

June I 2011



EU HEALTH HIGHLIGHTS

www.health-inequalities.eu www.eurohealthnet.eu
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Calendar of events

June

9 June 2011: [Health Impact Assessment](#)
(Vienna, Austria)

9-10 June 2011 - [FP7 Health: Open Information Day & Brokerage event](#)
(Brussels, Belgium)

10 June 2011: [Conference on the Common Strategic Framework for EU research and innovation funding](#)
(Brussels, Belgium)

10-11 June 2011: [Jornadas Internacionales de Alimentación y Salud Mental de la Mujer](#)
(Madrid, Spain)

14 June 2011: [The complementarity of national and EU interventions aimed at reducing the disparities in economic and social growth](#)
(Brussels, Belgium)

14 June 2011: [World donor day](#)

14 June 2011: [Men's Health Report during the 8th FACE Workshop](#)
(Brussels, Belgium)

14 June 2011: [Men's health in Europe](#)
(Brussels, Belgium)

14-15 June 2011: [3rd European Connected Health Leadership Summit 2011](#)
(Brussels, Belgium)

14-16 June 2011: [Health investments in Structural Funds 2000-2006: learning lessons to inform regions in the 2007-2013 period](#)
(Liverpool, UK)

15 June 2011: [Assessing and Addressing Poverty in Europe: Challenges, Solutions and Opportunities](#)
(Brussels, Belgium)

15 June 2011: [Adult chronic respiratory disease in the EU: A growing epidemic](#)
(Brussels, Belgium)

15-16 June 2011: [2nd Annual Diabetes and Diabetic Retinopathy - Identifying new therapeutic opportunities for diabetes and diabetic](#)

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

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EuroHealthNet launched its new Website !
Come and visit EuroHealthNet new Website at www.eurohealthnet.eu

EU News

Polish EU Presidency

The Council of Ministers adopted the "6-month Programme of the Polish Presidency of the EU Council in the second half of 2011. The main task of the Polish Presidency is to lead the European Union on a path to faster economic growth and an enhanced political community. In order to achieve these targets, the Polish Presidency will concentrate on three basic priorities: "European integration as the source of growth", a "Secure Europe" and a "Europe benefiting from openness".
For more information, click [here](#).

Sixty-fourth World Health Assembly closes after passing multiple resolutions

The Sixty-fourth World Health Assembly, with more than 2700 delegates, including Health Ministers and senior health officials from 192 WHO Member States, nongovernment organizations, civil society groups and other observers adopted 28 resolutions.

The Organization's budget for 2012-2013 was also discussed and adopted. The program budget of US\$ 3.959 billion was recognized by the delegates as a transitional budget that will help the Organization respond to financial austerity and prepare for a series of reforms underway.

Delegates and other partners engaged in a lengthy discussion on noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) such as diabetes, heart disease, stroke, cancers, and chronic respiratory diseases. NCDs pose one of the greatest challenges to health and development today and contribute to more than 60 percent of deaths worldwide. Delegates unanimously endorsed the World Health Assembly resolution on the preparations for the United Nations General Assembly high-level meeting on the prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases being held this September. Delegates urged heads of state and government to attend the meeting in New York.

[retinopathy](#)
(London, UK)

16-17 June 2011: [3rd Injury prevention Conference](#)
(Budapest, Hungary)

17 June 2011: [Info Day on FP7 Environment Research](#)
(Brussels, Belgium)

22 June 2011: [UK forum on Global Health and Trade](#)

22-24 June 2011: [EHMA Annual Conference 2011 "Integration in Health and Healthcare"](#)
(Porto, Portugal)

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)

12-13 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

6-7 September 2011 – [High Level Conference on EU Health Programmes](#)
(Brussels, Belgium)

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

Progress on prevention and control of NCD and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) will require strong health systems and the Assembly recognized the importance of this area of work.

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

Sustainable lifestyles - SPREAD –Launching Conference

A European online platform on sustainable lifestyles was launched at the conference "The future of sustainable lifestyles and entrepreneurship" (24-25 May, Cologne, Germany), within the EC FP7 funded project "SPREAD Sustainable Lifestyles 2050". The aim of the project is to develop a vision of sustainable lifestyles in 2050 and to deliver a roadmap for action towards more sustainable lifestyles including health, well-being and equity in societal innovation, new business models and policy recommendations.

