspects of migration, funded by Italy





# Flooding of the Regional Office, July and August 2011



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# Flooding of the Regional Office

WHO premises, Copenhagen

Underground pipe to transport water and sewage from the pumping station to the sea



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# Implementation of International Health Regulations (2005): an Office-wide priority

- All-hazard event management
  - Global information system
  - Coordination of international response

**Average of 3–4 events per week monitored in 2010–2011**

- Requirements for national core capacity
  - National surveillance and response systems
  - Capacity at points of entry (ports, airports, ground crossings)



**By June  
2012!**

## • Timeline

2007

2009

**2012**

2014

2016

Planning

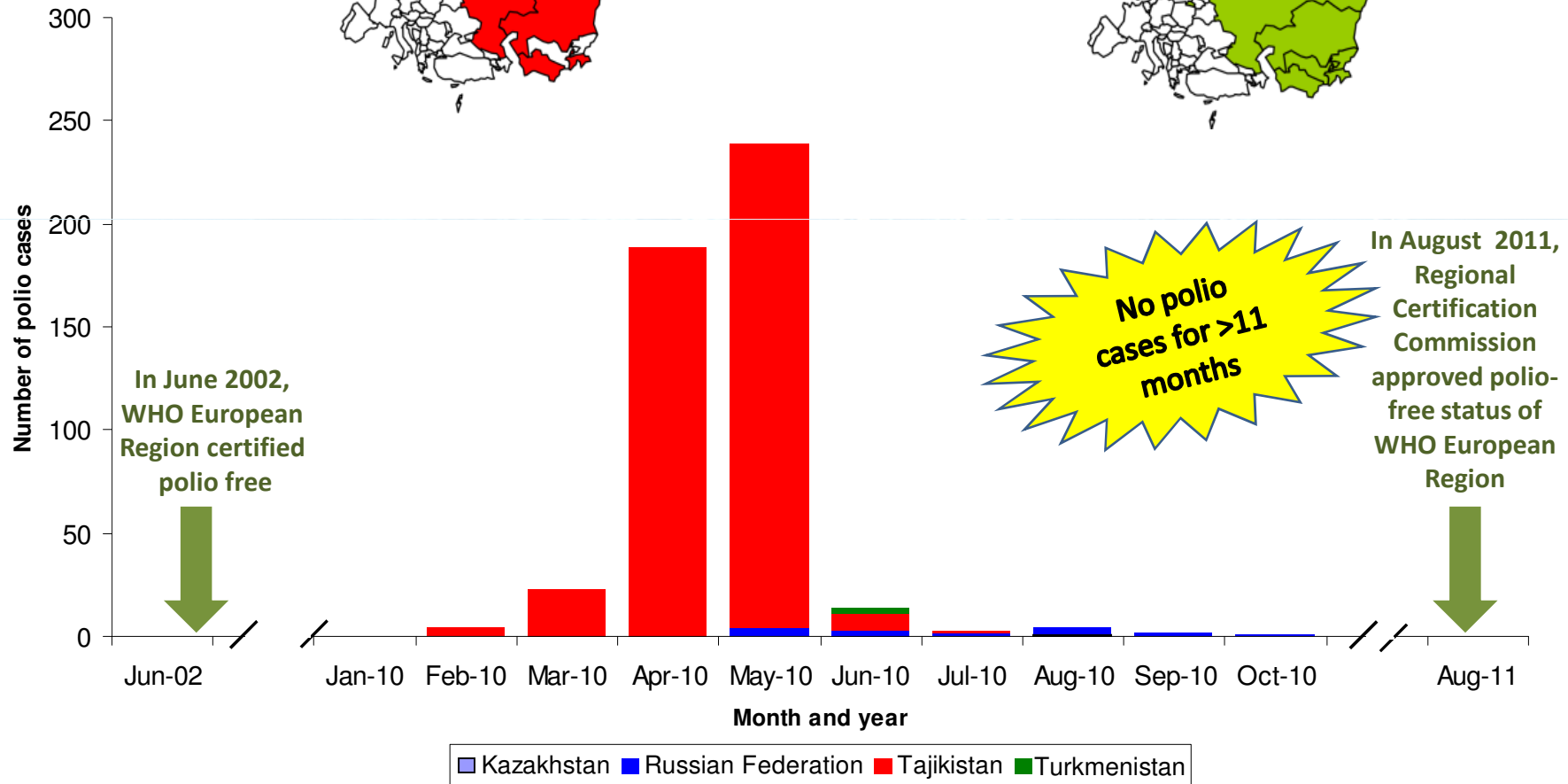
Implementation

# European Region retains its polio-free status after wild poliovirus outbreak

Affected countries in 2010



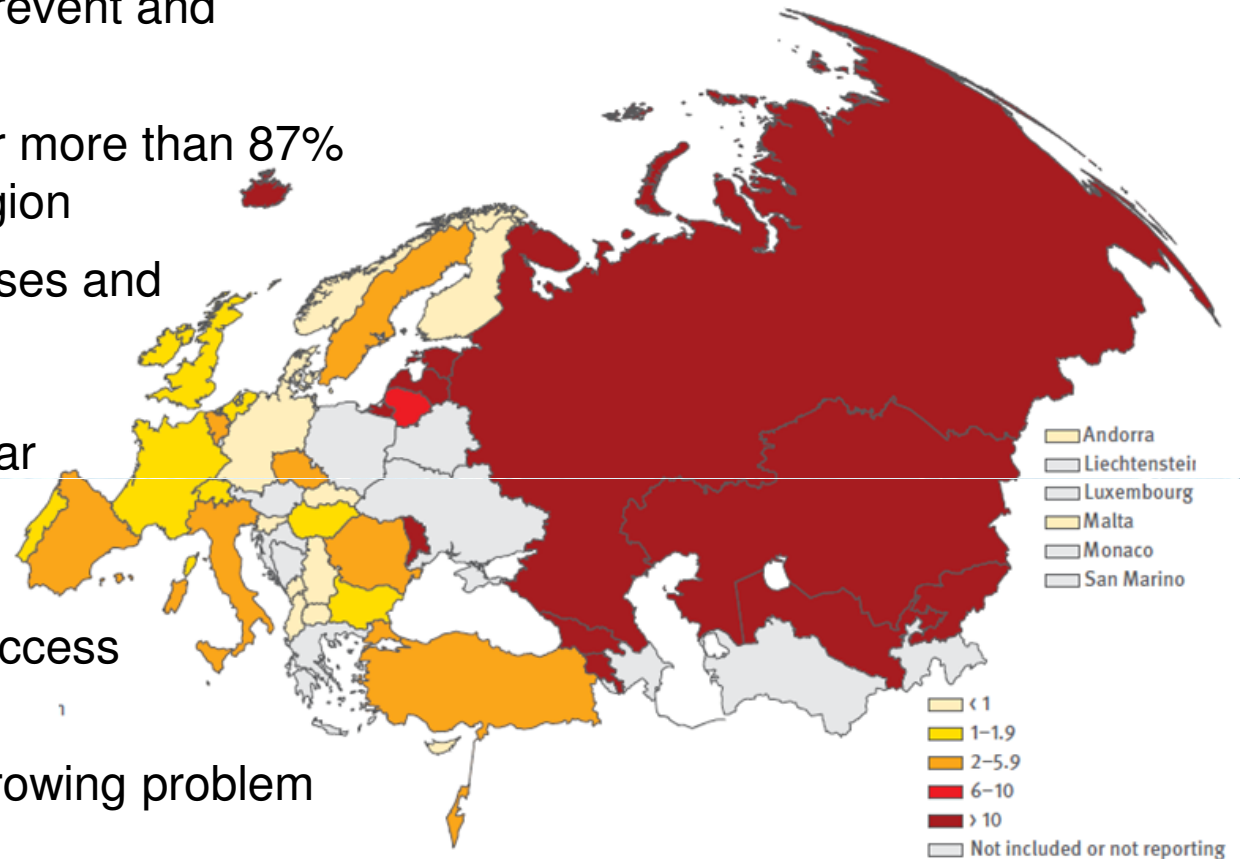
Immunization campaigns in 2010–2011



# Tuberculosis (TB) kills 7 people per hour in the Region

- Health systems fail to prevent and control TB
- 18 countries account for more than 87% of the burden in the Region
- Close to 500 000 TB cases and more than 80 000 multidrug-resistant (MDR) TB cases per year
- Highest case detection rate worldwide (79%), **but** lowest treatment success rate worldwide (70%)
- HIV/TB co-infection a growing problem

