

The public health priorities of WHO/Europe and possible collaboration with the International Network of Health Promoting Hospitals and Health Services

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My main themes

- Health challenges of Europe in the 21st century
- WHO European health policy – Health 2020
- Public health as knowledge and action in modern societies
- Strengthening public health and health systems across Europe
- The role of health care in preventing diseases
- The role of international partners: International Network of Health Promoting Hospitals and Health Services (HPH)

Challenges for European health systems

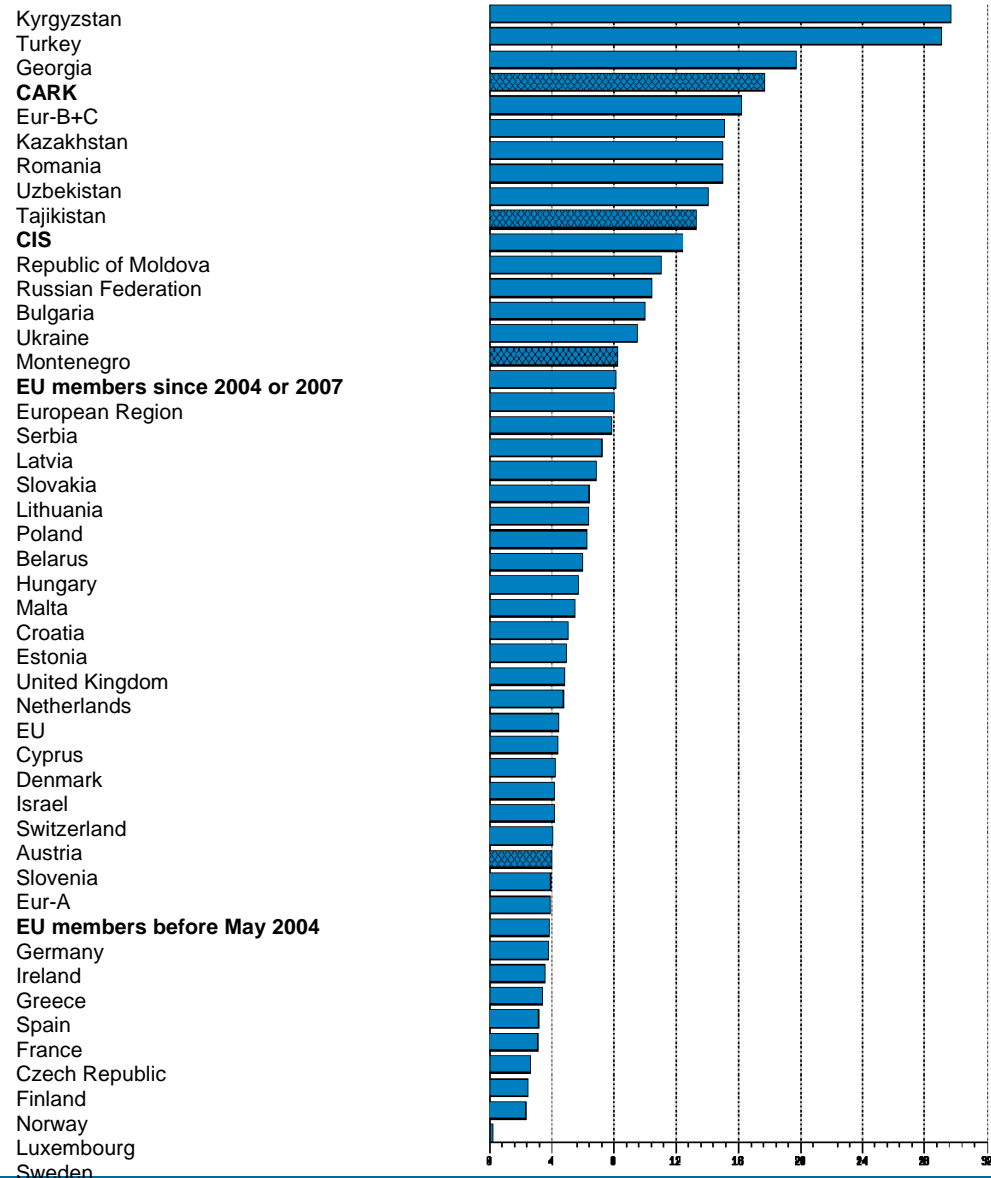
1. Addressing health inequities and the social determinants
2. Current burden and patterns of disease
3. Impact of globalization
4. Changing role of citizens
5. Financial stability
6. Governance and monitoring
7. Intersectoral action and health in all policies