- *EuroHealthNet is the leader of the Working Group on Sustainable Society addressing health, well-being and equity as a cross-cutting issue in the area of sustainable moving, living and consuming. The conference gathered a large panel of stakeholders from across society and addressed healthy and sustainable lifestyles. Entrepreneurs, civil society, researchers' and policy makers from environment and sustainable development areas were actively involved in workshops discussing their views, knowledge and experience in sustainable lifestyles. EuroHealthNet chaired the WG on Sustainable Society, which addressed health, well-being and equity issues in sustainable lifestyles, discussing opportunities and challenges and identifying the role that personal behaviour, community and policy actors should play towards more healthy and sustainable lifestyles. EuroHealthNet offered its members the possibility to participate, and representatives of NIGZ in the Netherlands, the national institute of public health in Poland, and the national institute of public health in the Czech Republic and the BzGA were present at the event.*

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

The Website is available [here](#).

EU Councils

Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council Conclusions

In the frame of the EPSCO Council held on 6 June, Ministers exchanged views on childhood immunisation and on modern, responsive and sustainable health systems, and adopted conclusions on the two items. In addition, the Council adopted two further conclusions on the European pact for mental health and well-being and innovation in the medical device sector.

The main results of the EPSCO Council are available [here](#).

European Pact for Mental Health and Well-being: results and future action

The Council recognizes that mental health and well-being is a priority of their health policies and to develop strategies and/or action plans on mental health including depression and suicide prevention is essential. The Council therefore asks the Member States to include the prevention of mental disorders and the promotion of mental health and well-being as an essential part of these strategies and/or action plans, to be carried out in partnership with the relevant stakeholders and other policy sectors. The Council also requests to set up a Joint Action on Mental Health and Well-being under the EU Public Health Programme 2008-2013 providing a platform for exchange of views, cooperation

[2011 "Stress 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](#)
(Edinburgh, 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](#)

11-13 October 2011: Global E-Health Forum - Hamburg 2011: Designing Personalized Healthcare
(Hamburg, Germany)
<http://www.global-ehealth-forum.com/>

and coordination between Member States, to identify evidence based best policy approaches and practices and analyse activities in particular in the following areas:

- Tackling mental disorders through health and social systems;
- Taking evidence based measures against depression.

The Council conclusions are available [here](#).

Towards modern, responsive and sustainable health systems

The Council asked the Member States to reinforce their commitment to play an active role in developing effective, health policy-driven approaches to adequately address macroeconomic challenges and health and societal challenges; to ensure that health is adequately addressed in the National Reform Programmes submitted by Member States within the framework of the Europe 2020 Strategy; and to reposition the perception of health policy, making it more visible when macroeconomic issues are at stake and shifting it from being regarded as just an expenditure post to being an acknowledged contributor of economic growth. Member States should consider innovative approaches and models of health care responding to challenges, and develop future long-term health sector strategies, with particular emphasis on effective investment in the health sector and in human resources with the aim of moving away from hospital-centred systems towards integrated care systems, enhancing equitable access to high quality care and reducing inequalities. Member States should further strengthen health promotion and disease prevention in an integrated manner in the spirit of the Health in All Policies approach and foster health technology assessments and ensure smarter use of e-health solutions to ensure value for money and benefits for health and health systems.

The Council conclusions are available [here](#).

Mid-term evaluation of the EU Health Programme and the EU Health Strategy

In 2010, the Commission launched in parallel the mid-term evaluation of the EU Health Strategy 2008-2013 and the mid-term evaluation of the EU Health Programme 2008-2013. The final reports are expected in July 2011. The mid-term evaluation of the EU Health Strategy will provide an analysis of its implementation both at EU and national level. On the basis of interviews with different kinds of stakeholders, the evaluation will also look into the future to identify new trends and priorities for health policy. It will also suggest indicators which can be used to better monitor implementation during the remaining period of the strategy. The conclusions and recommendations of both evaluations will feed into the on-going implementation of the Health Strategy and the Health Programme.

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

Falsified medicines – Adoption of the proposal for a directive

The Council adopted a proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council amending Directive 2001/83/EC as regards the prevention of the entry into the legal supply chain of medicinal products which are falsified in relation to their identity, history or source. The Directive aims to prevent falsified medicines from reaching the patients by introducing harmonised, pan-European safety and control measures. These measures will ensure easier identification of falsified medicines, and improved verifications and controls at EU borders and within the EU. The directive will come into force in Member States by November 2012.

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)

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)

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

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 more information, click [here](#).

To access the press release, click [here](#).

For more information on the Directive on falsified medicines, click [here](#).

