

Calendar of events

June

10-11 June 2010: [Global Health Conference](#) (Brussels, Belgium)

11 June 2010: [Structural Funds and Health: Learning lessons and next steps](#) (Brussels, Belgium)

14-15 June 2010: [In-depth review seminar – area-based approaches to social inclusion](#)

16-18 June 2010: [EUFEP – Congress on Mental Health](#) (Baden, Austria)

21 June 2010: [Informal meetings of Ministers for Housing and Urban Development](#)

21-22 June 2010: [4th European Alcohol Policy Conference](#) (Brussels, Belgium)

23 June 2010: [Passive Smoking and Children's Health – New Evidence and a Call for Action](#) (Brussels, Belgium)

22-24 June 2010: [EUREGIO III workshop series: Optimising health through application of EU structural funds](#) (Berlin, Germany)

25-26 June 2010: [Starting point for a new deal](#) (Brussels, Belgium)

28-29 June 2010: [Promotion of Mental Health and Well-being in Older People – Making it happen](#) (Madrid, Spain)

28-30 June 2010: [World Cities Summit 2010 – liveable and sustainable cities for the future](#)

28 June 2010: [World Blood Donation Day](#)

[6th International conference](#)

EU News

Ministers agree on actions to promote equity and health

Ministers of the Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council (EPSCO) adopted conclusions calling on Member States and the European Commission to promote equity and health in all policies.

The conclusions invite the European Commission to review the possibilities for assisting Member States to make better use of structural funds to support activities to address social determinants of health and help to move forward on equity in health. They also call on Member States to further develop their policies and actions to reduce health inequalities and to participate actively in sharing good practice, taking into account the need for action across all relevant policies.

Finally, the conclusions also invite both Member States and the Commission to promote the strengthening of procedures to assess the health impact of policies among different social groups, and the gradual implementation of such procedures. This strengthening should include a review of the integrated impact assessment currently being used so as to improve its usefulness from the health and equity in health point of view.

To read the EPSCO Council conclusions in full, please visit the [website](#) of the Council of the European Union.

They also agree on active ageing...

Ministers also adopted conclusions to promote active ageing in the EU and to highlight the benefits and opportunities that the economic and social participation of older women and men would provide to society.

The conclusions call on Member States to make active ageing one of the priorities for the coming years and to further develop active ageing policies through activities by committing to specific objectives in the context of a European Year for Active Ageing in 2012. Moreover, the conclusions also invite the European Commission to support the implementation of new initiatives promoting active, healthy and dignified ageing through the existing policy instruments and programmes of the EU.

To read the EPSCO Council conclusions on Active Ageing in full, please visit the [website](#) of the Council of the European Union.

...sustainable social security systems to ensure adequate pension and social inclusion ...

Conclusions on sustainable social security systems to achieve adequate pensions and social inclusion objectives were also agreed by ministers in the EPSCO council. These conclusions concern the specific issue of minimum pensions, or minimum income provisions. By adopting them, the ministers gave a political signal that, beyond the broad issues of adequacy and sustainability of pensions, the EPSCO Council wishes to concentrate on citizens' concerns from a social protection perspective. The Council also invited the member states to continue paying particular attention to the issue of minimum pensions as a tool for combating poverty.

Please click [here](#) to read the Council conclusions on "Sustainable social security systems achieving adequate pensions and social inclusion objectives".

...advancing inclusion for Roma people...

The Council adopted conclusions on "advancing Roma inclusion" inviting the Commission and

[on social work in health and mental health](#) (Dublin, Ireland)

29-30 June 2010: [Together for Health – a Strategy for the EU 2020](#) (Brussels, Belgium)

Summer

1-3 July 2010: [Fifth Eastern European Conference for Rare Diseases and Orphan Drugs](#) (Saint-Petersburg, Russia)

4-6 July 2010: [Cities for Mobility World Congress 2010](#)

7-10 July: 8th [European Conference on Health Economics](#) (Helsinki, Finland)

18-23 July 2010: [International AIDS conference](#) (Vienna)

18-19 August 2010: [Well-being in the Information Society](#)

14 Sept. 2010: [Working Group on Financial Inclusion of the 2010 SIRG - Balancing Acts: All Together to Tackle Financial Exclusion!](#)

30 Sept. 2010: [In-depth review seminar – child poverty](#)

More online

For a full list of upcoming events, please visit the [Equity Channel calendar](#).

the Member States to make progress in mainstreaming Roma issues into European and national policies, to advance the social and economic integration of Roma peoples and to ensure that existing EU financial instruments and especially the structural funds are accessible to them.

