

June II 2011



EU HEALTH HIGHLIGHTS

www.health-inequalities.eu www.eurohealthnet.eu
www.health-gradient.eu www.equitychannel.net

Calendar of events

June

23-25 June 2011: [Mental health care in Europe-Learning from differences](#)
(Ulm, Germany)

29 June 2011: [Swiss ePatient Day 2011](#)
(Luzerner Kantonsspital, Switzerland)

30 June 2011: [Mainstreaming Health Promotion: Promoting Health Across Sectors](#)
(Galway, Ireland)

July

6-8 July 2011: [Building an Active and Caring Society: Innovation, Participation, Community](#)
(Warsaw, Poland)

6-8 July 2011: [19th European Social Services Conference](#)
(Warsaw, Poland)

6-8 July 2011: [New Directions in Welfare](#)
(Paris, France)

11-15 July 2011: [Programa de Agentes Jóvenes en Educación para la Salud \(PAJEPS\)](#)
(Madrid, Spain)

12 July 2011: EP Workshop - [Rare cancers – The added value of closer cooperation](#)
(Brussels, Belgium)

12-13 July 2011: [Rights and Needs of Older Patients](#)
(Warsaw, Poland)

25-27 July 2011 - Environmental Health Risk
(Riga, Latvia)

August

25-26 August 2011: [Swiss Public Health Conference – "Chronic diseases – A global challenge"](#)
(Bale, Switzerland)

September

7 September 2011: [Nationale Tagung für betriebliche Gesundheitsförderung 2011 "Stress](#)

Would you like to promote events or new publications of your organisation in Health Highlights? [Please send us your contributions!](#)

Want to express and share your views on Health equity issues?
Join the [Equity Channel Community](#) on the Equity Channel [Website](#)

EuroHealthNet launched its new Website
Come and visit EuroHealthNet new Website at

www.eurohealthnet.eu

EU News

EuroHealthNet - How regional networks can work better together to tackle health inequalities

An informal meeting aiming at exploring ways in which (regional) networks can work better together to tackle health inequalities and how they can strengthen each other's work was organised by EuroHealthNet. The focus of the meeting was on discussing potential collaboration and maximising the input from Regions in current projects. Preliminary ideas on how the different participating institutions and networks can sustain each other's work were also brought forward. Moreover, a discussion on how to ensure that the health (equity) element is sustained through the next Structural Funds Programme was initiated. This meeting was organised in light of work that EuroHealthNet is leading within the new EU Joint Action on Health Inequalities (Equity Action). Directly supported by the European Commission, the Equity Action represents a direct outcome of deliberations between interested Member States, international organizations, and the European Commission on how to deliver a structured programme on work on health inequalities. Its aim is to foster integrated action across governments and with a range of stakeholders to take action to address these inequalities. In particular, the work led by EuroHealthNet concerns regional approaches to tackling health inequalities and the use of EU Structural Funds at regional level to address health inequalities.

You can find more information on the Equity Action [here](#) or by contacting [Claudia Marinetti](#) or [Yoline Kuipers](#).

EuroHealthNet - SPREAD Sustainable Lifestyles 2050 - Workshop "Linking energy issues with lifestyles"

SPREAD is an EC funded European research project running from January 2011 to December 2012. Over 400 societal stakeholders – from business, research, policy and civil society – will participate in the development of a vision for sustainable lifestyles in 2050. This process will result in a roadmap for strategic action for policy makers and will deliver innovative ideas for all stakeholders involved towards more sustainable lifestyles in Europe. It will address the challenges of reducing current levels of energy, transport and resource use while at the same time improving health and quality of life of an ageing European society. The aim is to identify existing knowledge, promising practices and experience in the area of healthy lifestyles and sustainable development. The knowledge and recommendations generated in the project will

[und Arbeit: Die aktuellen Herausforderungen](#)
(Bern, Switzerland)

8-9 September 2011 – [Public Health Conference 2011](#)
(London, UK)

**11-14 September 2011: 17th International meeting of the European Society of Gynaecological Oncology
(Milan, Italy)**

12-13 September 2011: Health Informatics Scotland Conference 2011
(Edinburg, Scotland)

14-15 September 2011: Expert conference on the ability to work, health and productivity during professional life.
(Bregenz, Austria)

16 September 2011: EUROPEAN FORUM FOR PRIMARY CARE (EFPC) CONFERENCE
(Graz, Austria)

19-20 September 2011: United Nations high-level meeting on non communicable disease prevention and control
(New-York, USA)

20-22 September 2011: Innovations in E-Health & Informatics Europe
(London, UK)

26-27 September 2011: Assets for health and wellbeing across life course: International Conference 2011
(London, UK)

26-28 September 2011: Vaccination and Antibody, Prevention and Therapy of Nosocomial Diseases
(Annecy, France)

28 September – 1st October 2011: 7th Congress of the EU Geriatrics Medicine Society
(Malaga, Spain)

October

-7 October 2011: International symposium on health benefits of foods
(Prague, Czech Republic)

5-8 October 2011: 14th European Health Forum Gastein
(Gastein, Austria)

6-8 October 2011: 21st Alzheimer Europe Conference
(Warsaw, Poland)

10 October 2011: World mental Health Day

11-12 October 2011: Policy in Poland and around the Europe:

be included in a comprehensive research agenda for the European Commission (DG RESEARCH).

A SPREAD workshop "*Linking energy issues with lifestyles*" explored the linkages between energy consumption and sustainable lifestyles.

For more details about the workshop, click [here](#).

For more information about SPREAD project, contact [Cristina Chiotan](#).

Visit SPREAD Website and its projects [here](#).

