

### Calendar of events

#### March

**2-3 March 2011:** [5th Annual European Nutrition & Lifestyle Conference 2011: Taking The Next Steps Towards A Healthier Europe](#)  
(Brussels, Belgium)

**3-4 March 2011:** [Global Summit on Nutrition Health & Human Behavior](#)  
(Bruges, Belgium)

**3-4 March 2011:** [Promoting Mental Health and Well-being at Workplaces](#)  
(Berlin, Germany)

**9-13 March 2011:** [10th International Conference on Alzheimer's & Parkinson's Diseases](#)  
(Barcelona, Spain)

**15 March 2011:** [FACE Workshop - Women Against Cancer](#)  
(Brussels, Belgium)

**16-18 March 2011:** [11<sup>th</sup> European SMEs Conference Sharing and Participating promoting dignified life and Mental health](#)  
(Bucharest, Romania)

**17 March 2011:** [Health Care Reforms in an Ageing European Society with a focus on The Netherlands](#)  
(Brussels, Belgium)

**17-18 March 2011:** [International Conference on Environmental and Occupational Determinants of Cancer: Interventions for Primary Prevention](#)  
(Avilés – Gijón, Spain)

**23-24 March 2011:** [EE-Health - A New Holistic Healthcare Plan for Europe](#)  
(Brussels, Belgium)

**24 March 2011:** [World Tuberculosis Day](#)

**30-31 March 2011:** [Innovation in Healthcare: from Research to market](#)  
(Brussels, Belgium)

**30 March - 2 April 2011:** [34th Annual Meeting of the German Society of Cell Research](#)  
(Bonn, Germany)

#### April

**5-8 April 2011:** [International Forum for Quality and Safety in Healthcare](#)  
(Amsterdam, The Netherlands)

**7 April 2011:** [World Health Day](#)

**11-12 April 2011:** [Knowledge Exchange in Public Health Conference](#)  
(Durham, UK)

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

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### EU News

#### European Commission

##### EU plans to protect children and uphold their rights

With a responsibility to protect children's rights, the Commission is proposing 11 measures - chiefly legal changes and support for authorities in EU countries:

- laws to better protect children (as an especially vulnerable group) during legal proceedings and in court;
- laws safeguarding children when they are suspects or accused of a crime;
- new laws ensuring that decisions on parental responsibility following divorce or separation are recognised and enforced in all EU countries ;
- action to promote [Council of Europe guidelines on child-friendly justice](#) and take them into account in future civil and criminal law-making ;
- support for training judges and other professionals to help children in court ;
- better training for authorities responsible for unaccompanied children, including those seeking asylum in the EU ;
- special attention for children in an upcoming EU plan to help the Roma integrate more in society
- support for the quick introduction of the EU's **116 000 hotline for missing children** (cross border alert systems for abducted or at-risk children would also be encouraged) ;
- measures to counter cyber-bullying, grooming, exposure to harmful content, and other online risks through the EU's [safer internet programme](#) ;
- support in combating violence against children and child sex tourism, and protecting victims of armed conflicts, through the EU's overseas and humanitarian aid programmes ;
- a single EU website on children's rights.

These measures are set out in more detail in a Commission [policy paper on children's rights](#)

▪ The EuroHealthNet project "*Tackling the Gradient*" – is studying effectiveness of approaches to address social and economic determinants of health among children and families. For information see [here](#).

##### The European Commission calls for universal access to pre-school education

For the first time, the Commission launches an action plan aimed at giving every child a better start in life and to lay the foundations for successful lifelong learning, social integration, personal development and employability later in life. The European Commission's communication is "*Early childhood education and care: providing all our children with the best start for the world of tomorrow*". It includes a call for universal access to quality pre-school education and will also contribute to two of the headline targets of the Commission's 'Europe 2020' strategy – reducing the share of early school leavers to under 10% and to lift at least 20 million people out of the risk of poverty and social exclusion.