Percentage of notified TB cases with primary multidrug resistance, Europe, 2008

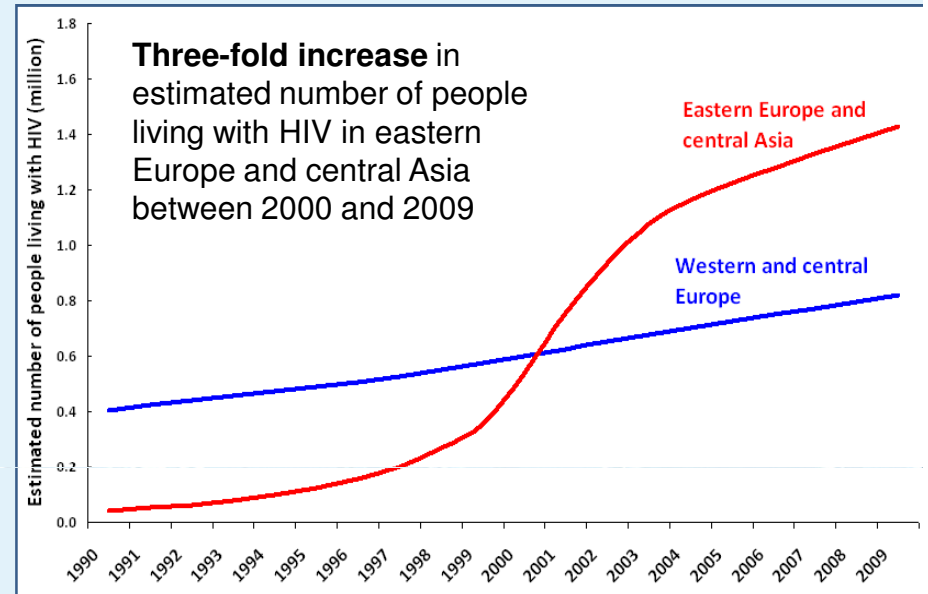


**Regional Director's Special Project launched**

**New Consolidated Action Plan aligned with global plan**

# Need for accelerated action to halt HIV/AIDS epidemic in Europe

- HIV epidemic is growing fastest in the east
- It is concentrated in key population groups that face structural barriers to HIV services
- Evidence-based interventions are not fully implemented
- HIV treatment prevents transmission – but access in eastern Europe and central Asia is among the worst globally



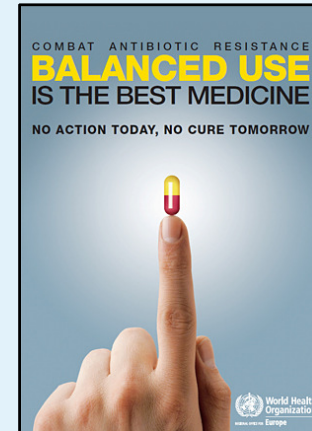
## European Action Plan for HIV/AIDS calls for halting and reversing the spread of HIV by 2015

Key populations in Europe: men who have sex with men, people who inject drugs and their sexual partners, prisoners, sex workers and migrants from high-prevalence countries

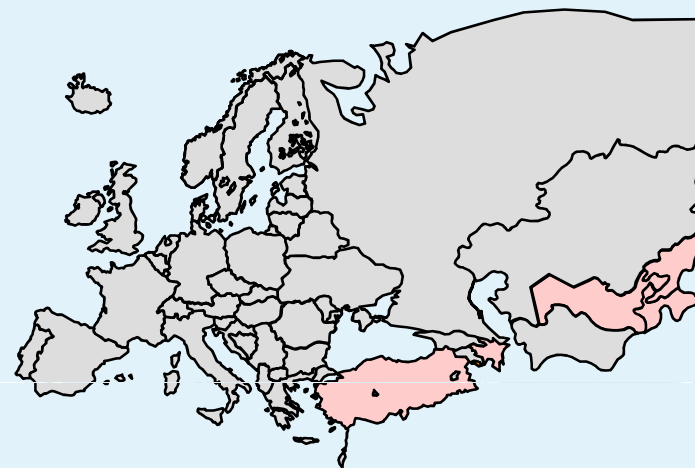
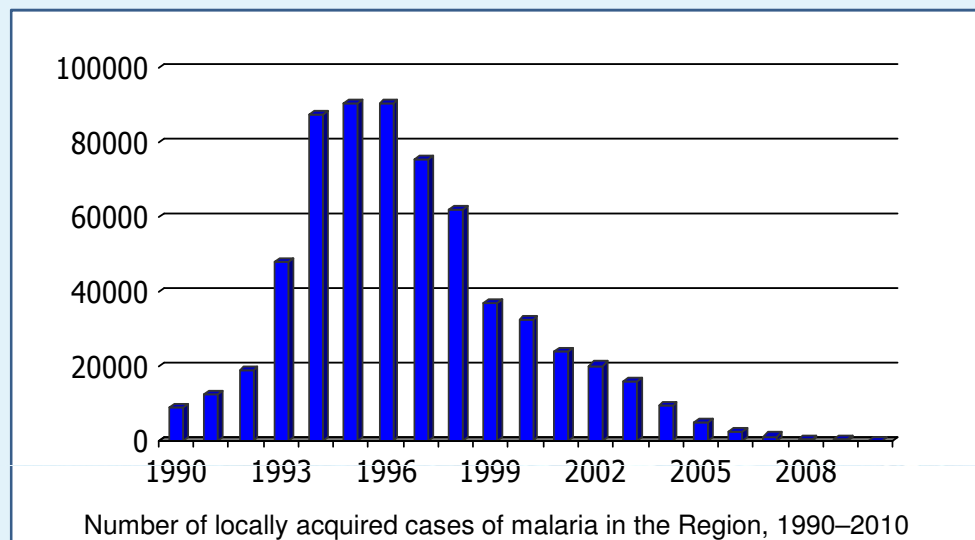
# New strategy for antibiotic resistance in Europe

