

# **EU Health Highlights**

News about health in the EU from EuroHealthNet Brussels Office  
**Winter 2008**

## **1. Main Stories**

- **Commission to continue financing Community Tobacco Fund**

The European Commission has proposed to extend the financing of the Community Tobacco Fund for the next two years. Since the reform of the Common Market Organisation for tobacco in 2004, the Fund has financed information policies to improve public awareness of the harmful effects of tobacco consumption. In the current funding period, the Fund gave support to the "HELP – for a life without tobacco" campaign ([www.help-eu.com](http://www.help-eu.com))

The 2004 reform put in place a gradual phase-out of tobacco subsidies between 2006 and 2010. In the transitional period before the disappearance of tobacco subsidies, it also set aside for the Tobacco Fund 5 percent of the annual budget for direct payments to tobacco producers. However, this only covered the period until the end of 2007. The Commission has proposed to ministers to extend it for the calendar years 2008 and 2009. The Fund could be worth up to €16.897 million per year.

[http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/markets/tobacco/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/markets/tobacco/index_en.htm)

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_determinants/life\\_style/Tobacco/help\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_determinants/life_style/Tobacco/help_en.htm)

- **New TV anti tobacco ad campaign**

In January and February 2008, 'HELP – For a life without tobacco' is supporting new year good resolutions with new television and web waves broadcasted on 96 national and pan-European TV channels and Internet.

See the spots <http://www.help-eu.com/>

### **Slovenian Presidency health priorities focus on cancer**

Slovenian Health Minister Kukovic set out the priorities of the Presidency in the areas of Public Health in European Parliament. The issue that raised the most interest and questions from MEPs was the initiative on cancer and the conference planned for 7-8<sup>th</sup> February in Brdo. Minister Kukovic said they also planned formal and informal Council meetings to push forward the awaited legislative proposal on cross-border health care. Slovenia also renewed its commitment to efforts in the mental health field, alcohol and obesity.



Joint commitments were mutually developed within the framework of the 18-month programme of German-Portuguese-Slovenian Presidency. They are based on the promotion of health by encouraging a healthy lifestyle, particularly healthy nutrition and physical activity, prevention and control of communicable diseases such as HIV/AIDS and flu pandemics, innovations in healthcare and accessibility of healthcare services.

The Presidency will also support a conference on 10 -11 March on cross sectoral policies in the field of nutrition and physical activity. EuroHealthNet member the Institute of Public Health Murska Sobota will present its approach on tackling health inequalities.

[http://www.eu2008.si/en/Policy\\_Areas/Employment\\_Social\\_Policy\\_Health\\_and\\_Consumer\\_Affairs/Health.html](http://www.eu2008.si/en/Policy_Areas/Employment_Social_Policy_Health_and_Consumer_Affairs/Health.html)

- ***European Commission adopts Energy and Climate Change package***

The EC has made proposals aimed to increase the use of renewable energy in each country and set legally enforceable targets for governments to achieve them. All major CO<sub>2</sub> emitters will be given an incentive to develop clean production technologies through a thorough reform of the Emissions Trading System (ETS) that will impose an EU-wide cap on emissions. The package seeks to deliver the European Union to reduce greenhouse gases by at least 20% and increases to 20% the share of renewable energies in the energy consumption by 2020, as agreed by EU leaders in March 2007. The emissions reduction will be increased to 30% by 2020 when a new global climate change agreement is reached.

[http://ec.europa.eu/commission\\_barroso/president/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/commission_barroso/president/index_en.htm)

- ***Commission proposal to overhaul EU food labelling rules***

The European Commission is proposing to make food labels clearer and more relevant to the needs of EU consumers. The aim of the draft Regulation is to modernise and improve EU food labelling rules. Pre-packaged food will have to display key nutritional information on the front of the package. General requirements on how nutrition information should be displayed on food labels are also set out, although there is room for Member States to promote additional national schemes provided they do not undermine the EU rules.

For public health reasons, the draft Regulation extends the current requirements for allergen labelling to cover non pre-packed food, including food sold in restaurants and other catering establishments. Industry should also benefit from the proposed new rules, as they set up a clearer, more harmonised legislative framework for food labelling and create a level playing field for all operators. The draft Regulation was drawn up following extensive consultations with consumer organisations, industry and other stakeholders.

