



Partnership: University of Maastricht, Department of International Health, The Netherlands (Action learning workshop series & Capacity building support); Health ClusterNET, UK (Project management, Dissemination & Evaluation); Erasmus MC, Department of Public Health, The Netherlands (Translational evidence & policy); Medical University of Lodz, Poland (Pilot actions); Centre for Health and Development Murska Sobota, Slovenia (Pilot actions).

Lead partner organisation: University of Maastricht, Department of International Health, The Netherlands

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BACKGROUND

Equity is about fairness and justice. Promoting equity is essential if human and social development is to be combined with economically productive societies.

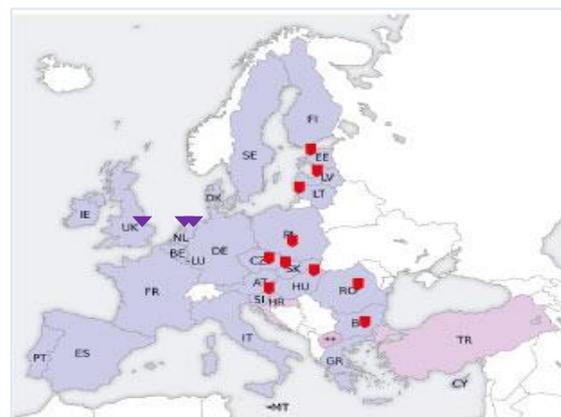
Health inequity results from unequal economic, social and environmental conditions. Such differences are inherently unfair, unjust and avoidable. Therefore reducing health disparities are essential, and the upward trends for such differences call for further innovative, collaborative actions at all levels. Current strategies need to be strengthened and combined with new strategies, directly tackling social determinants of health. The potential for national and regional policies to help improve the population's health need to be maximised.

THE HEALTHEQUITY-2020 PROJECT

Successful actions can only be achieved within the framework of effective policy & planning, and through operative alliances at different administrative levels, supported by evidence and innovations.

The general objective of the project is to assist Member States/regions to develop evidence-based action plans on reducing health inequalities, which also informs the use of Structural Funds (SF) in the next programming period.

By targeting policy-makers and practitioners who make and shape policies and implement actions, the project seeks to both (i) explore potential action areas & (ii) make the case (including economic evidence) for investments to reduce inequalities through regional actions within & beyond the health sector.



METHODS & MEANS

The project benefits from and builds on existing knowledge & lessons from EUREGIO III and a portfolio of other relevant second health programme projects to inform entry points to actions.

It uses different methods and means to achieve its objectives: developing a toolkit and a portfolio of policy actions sensitive to differing needs supplemented by a practical knowledge database with good practice case examples and organising an action learning workshop series & developing follow-up action learning sets to increase knowledge & capacity of local stakeholders using social innovation. Intensive, targeted dissemination activities & an accessible and interactive website and online database as a resource will help uptake of project result by EU regions.

OUTCOMES

HE2020 is informing local actions on access to health care, health-related behaviour, and living & working conditions. It also informs planning & actions by SF beneficiaries that address relevant ex ante conditionalities for Cohesion Policy 2014-2020.

Participating regions will validate project outputs & products and prepare region-specific action plans that are evidence based, integrated with regional development plans & financially sustainable.

The project uses social innovation to provide guidance for planning & implementing actions where evidence is limited and help cascade learning into other regions to inform preparation for the next structural funds cycle.

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www.healthequity2020.eu