The EC proposals come in response to a request from Member States in May 2009, following their adoption of the [Strategic Framework for Cooperation in Education and Training](#), to

**12 April 2011:** [New Approaches to Diet and Lifestyle Monitoring at the Individual and Population Level](#)  
(London, UK)

**13-14 April 2011:** [7<sup>th</sup> Annual World Health Care Congress-Europe](#)  
(Brussels, Belgium)

**28-29 April 2011:** [Global ministerial conference on healthy lifestyles and non-communicable disease control](#)  
(Moscow, Russia)

## May

**4-6 May 2011:** [4th International In Sickness & In Health Conference - Changing professional practices and new notions of health and illness](#)  
(Odense, Denmark)

**10-12 May 2011:** [E-health Week](#)  
(Budapest, Hungary)

**25 May 2011:** [Transforming Services for Disabled Children and Their Families](#)  
(London, UK)

**26-27 May 2011:** [Cross border healthcare and patient safety in the European Union](#)  
(Budapest, Hungary)

**31 May 2011:** [World No Tobacco Day](#)

## October

**11-13 October 2011:** [Designing Personalized Healthcare](#)  
(Hamburg, Germany)

**13 - 15 October 2011:** [21<sup>st</sup> Alzheimer Europe Conference](#)  
(Warsaw, Poland)

## More online

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

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## New Publications

[OECD]- Obesity and the Economics of Prevention: Fit not Fat

Available [here](#)

[EU/OECD]- Health at a glance - Europe 2010

Available [here](#)

Norwegian Directorate of Health - Health Promotion - achieving good health for all

Available [here](#)

WHO - Global status report on alcohol and health

Available [here](#)

UK Health Service Ombudsman - Report of the Health Service Ombudsman on ten investigations into NHS care of older people

Available [here](#)

measure and analyse progress across the EU in improving access to early childhood education and care and to identify best practice. The EC proposals call for:

- Universal access to quality pre-school education, based on stable funding and good governance;
- An integrated approach to education and care, taking account of children's needs in a holistic way;
- Age-appropriate curricula with the right balance of hard and soft skills;
- More focus on the professionalization of staff with appropriate qualifications, salaries and working conditions;
- Quality assurance systems and standards to monitor progress.

The Communication from the European Commission is available [here](#).

## Doubts persist about EU Platform despite renewed commitments on tackling obesity

The European Commission's Platform for Action on Diet, Physical Activity and Health has agreed to try to step up action to tackle the growing problem of overweight and obesity related health problems. The Platform, on which EuroHealthNet is a member, rededicated itself after evaluation to boosting activities that contribute to the objectives of the Strategy for Europe on Nutrition, Overweight and Obesity related health issues by 2013.

Priorities will now focus on children and how to make healthy choices available whilst also encouraging physical activity and sports. Action will target vulnerable groups, including children and adolescents and low socio-economic groups. The need to improve existing commitments in product composition for healthier food and in advertising and marketing to children was also highlighted. The Platform members also endorsed improved working methods. Given that, civil society and business participants expressed willingness to continue negotiations, although concerns exist on all sides about best approaches to take.

According to the EC/OECD Report "[Health at a Glance](#)", the rate of obesity has more than doubled in the past 20 years in most EU Member States. The prevalence varies from country to country, from less than 10% to over 20% some Member States. On average, an estimated 15% of the EU adult population is obese.

The [platform](#) members have so far made almost 300 [commitments](#) of action in the areas of consumer information, education, physical activity promotion, marketing and advertising and composition of food, availability of healthy food and portion sizes.

The summary report of the previous Plenary meeting of the EU platform for Diet, Physical Activity and Health is now approved and available [here](#). Updated reports are available via the EuroHealthNet Special Interest Group on Nutrition & Physical Activity from [s.vghemenos@eurohealthnet.eu](mailto:s.vghemenos@eurohealthnet.eu)

## Call for an Evaluation of the school fruit scheme

The European Commission launched a [call for the evaluation](#) of the application of the school fruit scheme. With an estimated 22 million overweight children in the European Union, which 5.1 million are considered obese, the increase in child obesity can be described as an epidemic. The European Union-wide scheme to provide fruits and vegetables to school children started in the school year 2009/2010.