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

Addressing health inequities and the social determinants of health

Although overall population health has improved, serious inequities exist depending on ethnicity, sex, socioeconomic status, educational status and geographical area

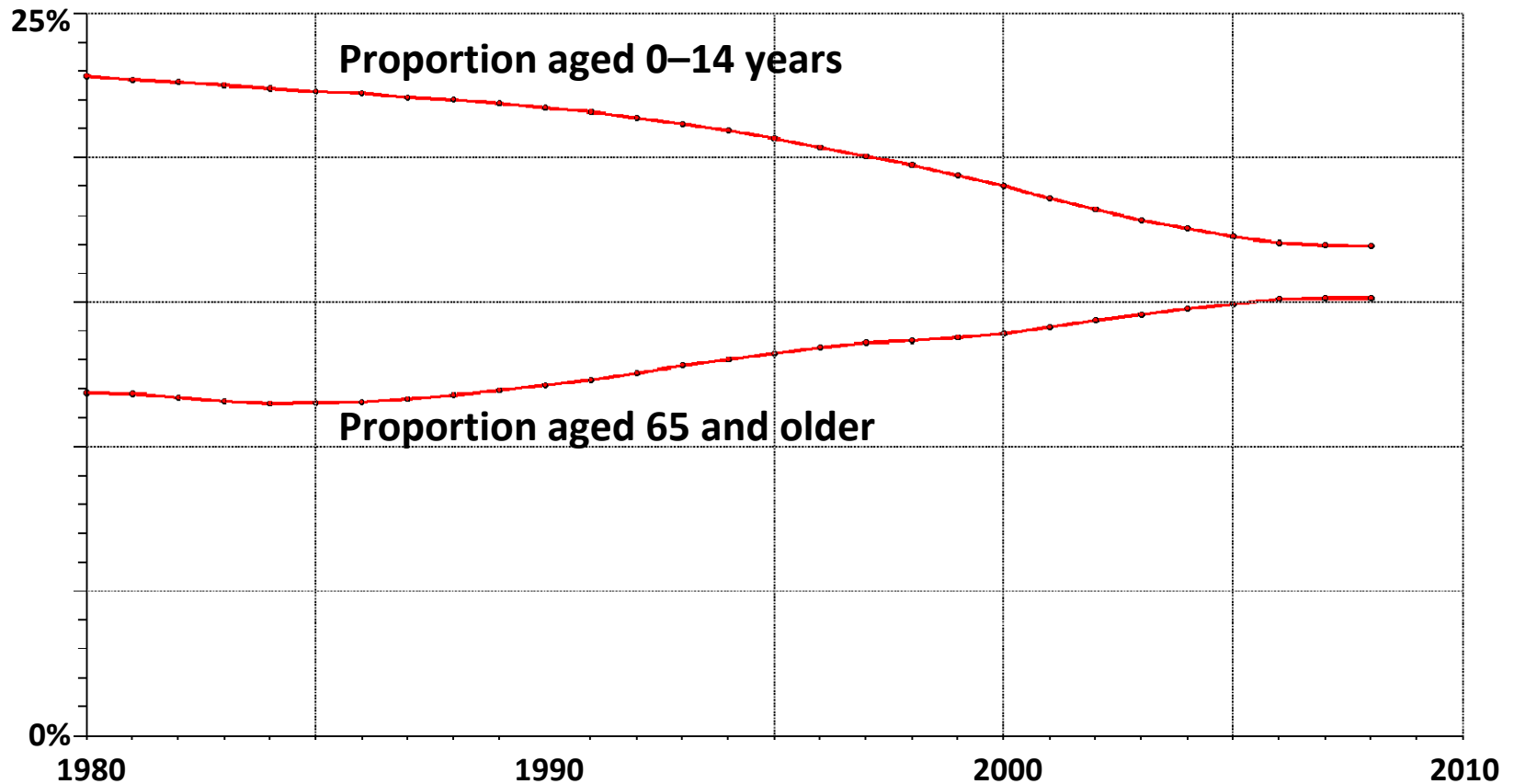
One illustrative example is infant mortality, shown on the right with 2005 WHO data



Source: WHO European Health for All database, 2010.

