



World Health Organization

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE



Organisation mondiale de la Santé

BUREAU REGIONAL DE 1' Europe



Weltgesundheitsorganisation

REGIONALBÜRO FÜR EUROPA



Всемирная организация здравоохранения

Европейское региональное бюро

## **Better Health** for Europe

Zsuzsanna Jakab **WHO Regional Director for Europe** 

PINSAP Strategy and Programme Barcelona, 14 February 2014

### WHO definition of Health:

"Health is a state of complete physical,

mental and social well-being and not merely

the absence of disease or infirmity."

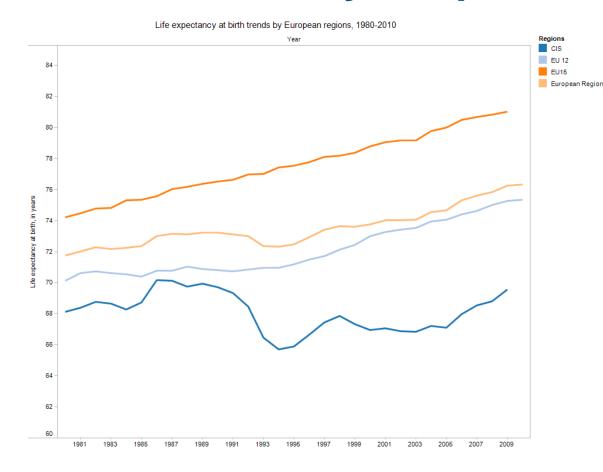


### Health – a precious global good

- Higher on the political and social agenda of countries and internationally
- A human right and matter of social justice
- Important global economic, trade and security issue
- Major investment sector for human, economic and social development
- Major economic sector in its own right



## Improved life expectancy but the Region is scarred by inequalities



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.

### What is Health 2020?



World Health Rotter Health for Europe WEALTH 2020

Health 2020 is a value-based action-oriented policy framework, adaptable to different realities in the countries of the WHO European Region.

Health 2020 is addressed to ministries of health but also aims to engage ministers and policymakers across government and stakeholders throughout society who can contribute to health and well-being.



# Health 2020 – reaching higher and broader

- Going upstream to address root causes such as social determinants
- Making the case for whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches, and Health in All Policies (HiAPs)
- Invest in public health, primary care, health protection and promotion, and disease prevention
- Offering a framework for integrated and coherent interventions



### Health 2020: strategic objectives

Working to improve health for all and reducing 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



WHO European review of social determinants and the health divide:\* key findings and recommendations to improve equity in health

### **Policy goals**

- Improve overall health of the population
- Accelerate rate of improvement for those with worst health

### Policy approaches

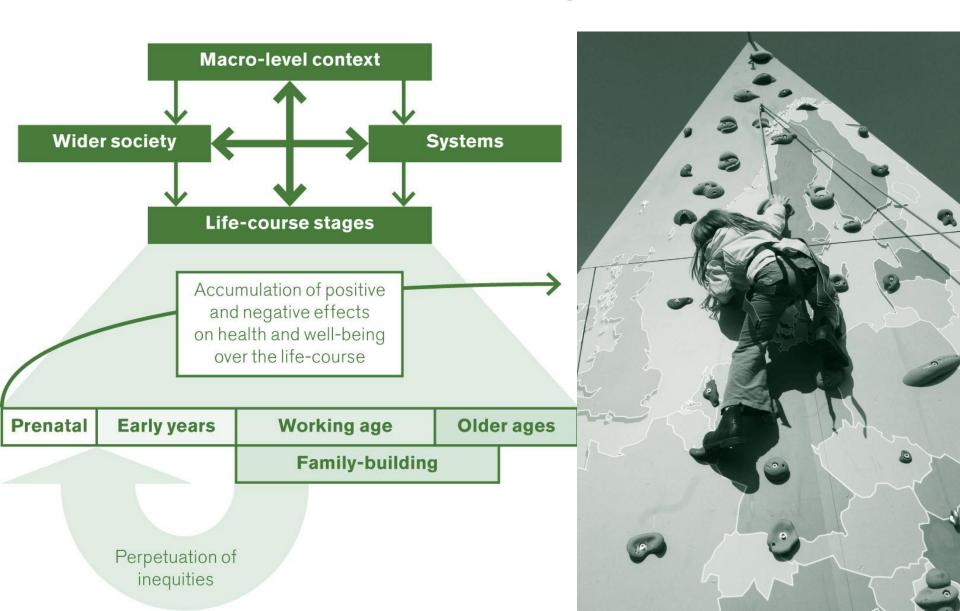
- Take a life-course approach to health equity.
- Address the intergenerational processes that sustain inequities
- Address the structural and mediating factors of exclusion
- Build the resilience, capabilities and strength of individuals and communities



determinants of health and the health divide in the

WHO European Region

# Four areas for action to address health inequalities – emphasizing priorities



# Improving governance for health

Supporting whole-ofgovernment and whole-ofsociety approaches

Learning from a wealth of experience with intersectoral action and health-in-all-policies (HiAP) work in Europe and beyond

The 21st century approach to governance for health



Two studies on governance for health led by Professor Ilona Kickbusch (2011, 2012) Intersectoral governance for HiAP, by Professor David McQueen et al.



