



CONSULTANCY WORKSHOP

29 January 2015, Brussels

EVIDENCE-BASED ACTION PLANNING TO REDUCE HEALTH INEQUALITIES

Human and social developments are essential for economically productive and sustainable societies but are undermined where equity is lacking. Health inequity results from unequal economic, social, and environmental conditions, which are inherently unfair, unjust, and avoidable. Reducing health disparities is crucial and the continuing upward trend in such differences call for further innovative, collaborative actions at all levels. Current strategies need revision and where needed, replaced by new strategies, directly tackling the social determinants of health. The potential for national and regional policies to help improve the population's health need to be maximised.

The general objective of the HealthEquity-2020 project is to assist Member States/regions to develop evidence-based action plans on reducing health inequalities, which also informs the use of Structural and Investment Funds in this new programming period. Participating regions validate project outputs & products and prepare financially sustainable region-specific plans integrated with regional development plans. The project also intends to cascade learning into other regions to inform wider preparations for the new structural funds cycle.

METHODS & MEANS OF THE HE2020 PROJECT

In order to inform entry points to actions the project benefited from and builds on existing knowledge & lessons: from EUREGIO III and a portfolio of other relevant second health programme projects. 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. As another core activity an action learning workshop series is organised for 10 regions & follow-up action learning sets combined with mentoring using auto-action learning are developed to increase knowledge & capacity of local stakeholders.

THE CONSULTANCY WORKSHOP

This one-day workshop focuses on challenges that EU regions face when they aim to tackle health inequalities through evidence-based action planning. In particular, overcoming these challenges means involving policy makers and decision makers in the process and working out how to practically link their work to regional development strategies. The policy implications of what the project has learned will be considered by reviewing the findings and lessons learned by the project in its past two and a half years.

Invitees to this event will be professionals, policy makers and researchers coming from various fields representing regional, national and European levels at the domain of tackling health inequalities. Participants representing regional governments, professional organizations, universities, and EU institutions will share their experiences with regards to evidence-based action planning. Regions will identify immediate benefits they have from the project and that what obstacles remain in this process. Participants will discuss how to maximise impact of action planning at regional level, how to engage decision makers in the planning process, and how to link this work to wider regional development activities. Financial resources to address regional priorities will also be reviewed with special regard to Structural and Investments Funds.

VENUE OF THE EVENT

Brussels Office of the Łódzkie Voivodship (Łódzkie House), 2 Marie Louise Square, B-1000 Brussels, Belgium

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). **Collaborating regions:** Vysočina, Czech Republic; Northern Great Plain, Hungary; Trenčín, Slovakia; Klaipėda, Lithuania; Stara Zagora, Bulgaria; Covasna, Romania; Latvia; Estonia, Tallin. **Lead partner organisation:** University of Maastricht, Department of International Health, The Netherlands

This event arises from the project HEALTH EQUITY 2020 which has received funding from the European Union, in the framework of the Health Programme

For further information please contact:

Ms Edit Sebestyén, Health ClusterNet
(edit@healthclusternet.eu)

www.healthequity2020.eu

Programme



Co-funded by
the Health Programme
of the European Union

1100 REGISTRATION AND COFFEE

1130-1200

WELCOME

Marcin Podgórski, Director, Regional Office of the Łódzkie Region in Brussels

Paola D'Acapito, Scientific Project Officer, EC, Consumers, Health, Agriculture and Food Executive Agency (Chafea), Health Unit

Jonathan Watson, HE2020 Project director, Executive director of Health ClusterNet, Managing Director and Co-Founder of INTEGRATE Think Tank

1200-1220

INTRODUCTION TO THE HEALTH EQUITY-2020 PROJECT

Results & achievements so far

Carole Maignan, HE2020 Project manager, Health ClusterNet, UK

Session 1

1220 - 1340

THE ACTION LEARNING PROCESS

Evidence-based planning: Putting theory & learning into meaningful actions in order to tackle health inequalities

Moderator:

Peter Bez nec, Project manager, Centre for Health and Development, Murska Sobota, Slovenia, HE2020 Pilot region

Introductory remarks

Evidence-based planning – The HE2020 Toolkit

Mariëlle Beenackers, Senior researcher, Department of Public Health, Erasmus MC Rotterdam

Does the toolkit works as a local resource?

Neringa Tarvydienė, Director, Public Health Bureau, Klaipėda district, Lithuania, HE2020 Collaborating region

Discussion - Questions & Answers

1340 – 1430 LUNCH

Session 2

1430–1550

MAXIMISING IMPACT

Making the best use of the evidence-based action plans - Increasing their impact at regional level

Moderators:

Jonathan Watson, HE2020 Project director, Executive director of Health ClusterNet, Managing Director and Co-Founder of INTEGRATE Think Tank

Przemysław Kardas, Head of Department, First Department of Family Medicine, Medical University of Lodz, Lodzkie region, Poland, HE2020 Pilot region

Introductory remarks

What makes regional/local action groups work well or not? What gets policy makers/decision makers to engage in the planning process?

Peter Bez nec, Project manager, Centre for Health and Development, Murska Sobota, Slovenia, HE2020 Pilot region

How are we looking to integrate our action plan with a wider development plan?

Kristine Karsa, Senior officer, EU Financing, Planning and Control Unit, Department of Budget and Investments, Ministry of Health, Latvia, HE2020 Collaborating region

Policy Matrix – Assisting local policy planning to match the strategic frameworks at national/ EU level

Oana Neagu, Researcher, Department of International Health, Maastricht University

Discussion - Questions & Answers

1550 – 1615 COFFEE BREAK

Session 3

1615 – 1745

MONEY TO ADDRESS REGIONAL PRIORITIES

Funding sources to finance regional initiatives

Moderator:

Jonathan Watson, HE2020 Project director, Executive director of Health ClusterNet, Managing Director and Co-Founder of INTEGRATE Think Tank

Introductory remarks

The role of European Structural and Investment Funds in tackling health inequalities

Andor Ürmös, Policy analyst, EC DG REGIO, Competence Center on Inclusive Growth

What do European Structural and Investment Funds really offer to regions? Funding sources locally

Mikołaj Gurdała, Director, Office for Research, Strategies and Development, Medical University of Lodz, Lodzkie Region, Poland, HE2020 Pilot region

Do we consider a disinvest to reinvest approach when wanting to resource a new priority action?

Jonathan Watson, HE2020 Project director, Executive director of Health ClusterNet, Managing Director and Co-Founder of INTEGRATE Think Tank

Alternative funding sources – Social Impact Investment

Fausto Felli, President, Equity in Health Institute, Rome, Chairman of the Executive Board and Co-Founder of INTEGRATE Think Tank

Discussion - Questions & Answers

1745

CONCLUSIONS AND NEXT STEPS

1800

CLOSE OF THE WORKSHOP