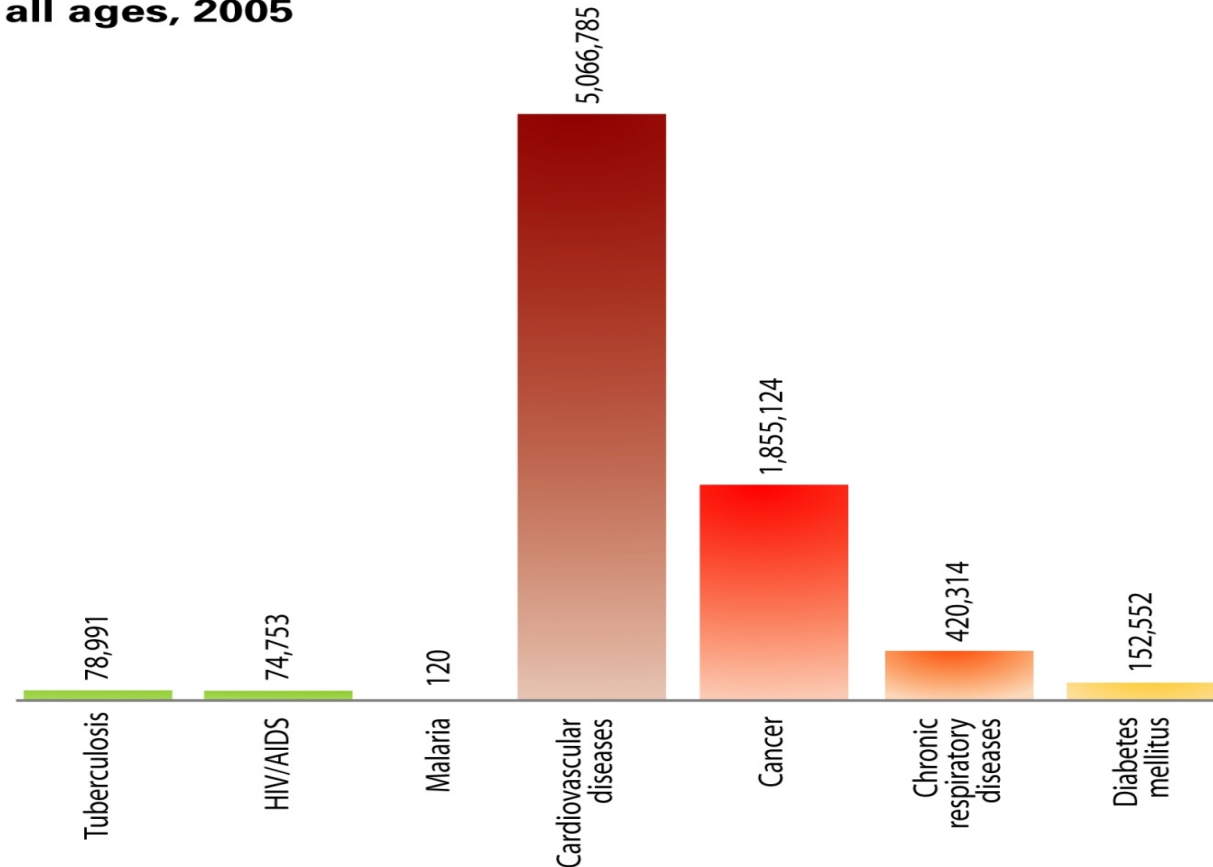
Demographic shifts (1980–2010)