# Increasing momentum in Europe

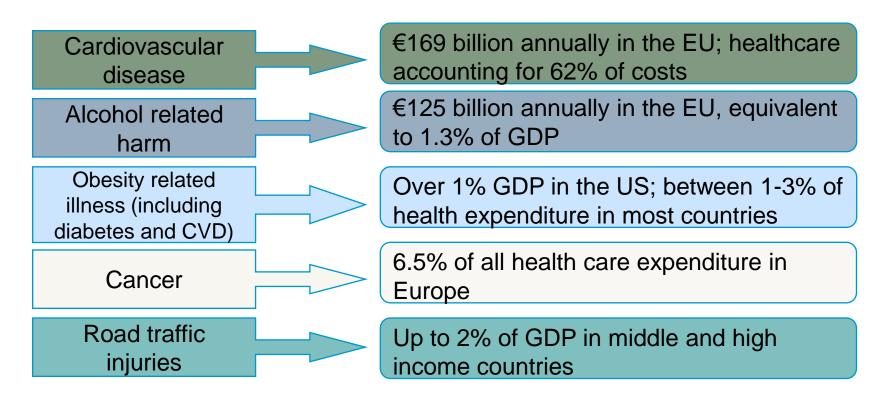




# How much return would this new strategy bring?



## The economic case for health promotion and disease prevention



Sources: Leal (2006), DG Sanco (2006), Stark (2006), Sassi (2010), WHO (2004)



## Cost-effective policies 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 between US\$ 3 and US\$ 78 per DALY in eastern European and central Asian countries



#### **Alcohol**

In England, benefits 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



### Fiscal policies: incentives & disincentives

- Fiscal policies can be used
  - to encourage positive behaviour (eg healthy eating)
  - to discourage negative behaviour (eg smoking)
  - or a combination of both...

### Hungary

2011 earmarked tax on sugary drinks, confectionary, and sugary/salty snacks. Early results show product reformulation & reduced consumption.

#### **Denmark**

Modelling shows reducing tax on vegetables and fruit by 25% and increasing tax on foods high in fats and sugars by 33% is most effective scenario for people on low incomes

#### **Scotland**

Minimum Unit Price for Alcohol (not a "tax" but a minimum price for unit of alcohol, to prevent discounting or abuse of cheaper types of alcohol)

### Fiscal policies: a tool to reduce inequities

### Low income groups

Greatest health need

Most responsive to price increases

Quickest & most likely to reduce consumption

Quickest & greatest health benefit from price increase

### High income groups

Less responsive to price increases

Slower & less likely to reduce consumption after price rises

Slower to see health benefit from policy

**Greater financial burden** of price
increase

### NCD action plan 2012 -2016

Planning and oversight

**National plan** 

Health information system with social determinants disaggregation

Health in all policies

**Fiscal policies** 

Marketing

Salt

**Trans-fat** 

Healthy settings

Workplaces and schools

**Active mobility** 

Secondary prevention

Cardio-metabolic risk assessment and management

Early detection of cancer

# Inter-sectoral action: elements for success

High-level commitment & champions

• Mayors, Prime Ministers, celebrities

**Dedicated resources** 

• Taxation, private sector

Co-ordination function needs resourcing

**Institutional structures** 

 Health promotion agencies; advisory task-forces; local government

 Do not discredit informal relationships & power of community

Joint planning

• Quality of the "planning" can be more important than the "plan"

Legislative tools

Trans-fat, setting up structures for health promotion

**Accountability** 

 Doesn't matter who, but needs to be clear (shared or not, health or non-health)

**Monitoring & reporting** 

Targets focus action

Results are important for advocacy

# Global Best Practice in Tobacco Control **Turkey**

# First country to fully implement WHO EMPOWER strategy:

- ✓ Taxation
- ✓ Smoke-free environments Warnings of dangers of
- ✓ Pictorial pack warnings
- ✓ Bans on advertising, promotion & sponsorship
- ✓ Free 24/7 quitline & subsidised

**NRT** 



### **Success factors:**

- ➤ High level commitment from PM and Minister of Health
- Legislation & coordination structure
- Public concern (mobilised)
- > Taxation
- Sustained effort (10 years)
- Supported by FCTC framework

# Food & Nutrition Plan: Slovenia

### **Drivers:**

- EU accession → adoption of Common Agricultural Policy
- MOH devising new food & nutrition plan to align with WHO European plan
- Growing concern about health gap in rural region



