



April 2009

1. Main Stories

- ***WHO sets out health needs for Europe in crisis***

The WHO region for Europe convened a major debate on the economic crisis at a conference in Oslo hosted by the Norwegian directorate for health and the ministry for health and care services. Professor Sir Michael Marmot reflected the mood of the moment by asking "As the G20 meets in London, what about the G193? Our focus must be on empowering individuals, societies and even countries".

WHO regional director Marc Danzon said "making the right decisions now will help to address health inequalities while keeping Europe on track for lasting sustainable health and prosperity".

http://www.euro.who.int/healthsystems/econcrisis/20090316_1

- ***Commissioner calls for greater focus on disease prevention...***

European Commissioner for Health, Androulla Vassiliou highlighted the impact of an ageing population on Europe's health systems at a recent speech during the 7th European Business Summit, which took place earlier this month.

Vassiliou advocated the need for health systems to provide a greater focus on preventing and treating chronic diseases, and the importance of finding ways to use resources more efficiently. Action taken at the EU level, she said, can provide economies of scale, pool expertise and resources and avoid duplication of efforts by each member state, thus improving cost-efficiency in health spending.

Turning to the impact of the financial crisis, the Commissioner added that it is "crucial that there is sufficient investment in public health now as part of a broader economic stimulus agenda".

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/health_consumer/dyna/enews/enews.cfm?al_id=864

- ***...and tells leaders what is at risk if they do not***

The European Commissioner has cited mental health, cancer screening and health inequalities as three priority areas of concern for states to address when taking steps

to recover from the economic crisis. Speaking to the Financial Times newspaper, Commissioner Vassiliou revealed that she has been advocating health measures strongly with the EC President in preparations for economic summits and plans for the overall EU economic strategic reviews in 2010.

- ***Health bodies urge leaders to stand up for health***

Europe's leaders must prioritise the health of the population when addressing the global economic situation, according to an open letter published by the organizations which make up the EU Health Policy Forum (EUHPF).

The letter, which had a strong input from EuroHealthNet, was sent to EU leaders in time for their economic summits. It reminded them that health systems account for at least 10% of GDP and that voters consider their health a priority as they prepare to vote in European elections in June. It called upon states to maintain investment in health and to think carefully about the health impacts of any proposed financial recovery measures.

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_overview/health_forum/docs/EUHPF_letter_en.pdf

- ***Second EU Open Alcohol Forum announced***

The next open forum on alcohol will update wider stakeholders on progress on alcohol policies since the specific forum began its work.

Places are limited and further details are available from

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_determinants/life_style/alcohol/Forum/open300409_en.htm

2. News from the European Institutions

- ***Health Impacts of Climate Change***

A Staff Working Document entitled "*Human, Animal and Plant Health Impacts of Climate Change*" has been proposed by the Commission.

The purpose of this document is to explain the means which will be implemented to adapt health responses to the climatic challenge, and to cope with the key problems of climate change effecting human, animal and plant health. It also describes what means are currently in place, and the key steps that the Community and the Member States will have to take to tackle this problem in the most effective way possible, with the tools and financing plans available. This document was developed based on the broad outline of the White Paper on Adaptation to Climate Change published on 1 April.

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_threats/climate/climate_en.htm

- ***Survey gives latest picture of European smokers***

The results of the latest EU sponsored survey on tobacco are now available to download.

The survey, conducted on behalf of the European commission, has found that three out of 10 EU citizens aged 15 and over say they smoke, with a quarter (26%) saying they smoke daily and 5% occasionally. The proportion of smokers is the highest in Greece (42%), followed by Bulgaria (39%), Latvia (37%), yet almost half of EU citizens claim that they have never smoked and 22% say they have quit smoking.

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_determinants/life_style/Tobacco/Documents/eb_253_en.pdf

- ***Shock news: teenagers do listen to parents sometimes***

Swedish research has revealed that contrary to popular belief, teenagers do in fact listen to the views of their parents when it comes to smoking, and believe that they should act to discourage their children from taking up the habit. The study received support from the EC Research Programme.