- Major burden: costing lives, livelihoods and money
  - Antimicrobial resistance as high as 25% in some Member States
  - About €1.5 billion in extra hospital, treatment and societal costs every year
- No new drugs in the pipeline
- Complex driving factors
  - Misuse of antibiotics, also in agriculture
  - Weak regulations
  - Poor hygiene in health care settings
  - Lack of awareness

**New European strategic action plan on antibiotic resistance, with seven strategic objectives**



# Malaria elimination by 2015 – achievable target for the WHO European Region



- **Turkmenistan:** WHO certification of malaria elimination in 2010
- **Armenia:** certification of elimination expected in 2011
- **Georgia:** interruption of malaria transmission in 2010



# Noncommunicable diseases and conditions, including determinants of health



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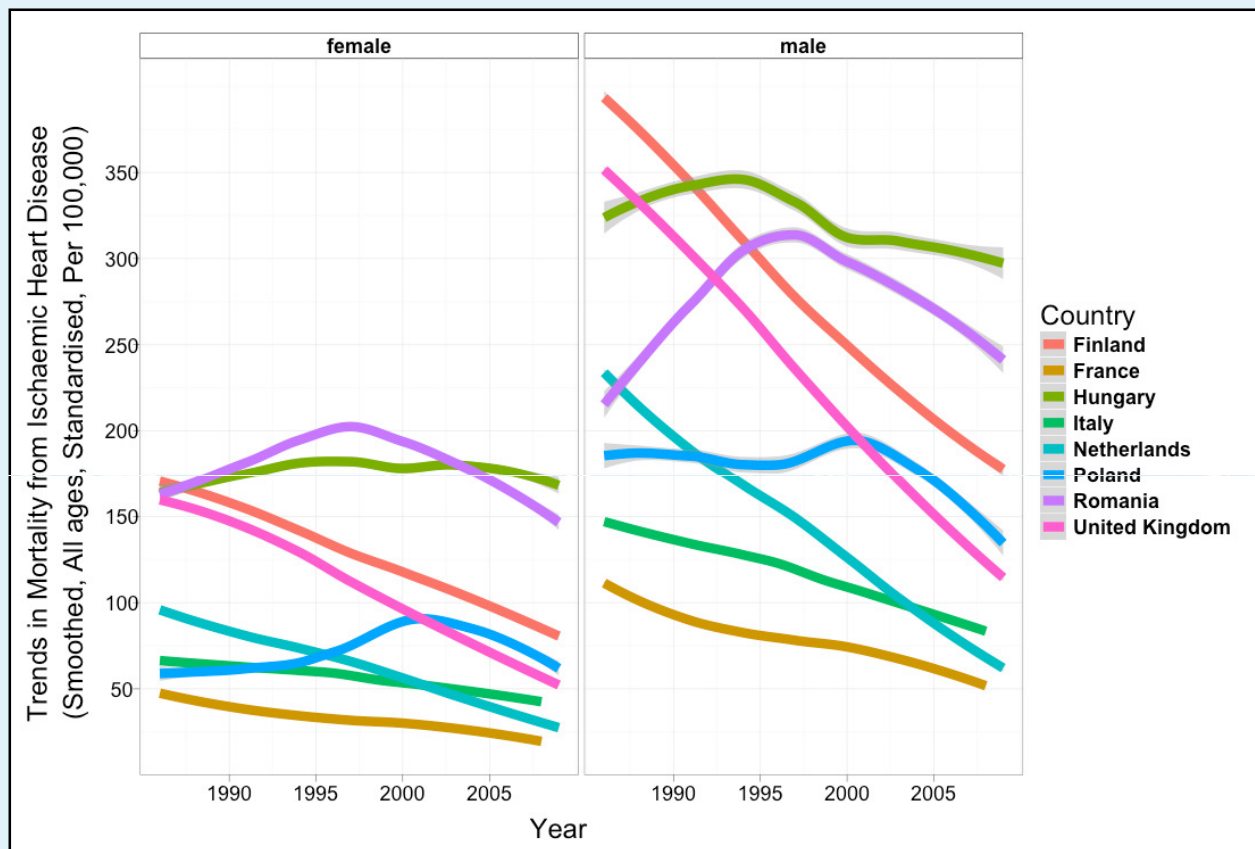
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# Europe: a global leader in noncommunicable diseases (NCDs)

Problem	Ranking among WHO regions
Deaths from NCDs and injuries	Highest
Overall smoking rate	Highest
Consumption of alcohol	Highest
Fat in diet	Highest
Raised cholesterol	Highest
Overweight and obesity	Second highest