More information on the "School Fruit Scheme" is available [here](#).

## EHealth Action Plan 2011-2020: make eHealth real for patients, professionals and the economy

The European Commission released the eHealth Action Plan 2011 - 2020, which is a follow-up to the 2004 eHealth Action Plan. The overall policy objectives aim 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 and to help enable an innovation friendly environment and to make best use of innovation in health.

The eHealth Action Plan 2011 - 2020 is available [here](#).

## Towards a revision of the regulation on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures

In 2008, a regulation was adopted in order to harmonize the provisions and criteria for the

**UK Health Service** - No health without mental health: a cross-government mental health outcomes strategy for people of all ages  
Available [here](#)

**European Parliament** - The role of minimum income for social inclusion in the EU 2007-2010

Available [here](#)

**Irish Office of Disability & Mental Health Department of Health & Children** - Facilitation Process concerning the difficulties in implementing A Vision for Change in the South Tipperary & Carlow Kilkenny Catchment Area Mental Health Service  
Available [here](#)

classification and labelling of substances, mixtures and certain specific articles within the EU. This regulation takes into account the Globally Harmonised System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) of the UN, which also contains amendments for the labelling of small packaging, new subcategories for respiratory and skin sensitisation. The European Commission proposes a revision in order chemicals to be able to be used in Public Health Research Institutes. The draft regulation is available [here](#).

### European Research Area Committee: Report on knowledge transfer

The European Research Area Committee (ERAC) released a [report](#) offering an overview on the progress the Member States and Associated Countries have made in 2008-2009, towards implementing the Commission Recommendation on the management of intellectual property in knowledge transfer activities and the Code of Practice for university and other public Research organizations (or IP Recommendation) and the respective Council Resolution. To know more about ERAC, click [here](#).

### EU research and innovation funding: Commission consults on radical changes to create more growth and jobs

The European Commission launched a consultation on the "Common Strategic Framework" regarding major improvements to EU research and innovation funding. The aims are to make participation easier, to increase scientific and economic impact and to improve value for money. The deadline for contributions to this consultation is 20 May. On 10 June, the Commission will organise a major closing conference as a follow-up to the public consultation. The Commission will then bring forward before the end of 2011 a legislative proposal for research and innovation spending under the future EU budget post-2013.

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

The website devoted to the consultation on the Common Strategic Framework for future EU Research and Innovation Funding is available [here](#).

### Launch of the new web site on Public Health Research

The website for Public Health research includes 'Optimising the delivery of health care to European citizens' with its three sub-areas: clinical research into practice; health systems research and health promotion and disease prevention. International public health and health systems research is incorporated as a fourth area and addresses health policy research, health systems and health service research, maternal and child health, and reproductive health in the context of the Millennium Development Goals.

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

### Study finds genes not environment behind Parkinson's

An EU-wide study has found five new genetic variants for Parkinson's disease. The research was funded in part by the Network of European funding for neuroscience research (NEURON) initiative. Participating in NEURON were experts from Austria, Finland, France, Germany, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Poland, Romania, Spain, Sweden and the UK. Most researchers thought that environmental factors were wholly responsible for Parkinson's disease. Since 2007, however, scientists have identified six genetic variants or 'loci' that increase the risk of developing the condition. Scientists have now found a further five loci, leading them to suggest that genetic, rather than environmental factors as previously believed, may be the key cause of the disease. The report is available [here](#).

## European Parliament

### Towards adequate, sustainable and safe European pension systems

Member States must act to ensure that pension schemes can sustainably deliver an adequate income to the EU's growing number of retired people, despite the economic crisis, says a Parliament resolution. Pension portability must also be addressed, as must inequalities faced by women and older workers, stress MEPS. They call on the Commission and Member States to continue their efforts to eradicate these inequalities and ensure long-term equal treatment for women and men with respect to pensions, for example through the inclusion of maternity leave and care for elderly family members as actual work giving rise to an entitlement to retirement benefits for men and women. Responsibility for pensions lies with Member States, which are re-evaluating or reforming their schemes in the light of the current economic situation and the ageing of their populations.