[http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/labellingnutrition/foodlabelling/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/food/food/labellingnutrition/foodlabelling/index_en.htm)

- ***Towards a European School Fruit Scheme: Consultation for impact assessment***

The Commission's Inter-Service Steering Group (ISG) has drafted a consultation document setting out four options for the European Union's role in a possible '*School Fruit Scheme*'. This paper is based on the input received during extensive consultations with Member States, the agricultural sector and experts from related sectors. The consultation is now open for contributions from the interested public. The consultation will remain open until 29 February 2008. Contributions should be sent to: [AGRI-HORT-SCHOOLFRUIT@ec.europa.eu](mailto:AGRI-HORT-SCHOOLFRUIT@ec.europa.eu)

[http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/markets/fruitveg/sfs/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/markets/fruitveg/sfs/index_en.htm)

- ***Joint Report on Social Protection and Social Inclusion***

This fourth Report for 2008 examines more in depth the key themes of child poverty, health inequalities, access to health care and evolving long-term care needs, longer working lives and privately managed pensions.

The Social Protection Committee will discuss the proposal for Joint Report at its meeting on 5 February and transmit it to the EPSCO Council on 29 February for adoption. It will then be submitted to the Spring European Council to inform Heads of State and Government on the progress in the area of social protection and social inclusion.

[http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/spsi/joint\\_reports\\_en.htm#2008](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/spsi/joint_reports_en.htm#2008)

## 2. News from the European Institutions

- ***Announcement of conference on mental health***

Commissioner Markos Kyprianou has explained to Ministers from Member States his intention to organise a high level conference on mental health. This will be a follow-up to the consultation on the [Commission's Green Paper on Mental Health of 2005](#).

This High Level event will take place on the 13 June 2008 in Brussels, with the presence of both Commissioner Kyprianou and the President of the European Commission, Dr José Manuel Baroso. It is expected to establish a cross-sectoral European Pact for Mental Health.

The Conference will focus on four key action fields:

- prevention of suicide,
- mental health in youth and education,
- mental health in workplace environments,
- elderly people.

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_determinants/life\\_style/mental/mental\\_health\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_determinants/life_style/mental/mental_health_en.htm)

- ***Information about expert group on inequalities***

The expert group from member state governments has updated its reports section on the DG SANCO website. This includes a report of the last meeting at which EuroHealthNet presented its DETERMINE project.

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_determinants/socio\\_economics/ev\\_071126\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_determinants/socio_economics/ev_071126_en.htm)

- ***Information about the Alcohol Forum and national meeting***

The EU's multi stakeholder body on alcohol has updated its section of the DG SANCO website. This includes reports of its latest meetings and working groups, plus the first meeting of member state governments on the subject.

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_determinants/life\\_style/alcohol/Forum/alcohol\\_forum\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_determinants/life_style/alcohol/Forum/alcohol_forum_en.htm)

- ***External Evaluation of the ECDC***

In 2005, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) was set up - as an agency of the EU - to strengthen Europe's defences against infectious diseases. Key tasks of the ECDC include providing the EC and Member States with high quality scientific evidence to support evidence-based policy making, strengthening Europe-wide disease surveillance and supporting preparedness and response to disease outbreaks.

The ECDC is currently undergoing its first external evaluation. The aim of this survey is to collect views and opinions on the achievements and possible areas of improvements of the ECDC. To participate access the link below:

<http://s.checkmarket.com/?e=8063&h=BE38AC5B1A52C9FBD2A7&l=en&q1=1>

- ***SE Europe health network enhanced***



- The South Eastern Europe Health Network (SEEN) was established in 2001 as a health component of the Stability Pact Social Cohesion Initiative with the aim to bring people together across borders to improve health in the whole region. The cooperation has been started by 9 SEE countries, the Council of Europe and the WHO Regional Office for Europe. Transition of the Stability Pact process and the perspective for further enlargements has created a new environment for developing a closer cooperation with the EC DG SANCO.

The partners are:

Bulgaria, Romania, Slovenia, Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, fYRoM, Moldova, Montenegro, and Serbia. The donor countries are Belgium, France, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Norway, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland.