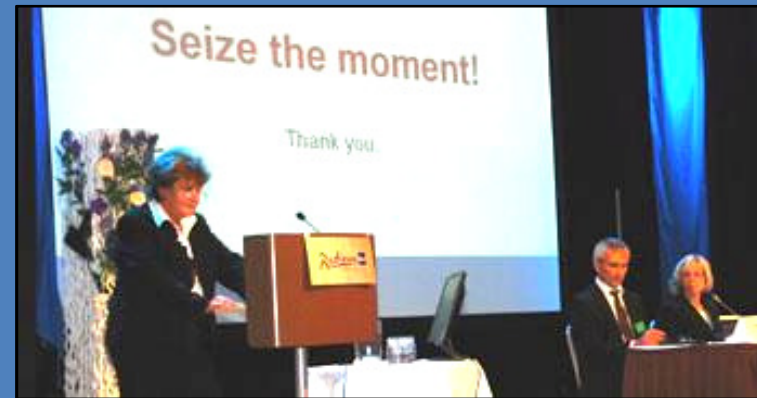


Source: Health for All database, WHO Regional Office for Europe.



# From Oslo to Moscow and New York ...

Regional consultation on NCDs, Oslo, Norway, November 2010



First Global Ministerial Conference on Healthy Lifestyles and Noncommunicable Disease Control, Moscow, Russian Federation, April 2011

Moscow Declaration endorsed by the World Health Assembly, May 2011



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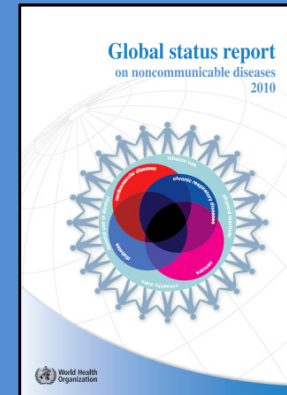
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# The year of NCDs: strategy and action plan

## In preparation for the United Nations high-level meeting:

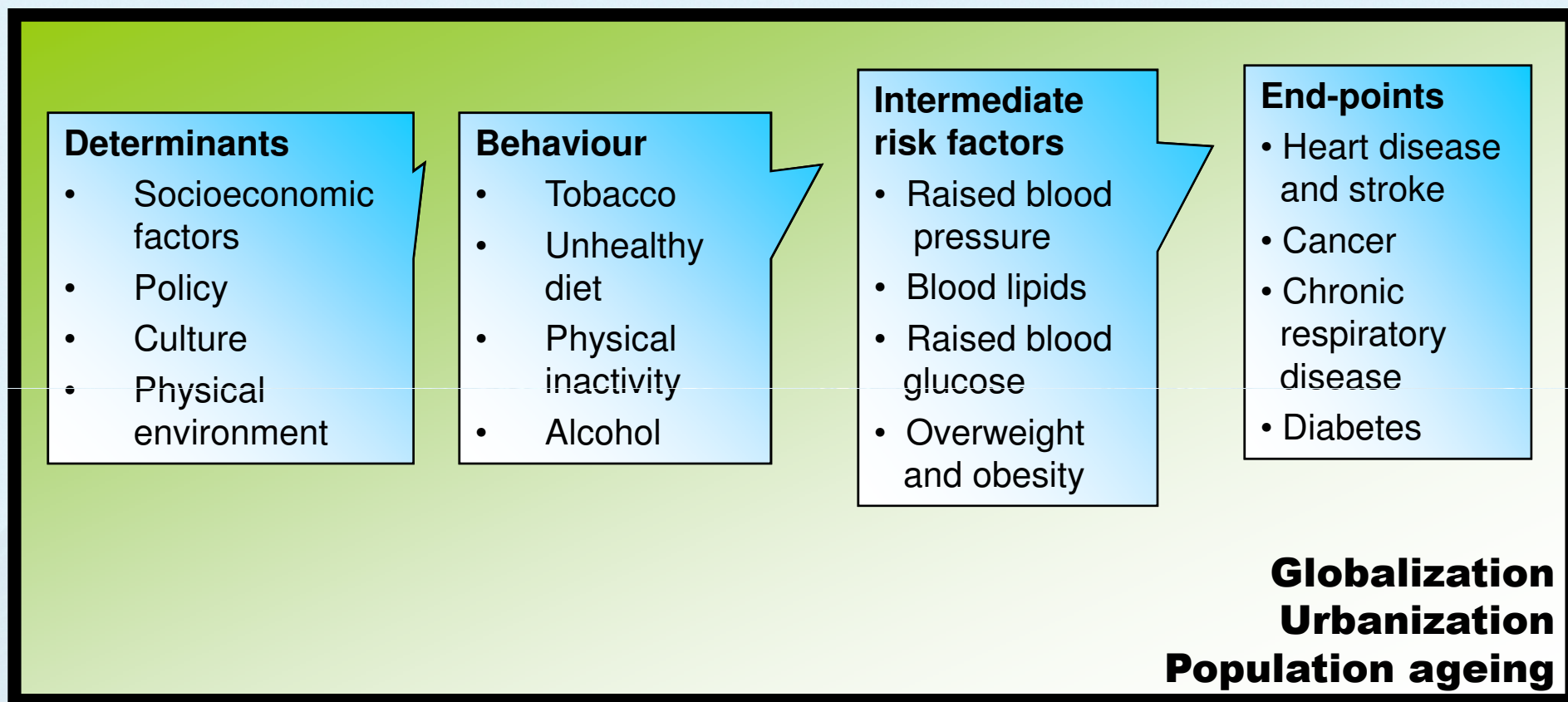
- Oslo consultation
- web consultation
- meetings of European delegations
- technical briefings