MEPs note the wide gap between the statutory pension age (which is under review in some countries) and the actual age at which many stop work. Older workers would benefit from better adapted workplaces and working conditions, as well as improved protection against dismissal, they say. MEPs want greater emphasis on gender equality. Inequalities in the labour market are translating into lower pensions for women, who face a high risk of poverty in old age. On average, women are paid less than men for equivalent work. They are also more likely to work part-time and take longer career breaks to care for family. MEPs urge the Commission and Member States to address inequalities and take account of these factors in retirement benefits. The text of the adopted text is available [here](#).

Through this vote, the European Parliament replied to the Green Paper released by the European Commission in 2010. After having collected positions from relevant stakeholders for this Green Paper on pensions, the Commission's next move will be to publish a White Paper in the third quarter of 2011, which will define more clearly the EU executive's objectives regarding pension reform.

- EuroHealthNet, who emphasizes the link between pensions and health equity, welcomed the adoption of the resolution. Adequate income for a healthy life, including through retirement by provision of pension support, is important to ward off the threat of poverty, ill health and social exclusion for older vulnerable people. Calling for the inclusion of the health equity dimension within European pension systems to strive towards social justice and economic efficiency, EuroHealthNet recommends specific approaches. The EuroHealthNet position is available [here](#).

### **The European Parliament calls for EU-wide minimum income to combat poverty**

The European Parliament adopted a motion for a resolution that states that minimum income schemes should be introduced in all EU Member States to combat poverty. Poverty affects around 85 million people, or 17% of the EU's population. The risk of poverty is greater for children and young people up to 17 years of age than for the population as a whole. Older people also face a higher risk of poverty. Minimum income schemes are the most effective way to guarantee an adequate standard of living and foster social integration, says Parliament. Such schemes should be pitched at 60% of the median income of the country concerned. The Commission is asked to present an initiative in this area as a first step towards an EU action plan. MEPs also highlight the increasing number of working poor. They stress that a living wage must always be above the poverty threshold and that workers who remain below that threshold should receive top-ups that are unconditional. Lastly, efforts must also be made on pay and minimum wage levels, says the resolution, since the poverty affecting people in employment implies inequitable working [conditions](#).

### **The European Parliament approves new rules to protect patients against fake medicines**

The European Parliament adopted a resolution aiming to prevent fake medicines from entering the legal supply chain. Internet sales will be included as are new safety and traceability measures, as well as sanctions against counterfeiters. An estimated 1% of medicinal products are currently sold to the European public through the legal supply chain are falsified and the share is growing. In other parts of the world, up to 30% of the medicines on sale may be fake. In particular, more and more innovative and life-saving drugs are counterfeit. The adopted resolution is available [here](#).

The text approved by MEPs results from an agreement reached with Council, which must also give its formal approval. Once it is signed into law, Member States have 18 months to make any necessary changes to their national legislation.

## **Formal Responses to Parliamentary Questions**

### **What type of access to health care for elderly people?**

**Françoise Grossetête (France, EPP)** asked why, despite the fact that active and healthy ageing has been identified as a pilot project in the frame of the European innovation partnerships, there is today no guaranteed access to innovative treatments for the over-65s. In addition, she asked the Commission how it intends to take account of the issue of age discrimination (particularly in clinical trials) in the context of access to treatment and the development of innovative treatments.

**Commissioner Dalli** replied that the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing aims to address the societal challenge of ageing and to reinforce existing research, innovation and policy initiatives and promote large scale uptake of innovation in ageing well. The Partnership also seeks to address issues such as innovation in ageing care, chronic diseases, clinical trials, health and social care needs of ageing populations, and independent living. As regards the issue of age and clinical trials, the Commission requested the European Medicines Agency and its Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use to report on the adequacy of current guidelines for the development of geriatric medicines in the EU. In its report, the Agency concluded that there was adequate compliance with existing guidelines, including with the standard international guideline in the field (ICH E7 - Studies in support of special populations: Geriatrics). The Agency is currently working on improving how geriatrics-related information derived from clinical trials is presented in the European public assessment report which is published for each medicine following its authorisation. To have access to the studies in support of special population – geriatrics, click [here](#).