European Public Health and Agriculture Consortium (EPHAC) – Debate on the role of public health in the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP)

The European Public Health and Agriculture Consortium (EPHAC, co-funded by EuroHealthNet and other networks) organised a debate on the role of public health in the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) with participation by Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development Dacian Cioloş, Commissioner for Health and Consumer Policy John Dalli, Professor Tim Lang - Centre for Food Policy, City University, Dr Gauden Galea, Director, Head of Noncommunicable Diseases and Health Promotion for WHO Europe, and Susanne Løgstrup, founding member of the Management Committee of EPHAC and director of the European Heart Network (EHN).

"*The Common Agriculture Policy has a clear contribution to health policies, providing safe and diverse food, at affordable prices for consumers and in sufficient quantity, promoting a balanced nutrition, based on quality products*" stated **Commissioner Dacian Cioloş**, "*But we can do more to create synergies between agriculture, education and health, to ensure that European policies address the challenges of diet related chronic diseases*", he added.

Commissioner John Dalli called for action "*We need to have courage and accept, design and educate to start doing things differently.*" "*This requires a complete revolution in thinking about all the inter-related issues of climate change, environment and food security for a growing world population.*" he added.

With this in mind, the debate focused on how agriculture and food policy can play a more substantial role in improving health of Europeans. Although in relative terms food expenditure has decreased, prices paid for food by Europeans can constitute more than 50% of income and approximately 43 million people are at risk of food poverty in the EU. Associated with lower socio-economic status, poverty and social exclusion, poor nutrition is one of the strongest detrimental determinants of health.

For more information, click [here](#).

EU Presidencies

Programme of the Polish, Danish and Cypriot future Presidencies

In the field of public health, the three Presidencies will promote actions aimed at improving the health of citizens, their protection against cross-border health threats and the quality of healthcare provided. This will be done in line with the Council Conclusion of June 2006 on common values and principles in European Union Health Systems and the EU Health Strategy for 2008-2013. The three Presidencies will launch work on a possible EU Health Strategy beyond 2013 and on the third programme of EU action in the field of health.

In the area of social inclusion and social protection, the Presidencies will ensure an appropriate follow-up to the Commission's initiatives and proposals as outlined in its communication regarding the "European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion". In this context, particular attention will be paid to the issue of how best to adapt the Open method of Coordination to the new governance of the Europe 2020 Strategy and to the assessment of the implementation of active inclusion strategies at national level.

For more information, click [here](#).

Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Council

The EU's Council of Employment and Social Policy Ministers endorsed the country-specific recommendations for national employment policies to be adopted by the European Council on

[Medical and Economic Disadvantages of Using Alcohol](#)"
(Poznań, Poland)

11-13 October 2011: [Global E-Health Forum - Hamburg 2011: Designing Personalized Healthcare](#)
(Hamburg, Germany)

13-15 October 2011: [12th Conference of Health Economics](#)
(Lisbon, Portugal)

13-15 October 2011: [21st Alzheimer Europe conference](#)
(Warsaw, Poland)

16-19 October 2011: [World Alliance for Risk Factor Surveillance \(WARFS\) Seventh Global Conference](#)
(Toronto, Ontario, Canada)

19-21 October 2011: [World Conference on Social Determinants of health](#)
(Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)

20-21 October 2011: [European Mental health Systems](#)
(Brussels, Belgium)

21 October 2011: [Health Policy Forum](#)
(Brussels, Belgium)

21-22 October 2011: [Evolving Challenges in promoting cardiovascular health](#)
(Barcelona, Spain)

27-28 October 2011: [E-health 2.0 Europe 2011](#)
(Berlin, Germany)

November

2-3 November 2011: [Ageing Globally - Ageing Locally" Planning all Our Futures](#)
(Dublin, Ireland)

7-11 November 2011: [Qualitative and Quantitative Research methods in Health care and Medicine Use](#)
(Copenhagen, Denmark)

9-11 November 2011: [6th World Congress on Tissue Banking](#)
(Barcelona, Spain)

10-12 November 2011: [Welfare Development and health](#)
(Copenhagen Denmark)

20-23 November 2011: [3rd International TEMOS Conference "Healthcare abroad and medical tourism"](#)
(Cologne, Germany)

23 November 2011: [Diet, Physical Activity and Cardiovascular Disease Prevention in Europe](#)
(Brussels, Belgium)

23 and 24 June 2011. In addition they agreed other conclusions:

Tackling child poverty and promoting child well-being

Ministers requested Member States to adequately emphasise the aspects of child poverty within their national policies and to consider it when drafting the National Reform Programmes backing them up with adequate targets where appropriate, and resources, as well as monitoring and evaluation arrangements. For more information, click [here](#).

- *EuroHealthNet co-ordinates the GRADIENT research project on families and children, since the greatest impact on reducing the health gradient can be achieved through early life policy interventions and by creating equal opportunities during childhood and adolescence.*

For more information about Gradient, click [here](#) or contact [Giorgio Barbareschi](#).

2012 Year for active ageing and solidarity between generations

The Council agreed with the European Parliament to designate 2012 as the European Year for active ageing and solidarity between generations. The purpose is to enable local authorities, social partners and civil society organisations, which have a role to play in promoting active ageing, to plan campaigns and activities around this theme.

For more information, click [here](#).

- *EuroHealthNet is part of the EY2012 [coalition](#) that includes some 20 European organisations. The European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations is seen as an opportunity to address age discrimination and demographic change in a way that is fair and sustainable for all ages. In addition, in its reply to the European Commission's consultation on the pilot European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing, EuroHealthNet highlighted the barriers to innovation in relation to active and healthy ageing. In the light of existing programmes in Member States, EuroHealthNet called for the establishment of new innovative ways to encourage active and healthy ageing, including actions promoting physical activity and healthy diets, increasing social relations and meaningful activities while also ensuring some form of financial security for older people. Any potential benefits from the European Innovation Partnership should be distributed equitably across the whole of society.*

For more information, click [here](#) or contact [John Considine](#).