[http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_international/seehn\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_international/seehn_en.htm)

- ***EU study to improve care for people with disabilities***



Institutional care for disabled people in Europe continues to fall short of acceptable standards in many cases, a report released by the European Commission has confirmed.

The study - '*Deinstitutionalisation and Community Living – Outcomes and Costs*' – was carried out by the University of Kent (Tizard Centre) and the London School of Economics. □ **HYPERLINK** "[http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/index/7002\\_en.html](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/index/7002_en.html)" □ **The report** □ recommends a wider use of quality, community-based services, which offer better quality of life to people with disabilities, without necessarily costing more.

[http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/emplweb/news/news\\_en.cfm?id=353](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/emplweb/news/news_en.cfm?id=353)

- ***Women under-represented in decision-making***



The report “*Women and men in decision-making 2007: analysis of the situation and trends*” presents an assessment of the current situation of men and women in decision-making across Europe. The report presents facts and figures covering decision-making in three main areas: politics, economy and public service.

The proportion of women members of national parliament (single/lower house) have been rising from 16% in 1997 to 24% in 2007, though this is still well below the so-called critical mass of 30%, deemed to be the minimum necessary for women to exert meaningful influence on politics. The European Parliament is just above this critical figure (31% women). On average, men outnumber women in the cabinets of EU governments by around three to one (24% women, 76% men).

Women are also highly under-represented in economic decision-making. The central banks of all twenty-seven EU Member States are led by a male governor. Across Europe, women account for just over 44% of all workers but they are more likely to be employed in junior positions such that they comprise only 32% of those considered as heads of businesses (chief executives, directors and managers of small businesses). The under-representation of women at the top level is heightened in big business where men account for nearly 90% of the board members of leading companies and there has been very little improvement over recent years.

There has been significant progress in promoting women within the central administrations of EU member states where they currently fill nearly 33% of positions in the top two levels of the hierarchy compared to around 17% in 1999. The proportion of women in similar positions within the European institutions has also improved from 14% to just under 20% over the same period.

Across Europe, the groups of judges presiding over each of the national supreme courts comprise an average of 70% men and 30% women. In the EU-15 countries only 18% of judges are female – only a slight improvement from 15% in 1999.

[http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/emplweb/news/news\\_en.cfm?id=357](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/emplweb/news/news_en.cfm?id=357)

- ***International Day against Female Genital Mutilation***

February 6 is the International Day of Zero Tolerance against Female Genital Mutilation, marked by strong statements by the EU Commissioners for External relations and Development.

The UN Population Fund (UNFPA) estimates that 130 million women and girls have been subjected to this practice and that an additional 2 million girls each year are at

risk. This corresponds to 5500 mutilations per day. Female genital mutilation (FGM) has serious consequences for pregnancies and childbirth and women who have been subject to cutting are more likely to end up with obstetric fistula. FGM is prevalent in 28 African countries, in a few Arab and Asian countries and among some African immigrants in Europe and the US.

This is a highly sensitive issue in many countries and as with most deep rooted traditions is extremely difficult to address. There is a specific commitment to eradicate female genital mutilation in the Cotonou Agreement with 79 African, Caribbean and Pacific countries. The European Commission has approved a €4 million project with UNICEF targeting FGM in a number of African states. Within this three year project UNICEF will work with governments and civil society to change attitudes, policies and legislation regarding FGM, and to support states in the implementation of their commitments.

[http://ec.europa.eu/external\\_relations/human\\_rights/intro/index.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/human_rights/intro/index.htm)  
[http://ec.europa.eu/development/index\\_en.cfm](http://ec.europa.eu/development/index_en.cfm)

- ***Opportunities to comment on EU social policies***

The EC Directorate for Social affairs and employment is asking for public views. There are currently three important and interlinked topics on the table:



- **Europe's social reality** examines society today. What about the future?
- **Economic and Social Cohesion** policy accounts for some 35% of the EU budget - what still needs to be done to achieve decent living standards to everyone, regardless of where they live?
- **The EU budget** is up for fundamental reform, and this means a unique opportunity for a fresh look at the whole picture.

Responses must be submitted by 15 February.