### How to tackle obesity?

**Oreste Rossi (Italy, EFD)** asked the European Commission what steps it intends to take to tackle the steadily worsening overweight and obesity problem with the EU population?

The **European Commission** replied that the Strategy for Europe on Nutrition, Overweight and Obesity-related health issues, adopted in 2007, underlines areas and priority groups for action to promote healthy diets, as well as to reverse the decline in physical activity levels in recent decades. Children are one of the priority groups. The initiatives launched are described in the [2010 Implementation progress report](#), which shows substantial variation both between policy areas and Member States. Information and education campaigns and the provision of guidelines to encourage physical activity were amongst the areas with the highest implementation level. In the coming years, more focus should be put on the areas with fewer actions in place such as the availability of healthy food and physical activity facilities in workplaces, as well as on increasing the availability of healthy options through reformulation initiatives.

### Truvada as a means of preventing HIV infection?

**Diogo Feio (Portugal, EPP)** pointed out that an American study has concluded that taking Truvada, an antiretroviral drug, every day can help to prevent HIV infection. He sought the Commission's opinion about the eventual danger to present an antiretroviral as an effective way to prevent HIV infection.

**Commissioner Dalli** replied that that, in the EU, medicinal products are authorised after a scientific evaluation for the specific indication. In the EU Truvada was approved with the indication to treat adults infected with human immunodeficiency virus type 1 (HIV-1). So far no other indication, such as prevention of HIV infection, is approved for this medicinal product in the EU.

### What about the total ban on smoking?

For **Georgios Papastamkos (Greece, EPP)**, due to the unprecedented crisis faced by the Greek economy, in response to the appeals of bar and restaurant owners, local authority representatives are unofficially adopting the approach of not applying the penalties laid down in the relevant legislation. He asked if the Commission considers that there is a margin for a more flexible approach to the total ban. In addition, does the Commission agree with the measures adopted by other Member States, such as the Netherlands, where the ban is lifted in establishments only serving coffee or where the owner works alone? What is its assessment of the application so far of the European anti-smoking policy, given that there is a growing number of Member States considering taking a more flexible approach to the total ban?

**Commissioner Dalli** underlines that the adoption of smoke free legislation falls under the responsibility of Member States. In 2009 the Council adopted a Council Recommendation on smoke free environment which recommends that Member States provide effective protection from exposure to tobacco smoke in indoor workplaces, indoor public places, public transport and, as appropriate, other public places. The Commission supports the implementation of the Council Recommendation by the Member States and intends to report in due course on the implementation, functioning and impacts of the proposed measures, on the basis of the information provided by Member States.

### Mismanagement of health resources

**Diogo Feio (Portugal, EPP)** reminds that the WHO has proposed a greater emphasis on generics, and criticises the abuse of antibiotics. Portugal has the fifth-highest health expenditure in the EU, with current expenditure on healthcare accounting for 9.4% of GDP. He wants to know what the Commission believes it can do, within the limits of its powers, to reduce waste in health spending, with particular reference to medicines.

**Commissioner Dalli** underlines that the Member States are responsible for the definition of their health policy and for the organisation and delivery of health services and medical care.

The role of the Commission consists in supporting Member States' policies. A recent report on health issues recommends to Member States on how to improve cost-efficiency in healthcare spending. One of the recommendations relates to the use of Health Technology Assessment, which is a tool intended to help health decision-makers identify the most effective (patient outcome) and efficient (cost-effective) treatments for a given condition.

### **A proposed directive prohibiting discrimination in access to goods and services?**

**Elizabeth Lynne (UK, ALDE)** asked the European Commission for the research to establish the number of deaths attributable to malnutrition or dehydration among older people in long-term care across the EU and sought a Green Paper on elder abuse and safeguarding older people in the community and in all care settings.