Reconciliation of work and family life in the context of demographic change

Among others, the Council asked the Member States to continue to carry out co-financed initiatives at European, national, regional and local levels in order to promote cohesion and employment opportunities for workers, including through promoting men's role in the family, equality between women and men and reconciliation of work and family life, for instance:

- by promoting flexible working arrangements and various forms of leave for both women and men;
- by improving the supply of adequate, affordable, high-quality childcare services for children under the mandatory school age;
- by improving the provision of care facilities for other dependants;
- by providing training and qualifications of care workers and;
- by encouraging employers to offer their employees childcare and other appropriate.

For more information, click [here](#).

Promoting youth employment to achieve the Europe 2020 objectives

The youth unemployment rate in the EU today ranges from 20.9% to a staggering 45% in some countries. As part of the EU's Europe 2020 Strategy, the Commission's initiative "[Youth on the Move](#)" has set out the path for specific and coordinated action at EU level. In this

23-25 November 2011: [ECDC Annual meeting on antimicrobial resistance and healthcare-associated infections](#)
(Warsaw, Poland)

December

5 December 2011: [Medicine and surgery in optimising the care of obese patients](#)
(Munich, Germany)

January 2012

18 - 19 January 2012: [IT @ Networking Awards 2012 - Raise Awareness of the World's Most Innovative Healthcare IT Projects](#)
(Brussels, Belgium)

More online

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

New Publications

OECD - PERSISTENCE OF HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT: WHAT RISKS? WHAT POLICIES?

Available [here](#)

European Commission - DG SANCO - Promoting healthy environment

Available [here](#).

ECHI (European Community Health Indicators) - List of indicators

Available [here](#)

EMCDDA - General report of activities 2010

Available [here](#)

New Euro Observer: Mobility of health professionals in Europe

Available [here](#)

European Commission: European forward-looking activities: Building the future of 'Innovation Union' and ERA

Available [here](#)

context, the Council adopted conclusions, taking the Commission's proposals to promote youth employment into account and suggesting further action from Member States. The Commission would, however, welcome a much stronger commitment from the Member States. Around 13% of young people (15-24) are neither in employment nor in education or training. This is why, in 'Youth on the Move', the Commission invited Member States to ensure young people are in a job, further education or activation measures within four months of leaving school through a 'Youth Guarantee'.

For more information, click [here](#).

The Employment Performance Monitor is available [here](#).

European Disability Strategy 2010-2020

The Council adopted conclusions on the new [European disability strategy 2010-2020](#). The strategy provides a framework for action at European level and suggests actions at national level to address the diverse situations faced by women, men and children with disabilities. The strategy identifies eight main areas for action: accessibility, participation, equality, employment, education and training, social protection, health, and external action. The conclusions call for an appropriate use of existing funding to implement the proposed actions and for mainstreaming of disability within the Europe 2020 Strategy.

Click [here](#) to access the full council conclusions.

Transport, telecommunications and Energy Council

Presidency's synthesis of Member States' views on the White Paper on transport

Following the Commission [Communication](#) "White Paper - Roadmap to a Single European Transport Area – Towards a competitive and resource efficient transport system", Transport Ministers underlined that the following initiatives seem to be the most important/urgent to be realized in the next decade:

- strengthening European transport research and innovation policy;
- the implementation, as soon as possible, of an efficient interconnection of transport networks across the European Union

For more details, click [here](#).

European Commission

Fight against tobacco: European Commission launches a pan-European campaign

"Ex-smokers are unstoppable" is the slogan of the latest EU-wide campaign launched by European Commissioner for Health and Consumer Policy, John Dalli. The 3 year campaign being launched today will focus on the positive effects of stopping smoking and will use a coordinated mix of advertising, social media, events and practical tools to reach smokers and help them quit. The campaign is aimed at smokers aged between 25 and 34 representing almost 28 million people in the EU. The campaign aims to highlight what smokers can gain from quitting to smoke, and uses ex-smokers and their achievements as role models to inspire those who wish to quit. The campaign further provides smokers with practical help with quitting, through the innovative "*iCoach*". Particular attention will be paid to women and people from lower socio-economic groups.

For more information, click [here](#).

The "Ex-smokers are unstoppable" campaign is available [here](#).

Population projections 2010-2060 - EU27 population is expected to peak by around 2040- One person in eight aged 80 or more in 2060

The EU27 population is projected to increase from 501 million on 1 January 2010 to 525 million in 2035, to peak at 526 million around 2040, and thereafter gradually decline to 517 million in 2060. The EU27 population is also projected to continue to grow older, with the

share of the population aged 65 years and over rising from 17% in 2010 to 30% in 2060, and those aged 80 and over rising from 5% to 12% over the same period. These population projections for the period 2010-2060 are issued by Eurostat, the statistical office of the European Union.

For more information, click [here](#).

Reports and studies - Mental health in workplaces

Work-related stress is one of the biggest health and safety challenges faced in Europe. Nearly one in four workers is affected by it, and studies suggest that between 50% and 60% of all lost working days are related to it.

Reports and studies are available [here](#).

Leaflet - State of men's health in Europe

The European Commission published a leaflet providing a short overview of the state of men's health across the 27 Member States of the European Union, the 4 states of the European Free Federation Association (Norway, Iceland, Switzerland and Lichtenstein) and the 3 candidate countries (Croatia, Turkey, The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia). It highlights the range of mortality and morbidity data arising from the many different health conditions that affect men in Europe, and does so through the contextual lens of men's lives. The data show marked differences between the health of men and women, and at the same time large disparities in health outcomes between men in different countries and within male populations in each member state. This variability demonstrates that men's health disadvantage is not a biological inevitability.