- Development of European action plan to implement the global plan and regional strategy
- Global status report 2010
- Launch of Athens Office



# NCDs: complex causation, multiple points of intervention



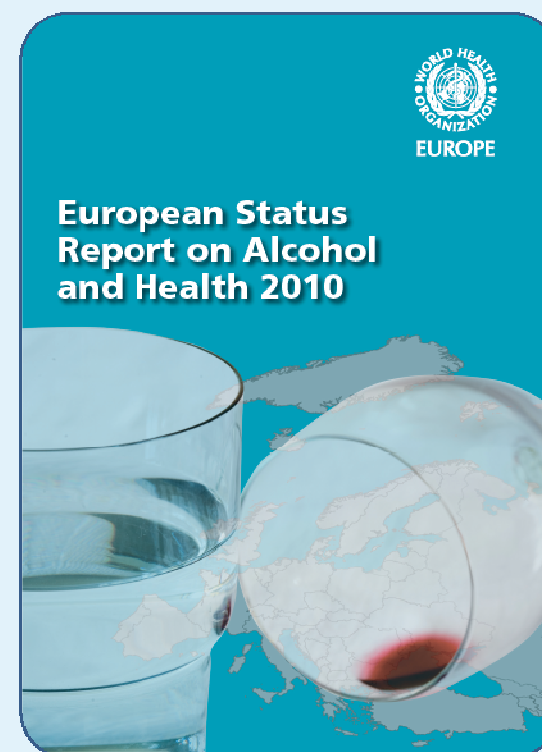
# Advances in implementation of WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) in the Region

- Turkmenistan becomes Party to the WHO FCTC and the Czech Republic is in the process of ratification
- Hungary and Spain have 100% smoke-free public places
- Kazakhstan, Malta, Poland and Ukraine approve legislation mandating pictorial warnings on tobacco products
- Director-General's special recognition award to the Prime Minister of Greece



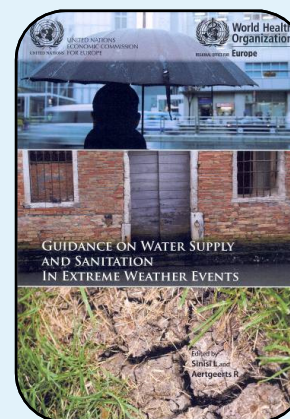
# Renewed commitment to address harmful use of alcohol

- *European status report on alcohol and health 2010*
- European action plan to reduce the harmful use of alcohol 2012–2020
  - In line with global strategy (2010) and European alcohol strategies (1992–2005)
  - Intensive technical and policy consultations with Member States and WHO collaborating centres



# Following up the Parma Declaration on Environment and Health

- Governance of the European environment and health process
  - First meeting of the European Environment and Health Ministerial Board, France, May 2011
  - First Meeting of the European Environment and Health Task Force, Slovenia, October 2011
- Support for national action
  - Monitoring of progress on targets
  - National plans for elimination of asbestos-related diseases
  - Environment and health inequalities
  - European framework for action on climate change



# Consolidation of environment and health programmes

- Rome Office: 20 years in environment and health; thanks to the Italian Government for its support
- Major review of this area of work prompted by the need to close the Rome Office by the end of 2011
- Strategic alignment with Health 2020, Parma commitments and proposed policy on geographically dispersed offices
- Consolidation of programmes in Copenhagen and Bonn to be functional by January 2012, thanks to increased support from the German Government

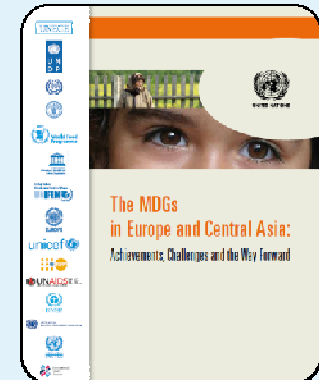


# Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – United Nations interagency working group on equity

- Inequities in progress on health-related MDGs an Office-wide priority:
  - child and adolescent health
  - maternal, sexual and reproductive health
  - double burden of communicable and noncommunicable diseases
- Scaling up action, advancing health and equity in all policies to tackle social determinants of health
- United Nations interagency working group, facilitating coherent and coordinated action by the United Nations system



Regional Director with First Lady of Georgia,  
WHO Goodwill Ambassador for the  
health-related MDGs in the European Region





# Health systems and public health



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# Health systems: following up the Tallinn Charter