**Commissioner Dalli** replied that the Commission is currently implementing a pilot project initiated by Parliament. A joint Commission-OECD research project is also being set in motion early in 2011 on the quality of long-term care systems. A high-level conference on elder abuse is planned for 1 July 2011. Activities financed under the pilot project in 2009 and 2010 and the anticipated results promise to contribute significantly to improving the monitoring and prevention of elder abuse and identifying good practice across the Union. The Commission has also proposed that 2012 be designated "European Year for Active Ageing" because it believes that the key to tackling the challenge of population ageing and preserving intergenerational solidarity lies in harnessing the full potential of older people.

### **Possible discrimination against patients on financial grounds?**

**Diogo Feio (Portugal, EPP)** wants to know if the European Commission has any information at its disposal providing concrete evidence of discrimination against patients by public hospitals on financial grounds, according to the violation of the principles of non-discrimination and the right to health. What measures could the European Commission consider taking to protect citizens' right to have access to healthcare without suffering discrimination?

For the **European Commission**, there is no evidence of the existence of such discrimination. It recalls that Member States have direct responsibility for the organisation and delivery of health services and medical care in their territory. However, the Commission can identify good practices, including with regard to equitable access to health care. In this respect, the Commission and the Economic Policy Committee have recently issued a Joint Report on Health Systems. The Commission reminds that it has identified a strong social dimension in health inequalities and underlined the need for action to tackle inequalities in the frame of the 2009 communication "Solidarity in Health: Reducing Health Inequalities in the EU". The Commission identified in the follow-up actions mentioned in the Communication, improving access of underprivileged groups to health care is one of the important issues to be addressed. The Commission is actively working on these issues and a progress report on the Communication is due to be presented in 2012.

## **Other international news**

### **World Health Day on 7<sup>th</sup> April**

World Health Day is celebrated on 7 April and will focus on antimicrobial resistance and its global spread. Antimicrobial resistance threatens the continued effectiveness of many medicines used today to treat the sick, while at the same time it risks jeopardizing important advances being made against major infectious killers. To underline this, the WHO public awareness campaign will include a special focus on the HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria epidemics. WHO will call on governments and stakeholders to implement the policies and practices needed to prevent and counter the emergence of highly resistant superbugs, and to also provide appropriate care to those seriously affected by these microbes.

To know more about World Health Day, click [here](#).

To know more about antimicrobial resistance, click [here](#).

## Action needed to reduce health impact of harmful alcohol use

A WHO report - *Global status report on alcohol and health* - analyses available evidence on alcohol consumption and provides data in over 100 individual country profiles. Wider implementation of policies is needed to save lives and reduce the health impact of harmful alcohol drinking. Harmful use of alcohol results in the death of 2.5 million people annually, causes illness and injury to many more, and increasingly affects younger generations and drinkers in developing countries. The Global Strategy to reduce the harmful use of alcohol, endorsed by WHO's Member States in May 2010, promotes a range of proven effective measures for reducing alcohol-related harm. The report is available [here](#).

## National and local news

### Norway – Health Promotion – achieving good health for all

The Norwegian Directorate of Health has recently published a report to discuss the main challenges to public health in the coming years and to identify strategies to enhance health promotion. People are becoming older in Europe, thanks to the good health living conditions and health services in society. Yet, the demographic ageing also poses problems on the health care systems. Furthermore, inequalities in status, wealth and resources also lead to inequalities in health. Those two trends, demographic change and health inequalities, have a major impact on public health. Health promotion will therefore become more and more important in the near future. The publication is available [here](#).

### England: complaints about NHS care for older people

The report *Care and compassion? From the Health Service Ombudsman* says the NHS is failing to treat older people with care, compassion, dignity and respect. This investigation is based on the findings of ten independent investigations into complaints about NHS care for people over the age of 65 across England. Of the nearly 9,000 properly made complaints to the Ombudsman about the NHS last year, 18 per cent were about the care of older people. The report "Care and compassion" is available [here](#).