[http://ec.europa.eu/employment\\_social/emplweb/news/news\\_en.cfm?id=352](http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/emplweb/news/news_en.cfm?id=352)

- ***New brochure explains Regional Policy 2007-13***

A new brochure: "*Working for the Regions. EU Regional Policy 2007-13*" is now available in English, French, German, Italian, Polish and Spanish on The EC Regional Directorate website and will be available in other Community languages soon. The 36-pages publication explains how EU regional policy works and how it supports, for

example, transport, innovation, environmental and urban development in Europe's regions and cities. Cooperation between regions, evaluation of programmes, as well as audit, control and publicity requirements are other aspects covered. Figures explain how much will be spent by EU structural funds on what in the 27 EU member states in the years to come.

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/sources/docgener/presenta/pres\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/presenta/pres_en.htm)

- ***Reorganisation of Directorate-General for Regional Policy***

A new organigramme has entered into force at the European Commission's Directorate-General for Regional Policy. This new organisational structure has been put in place to better address the Cohesion Policy priorities of the new programming period 2007-13.

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/newsroom/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/newsroom/index_en.htm)

- ***Success Stories - profiles of EU projects***

Several hundred thousand economic or social development projects have been implemented in recent years with the support of the Structural Funds and the Cohesion Fund. Nearly 500 interesting examples can be accessed from an EC site set out below, using the search criteria of your choice., and other projects may be added via the site.

[http://ec.europa.eu/regional\\_policy/projects/stories/index\\_en.cfm?pay=ALL&region=ALL&the=21](http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/projects/stories/index_en.cfm?pay=ALL&region=ALL&the=21)

- ***EPIC study suggests health promotion principles work***

The EU has funded one of the largest concerted efforts to research the health and dietary habits of citizens from across Europe. Initial results are raising eyebrows among non health promoters. They discovered that people who adopt four simple healthy behaviours live on average an additional 14 years of life compared with people who adopt none of these behaviours. These habits are: not smoking; taking exercise; moderate alcohol intake; and eating five servings of fruit and vegetables a day.

Data already exist on how smoking, diet and physical activity influence health and longevity but there is little information about their combined impact. Varying definitions of a health behaviour used in these studies often make them confusing for public health professionals and for the general public. For example, small amounts of alcohol appear to be related to lower risk of cardiovascular disease health but what it is not clear what the overall impact on longevity is.

This research, which formed part of the European Prospective Investigation into Cancer and Nutrition (EPIC), was conducted across 10 European countries and involved over half a million people, forming a sizable base for research. At this stage, results of this study need to be confirmed in other populations and an analysis of how the combined

health behaviours affect quality of life is also needed. Nevertheless, the results of the study strongly suggest that these four achievable lifestyle changes could have a marked improvement on the health of middle-aged and older people, which is particularly important given the ageing population in European countries.

<http://www.iarc.fr/epic/>

- ***Diverse approaches to older workers across Europe***

Few companies are actively responding to demographic change, despite the fact that the ageing labour force debate has increasingly moved up the European policy agenda. This is according to research from Eurofound, the EU agency based in Dublin, Ireland. Although age management policies in companies have become more common, there is a wide diversity of approaches and developing and implementing good practice tends to be triggered by the direct business needs of companies, rather than by pressure from public policy or age-awareness campaigns.

During the course of 2008, Eurofound will highlight its work on active ageing and flexible solutions in the workplace. Arguing that older workers are key to sustainable development in the EU, Eurofound contends that companies will increasingly have to rely on the experience and skills of older workers. Eurofound has an extensive range of reports and databases that support the policy and practice of active ageing policies. These include maintaining and promoting health and work ability as employees' age, developing skills and continued employability of older workers, and offering suitable working conditions and employment opportunities.

<http://www.eurofound.europa.eu/areas/populationandsociety/activeageing.htm>

- ***How psychosocial risks affect work life balance***

Working environments are significantly changing with the introduction of new technologies, materials and work processes. Changes in work design, organisation and management can produce new risk areas that can result in increased stress levels and may finally lead to a serious deterioration of mental and physical health. A new report by the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (OSHA) shows that the main psychosocial risks are related to new forms of employment contracts, job insecurity, work intensification, high emotional demands, violence at work and a poor work-life balance.

The number of people suffering from stress-related conditions caused or made worse by work is likely to increase. Stress is the second most reported work-related health problem, affecting 22% of EU workers (2005). Studies suggest that between 50% and 60% of all lost working days are related to it. In 2002, the annual economic cost of work-related stress in the EU15 was estimated at EUR 20.000 million.