Changing distribution of population in countries in the WHO European Region



Main killer diseases in the WHO European Region

Projected deaths by cause in WHO European Region, all ages, 2005

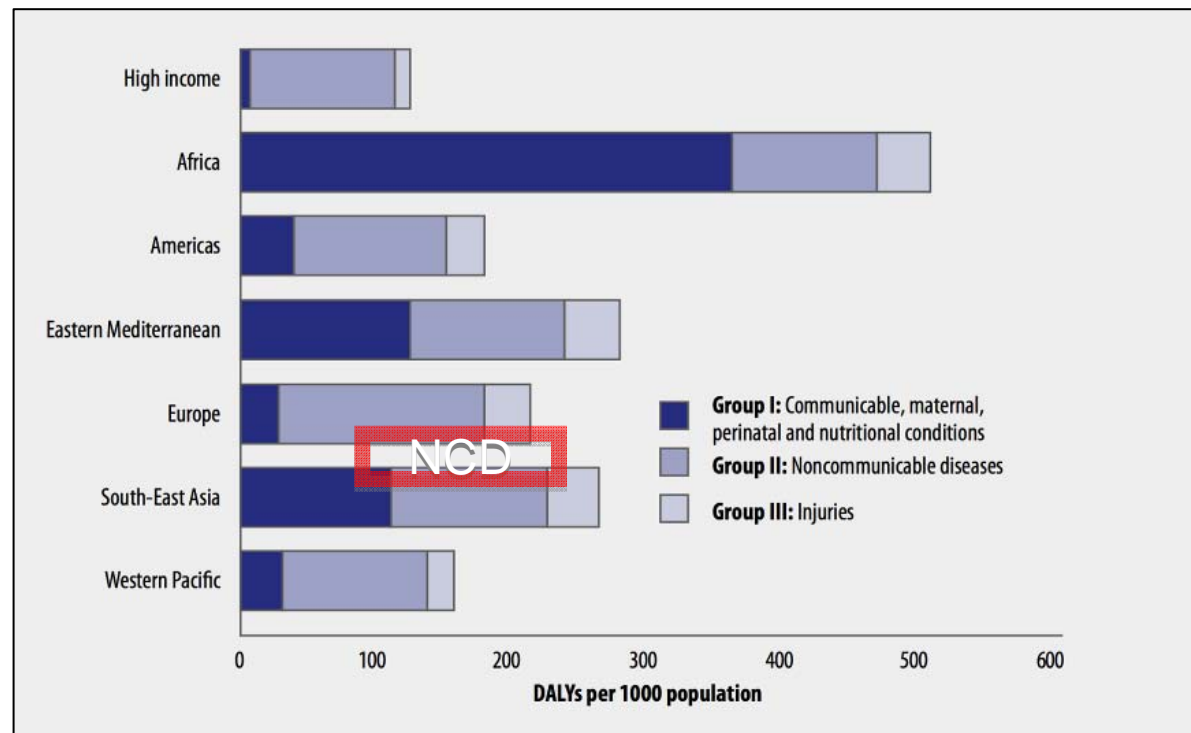


Source: *Preventing chronic diseases. A vital investment*, WHO 2005