Please click [here](#) to read the Council conclusions on “advancing Roma Inclusion”.

...and calls for action to reduce salt intake for better health.

The council also adopted conclusions calling for action to reduce population salt intake for better health. The conclusions call on Member States to strengthen and develop national nutritional policies to reduce salt consumption while inviting the European Commission to continue its approach to tackle high salt consumption by the implementation of the EU framework on salt reduction.

To read the EPSCO Council conclusions on action to reduce population salt intake, please visit the [website](#) of the Council of the European Union.

Council agrees on new rules for patients' rights in cross-border healthcare

EU health Ministers have agreed on a draft directive concerning the application of patients' rights in cross-border healthcare. An agreement failed to be agreed in December 2009 under the Swedish Presidency but a new text proposed by the Spanish presidency facilitated an agreement between Member States.

The draft directive aims to facilitate the access to safe and high-quality cross-border healthcare and to promote cooperation on healthcare between member states. It provides clarity about the rights of patients who seek healthcare in another member state and supplements the rights that patients already have at the EU level through the legislation on the coordination of social security schemes.

For more information on the agreement, please visit the [website](#) of the Council of the European Union.

Council resolution on a New European disability framework

Ministers at the Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council (EPSCO) adopted a resolution for a new European disability framework. The resolution calls for enhanced inclusion of people with disabilities and their families in society by mainstreaming disability issues, and by launching initiatives in the areas of education, employment and social affairs, international affairs and development.

The Commission is expected to adopt, during the course of 2010, the new European disability strategy 2010-2020, replacing the expired one launched in 2004. The new strategy should focus largely on the implementation of the United Nations convention on the rights of persons with disabilities (UNCRPD).

For more information on the resolution, please visit the [website](#) of the Council of the European Union.

New interactive platform on European health research

The European Commission has launched a new online platform - www.healthcompetence.eu - at the Information day on FP7 Health Research. The new platform includes all projects related to life science and health supported by the European Commission since 2004. The aim of the platform is to present the projects' latest results in terms of technology offers, patents and publications. The platform also offers a row of interactive search devices which facilitate the identification of potential collaboration partners and the set up of partnerships between academia and industry in health research.

For more information please visit the [website](#) of DG Research.

Annual Report of EU Platform on Diet, Physical Activity and Health now available

The 2010 Annual Report of the EU Platform for Action on Diet, Physical Activity and Health, prepared for and funded by DG SANCO, is now available and presents the Platform's activities and achievements in 2009. It gives an overview of the commitments of the members to the Platform, including EuroHealthNet, divided over five different categories: Reformulation, Labelling, Lifestyle, Marketing and advertising, and Others. The activities include a diverse range of commitments comprising initiatives to reformulate food products; activities to address advertising and marketing to children; implementations of workplace-based programmes aimed at improving employees' health and diet; and campaigns to improve the take-up of sports and raise awareness of the importance of good nutrition and diet.

Please click [here](#) to access the full report.

Work-related stress: one of the biggest occupational safety and health challenges in Europe

Work-related stress is one of the biggest health and safety challenges facing Europe, since it is the second most frequently reported work-related health problem. The latest report by the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work discusses the prevalence of stress and the trends in work-related stress in EU Member States. Furthermore it identifies groups that are particularly exposed to stress in their working lives and indicates areas for future research and action.

The changing world of work is making increased demands on workers such as downsizing and outsourcing, increasing use of temporary contracts, increased job insecurity, higher workloads and more pressure, and poor work-life balance. Studies suggest that stress is a factor in between 50% and 60% of all lost working days. This represents a huge cost in terms of both human distress and impaired economic performance.

Please visit the [website](#) of the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work to read the full report.

Commission suggests to raise retirement age for EU citizens

The European Commission is suggesting that the retirement age in member states should be raised regularly so that on average across the EU not more than one third of adult life is spent in retirement. According to a report in the Financial Times Deutschland, citing a draft Commission paper on pensions, workers should work longer hours and retire later otherwise they risk a "painful combination of smaller payouts and higher contributions."