- Multisectoral HIA approach (including community) to investigate health concerns in agriculture & food
- Looked at broader determinants of health
  - impact on rural unemployment, environmental impacts of farm intensification
- Unintended benefits: farmers advocating in media for "healthy" agricultural policy

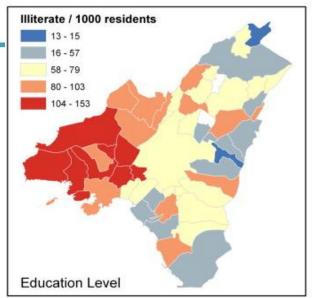
## Fiscal policy to address obesity Hungary

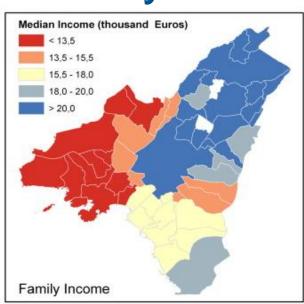
- Tax on prepackaged product with high sugar and salt content
- Revenues were raised and earmarked to public health activities
- 25-35% of the population consumed less products subject to the tax
- 40% of manufacturers changed the formula of their products

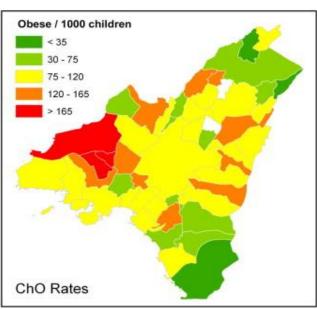


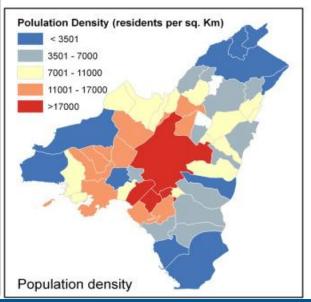
### Data can be a tool for advocacy

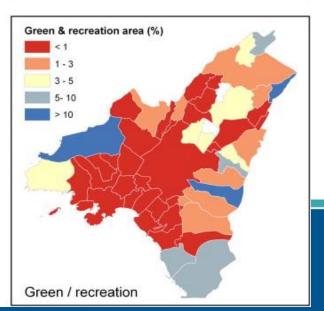
Childhood obesity in Athens











### The contribution of health systems



## The Tallinn conference – as the basis of our work in HSS

- Supporting Member States in keeping or moving towards UHC (guided by the mission and vision of Health 2020)
- Transforming financing arrangements to overcome sustainability concerns
- Positioning primary health care as the hub to other levels of care
- Ensuring coordination across primary health care and public health services
- Revitalizing a flexible, multi-skilled workforce with aligned task profiles
- Strategizing the use of modern technology and medicines for maximum benefits



## The Tallinn Charter and the Alma Ata Declaration: two key anniversaries





Tallinn: 2008 and 2013 governance

Almaty: 1978 and 2013 primary health care



## Compelling challenges call for the transformation of primary health care

- The future shape of the NCD epidemic is characterised by multiple and interacting risk factors and multi-morbidity
- Most health systems are not designed to cope with multiple interacting risks and multimorbidity
- We have a "response gap"

Atun R, et al. Improving responsiveness of health systems to NCDs. Lancet 2013



# How far does the present economic climate make it more difficult for Member States



## Additional layer of complexity from austerity: lessons learned from past and present crises

### Unemployment

- Associated with a doubling of the risk of illness and 60% less likelihood of recovery from disease\*
- Strong correlation with increased alcohol poisoning, liver cirrhosis, ulcers, mental disorders\*\*
- Increase of suicide incidence: 17% in Greece and Latvia, 13% in Ireland\*\*\*
- More demand on health care for the vulnerable
- Active labour market policies and well-targeted social protection expenditure can eliminate most of these adverse effects\*\*\*\*



# Health system responses to economic crisis in Europe





### Oslo 2 Conference on impact of crisis Ten policy lessons and messages

1. Be consistent with long term health system goals

2. Factor health impact into fiscal policy

3. Safety nets can mitigate many negative health effects

4. Target
efficiency gains
over patient
charges

5. Protect funding for cost-effective public health services

## Oslo 2 Conference on impact of crisis Ten policy lessons and messages (cont'd)

6. Avoid prolonged and excessive cuts in health budgets

7. High performing health systems may be more resilient

8. Structural reforms require time to deliver savings

9. Safeguarding access requires reliable information & monitoring system

10. Prepared, resilient health systems are primarily the result of good governance



# Health 2020 lays the foundation for a healthier European Region

"So many factors affect health, and health has an impact on so many areas of our lives that progress on public health can only come from whole-of-society and whole-of-government efforts.

That is why there is a role for everyone to play in implementing Health 2020, from prime ministers, to civil society, to citizens."

Zsuzsanna Jakab, WHO Regional Director for Europe





### Thank you!