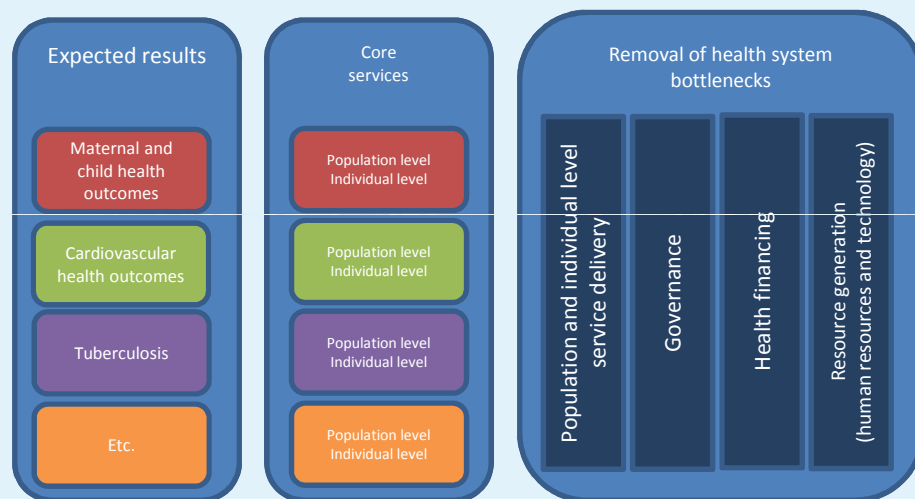
- Health 2020 is taking forward the key concepts of the Charter
  - Rejuvenate public health
  - Incorporate lessons from stewardship in Health 2020 governance
- Interim report on Tallinn Charter follow-up
- Priorities in the follow-up
  - National health policies, strategies and plans
  - Health system performance assessment
  - Financial sustainability of health systems
  - Coordinated and integrated care – primary health care, hospitals
  - Regional human resources for health strategy – global code on international recruitment



# Beyond Tallinn: new approach for health systems and public health

Applying the health systems approach/systems thinking to diseases and conditions

## Health systems for health outcomes Putting service delivery at the centre



Consolidated package of strategies and services to strengthen health systems: tools and instruments available to assist Member States

# Stepping up our work on national health policies, strategies and plans (NHPS)

System-wide analysis and frameworks are more important than ever

Resources are scarce, improved efficiency is needed – within Health 2020 framework

## Support Member States

1. Defining priorities informed by high-quality analysis and evidence
2. Convening many actors of the health system
3. Facilitating cross-country sharing and learning

## Next steps

- Support analysis and priority setting
- Support defining of NHPS/sector monitoring frameworks
- Conduct training courses on NHPS and Health 2020 – global learning programme, flagship courses on health system strengthening, information materials, case studies and tools

# Reposition public health services high on the agenda across Europe

Public health services:

- protect and promote health and prevent disease
- improve the health of the whole population
- are an economic investment in health and well-being
- are an essential component of health systems

## Framework for action to strengthen public health

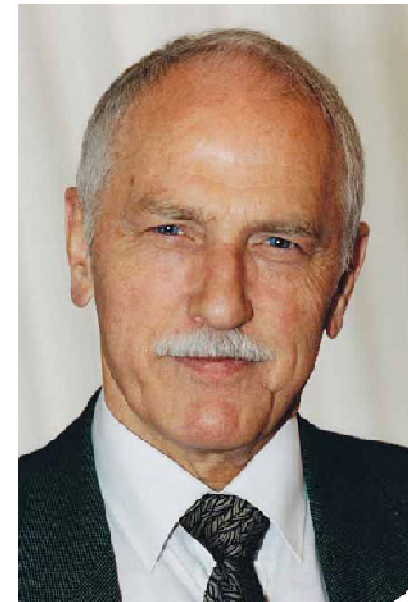
Progress to date:

- a common definition of essential public health operations developed
- a self-assessment tool developed
- assessment completed in 17 countries, expanding to the remaining countries



# In memory of Dr Jo Eirik Asvall ...

- Kazakhstan School of Public Health offering scholarship for a Master's degree in public health



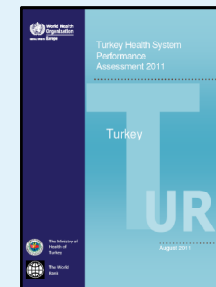
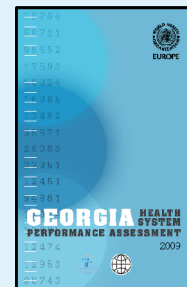
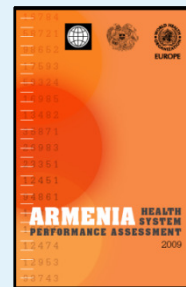
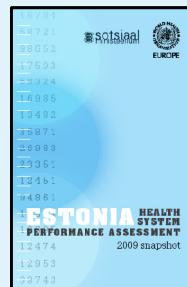
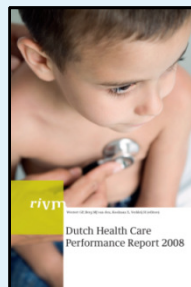
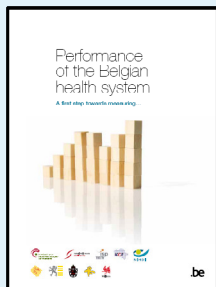
1931-2010