The Commission paper, to be presented before the summer, states that by 2060 Europeans will live on average seven years longer. This would mean extending working life to almost 70 years of age by spending more than a third of adult life (over 18 years) in retirement. This is four years and eight months longer the current target for EU member states.

Please visit the [website](#) of the Financial Times Deutschland for further information.

Self-employed workers to gain maternity and pension benefits under new EU law

Self-employed workers and their partners will enjoy better social protection – including the right to maternity leave for the first time – under new legislation endorsed by EU governments. The new piece of legislation will provide for significant improvement in terms of the social protection accorded to self-employed workers and assisting spouses of self-employed workers who often contribute to their spouse's activities without enjoying the corresponding rights. The new rules will also serve to promote entrepreneurship in general and among women in particular.

For more information please visit DG Employment, Social Affairs and Equal Opportunities [website](#).

Regions and cities believe Europe 2020 does not have the means to deliver on its promises

The majority of the 90 local and regional authorities from 21 Member States that responded to a consultation by the EU advisory institution the Committee of the Regions this spring believe that the *Europe 2020* strategy, as it stands, does not have the means to deliver on its promises. Contributors are furthermore deeply concerned that *Europe 2020* does not take into account existing socio-economic disparities and the uneven distribution of opportunities between and within regions and cities.

For more information please visit the [website](#) of the Committee of the Regions.

EU cohesion policy crucial to help regions overcome crisis

More flexible access to the EU regional funds, such as the European Social Fund and the European Regional Development Fund, would help regions worst hit by the economic crisis to recover faster, according to the Regional Development Committee. Flexible funding for investment in infrastructure, support for small firms, professional training, R&D and industrial and rural modernisation, would also make a decisive contribution to sustainable growth and jobs.

A report drafted by Mrs Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou (EPP, Greece) says that EU regional policy is "not only a way to immediately 'damp down' the negative economic and social effects of the crisis, but is also a long-term policy for combating the structural problems revealed and created by the crisis, particularly as regards competitiveness and employment. Given the EU's lack of effective mechanisms for economic coordination and balanced growth, cohesion policy, through the structural funds and other actions, is of prime importance."

For further information please visit the [website](#) of the European Parliament.

EU Funds: less paperwork and a bigger focus on results

Based on the results of a public consultation, the Commission has adopted changes to simplify access to EU funds by cutting red tape and saving costs for EU beneficiaries. New rules will also provide more scope for combining public and private funding for a bigger investment impact. The changes will help deliver the new generation of EU programmes post 2013.

With the proposed measures the European Commission hopes to reduce the costs and workload for European businesses, SME'S, researchers and other beneficiaries, caused by excessively heavy procedures.

Please visit the Europa [website](#) for further information. Information about the public consultation can be found [here](#).

Presentations EU Health Policy Forum now available

The presentations given during the last EU Health Policy Forum (EUHPF), which took place on 20 May 2010, are now available. The meeting focused on the EU 2020 strategy and gave an overview of the current and future work and activities of the EUHPF.

Please click [here](#) to view the presentations.

DG SANCO launches two new 'Help' TV films

DG SANCO has launched two new films that are part of the "Help - for a life without tobacco" programme, aimed at tobacco prevention and cessation among young people, especially socially disadvantaged, in the EU Member States. It is one of the largest public health awareness-raising initiatives ever organised in the world.

More information can be found on the DG SANCO [website](#) or on the campaign [site](#).

Further concrete steps are needed to develop New Skills for

New Jobs initiative

During its meeting on Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs, the Council has called on the European Commission to propose during autumn 2010 further concrete steps to develop the "New Skills for New Jobs" initiative, ensuring its coherence with the EU 2020 Strategy. Furthermore the Commission needs to improve the analysis of labour market and trends and forecasting, and cooperation with the OECD and ILO should enhance the understanding of global employment and skills challenges. The Council has also called for strengthening of the EU funding mechanisms in order to anticipate skills demand and supply, particularly in the context of labour mobility and of lifelong learning.

Please click [here](#) to read the Council conclusions on "New Skills for New Jobs: the way forward".

MEPs call for better access to job market for young people...

During the European Parliaments Employment and Social Affairs Committee meeting, a proposal was made for a "European Youth Guarantee", which enables young people not to be unemployed for over six months, and to have a decent income and good quality traineeships. The proposal was made as part of efforts to improve access to the labour market for young people.