The leaflet is available [here](#).

€113 million for the 2012 most deprived persons programme

The total value of funds for the 2012 programme for the supply of food for the most deprived persons in the European Union has been set at €113 million, with the precise allocations fixed per Member State. This is a sharp reduction from the near € 500 million awarded in recent years because of a ruling by the Court of Justice in April stating that the current regulation requires the food covered by this scheme to come from EU public stocks. Therefore, the 2012 scheme is exclusively based on all the available existing intervention stocks (162 000 tonnes of cereals and 54 000 tonnes of Skimmed Milk Powder in intervention). The EU's "Food Distribution programme for the Most Deprived Persons of the Community" (MDP) has been in place since December 1987, when the Council adopted the rules for releasing public intervention stocks of agricultural products to Member States wishing to use them as food aid for the most deprived persons of the Community.

For more information, click [here](#).

Conference on the way forward for EU research and innovation funding after the public consultation

The Commission presented at a conference in Brussels the results of the public [consultation](#) on the Green Paper on EU research and innovation funding post-2013. The Commission received over 2 000 responses. The conference gave stakeholders a chance to debate the way forward with speakers. A new legislative package, which once adopted by the Council and the European Parliament will set up the new funding system, is scheduled towards the end of this year. The aim is to make participation in EU-funded research and innovation programmes easier and to get the best value for every euro spent. This in turn will contribute to sustainable growth and jobs and to tackling grand challenges such a climate change and food security, as set out in the [Innovation Union action plan](#) put forward by the Commission in October 2010 and endorsed by EU leaders at the February 2011 European Council. The new programme will be re-named "Horizon 2020" after a competition.

For more information, click [here](#).

The summary of the consultation is available [here](#).

- *Responding to the European Commission (EC) consultation on a common strategic framework for EU research and Innovation funding, EuroHealthNet stressed that mainstreaming health in future EU research and innovation structures is fundamental not only to achieve a socially cohesive and equitable society, it also makes good economic sense. This evidence should continue to be improved and applied in policies.*

For more information, contact [John Considine](#).

The position of EuroHealthNet is available [here](#).

New I3S web - Innovation Union Information and Intelligence system

This web-based platform gathers information on each of the 34 commitments made in the Innovation Union Communication (October 2010). These commitments include crucial issues for innovation such as e-skills, access to finance, EU patent, eco-innovation or joint public procurements. It aims to ensure that all stakeholders are well informed on the implementation of the commitments by providing easy access to up to date and comprehensive information. The new IS3 web illustrates the key dimensions of challenges faced by each commitment, the approach planned to meet these challenges and the objectives. Also, in the near future, I3S will be complemented by the launch of a web-based portal on research and innovation policies in the EU Member States, Associated Countries and a number of third countries.

For more information, click [here](#).

Commission report highlights Europe's innovation emergency and analyses Member States' progress

The Report published by the Commission analyses the strengths and weaknesses of national research and innovation systems and provides solid facts on which to base national policy choices. It builds on the [Innovation Union Scoreboard](#). It includes a [factsheet](#) detailing each country's research and innovation performance. The EU's innovation performance needs major improvements in many areas if the [Europe 2020 strategy](#) is to deliver smart sustainable growth, concludes the European Commission's 2011 [Innovation Union Competitiveness Report](#). The key findings from the report are:

- Europe needs to accelerate investment in research and innovation.
- In times of economic crisis, accumulated investment in research and innovation has a counter-cyclical effect.
- Investments in innovation have to be "smarter".
- The development of highly-skilled people needs to be matched with the needs of business.
- Integration and internationalisation of research increases returns on investments.
- Weak framework conditions prevent knowledge being transformed into marketable products and services.

The Innovation Union Competitiveness Report is available [here](#).

European Parliament

A new Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for a competitive, sustainable and inclusive Europe

The European Parliament adopted its own initiative report on "A new Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) for a competitive, sustainable and inclusive Europe". The European Parliament has issued a challenge to the Member States who want to freeze the EU's next long-term budget covering the period 2014-2020. If all the objectives and policies agreed for the EU are to be completed, a minimum increase of 5% is needed compared to the 2013 budget, says Parliament. MEPs feel that freezing future budgets at the 2013 level "is not a viable option". An increase of at least 5% over the 2013 level - as they propose - would mean

that the EU budget would be roughly 1.11% of the EU's total GNI, compared to the 1.06% expected for 2013. Parliament is the first EU institution to set out its position on the next long-term budget. On 29 June, the Commission is to table two proposals, one on the next MFF and the other on own resources. Negotiations will then begin. The current multi-annual financial framework ends in 2013.

The report, as adopted in the Plenary session, is available [here](#).

European Parliament resolution - GDP and beyond – Measuring progress in a changing world

An agreement on better monitoring and reporting of environmental data should be a first step towards measuring the EU economy on a wider basis than GDP, according to MEPs, who approved legislation on "environmental economic accounts" and a non-binding [resolution](#) on "Beyond GDP". Member States' reporting of "environmental economic accounts" to Eurostat (the EU statistical office) will, from 2012, cover air emissions, material flows and environmental taxes that are levied. The legislation aims to aid the collation and comparability of this data, which is already collected by most Member States on a voluntary basis.

MEPs also adopted a non-binding resolution on "Beyond GDP" in response to a 2009 European Commission communication of the same title. MEPs indicated they support the Commission's groundwork towards supplementing this economic measure with social and environmental indicators and they called for concrete and consistent proposals for indicators that can be monitored by Eurostat.

Parliament approved the draft regulation on environmental economic accounts with 616 votes in favour, 26 against and 24 abstentions. The text had already been informally agreed with Council, which also will need to give its formal approval for it to enter the EU law books.