Jo Eirik Asvall's  
Memorial Guide



# Health system performance assessment (HSPA): tool for health governance in the 21st century

- HSPA is increasingly used:
  - to align stakeholders with a common vision
  - to increase accountability and transparency
  - to inform policy (e.g. national health policies and strategies)
- WHO support to Member States
  - creating a demand → advocacy brochure, high-level meeting
  - building capacity → companion tool, technical support
  - facilitating peer learning and international comparisons (with Observatory)



# Health financing: assisting countries during difficult times of economic downturn

- Extensive dissemination and use of *Implementing health financing reform: lessons from countries in transition*
- Development of a regional action plan following the world health report 2010
- Report on sustaining equity, solidarity and health gain in the context of the financial crisis
- Brief on experience with policy responses to the crisis (with the Observatory – ongoing)



**First Barcelona course on health financing in 2011**





# Health information systems and communication strategies



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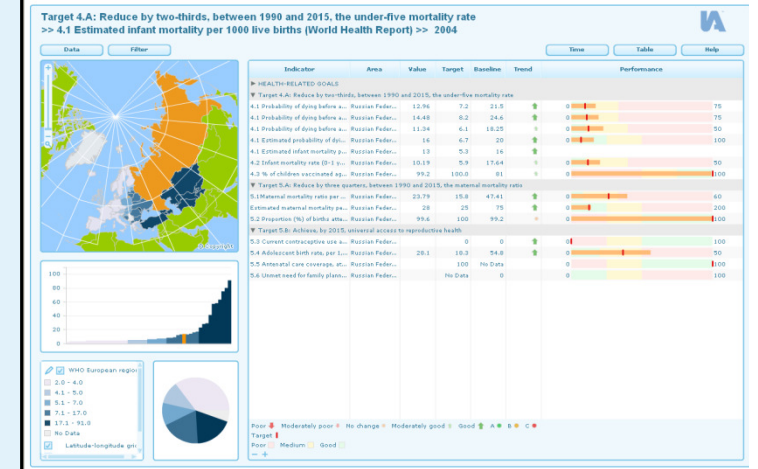
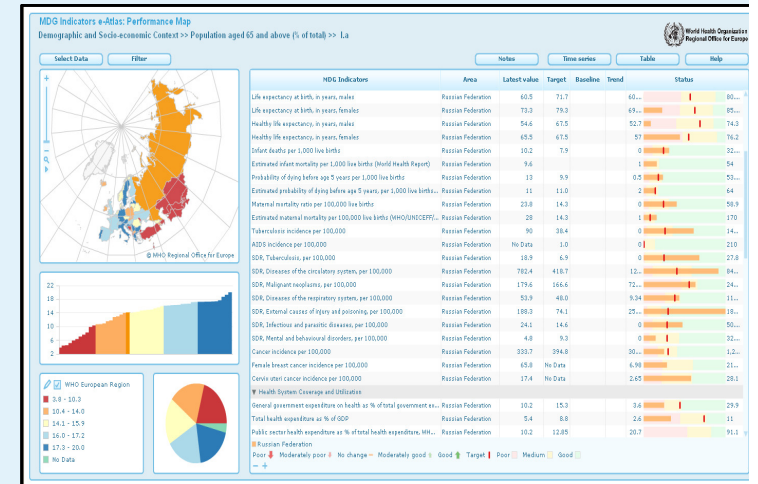
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# Developing a strategy and common health information system for Europe

Single common system for 53 European countries

- Joint European health reporting and assessment
- Pilot system on health inequalities across subnational regions
- Joint data collection on health care resources with EUROSTAT and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
- Single Regional Office platform for all databases (including Health for All) as a one-stop shop

**Health information strategy for Europe to be presented to the Regional Committee in 2012**





## Working together for better health for Europe



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# Better health for Europe: Health 2020

- Overarching policy framework to tackle public health challenges
- Working with Member States and partners to reduce inequalities in health within the Region and beyond



# Renewed institutional framework

- **Head office in Copenhagen** strengthened, with all core policy, strategic and technical functions
- **Geographically dispersed offices**
  - Providing technical evidence, knowledge and research for use in public health advice and policies
  - Streamlined and integrated into Regional Office structure
- **Country work** reviewed to ensure work for all, in and with Member States
  - New ways of working with all 53 Member States
  - Reprofiting country offices with matching human resource plan



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