For more information on this proposal please visit the European Parliament's [website](#).

... and demand tougher rules on passenger rights

Travellers by bus, coach and boat are set to gain new rights similar to those set out in the EU air passenger rights charter, thanks to tougher rules, backed by the European Parliament's Transport Committee. The new rules will significantly improve conditions for people with disabilities or reduced mobility as MEPs voted to ensure that a passenger's disability may not be used as a reason for denying a person the right to board. In addition, the rules will also make bus and coach operators provide training for their staff to ensure that they can assist disabled passengers properly.

For further information please visit the [website](#) of the European Parliament

European Commission showcase smarter, greener and innovative transport plans

Some of the most innovative and exciting transport research projects funded by the EU are being showcased at the Transport Research Arena (TRA) at the moment. The event is part of the Commission's initiative to communicate more proactively on the practical benefits EU research is bringing to the EU's Europe 2020 Strategy, in terms of improved quality of life and as a key driver of economic growth and high quality jobs.

To find out more about this event, please visit [here](#).

EU greenhouse gas emissions: more than half way to the '20% target by 2020'

The European Union's greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory report, compiled by the European Environment Agency (EEA), shows that emissions have not only continued their downward trend in 2008, but have also picked up pace. The EU-27's emissions stood 11.3 % below their 1990 levels, while EU-15 achieved a reduction of 6.9 % compared to Kyoto base-year levels.

The combination of high coal and carbon prices accompanied by a drop in natural gas prices in 2008, and the increased use of biomass and other renewable sources (wind and hydroelectric power) have resulted in a reduction in GHG emissions. For more information please visit the [website](#) of the EEA.

Traditional stereotypes remain the biggest challenge for gender equality in education

A new Commission study, based on the work the Eurydice network, examines how gender inequality in education is addressed in European countries. Key findings demonstrate that gender differences persist in both choice of study and outcomes, and that gender roles and traditional stereotypes remain are the main challenge. Other objectives of national plans addressing gender equality policies in education include enhancing representation of women in decision-making bodies, countering gender-based attainment patterns and combating gender-based harassment in schools. In addition, the difference in socio-economic background remains the most important factor for the diversity of grades obtained by students.

More information about the Gender Differences in Educational Outcomes study can be found [here](#). Detailed national descriptions of gender-related policies are available on the Eurydice [website](#).

New EU website gives citizens bigger role in policymaking

The European Commission has launched the "Your Voice In Europe" website as a single access point to a wide variety of consultations, discussions and other tools to enable its citizens to play an active role in the European policy-making process.

Please click [here](#) to access the website.

National and local news

Belgium: Belgian judge seeks EU-wide ban on cigarette sales

The EU court in Luxembourg has lodged two anti-smoking cases which could, in theory, lead to a ban on the sale of tobacco products across the EU. The two complaints lodged in Luxembourg on 28 May, call for the EU to ban the sale of cigarettes and the collection of excise duties on tobacco products in Belgium. They also ask the court to examine if the sale of tobacco products goes against the Lisbon Treaty, the Charter of Fundamental Rights and the UN's 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child. The EU tribunal will now consider whether the case is admissible.

The EU commission, which has in the past launched a number of anti-smoking initiatives, such as a ban on advertising and packaging controls, estimates that smoking costs the EU economy €2.5 billion a year in terms of healthcare and productivity losses and brings in €67 billion a year in terms of tobacco industry revenue.

Please click [here](#) for further information.

England: NICE publishes new guidelines to help people with physical complications caused by alcohol misuse

The National Health Service in England must improve how it treats people with physical health problems caused by alcohol misuse, according to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE). The Institute has therefore published a guide which outlines the diagnostic tests and treatments that healthcare professionals should use and when. Among the recommendations, NICE advises that all under 16s who are in acute alcohol withdrawal should be referred to hospital for physical and psychological assessment, in addition to medication.

Around 1 in 4 people in the UK regularly drink above the recommended safe limits, which can cause them to suffer a variety of long term physical health problems such as liver disease and pancreatitis. Those who regularly drink excessive amounts of alcohol may also experience physical withdrawal symptoms such as tremors, seizures and hallucinations if they abruptly reduce their intake or suddenly quit - the consequences of which can be fatal.

Please click [here](#) to read the press release of the NICE.