Emerging psychosocial risks have been explored in an expert forecast and are presented in a new report, the third one of a series on new and emerging risks, issued by the European Risk Observatory (ERO), integral part of EU-OSHA.

A workshop to discuss and consolidate the survey findings and to explore practical ways to tackle psychosocial risks will take place in Brussels in April 2008. It gathers OSH specialists, EU policymakers, and employers' and workers' representatives.

Furthermore, EU-OSHA is planning a large scale forecasting study to monitor workplace and societal changes that lead to emerging OSH risks. In 2009, EU-OSHA also plans to launch a survey of enterprises in all 27 EU Member States to learn how organisations in both the public and private sectors deal with psychosocial risks, and how enterprises can be assisted to manage these complex workplace hazards more effectively.

[http://osha.europa.eu/press\\_room/news\\_article.2008-01-30\\_Stress](http://osha.europa.eu/press_room/news_article.2008-01-30_Stress)

### 3. News from Member States / Organisations

- **9–12 June, 2008 – new date for the 9th Nordic Public Health Conference in Sweden**

This triennial conference involving the five Nordic countries takes place this time in Östersund, Sweden, organised by the Swedish National Institute of Public Health. The main theme is "*Invest in Public Health – for a fairer and more sustainable future*". Sir Michael Marmot, Professor Mats Brommels, Professor Hans Rosling, Doctor Pirooska Östlin, Professor Mai-Lis Hellénus and Professor Denny Vågerö are some of the plenary speakers. Information of early registration by 11 March 2008 and other updates are continually available from

[www.nordiska2008.fhi.se](http://www.nordiska2008.fhi.se)

- **'Healthy Ageing: Local and Wider Perspectives'**

Older people face increasing challenges due to the changes that ageing brings but health, social and other services, also, are increasingly confronted with the challenge of thinking and doing things differently - both because of the expectations of older people and the need to meet legislative and policy demands at national and EU level.

On Monday, 17th March at the Lansdowne Place Hotel, Hove, England a seminar run by EuroHealthNet members from SE England region aims to highlight some of the interconnected determinants that contribute to and support healthy ageing including legislation and policy, community and health services, housing, independent living, communication and information, outdoor spaces and buildings, civic and social participation, respect and social inclusion.

Reply to: [Sophia.hatley@bhcpct.nhs.uk](mailto:Sophia.hatley@bhcpct.nhs.uk) by 22 February.

- ***HEN site updated for sources of evidence***

The Health Evidence Network provides easy access to a number of resources selected for relevance to decision-making on public health and health care policy in the WHO European Region. Selected organizations with a mandate in the area of health and evidence-based health policy or health technology assessment are included in the website. For each organization, HEN provides a description of the mission and type of information made available through the websites. The description is accompanied by a selection of publications, databases and expert networks, organized by health topic and regularly updated.

[http://www.euro.who.int/HEN/20030602\\_2](http://www.euro.who.int/HEN/20030602_2)

- ***World Health Day***

World Health Day marks the founding of WHO. In 2008, World Health Day is dedicated to the theme "*Protecting health from climate change.*" The theme was selected in recognition that climate change is posing ever growing threats to global public health security. A range of activities in every country will aim to stimulate active, long-term involvement. World Health Day 2008 offers an opportunity to revitalize political commitment to address climate change

[http://www.who.int/mediacentre/events/annual/world\\_health\\_day/en/index.html](http://www.who.int/mediacentre/events/annual/world_health_day/en/index.html)

- ***The WHO European photo competition: "Images of Health Systems"***



The WHO Regional Office for Europe (WHO/Europe) is holding a photograph competition to support the WHO European Ministerial Conference on Health Systems: "*Health Systems, Health and Wealth*", which will take place in Tallinn, Estonia on 25-27 June 2008.

The Regional Office invites both professional and amateur photographers to participate. Photographs showing any aspect of health are welcomed.

The winning photographs will be presented at the Ministerial Conference through media releases and on the WHO Regional Office for Europe web site.

Winners will receive a voucher for photographic equipment worth EURO 500 (first prize), EURO 250 (second prize), and EURO 100 (third prize), along with several awards of “special recognition”.