Scientists at the Epidemiology and Public Health Sciences Department at Umeå University in Sweden, investigated Swedish teenagers' attitudes towards parental action by analyzing data from surveys of Swedish teenagers carried out in 1987, 1994 and 2003. The overwhelming majority of teenagers supported the idea that parents should intervene to prevent their children from smoking.

http://ec.europa.eu/research/infocentre/article_en.cfm?id=/research/headlines/news/article_09_03_27_en.html&item=Infocentre&artid=10693

- ***EU agency Quality of Life Survey prioritises health***

The European Foundation for the Improvement of Living and Working Conditions (Eurofound) has published the results of its second European Quality of Life Survey (2EQLS).

Four out of five people (81%) across the EU say that health is very important in determining their quality of life, and the survey reveals that family life is also key to quality of life with seven out of ten people in Europe (68.7%).

<http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/areas/qualityoflife/eqls/2007/index.htm>

- ***External evaluation of the 2007 European Year of Equal Opportunities for All (EYEO)***

The 2007 European Year of Equal Opportunities for All (EYEO) has been evaluated to find out whether the EYEO was a success both at the European level and at the level of the 30 participant countries.

Four thematic reports were produced, which focus on racial and ethnic age and sexual discrimination. The fourth report addresses the way in which gender was mainstreamed across the actions and activities, carried out respectively at national and EU level.

<http://ec.europa.eu/social/BlobServlet?docId=2144&langId=en>



3. News from Member States / Organisations

- ***EuroHealthNet – new research project starts***

Gradient is a new study into health inequalities and determinants among children, young people and families co-funded by the EC 7th Framework Programme. Coordinated by Aagje Ieven from the new EuroHealthNet offices in Brussels, it brings together researchers during the next three years. Online information is being prepared, but for information contact a.ieven@eurohealthnet.eu

- ***Determine consortium heads to Prague***

The EU co-funded project co-ordinated by EuroHealthNet, DETERMINE, enters its second half with a consortium meeting in its leadership country, the Czech Republic, during its first EU Presidency period. The event will feature plans to build capacity to improve social determinants of health in EU states. Full information on all developments are at our online one stop site: www.health-inequalities.eu

- ***EuroHealthNet helps to tackle economic problems***

At its General Assembly in Edinburgh hosted by NHS Health Scotland, EuroHealthNet held a policy seminar to consider the impacts and strategies for health promotion and public health in the current economic situation. Speakers, including

Graham Robertson from Scotland, Bosse Petterson from Sweden and Dr Peter Makara from Hungary, set out constructive approaches and learning from experiences. The network will next develop its strategic review with other partners. Details are in the member section of the network website, but if others wish to discuss this please contact c.needle@eurohealthnet.eu

- ***EuroHealthNet Healthy Ageing Group***

The special interest group on healthy ageing, coordinated by Stockholm Region, NHS Health Scotland and the National Institute of Health for Sweden with support from EuroHealthNet, has published a summary of its work during 2008 -9 including outcomes of three workshops at international events. It is now preparing for major events during the Swedish and Spanish Presidencies. Details are available via k.lotz@eurohealthnet.eu

- ***GERMANY: BZgA discussion series on health promotion***

BZgA, the national institute for health promotion and disease prevention in Germany, has announced a series of discussions between the BZgA and German Universities on disease prevention. The aim of the workshops is to foster the exchange of ideas and cooperation between science and practice in the domain of health education.

<http://www.bzga.de>

- ***France – major open days on public health***

INPES, the national body for health promotion in France, has run a series of workshops and seminars for practitioners and policy makers on major health topics. Full details of all current initiatives are available online, and a further international seminar is being planned during June to involve EuroHealthNet speakers.