Current burden and patterns of disease

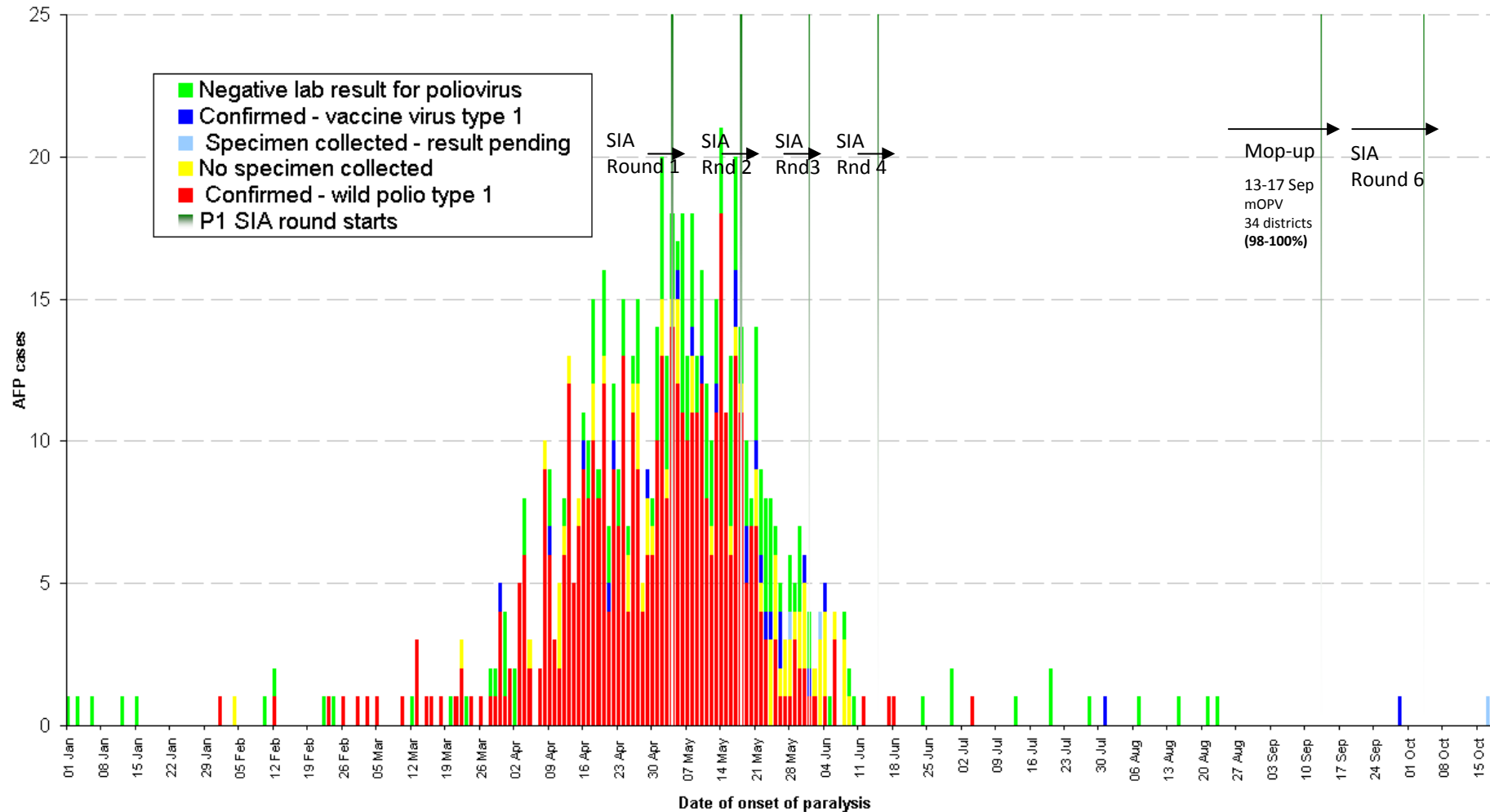
Noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) – the leading cause of mortality and morbidity in the European Region

NCDs: a burden to health and the economy



Source: WHO (2008). *The global burden of disease: 2004 update*.