This vote follows the Communication released by the European Commission in 2009 "GDP and beyond: measuring progress in a changing world", which is available [here](#).

Formal Responses to Parliamentary Questions

Relationship between unemployment and increased risk of premature death

Konstantinos Poupakis (Greece, PPE) asks the Commission if it intends to draw up recommendations for the Member States concerning inclusion of the unemployed in their welfare programmes and preventive measures (for example cardiovascular examinations) and other medical and ancillary measures specifically intended to ensure that they refrain from potentially life-threatening behaviour patterns or states of mind?

Commissioner Andor stresses that the Commission is in the process of assessing the Member States' National Reform Programmes and will come up with country-specific recommendations in line with Article 148 (and 121) of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFUE) in June. In addition, the Commission has been promoting the active inclusion of people furthest from the labour market, in particular through a Recommendation adopted in 2008. On that basis, Member States have agreed on a set of common principles that address the need for integrated strategies that combine well-designed income support schemes; inclusive labour markets; and adequate social services. As part of the European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion, in 2012 the Commission will report on the implementation of these common principles and make proposals for action based on that assessment. In the context of the next EU 2013-20 Strategy on Health and Safety at Work to be presented next year, the Commission may consider the opportunity of addressing the issue of the protection of the health of unemployed people. However, relationships between unemployment and increased risk of premature mortality are not, at this stage, featured among the priorities of the 7th RTD Framework Programme (FP7). On the other hand, future research on health inequalities supported by FP7 may contribute to this debate.

NB: EuroHealthNet is negotiating a new research project co-funded by the FP7 Framework, provisionally called DRIVERS, which will study health inequities and employment, in addition to welfare and early years matters. In addition, a new PROGRESS co-funded project on work, worklessness and health equity is being co-ordinated by HAPI (www.hapi.org.uk) with

Dietary legislation

Françoise Grossetête (France, EPP) asks the Commission when it intends to update the legislation so as to maintain a high level of protection for diet.

Commissioner Dalli replies that there are currently on the market many different products intended for weight control. Some of these products are covered by Commission Directive 96/8/EC on foods intended for use in energy-restricted diets for weight reduction while others do not fall into the scope of that Directive and relevant claims to slimming or weight control have to comply with Regulation (EC) No 1924/2006 on nutrition and health claims made on foods. The Commission believes that the possibility of having similar "slimming" products covered by different pieces of legislation might be confusing for consumers and pose problems for both stakeholders and the controlling authorities of the Member States. The Commission is currently working on the revision of Directive 2009/39/EC on foodstuffs for particular nutritional uses, under which Directive 96/8/EC was adopted. This revision stage is necessary before considering the issues raised by the Honourable Member relating to the specific products. The Commission intends to adopt the proposal before the summer recess. The transmission of the proposal to the European Parliament and the Council will follow subsequently.

Development of e-health

Following the launching by the European Commission of its [public consultation](#) on developing the concept of *e-health*, **Diogo Feio (Portugal, PPE)** asks which patients are seen as the priority target for the new concept of *e-health* and which illnesses are deemed to be priorities with regard to implementing *e-health* and what specific support does the Commission imagine that *e-health* could provide to the elderly and, most particularly, those suffering from dementia. ? In addition, what type of control and monitoring measures are planned with regard to health care provision – diagnoses, prescriptions or the monitoring of patients – by the *e-health* services and will the regulation of these activities be the responsibility of the Member States or will there be uniform rules laid down by the Commission.

Commissioner **Kroes highlights** that the public consultation on eHealth aims to help inform the new eHealth Action Plan 2012 – 2020 which is scheduled to be launched before the end of 2011. The overall policy objectives are: to continue to support Member States and healthcare providers so that they may benefit from ICT solutions in the best interest of patients, healthcare systems and society; to help enable an innovation friendly environment and to make best use of innovation in health. It is now impossible to pre-empt the results of the public consultation and speak of "priority targets". There is evidence of the benefits of eHealth reaching a wide range of patients. Two examples are the elderly and those suffering from chronic diseases. The recently launched pilot European Innovation Partnership on Active and healthy Ageing (EIP) provides an opportunity to demonstrate the role of eHealth in the context of an ageing population and the associated rise of chronic diseases. To this end, stakeholders will identify a number of priority activities and services related to eHealth and active ageing which can be best deployed for the benefit of citizens.

The control and monitoring of health services remain the competence of Member States.

Tackling obesity through health and fitness

Liam Aylward (Ireland, ALDE) asks the Commission what funding might be available through the 7th Framework Programme (FP7) for research into the benefits of promoting health and fitness thorough structured and supervised exercise and what funding stream would research such as this come under? Will fitness and the prevention of obesity be a priority under FP8?

Commissioner Geoghegan-Quinn underlines that the Commission funds many projects on nutrition, obesity and more recently on life styles. To date, the investment in elucidating the mechanisms for prevention and development of nutrition related diseases and disorders (such as obesity, diabetes, cardiovascular diseases) and for understanding key factors linked to diet, dietary habits, genetic factors and life styles has been about EUR 140 million (2007-2011) in the 7th Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP7, 2007-2013). The subject mentioned is funded in various thematic areas under FP7 and its

predecessors. The Knowledge-Based Bio-Economy Programme as well as the Health Programme support research projects that have components addressing obesity and the impact of genetic factors and lifestyle factors such as diet, physical activity, stress, eating habits on diet related diseases. In addition, the Commission has encouraged Member States to pursue a common vision to address the grand challenge of reducing the increasing prevalence of diet-related chronic diseases and to set up a strategic research agenda in the domain of food and health. To this end, the Joint Programming Initiative 'A healthy diet for healthy life' is currently developing its forthcoming initiatives. In December 2010, first Progress report on the implementation of the Strategy for Europe on nutrition, overweight and obesity related health issues has been presented at the High Level Conference on Monitoring and Evaluation of EU and Member States' strategies on nutrition.