<http://www.inpes.sante.fr/>



- ***IUHPE calls for papers on major health promotion issues***

The International Union for Health Promotion and Education (IUHPE) has issued calls for papers to be submitted in the following areas:

- Calls in relation to sustainable development & health; equitable & sustainable health development; and participatory governance engage, to engage professionals in a reflection process on the linkages between health promotion and sustainable development, in preparation for the upcoming 20th

World Conference on Health Promotion in July 2010
(www.iuhpeconference.net)

- Papers in English or French that relate to the implementation of health promotion programmes in Africa, as part of a Supplement edition on Health Promotion Strategies and Non-communicable Diseases Control in Africa (call opened jointly with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention).
- Case studies (in any of the three IUHPE official languages), which reflect and demonstrate how research evidence derived from epidemiological studies, evaluation research and/or research synthesis and meta-analysis is used and translated to address health challenges locally. These will be used to complement the publication of a second volume of the monograph “Global Perspectives on Health Promotion Effectiveness”.

<http://iuhpe.org/>



- ***UK cancer network launches early detection and prevention strategy***

The Merseyside and Cheshire Cancer Network in the North West of England region have developed a strategy and action plan for Early Detection and Prevention of Cancer, a follow-up to England's first cancer early detection and prevention strategy which was launched just over a year ago.

The strategy and action plan has been published in the Health Service Journal in collaboration with Department of Health and Cancer Research UK.

http://www.hsj.co.uk/goodmanagement/bestpractice/2009/02/tackling_cancer_inequalities_in_liverpool.html

- ***Coordination between primary and secondary healthcare in Denmark and Sweden***

The International Journal of Integrated Care has published a study comparing the policy strategies chosen in Denmark and Sweden to improve collaboration between primary and secondary healthcare.

The study shows that despite the fact that a variety of policy initiatives exist, there are issues with regard to the administrative and operational coordination between primary and secondary healthcare which prevent effective collaboration between the two.

<http://www.ijic.org/?000414>

- **Research centre focusing on dangerous infections opens in UK**

The Specialist Biomedical Research Centre has opened in Liverpool and will investigate chest infections, sexual health, antimicrobial drugs and hospital acquired infections, as well as looking into HIV treatment and how patients build up resistance to some drugs.

The centre has been set up as a result of £6.4 million in funding from the Northwest Regional Development Agency, as well as £13.5 million from National Institute for Health Research.

http://www.rluht.nhs.uk/NIHR_BRC/research_themes.asp

4. Other Events and Publications

- **World Health Day 2009**



World Health Day 2009 (7 April) focuses on the safety of health facilities, and the readiness of health workers who treat those affected by emergencies. Health centres and staff are critical lifelines for vulnerable people in disasters - treating injuries, preventing illnesses and caring for people's health needs.

<http://www.who.int/world-health-day/2009/en/index.html>

- **New guide to health at work aims to encourage in-company health management**

Statutory health bodies and accident insurance groups in Germany have come together to form the Action Group on Health and Work (IGA), as a means of preventing work-related health hazards through industrial safety and in-company health promotion.

The IGA has produced a new guide to health at work which looks to promote the concept of intercultural in-company health management, and to ensure that all employees, irrespective of nationality, are aware of their rights and obligations concerning health and safety at work.

<http://www.enterprise-for-health.org/index.php?id=183&nlpid=854&nlid=80>

- **NICE guidance on health effects of absence from work**

The English National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE), which celebrates its 10th anniversary on 1st April 2009, has published guidance on managing long-term sickness absence and incapacity for work.

The guidance aims to help employers and employees work together to ensure that when someone is absent from work due to sickness, the right support is available as early as possible, so they can return to work as soon as they are able.

<http://www.nice.org.uk/Guidance/PH19>

- **Social marketing summer school**

The English National Social Marketing Centre (NSMC) is organizing a social marketing summer school, to take place in Bled, Slovenia, from 8-12 June 2009.

The school is specifically designed to support public sector managers who are looking to bring about behavioural change across a wide range of areas such as health, the environment and transport. To register, please visit:

<http://system.newzapp.co.uk/GLink.asp?LID=MjAzMTkyNiw4ODYzMTgxOA>

EESC sets out new agenda for future of civil society in Europe

The European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) has adopted an ambitious, long-term set of proposals for economic recovery, fundamental rights and the European social model, sustainable development and governance, which are laid out in a document known as the *Programme for Europe: proposals of civil society*.