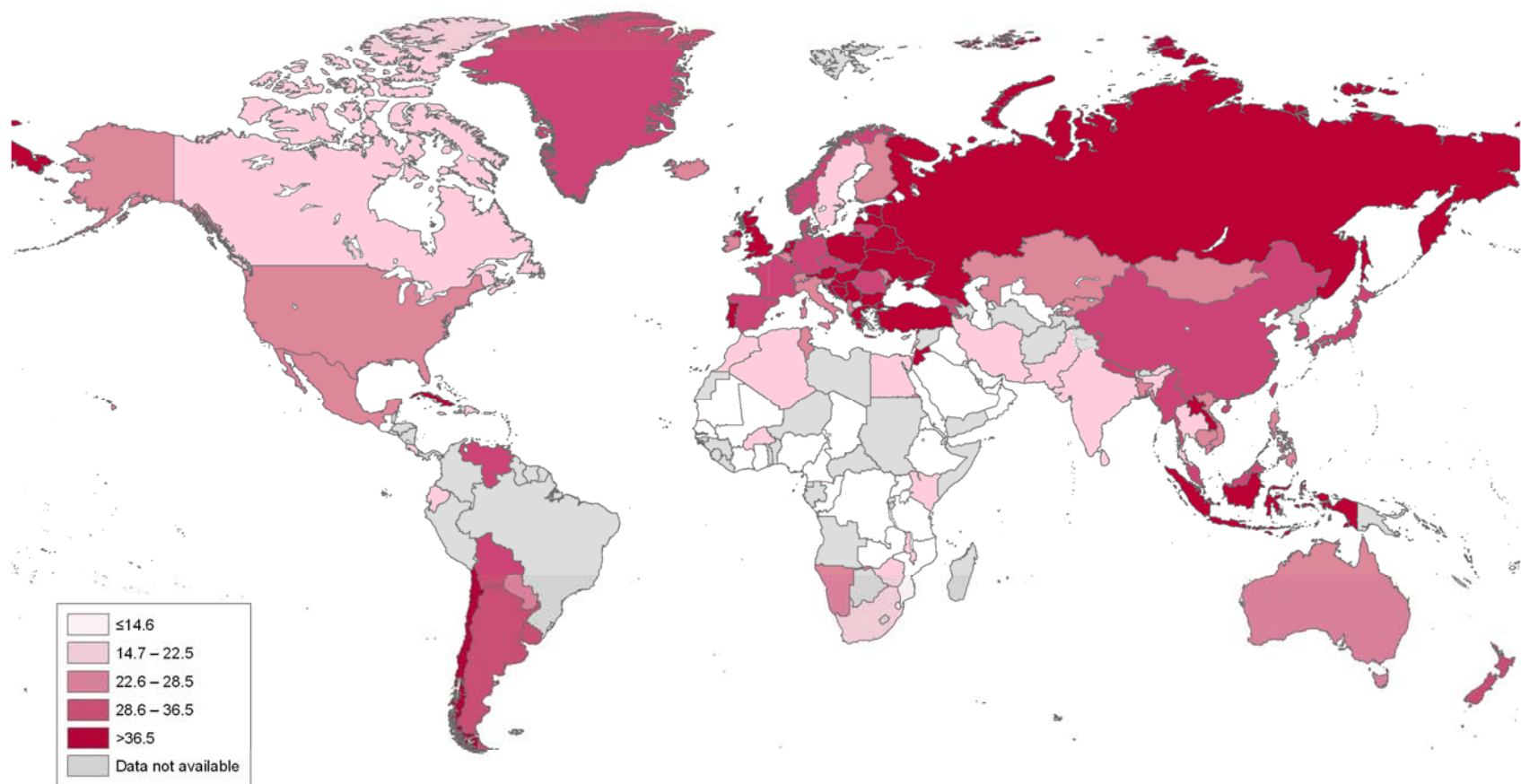
Laboratory-confirmed polio cases, acute-flaccid paralysis (AFP) cases negative for poliovirus and AFP cases pending results by date of paralysis onset, Tajikistan, 2010



Total 707 AFP Cases (including 458 confirmed wild poliovirus type1)
Data as of 28 October 2010

Source: Weekly AFP reporting to WHO European Region

Percentage of tobacco use among adults, 2005



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the World Health Organization concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries. Dotted lines on maps represent approximate border lines for which there may not yet be full agreement.

Data Source: World Health Organization
Map Production: Public Health Mapping and GIS
World Health Organization



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Impact of globalization and global health challenges

- Transmission of communicable diseases
- Health worker migration
- Border health issues (particularly important within the EU)
- Migrant health
- Widening inequities
- Energy insecurity



The changing role of citizens

- Controlling noncommunicable diseases requires increasing the involvement of patients in their own care (modifying lifestyles)
- Higher expectations
- Better health literacy
- Communication revolution
- The roles of doctors, citizens and patients must be adapted



Governance and monitoring

- Weak role of health ministries in many national governments
- Political election cycle is short term and not conducive to long-term strategies for health systems (lack of continuity)
- Disconnect between evidence generation and policy-making
- Lack of accountability

Intersectoral action and health in all policies

- Working proactively with other sectors to identify complementary goals and common strategies
- Current thinking has been built on past initiatives, including the Declaration of Alma-Ata, Health for All, the Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion and the leadership offered by the Finnish Presidency of the EU in 2006
- Health in all policies is a necessary element of any comprehensive health strategy

Public health 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 multicountry setting on public health system reform and strengthening
 - How can we monitor, manage and improve performance for greater effectiveness and efficiency?