The deadline for sending applications is 31 March 2008. For further information, please contact Ms Faith Kilford: [healthsystems2008@euro.who.int](mailto:healthsystems2008@euro.who.int)

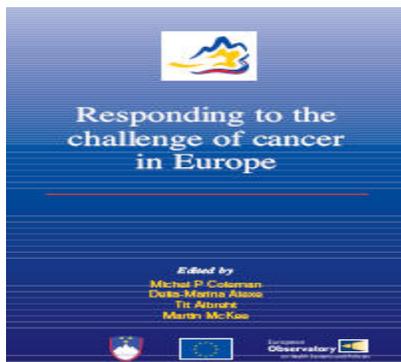
- ***NGO mixed response to DG SANCO Future Challenges Paper***

Whilst praising the long-term vision of “being a credible partner”, the European Public Health Alliance response to DG SANCO’s paper published in 2007 highlights an inconsistent approach between the EU Health Strategy for 2008-2013, which focuses on citizens’ health, and the Future Challenges 2009-2014, which stresses the complexity of consumer behaviour.

<http://www.epha.org/>

#### 4. Other Event and Publications

- **Publication to support EU cancer initiatives**



The book provides an overview of the epidemiology of cancer, including a discussion of the major risk factors. Comprehensive cancer plans are discussed as an approach to cancer control. Contributors examine the current status and plausible future developments for cancer screening in the EU; drug discovery, evaluation and deployment; the role of psychosocial oncology; and the provision of palliative care. Current patterns of cancer survival and the challenges facing cancer researchers in Europe today are examined.

Three case-studies are provided. One focuses on changes in the clinical management of cancer, using the example of colorectal cancer in France. Two broader descriptions of cancer control evoke the current situation, recent achievements and continuing challenges in eastern Europe and in Slovenia.

[http://www.euro.who.int/observatory/Publications/2007/20080204\\_1](http://www.euro.who.int/observatory/Publications/2007/20080204_1)

- ***Major study suggests activity and alcohol links to CVD***

People who drink moderate amounts of alcohol and are physically active have a lower risk of death from heart disease and other causes than people who don't drink at all, according to new research. People who neither drink alcohol nor exercise have a 30-49 per cent higher risk of heart disease than those who either drink, exercise or both.

The research, which was published in the *European Heart Journal*, is the first to look at the combined influence of leisure-time physical activity and weekly alcohol intake on the risk of fatal ischemic heart disease (a form of heart disease characterised by a reduced blood supply to the heart) and deaths from all causes.

Between 1981-1983 Danish researchers obtained information on various health-related issues (including exercise and alcohol intake) from 11,914 Danish men and women aged 20 or older, who were taking part in the larger, Copenhagen City Heart Study.

A PDF of the full report is available on request at:

[http://www.oxfordjournals.org/our\\_journals/eurheartj/press\\_releases/freepdf/ehm574.pdf](http://www.oxfordjournals.org/our_journals/eurheartj/press_releases/freepdf/ehm574.pdf)

The *European Heart Journal* is the journal of the European Society of Cardiology (<http://www.escardio.org/>).

- ***Global Ministerial Forum on Research for Health***

This forum (to be held in Bamako, Mali, Nov 17–19, 2008) will convene ministers of health, science, and technology, to discuss the theme of “research for health”.

Research on social determinants of health, new directions in e-health, implementation research and participatory research will be explored through panel discussions and debates, round-tables for in-depth participation, and networking to catalyse more effective national, regional, and global efforts in research for health.

The initiative will seek to establish links between health research and the broader science and technology community, especially research on education, water, the environment, food, and agriculture sectors, to highlight and support interrelated health and development goals.

<http://bamako2008.org/en/index.shtml>

- ***The Lancet: Maternal and Child Undernutrition***

The new [Lancet series on nutrition](#), co-authored and co-financed by the World Bank, depicts the lamentable state of under-nutrition worldwide, and a corresponding negligence on the part of the development community to meet the challenge decisively. Under-nutrition represents the non-income face of poverty. And the world is off track on meeting this goal. More than a third of child deaths and 11% of the total disease burden worldwide are due to maternal and child undernutrition. These and other stark findings

are the conclusions of an international collaboration of investigators publishing their findings in The Lancet's maternal and child undernutrition series.