### England - Health inequalities widening between North and South

The probability of dying below the age of 75 is 20 per cent higher in the North of England compared with the South. A new study claims the north-south life expectancy gap is the widest it's been in 40 years. From 1965-2008 the inequality rate for men was 15 per cent, compared to 13 per cent for women. The study's lead researcher said that regardless of socio-economic status the differences persisted. He said those in the south had greater access to resources such as education and transport. Between the early 1980s and late 1990s, the health divide dropped significantly for both sexes. But, from the late 1990's until 2008 there was a steady rise in health inequalities. The researchers said it was unclear why these fluctuations occurred. The rise in equalities coincided with an economic boom and heavy investment in northern cities. The Department of Health responded to the study by stating it was committed to eliminating health divides. Click [here](#) for more information.

### England - Early years interventions to address health inequalities in London – the economic case

The Greater London Authority published a report providing evidence for and analysis of the case for investment in early years interventions to address health inequalities in London. The evidence clearly shows that well designed and implemented early years programmes can have significant benefits in terms of life-long health, educational attainment, social, emotional and economic wellbeing and reduced involvement in crime that far outweigh their costs. This paper sets out the findings from a significant review of high quality evidence on early years interventions to identify 'what works' and 'what doesn't', provide international and national comparisons and translate data and potential savings into a UK and London context. It has been developed for, among others, service planners and commissioners in children's services, health, schools and other agencies. The case for early years investment is even greater in London as the child population (aged 0 to 4) is projected to increase by 11.6 per cent between 2008 and 2033, more than any other English region. The report is available [here](#).

## Ireland – €3 million Innovation Funding announced for Mental Health and Disability

The Minister of State at the Department of Health & Children announced €3m is to be provided this year for innovative projects in mental health and disability services. €2m innovation funding will be provided to the Genio Trust in 2011. Genio seeks to improve the everyday lives of people with disabilities and mental health difficulties. In 2010, it was allocated €3m in innovation funding to support over 100 people to move from institutions to the community, or to become more independent in the community where they belong. Grants were awarded to 50 projects including 15 mental health projects with total funding of €1.4m. A further €1m will be provided to fund the expansion of Jigsaw, currently in 5 counties, to a further 10 counties. Jigsaw is an innovative community based support service for young people designed to promote systems of care that are accessible, youth-friendly, integrated, and engaging for young people. Please click [here](#) for more information.

## Ireland – New website to help in the fight against obesity

The Irish Public Health Institute launched a new obesity information website called the Obesity Hub. It is estimated that about 60% of adults and about 20% of children and teens in the Republic of Ireland are either overweight or obese. These percentages are expected to rise. To help tackle the obesity epidemic; policy makers, practitioners and the community should be able to access all the relevant information they need in a timely manner. The Obesity Hub will help health experts, social planners, campaign groups and the media to keep up-to-date and use information to respond more effectively to the obesity problem. To have access to the Website, click [here](#).

## Latvia - Developing a Quality Management System for the Latvian Health inspectorate

Latvian Health inspectorate presented a webinar *Developing a quality management system for the Latvian Health inspectorate*. At the end of 2007, the Latvian Health inspectorate was founded by the merging of 3 inspection bodies. Two years later, another 5 inspection bodies were added. The Health Inspectorate had a challenge: to deliver all of its new functions in an efficient, well-organized and effective manner. It decided to develop an effective quality management system in conformance with ISO 9001 and ISO 17020 standards - one that would allow its employees to work together more effectively, provide a platform for sharing information, clarify responsibilities and guide each function in their daily work. The Presentation "Developing a Quality Management System for the Latvian Health inspectorate" is available [here](#)

## Switzerland – Evaluation report on the 20th IUHPE World Conference on Health promotion

IUHPE has published the final report of the 20<sup>th</sup> world conference on health promotion held in Geneva in 2010 on the theme "Health, Equity and Sustainable Development". The report is available [here](#).



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