Defining Health 2020: *a new European health policy*

New European health policy: Health 2020

- Is developed through a participatory process with Member States, sectors and partners
- Is being informed and underpinned by a European review of the social determinants of health and the health divide
- Will integrate policy areas and renew the commitment of the Regional Office to public health
- Will renew emphasis on further developing public health systems, capacities and functions and promoting public health as a key function in society
- Will clarify the links between public health and the health care system, especially primary health care (Tallinn Charter, 2008)
- Will position health as a critical development sector and make links with the other sectors to promote health as a government responsibility under the health ministry
- Will inspire countries to develop, renew and update their national health policy and strategies
- Will be led by the Global Policy Council



WHO European Review on Social Determinants and the Health Divide

Provide evidence on the nature and magnitude of health inequities across the region and their relationship to social determinants.

Investigate gaps in capacity and knowledge to improve health through action on social determinants

Synthesize evidence on the most promising policy options and interventions for addressing the social determinants of health and reducing health inequities in diverse country contexts



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

Draft technical document
WHO Regional Committee for Europe
Sixty-first session, Baku, Azerbaijan, 12–15 September 2011

Definition of public health

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

Sir Donald Acheson, 1988

Strengthening public health: guaranteeing delivery of 10 essential public health operations

Vary according to institution (PAHO, WHO, United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention), but these constitute the backbone of the proposed public health operations for Europe (piloted for the last four 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, occupational, food safety)
4. Preparedness for and planning for public health emergencies
5. Disease prevention
6. Health promotion
7. Assurance of a competent public health and personal health care workforce
8. Leadership, governance, financing and evaluation of the quality and effectiveness of public health systems
9. Health-related research
10. Communication for public health

Strengthening of the health systems ... including public health



Renew commitment to public health and rejuvenate the work of the Regional Office in this important area.