Effectiveness of the Tobacco Products Directive

Chris Davies (UK, ALDE) asks what evidence – if any – does the Commission possess that the requirement to place written health warnings on cigarette packs has deterred people from taking up smoking or has encouraged them to give up the habit. What evidence exists from countries within the EU and elsewhere that have supplemented written warnings with pictures and graphic illustrations that these have deterred people from taking up smoking or have encouraged them to give up the habit?

Commissioner Dalli highlights that a 2009 study on warning labels on tobacco products concluded that pictorial warnings are more effective than text warnings in raising awareness about the health risks of tobacco, encouraging change in consumer behaviour (e.g. reducing consumption levels, increasing motivation to quit, deterring young people from starting) and minimising the wear-out of warning messages. The study also indicated that effectiveness is higher if the warnings are used in conjunction with advice on how to quit and where to obtain help or advice. Furthermore, a recent Eurobarometer survey showed that 75 % of European citizens (smokers and non-smokers) are in favour of putting picture health warnings on all packages of tobacco products.

Implementation of Regulation on nutrition and health claims

Gaston Franco (France, PPE) reminds that nutrition and health claims were harmonised at EU level on the basis of Regulation (EC) 1924/2006. Given difficulties facing EU businesses, does the Commission intend to take new measures to adapt current legislation as closely as possible to the reality on the ground?

Commissioner Dalli underlines that SMEs will benefit from the implementation of Regulation (EC) No 1924/2006 as it provides for generic authorisation of health claims i.e. all food business operators which can demonstrate compliance with the conditions of use for the authorised health claims may use them. The Commission announced on 27 September 2010 the restructuring of the approach on the establishment of the list of Article 13 health claims. In addition, the Commission has agreed with stakeholders and Member States that some claims would benefit from a further assessment process. This would allow for submission of further evidence to the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) for claims for which either the micro-organisms they relate to were not sufficiently characterised or where the data to substantiate them were insufficient to establish a cause and effect relationship between the foods and the claimed effects. The modalities of the process are currently under discussion, but remain within the current legislative procedures. No new legislation would be required. The Commission is satisfied that proportionate implementing rules have been adopted at EU level for the submission of health claims applications, to facilitate such task of all operators, including SMEs. A technical guidance for the same issue has been prepared by EFSA. More importantly, the Commission is confident that EFSA's assessments for the scientific substantiation of health claims are consistent with the requirements set out in the Regulation.

EU citizen's healthcare rights in another Member State

Daniel Hannan (UK, ECR) asks the Commission to explain what rights an EU citizen has in another Member State with regard to healthcare and if the French Government has any obligation to provide healthcare to EU citizens?

Commissioner Andor reminds that regulation (EC) No 883/2004 sets out a series of rules

as regards the rights of EU citizens to receive healthcare in other Member States. The Regulation distinguishes between three groups of people: pensioners; persons insured in another Member State; and persons not falling within these categories. A person who resides in one Member State and receives a state pension from another one is entitled to receive healthcare in the state of residence on the same terms as nationals of that country at the expense of the competent institution of the country that pays his or her state pension. A person who works in one Member State and is insured in another (for example a posted worker) is entitled to receive healthcare in the state of residence as though he or she were insured under the legislation of that state and on the same terms as nationals of the state concerned. Finally, persons who reside in a Member State, but who are neither pensioners nor persons insured in another Member State are subject to the social security legislation of the state where they reside. In these circumstances, the equal treatment principle in Article 4 of the Regulation gives such persons the right "to enjoy the same benefits and be subject to the same obligations" as nationals of the host state.

The Commission is aware of the problems caused by the rules of access of the French "Couverture Maladie Universelle" ("CMU") scheme and has been working with the French authorities to examine and adjust the rules in order to give EU nationals – particularly those falling into the third category above – access on the same terms as French nationals. The French authorities are in the process of adapting their Circular concerning access to the CMU in order to ensure that it complies with the requirements of Regulation (EC) No 883/2004.

Other EU institutional news

European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) - Technical side event to UN High Level Meeting on AIDS

ECDC hosted a technical side-event to the United Nations High-Level Meeting on AIDS 2011. The event highlighted how countries and regions with differing epidemiology could improve their responses to HIV/AIDS. Entitled '*Knowing your Epidemic -Knowing your Response: Strengthening Global and Regional Response to HIV/AIDS*', the purpose of this side event is to share experiences in order to:

- Improve responses to global and regional commitments on HIV/AIDS,
- Ensure that commitments are translated into responses that are relevant to epidemiological contexts,
- Ensure that global and regional commitments are linked and monitored appropriately.

For details, click [here](#).

National and local news

Austria – Fonds Gesundes Osterreich - Conference on Health Impact Assessment

Fonds Gesundes Osterreich organized a conference on Health Impact Assessment (HIA) on 9 June 2011. For more information, click [here](#).

England – London Health Commission – Report on the current health inequalities in London

The report provides an overview of current health inequalities in London, both in terms of health outcomes and also in relation to key indicators for the wider social determinants of health. It is intended to illustrate the current situation and to stimulate and inform discussion on the focus for future action across London. The emphasis in this report on indicators of the social determinants of health reflects the priority given to the "*causes of the causes*" in Fair Society, Healthy Lives, the report of the strategic review of health inequalities in England post-2010, undertaken by Professor Sir Michael Marmot. The London [Health](#) Commission report - "Fair London, healthy Londoners?" - is available [here](#).