<http://web.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/NEWS/0,,contentMDK:21627646~pagePK:34370~piPK:34424~theSitePK:4607,00.html>

- **STOP PRESS: Consultation on information to patients**

As Health Highlights was published, the European Commission launched a public consultation on the key ideas for a legal proposal on information to patients. The Directorate for Enterprise invites the public to consider issues aimed at ensuring all EU citizens have access to good quality, objective, reliable and non-promotional information on prescription only medicinal products. This is obviously vital for health equity and health literacy advancement, and EuroHealthNet will be among many making a contribution to this important consultation. See the EC websites for details.

5. Calendar of international events	
26.02.2008	<b>Cardiff: Physical activity, putting theory into action on behaviour change</b> <a href="http://www.wales.nhs.uk/wch">www.wales.nhs.uk/wch</a>
28.02.2008	<b>Prague: DETERMINE Management meeting</b> <a href="http://www.healthinequalities.eu">www.healthinequalities.eu</a>
08.03.2008	<b>International Women's Day</b>
10 – 12. 03.2007	<b>Berlin: 4<sup>th</sup> World health Care Congress</b> <a href="http://www.worldcongress.com/europe">www.worldcongress.com/europe</a>
12.03.2008	<b>Brussels: EuroHealthNet General Assembly</b> By invitation
13.03.2008	<b>Brussels: Implementing the EU health strategy – joint EuroHealthNet and IUHPE debate and policy seminar</b> <a href="http://www.eurohealthnet.eu">www.eurohealthnet.eu</a>
14.03.2008	<b>Brussels: IUHPE Regional committee meeting</b> By invitation
24.03.2008	<b>World TB Day</b>
02 -03. 04.2008	<b>Ljubljana: High level public health committee</b> By invitation
03 – 05.04.2008	<b>Barcelona: Building Capacity for Action, European Alcohol</b>

	Policy Conference <a href="http://www.ias.org.uk/buildingcapacity/conference/index.html">http://www.ias.org.uk/buildingcapacity/conference/index.html</a>
13-16.04.2008	<b>Amsterdam:</b> International Congress on Physical Activity & Public Health <a href="http://www.ICPAPH08.org">www.ICPAPH08.org</a>
17.04.2008	<b>Brussels:</b> Open Alcohol forum
05 – 08.05.2008	<b>Ljubljana:</b> Slovenia Presidency <i>eHealth</i> conference
07 – 08. 05.2008	<b>Ljubljana:</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> DETERMINE consortium <a href="http://www.healthinequalities.eu">www.healthinequalities.eu</a>
31.05.2008	<b>World No Tobacco Day</b>
09 – 10. 06.2008	<b>Ljubljana:</b> Health Council of Ministers
10 – 13.06.2008	<b>Ostersund:</b> 9 <sup>th</sup> Nordic public health conference “invest in health for a fairer and more sustainable future” <a href="http://www.nordiska2008.fhi.se">www.nordiska2008.fhi.se</a>
25 - 27.06.2008	<b>Tallinn:</b> WHO European Ministerial Conference health systems, health & health wealth <a href="http://who.euro.who.int/healthsystems2008">http://who.euro.who.int/healthsystems2008</a>
01.07.2008	<b>France Presidency of EU begins</b>
07 - 09.08.2008	<b>Aalborg:</b> Mental Health Europe conference <a href="http://www.mhe.sme.org">www.mhe.sme.org</a>
10-13.09.2008	<b>Torino:</b> IUHPE European Conference <a href="http://www.iuhpe.org">www.iuhpe.org</a>
01.10.2008	<b>International Day of Older People</b>
10.10.2008	<b>World Mental Health Day</b>
17.10.2008	<b>World Poverty Day</b>
14.11.2008	<b>World Diabetes Day</b>
17 -20. 11.2008	<b>Mali:</b> Global Ministerial Forum on Research for Health <a href="http://www.bamako2008.org">www.bamako2008.org</a>
01.12.2008	<b>International AIDS Day</b>
01.01.2009	<b>Czech Republic Presidency of EU begins</b>

<b>01.07.2009</b>	<b>Sweden Presidency of EU begins</b>

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

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**Also see Events Calendar on [www.eurohealthnet.eu](http://www.eurohealthnet.eu) for upcoming events**

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