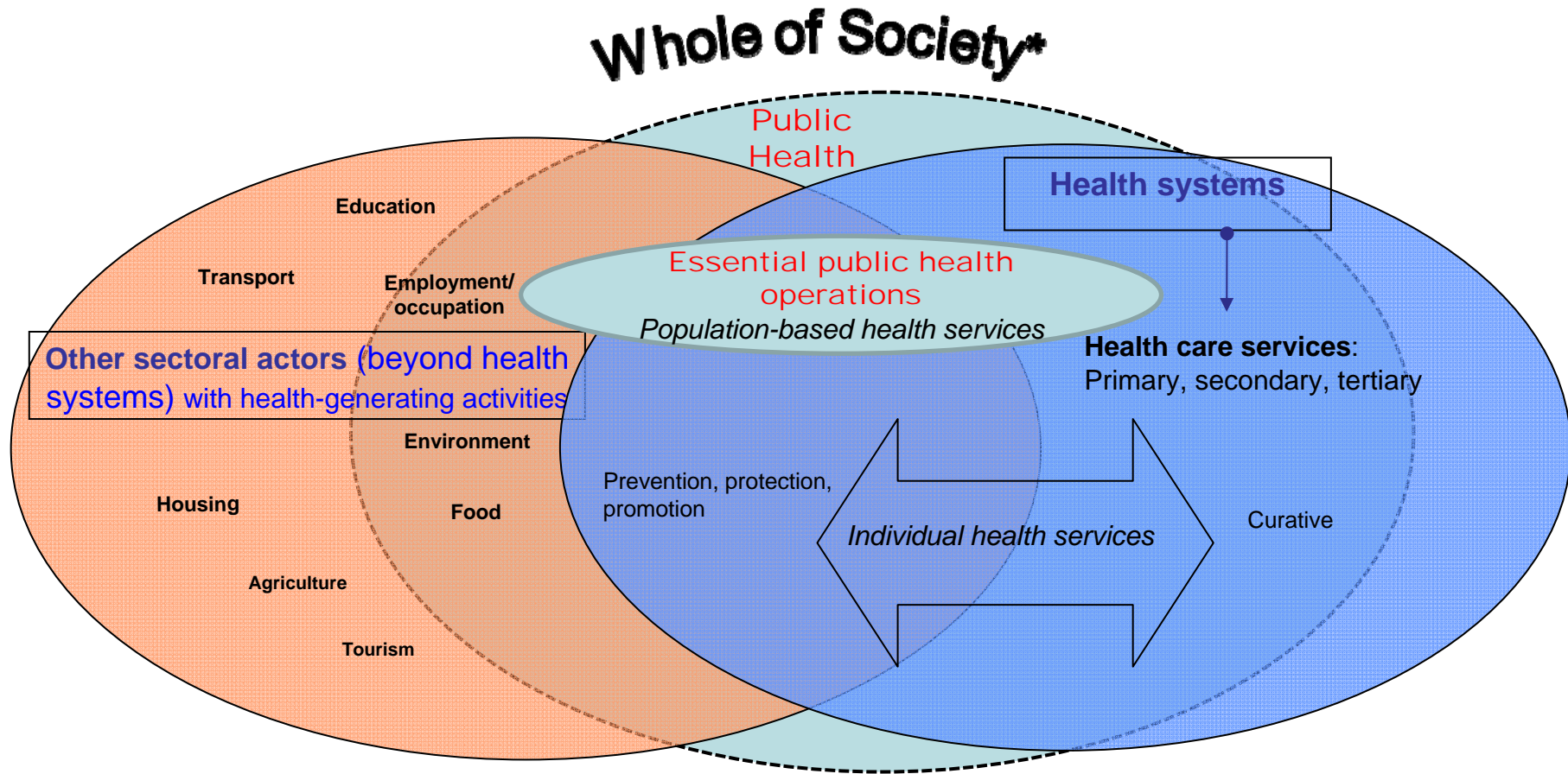
Health system defined

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: Health Systems for Health and Wealth, 2008

Public health and health systems

Boundaries of public health competencies and responsibilities



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

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

Collaboration between professionals in health (system) organizations

There is a need for a better understanding of collaborative processes and for conceptual tools to help health professionals develop collaboration amongst themselves in complex systems.

Source: D'Amour D et al. A model and typology of collaboration among professionals in healthcare organizations. BMC Health Services Research, 2008, 8:188.

Collaboration between professionals in (public) health (care) organizations

Current health policy in most countries calls for more effective delivery of accessible, continuous and comprehensive services

This phenomenon is related to a trend to new forms of health services organization, such as integrated care, health networks, programme management and health in all policies

Succinctly put, now is the time to carry out **qualitative advances in the organizational model**, overcoming current stagnation and favouring the **implications** of primary care and other **health care professionals** collaborating in public health operations.

Policy implications for health system strengthening

1. **Useful to distinguish community health services and individual health services**
 - Involve very different concerns (population-wide concerns of potential health threats and medical intricacies of individual health care patient)
 - Both sets of services benefit from internal synergy
2. **Single-issue programmes tend to fragment health systems and services**
3. **Public health services need to be strengthened**
4. **Significant gains from stronger public health systems**
 - Avert costs of outbreaks and health threats
 - Build developmental infrastructure

Good opportunity to address this through a health system strengthening initiative

The role of health ministries in public health: governance in health systems and beyond

- Public health as a broad societal function
- The governance function orchestrates and aligns the efforts from various sectors to maximize health gain
- Includes organizations, resources and services from the health system and other sectors of society, constrained only by the boundaries of society's "organized efforts" ... and "health ministries should play a leading role by advocating, inspiring and guiding multisectoral action"

In conclusion

WHO/Europe will:

- Develop a coherent European health policy
- Promote a renewed political commitment to developing comprehensive national health policies, strategies and plans
- Maintain our commitment to strengthen health systems
- Promote public health capacity, functions and services
- Ensure a commitment and investment in disease prevention and **health promotion**
- **Maintain and expand partnerships for public health**

In conclusion

WHO/Europe:

- Welcomes the renewed partnership with the International Network of Health Promoting Hospitals and Health Services
- Believes that the Network will be a key partner in implementing Health 2020
- Trusts that the Network will be one of the main vehicles for scaling up prevention and health promotion in health care

Thank you!

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REGIONAL OFFICE FOR
Europe

19th Conference of the International Network
of Health Promoting Hospitals and Health Services
Turku, Finland, 1 June 2011