- In 2010, EuroHealthNet published a report "*Can we build on existing information systems to monitor health inequities and the social determinants of health in the EU?*". The objective of this paper was to provide a brief overview of the data collected and

indicators that are available at national and EU [level](#), to monitor health inequalities and socio-economic determinants of health. It specifically looked at data and indicators with relevance to health inequities and their determinants.

EuroHealthNet report is available [here](#).

- With the same view, in 2009, the Scottish Government published a report "Long-Term Monitoring of Health Inequalities: Headline Indicators". This report represented the second of a series of annual updates of headline indicators of inequalities and was published following a recommendation in the report of the Ministerial Task Force, *Equally Well*.

The Scottish Government report is available [here](#).

GERMANY - Federal Centre for Health Education (BZgA) - EHEC-INFECTIONS: Questions and Answers

BZgA launched a campaign related to infections and the ways to avoid them.

For more information, click [here](#)

Greece – PAIDEIATROFI Coordination at National level

Since 2008, a four-year national plan for nutrition and nutritional disorders has been launched by the Greek government. Even if it raises awareness among the population through campaigns but also with occasional actions, there is a real need for the local stakeholders to work in synergy with this national plan by having their own tools to develop actions at community level. In this framework, PAIDEIATROFI, based on the EPODE methodology, bridges this gap between awareness and practical "know-how" to implement effectively the lifestyle changes in the long term at community level. From 5 pilots towns implementing this programme, there are currently 14 PAIDEIATROFI towns involving 1,000,000 inhabitants and working together towards the same main objective: promote healthier lifestyle among the Greek children and their families.

For more information, click [here](#)

The Netherlands – RIVM - New Healthy Municipality Manual for the Netherlands available

EuroHealthNet's member RIVM Centre for Healthy Living coordinated the development of the new Healthy Municipality Manual for the Netherlands. The manual is targeting council officers and local professionals working in Dutch municipalities on public health, mental health and addiction services. The Manual provides concrete advice to them to incorporate the themes smoking, obesity, depression, alcohol and sexuality in their local health policies. An up-to-date digital overview of lifestyle interventions is part of the manual. The manual is available at the www.Loketgezondleven.nl "portal for health living", a website developed by RIVM where professionals can find up-to-date information on health-related themes and health promotion.

More information in English about the Healthy Municipality Manual and other activities of RIVM (Healthy Neighbourhood, Healthy Schools and Healthy Work) can be found at [the following link](#).

Wales – Public Health Wales - The Mental Health (Wales) Measure Factsheet

Plans are underway to enact a number of important changes for people with mental health problems.

The Mental Health (Wales) Measure has been laid before the National Assembly for Wales. If successful this will mean that there will be changes to the current legislative arrangements in respect of the assessment and treatment of people with mental health problems.

For more information, click [here](#).

UK : National Cancer Intelligence Network report - Poorer women less

likely to survive breast cancer

A new report shows that poorer women from most disadvantaged areas in England are less likely to survive breast cancer. Such women tend to be diagnosed later and miss out on most effective treatments. *The All Breast Cancer Report*, published by the National Cancer Intelligence Network, is the first in depth analysis in the UK to look at how the impact of treatment and route of diagnosis affects life chances among people at different parts of social gradients.

- *EuroHealthNet director Clive Needle commented " This is another important piece of evidence that policy priorities should be addressed to tackling social determinants of health, the real factors behind impacts of diseases. Cancers and survival rates vary across Europe, but what is constant is that poorer, less educated people suffer more ill-health. That can be changed by governments to ensure better education, action for people in deprived communities, and "proportional universalism" in health and social services. Until that is done these scandalous inequities will persist."*
"In the EU context this is a glaring reason why a suggested new health programme must include action on health inequities in prevention of chronic diseases such as cancers. It must also end the "silos" where we have state actions on cancers separate from actions on inequalities. Women experiencing poverty need urgent action."

The National Cancer Intelligence network Report is available [here](#).

The EU actions on cancer are available [here](#).

The EU actions on inequalities are available [here](#).

Other international news

UNAIDS - World leaders launch plan to eliminate new HIV infections among children by 2015

World leaders gathered in New York for the 2011 United Nations High Level Meeting on AIDS launched a [Global Plan](#) that will make significant strides towards eliminating new HIV infections among children by 2015 and keeping their mothers alive. The plan notes that what is needed is leadership, shared responsibility and concerted action among donor nations, recipient countries and the private sector to make an AIDS-free generation a reality.

For more information, click [here](#).

In addition, on June 10, the UN General Assembly adopted a Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS: *Intensifying our efforts to eliminate HIV/AIDS*. Please click [here](#) to access it.

WHO - Climate change, extreme weather events and public health

WHO published a report on the meeting held in Bonn on 29 - 30 November 2010. This international expert meeting discussed the effects of climate change and extreme weather events on public health and reviewed the draft public health handbooks developed by WHO to address and prevent these effects. The report contains the main outcomes and recommendations from the meeting. The meeting was co-organized by WHO/Europe and the Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety of Germany, with technical support from the German Federal Environment Agency (UBA) and the German Meteorological Service (DWD). EuroHealthNet's Clive Needle chaired plenary sessions.

The report is available [here](#).

WHO - European report on preventing elder maltreatment

Elder maltreatment is pervasive throughout the WHO European Region: at least 4 million elderly people are estimated to experience maltreatment in any one year and 2500 of them will die each year. Most countries in the Region have an ageing population, putting increasing numbers of people at [risk](#). This report highlights the biological, social, cultural, economic and environmental factors that influence the risk of being a victim or perpetrator of elder

maltreatment, as well as the protective factors that can help prevent it.

The report is available [here](#).