The proposals are due to be submitted to the next European parliament and European commission.

<http://www.eesc.europa.eu/activities/press/cp/docs/2009/communique-presse-eesc-032-2009-en.doc>

5. Calendar of international events

7.04.2009	World Health Day http://www.who.int/world-health-day/2009/en/index.html
27-28.04.2009	Perugia, Italy: 6th European Conference on Promoting Workplace Health http://www.enwhp.org/index.php?id=593
28.04.2009	World Day for Safety and Health at Work http://www.ilo.org/public/english/protection/safework/worldday/index.htm
27.04. – 01.05.2009	Istanbul: 12th World Congress on Public Health http://www.worldpublichealth2009.org
8-9.05.2009	Berlin: Reducing Health Inequalities: What Do We Really Know About Successful Strategies? http://www.hertie-school.org/binaries/addon/1085_rhi.pdf
6-9.05.2009	Amsterdam: 17th European Congress on Obesity - ECO 2009 http://www.easoobesity.org/eco2009/
15-16.05.2009	Brussels: Eighth Meeting of People experiencing poverty http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=88&langId=en&eventId=155
18-19.05.2009	Istanbul: EURO-PREVOB 2nd Plenary and 5th Scientific Committee http://www.lshtm.ac.uk/hsru/prevob/news.html
21-23.05.2009	Albena, Bulgaria: BASORD – 8th International Symposium on Obesity and Related Diseases http://www.isord2009.com/
31.05.2009	World No Tobacco Day http://www.who.int/tobacco/communications/events/wntd/2009/en/index.html
07-12.06.2009	Venice, Italy: “Reducing the Burden of Noncommunicable diseases:

	Addressing the Causes of the Causes” training course http://www.euro.who.int/socialdeterminants/news/20090305_1
08-12.06.2009	Bled, Slovenia: Social marketing summer school, organised by NSMC http://www.nsms.org.uk/images/CoreFiles/Summer_schools_info_sheet_Oct_08.pdf
05-07.06.2009	Porto, Portugal: 18th Annual Meeting of the European Childhood Obesity Group (ECOG) http://www.ecog-obesity.eu/index.php?a=meeting
15-17.06.2009	Vilnius, Lithuania: 3rd European Conference on School Health Promotion: 'Better schools through health' http://www.conference2009.lt/
24-25.06.2009	Brussels: Employment Week conference http://www.employmentweek.com/
10.09.2009	Brussels: Combating heart disease and stroke: Planning for a Healthier Europe http://www.euroheart2009.eu/
01-04.10.2009	Bangkok: 19th International Congress of Nutrition http://www.icn2009.com/
26-28.11.2009	Lodz, Poland: Second joint European Conference on Public Health (EUPHA / ASPHER) http://www.eupha.org/site/upcoming_conference.php
26 – 27.11.2009	Vilnius, Lithuania: “The Forgotten Children” conference, addressing the subject of children of parents with a mental illness http://www.esha.org/modules.php?name=News&file=article&sid=41

Also see Events Calendar on www.eurohealthnet.eu for upcoming events

Please note that EuroHealthNet is not responsible for the content of other sites or publications mentioned in this publication.

Would you like to inform other members about new publications or events in your organisation or country? Please send contributions to m.williams@eurohealthnet.eu

EU Health Highlights is produced for the internal use of organisations, institutions, authorities and departments interested in health promotion, disease prevention and public health in the EU. *It is funded only by fees paid to us.* If any reader knows of people or bodies who might find it useful to receive *Health Highlights*, please do not copy it without our authorisation, but do send details to us at: m.williams@eurohealthnet.eu . We will be pleased to make contact and offer our services, including a trial period. Your comments and suggestions will also be welcome. *Thank you for your help.*