New reports available of Strategic Review of Health Inequalities in England Post 2010

Several new reports and versions of papers have been published on the website of the Strategic Review of Health Inequalities in England Post 2010. Besides the document "*Sustainable development: the key to tackling health inequalities*" by the Sustainable Development Commission, new publications are now available that focus on Targets and Measurements and the Economic Costs of health inequalities.

The Strategic Review aims to propose an evidence-based strategy for reducing health inequalities in England from 2010, and includes policies and interventions that address the social determinants of health inequalities. Following the publication "*Fair Society: Healthy Lives*" in February this year, there has been a great deal of activity around developing the approach and recommendations for local and national organisations, and several projects are currently working to implement the recommendation of the Strategic Review.

For further information, or to read the new publications, please visit the [website](#) of the Strategic Review of Health Inequalities in England Post 2010.

England: link found between passive smoking and poorer mental health

Second-hand smoke exposure is associated with psychological distress and risk of future psychiatric illness, according to new UCL research that suggests the harmful effects of passive smoking go beyond physical health. The new research, examined the associations between mental health and second hand smoke (SHS) exposure.

Lead author Dr Mark Hamer, UCL Epidemiology & Public Health, said: "Second hand smoking exposure at home is growing in relative importance as restrictions on smoking in workplaces and public places spread". A growing body of literature has demonstrated the harmful physical effects of second-hand smoke exposure, but there has been limited research about the effects on mental health. However, this study found that second hand smoking exposure is associated with psychological distress and risk of future psychiatric illness in healthy adults.

For more information on the study, please visit the University College London [website](#).

Scotland: Health Scotland appoints new Chief Executive

Gerald McLaughlin has been appointed as new Chief Executive of Health Scotland from September 2010 onwards. He will take over the helm from Graham Robertson. For the past 10 years Gerry McLaughlin has been Director of the British Red Cross for Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man. He has also held a Non-Executive Director position with Greater Glasgow NHS Health Board since 2004.

Scotland: New Knowledge Network

A new database set to provide NHS staff with online information on areas such as patient care, clinical practice and research was unveiled. Managed by NHS Education for Scotland the online resource will include a "Google-style" search engine giving instant access to 11 million learning and information resources from over 100 providers as well as personal space for employees to gather information.

Please click [here](#) for more information on the new NHS Knowledge Network.

Sweden: Suggestions for more equal health

The Swedish National Institute of Public Health (SNIPH) has published a report that analyses which lessons can be drawn, for Sweden's part, from the work that the WHO Commission on Social Determinants of Health and its final report 'Closing the gap in a generation'.

A large number of national recommendations were produced and presented to the Swedish government. These included the establishment of a national management group responsible for the intersectoral coordination of actors who are involved in policy prioritisation and political action, creating a clearer structure for public health policy in Sweden and methods to continuously follow-up equality measures at regional and local level, and improving the

current ongoing national measurement process of social inequalities in health.

For further information please visit the [website](#) of the SNIPH.

UK: Health Inequalities Intervention Toolkit

To support Primary Care Trusts and local authorities, the Association of Public Health Observatories and Department of Health have developed the Health Inequalities Intervention Toolkit. Among the possibilities of the toolkit are to view trends in infant death rates, find latest data on gaps in life expectancy, access tables and charts which show causes of death by age groups, assess the impact that evidence-based interventions can have on reducing the inequality in life expectancy, and find information on within and between area inequalities in England.

Please visit the [website](#) of the London Health Observatory for more information.

Other international news

Health leaders urge restraints on food marketing to children

During the 63rd World Health Assembly, health leaders have urged new limits on the marketing of unhealthy foods to children, as part of a larger call for action to reverse the growing global epidemic of non-communicable diseases. In its resolution, the assembly noted that around 42 million children under 5 are overweight or obese, and more than 80 percent of these children live in developing countries. The resolution called on governments, civil society and private partners to work together to reduce the impact on children of marketing of foods high in saturated fats, trans fats, sugar or salt.

Among the specific recommendations made by the assembly were policies that clearly define different age groups, venues, time periods, and types of foods for which marketing to children should be restricted; policies that address international as well as domestic marketing; and provisions for monitoring and evaluation to assess the impact of policies on reducing consumption of unhealthy foods.

The resolution (EB126.R5) on infant and young child nutrition can be found [here](#), and the report by the Secretariat is available [here](#). Please visit the [website](#) of WHO for full coverage of the World Health Assembly.