WHO - More skilled midwives needed to save women's and newborns' lives

A new report calls for strengthening of midwifery services to achieve health Millennium Development Goals 4, 5 and 6 on child survival, maternal health and HIV/AIDS. It confirms the critical role midwives play in improving maternal and newborn health and survival. It highlights the shortage of skilled midwives in many low-income countries, stressing the need to train and deploy more midwives in all parts of a country - especially remote and rural areas. The report surveyed 58 countries, which together represent just under 60% of all births worldwide, but 91% of all maternal deaths. Increasing women's access to quality midwifery has become a focus of global efforts to realize the right of every woman to the best possible health care during pregnancy and childbirth. It is also at the heart of three health-related Millennium Development Goals - reduce child death (MDG 4), improve maternal health (MDG 5) and fight AIDS, malaria and other diseases (MDG 6).

The report builds on prior initiatives to strengthen midwifery worldwide. These include the joint statement by WHO, the International Confederation of Midwives and the International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics on Making Pregnancy Safer (2004) and the World Health Report 2005.

Click [here](#) for more information.

Health Action Partnership International (HAPI)

- Training course on Measuring Equity and Financial Protection in Health
Pre-congress training session of the International Health Economics Association (IHEA) congress, 10 July 2011

The session, led by Adam Wagstaff of the World Bank, "will cover quantitative methods used in health economics to measure and explain equity and financial protection in the health sector". Further details are available [here](#).

- EU DAPHNE - Comparing Sexual Assault Interventions
HAPI is leading a project with co-funding from the European Commission's DAPHNE programme, *Comparing Sexual Assault Interventions*. The project will bring together evidence from across Europe, identify good practice, and develop evaluation tools and training materials to support action across member states.

The kick-off meeting was held in London on the 14th June 2011. If you would like to find out more about the project and how you can get involved, please contact Ms [Bryony Lloyd](#).

EuroCare - Better alcohol control policy means less injuries, more safety and money saved

Approximately half of the deaths attributable to alcohol are from injuries. This issue is being addressed at the 3rd European injury prevention conference, organised by EuroSafe in cooperation with the Hungarian Presidency of the European Council. As the "Recommendations of the European Council on the prevention of injury and the promotion of safety" from 2007 highlight; every year, about 235 000 citizens of the Community die as a result of an accident or violence. In children, adolescents and young adults accidents and injuries are the leading cause of death, with alcohol playing a major role. Over one fifth of the European population aged 15 years and older report heavy episodic drinking; 16% of cases of child abuse involve alcohol; 350 000 youngsters age 15 to 16 report fights involving alcohol. Alcohol abuse can be attributable to 4 out of 10 homicides in the EU and 1 in every 6 suicides involves alcohol. The list can be extended and thus injuries represent a huge financial burden on health and welfare systems, causing about 20% of sick leave and constituting a major factor for reduced productivity.

For more information, contact [Mariann Skar](#) or [Maik Dünnbier](#)

European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) - "Europe needs a New Heart"

"Europe needs a new heart" was the strong message conveyed to European leaders from the XXII General Assembly of the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) held in Lisbon. The General Assembly took place amidst growing anger at the failure of the EU and Member State Governments to adopt solidarity measures to protect people rather than markets in response to the current crisis. The delegates warned that Europe will not have the support of its citizens, if it is seen to be undermining the foundations of the 'Welfare States'. EAPN does not accept that there are no alternatives to the draconian austerity measures that have been imposed, and proposes instead

- Putting social and sustainable development, respect for Human Rights and solidarity at the heart of the EU's response to the crisis.
- Demonstrating that the Poverty Reduction target adopted at the Council in June 2010 is a serious commitment.
- Defending and promoting the 'welfare state' and social rights.
- Defending public common goods (e.g. Water, health, transport, social services) as a fundamental right.
- Strengthening the real economy, including support for social economy.
- Curbing and regulating the destructive system of speculative trading.
- Fighting tax evasion and avoidance including through abolishing tax havens and strengthening cooperation in the fight against organized crime.
- Creating the conditions which will allow Member States, particularly those subject to compliance with EU/IMF financial agreements, to borrow at reasonable interest rates.
- The promotion and implementation of measures to reduce inequality in incomes and wealth.

The full version of the Final Declaration of EAPN's 2011 General Assembly is available [here](#).

Conference: *Getting out of the margins – changing realities and making the difference*

Correlation Network – European Network Social Inclusion & Health - organizes the European Correlation Conference '*Getting out of the margins – changing realities and making the difference*', to be held on 12-14 December 2011 in Ljubljana, Slovenia. The Conference is co-hosted by the Pompidou Group of the Council of Europe and is being organised under the patronage of the Slovenian Ministry of Health.

The conference programme includes high level policy plenary and major discussions as well as abstract driven sessions and skill building workshops. Interaction and exchange is one of the key elements during the conference. A 'European Dialogue Market' will support this idea and offers participants the opportunity to share knowledge and experience in a more informal way. The main language of the conference is English.

For more information, click [here](#).



This publication is supported by funding from EuroHealthNet and the European Union Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity (2007-2013).

For more information see: <http://ec.europa.eu/progress>

The information contained in this publication does not necessarily reflect the position or opinion of the European Commission.

Using Health Highlights

EuroHealthNet seeks to practice sustainable approaches – please do not waste resources by printing this publication unnecessarily, but do forward electronically to colleagues in your organisation, agency or institution.

Would you like to inform other members about new publications or events in your organisation or country? Please send contributions to a.moret@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. If any reader knows of people or bodies who might find it useful to receive Health Highlights, please do not copy it externally beyond your agency without our authorisation, but do send details to us at: a.moret@eurohealthnet.eu

We will be pleased to make contact and offer our services, including a free trial period. Your comments and suggestions will also be welcome. Thank you for your help.

If you wish to unsubscribe from our Health Highlights, please send an email to a.moret@eurohealthnet.eu with "Unsubscribe HH" in the subject line.