Registration open for European Health Forum Gastein

The registration for the 13th European Health Forum Gastein (EHFG) with the theme "Health in Europe - Ready for the Future?" is now open. The conference will take place from 6th to 9th October 2010 in Bad Hofgastein, Salzburg, Austria.

The EHFG is a high level discussion platform for key actors in European health policy offering an opportunity for an exchange of experience and networking. The participants are decision-makers and experts at national, European and international levels coming from politics & administration, business & industry, civil society as well as science & academia.

More information about the meeting and the registration process can be found on the EHFG [website](#).

WHO: A Human Rights Based Approach to Health

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the WHO have issued a fact sheet on the Right to Health. The fact sheet aims to shed light on the right to health in international human rights law as it currently stands, amidst the plethora of initiatives and proposals of what the right to health may or should be. It illustrates implications for specific individuals and groups, elaborates upon States' obligations and ends with an overview of national, regional and international accountability and monitoring mechanisms.

Access to the fact sheet is available [here](#).

WHO Europe: Improving children's health and the environment

A new publication of the WHO Regional Office for Europe has identified environmental risk factors affecting children's health and describes over thirty case studies focusing on the process of implementing actions addressing this issue. These descriptions are intended to serve as examples for future implementation of national children's environment and health action plans.

Two risk factors that stand out are injuries and indoor air pollution and the two sectors most often involved were the health and education and the private sector. The predominant outcomes were an increase in knowledge, followed by a reduction of exposure to the risk factor and a change in behaviour. Most of the initiatives took place in educational settings.

Please click [here](#) to access the full report.

Women are huge potential market for the tobacco industry

The theme for World No Tobacco Day this year, which took place on 31 May, was gender and tobacco and had an emphasis on marketing to women. Tobacco advertising targeting women has gained prominence around the world, and the WHO Regional Office for Europe warns that increasing numbers of women and girls are being recruited as tobacco consumers.

Women comprise 200 million of the world's more than 1 billion smokers and 21% of all women in the WHO Europe region smoke. This figure is bound to rise as tobacco advertising – associating smoking with female beauty, luxury, empowerment and health – increasingly targets younger generations of women.

Click on the [link](#) to read the Press release issued by the WHO Regional Office for Europe.

Health of migrants – WHO Report of a global consultation

There are an estimated 214 million international migrants, 740 million internal migrants and an unknown number of migrants in an irregular situation all over the world. While these figures comprise a wide range of different migrating populations, such as workers, refugees, students, undocumented migrants and others, and their vulnerability levels vary greatly, the collective health needs and implications of a population cohort of this size are considerable. The health of migrants and health matters associated with migration are crucial public health challenges faced by governments and societies, as set out in a new report of a consultative process carried out by WHO.

The report is available online [here](#).

New briefing on the health and access to health care of migrants in the UK

A new briefing report on the health and access to health care of migrant people in the UK has been published by the Race Equality Foundation. By bringing together available evidence, the briefing outlines some important issues for the health of migrants in the UK today. It also suggests ways in which research, policy and practice might address barriers to health, well-being and health care in meeting the needs of migrants.

The full briefing is available [here](#).

Strengthening health information systems to address health equity challenges

An article published in the Bulletin of the World Health Organization proposes short and longer term strategies for strengthening the capabilities of Health Information Systems (HIS) for the analysis of health equity. It also discusses HIS-related entry points for supporting a culture of equity-oriented decision-making and policy development.

Health inequities are the main object of health development efforts, including the Millennium

Development Goals, which require monitoring to evaluate progress. However, most national health information systems lack key information needed to assess and address health inequities. Reliable, longitudinal and representative data linking measures of health with measures of social status are needed. Without documentation and monitoring of such inequities, as well as country-level capacity to use this information for effective planning and monitoring of progress, movement towards equity is unlikely to occur.

Please click [here](#) to access the full article.

Cancer cases rising in developing countries

Developing countries account for 63% of all cancer deaths and 56% of new cases. These are the findings of a newly released online statistics tool. The tool, called GLOBOCAN 2008, was launched by WHO'S International Agency for Research on Cancer. The interactive tool can produce maps and graphics of cancer cases occurring around the world.

Please visit the GLOBOCAN 2008 [website](#) for further information.

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