Adoption of guidelines for the employment policies of Member States

The Council adopted a decision where the integrated guidelines give precise guidance to the Member States on defining their National Reform Programmes and on implementing reforms, reflecting interdependence and in line with the Stability and Growth Pact. The employment guidelines should also form the basis for the establishment of the Joint Employment Report sent annually by the Council and the Commission to the European Council. The decision is mandatory for Member States.

The Council decision is available [here](#).

Competitiveness Council Conclusions

The Competitiveness Council met and took note of the Hungarian Presidency [report](#) dealing with regulatory cooperation between EU Member States in the field of gambling. Building on the results of previous debates in the Council, especially on the [conclusions](#) adopted in December 2010, the Hungarian Presidency conducted a more detailed discussion during the first months of 2011 on the subject of cooperation between national gambling regulatory authorities. Last March, the Commission launched a public [consultation](#) on its "Green paper" on on-line gambling in the internal market, which runs until 31 July 2011.

In addition, the Swedish delegation expressed interest in the possibility of creating common rules for smokeless tobacco products, with a view to addressing both health and internal market issues for these products at EU level. For more information, click [here](#)

Education, Youth, Culture and Sport Council Conclusions

Early childhood education and care: providing all our children with the best start for the world of tomorrow

The Ministers discussed the [action plan on early school-leaving](#). The measures proposed by the Commission would help EU countries to achieve their joint target of reducing the share of early school leavers in Europe from 14.4% now to fewer than 10% by 2020. Ministers also discussed the Commission's [proposals](#) for universal access to pre-school education. Commissioner Vassiliou underlined that availability and access to high-quality early childhood education and care has the potential to improve children's performance at school and to address social disadvantage.

The Council conclusions on *“early childhood education and care: providing all our children with the best start for the world of tomorrow”* are available [here](#).

Statement by Androulla Vassiliou, European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Sport, at the meeting of Education is available [here](#).

European Commission

Innovation Union - Steering Group on the Pilot European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing: First meeting

The European Commission has set up a steering group to assist with preparatory work for the pilot partnership. This group is jointly chaired by Vice President

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

New Publications

European Social Observatory –
Social developments in the EU 2010
Available [here](#)

Answering the Health ICT Challenge: An Optimized Infrastructure
Available [here](#)

WHO - Palliative care for older people: better practices
Available [here](#)

Neelie Kroes and Commissioner John Dalli and includes Member States, regions, industry, health and social care professionals, elderly and patient organisations and other interest groups. The first meeting of Steering Group was held on 2 May 2011 and was facilitated by David Byrne, a former European Commissioner for Health and Consumer Policy.

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

Innovation Union - Steering Group on the Pilot European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing: Guidance paper

The European Commission released a guidance paper for the steering group of the pilot European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing. In this document, the Commission also gives the priority to the steering group of the pilot European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing:

- to make the greatest contribution to the objectives of the partnership;
- to give benefit particularly from the partnership approach;
- to significantly contribute to overcoming the key bottlenecks and barriers;
- to facilitate innovation in an area where European industry has or may develop a competitive advantage.

The Guidance paper is available [here](#).

European Year 2012 for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations

On 29th April 2011, the EY 2012 Coalition organised a conference in order to celebrate third European Day on Solidarity between Generations. All speeches and presentations are now available on the European Year's [website](#).

The European Parliament and the Council officially agreed on the European Year 2012 name. 'Active ageing and solidarity of generations' was therefore adopted showing a clear message for the European Year 2012". As for the concept of the European Year, the idea of a European 'culture of active ageing' has been established. The main pillars are the solidarity of generations, maintaining vitality and respect for the dignity of human beings.

- *EuroHealthNet is part of the EY2012 Coalition, led by AGE Platform Europe, which brings about 20 European organisations who share a common vision of a society for all ages. To support its call and ensure a lasting impact for the EY2012, the coalition launched a [joint leaflet on the EU Year 2012](#), which was presented at the EU conference. The objective of this publication is to inform the public about the EY2012 and to mobilize as many stakeholders as possible to support the Year's objectives of active ageing at work, active ageing in the community and support to independent living. The leaflet also proposes recommendations and examples of good practices at all levels, and it explains how everyone can get involved in the Year and promote it.*
- *EuroHealthNet called for effective measures for a healthy and active ageing. 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*

The 2012 European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations website is available [here](#).

The joint leaflet elaborated by the EY2012 Coalition is available [here](#). Printed copies can be requested [here](#).

For more information about the EY2012 Coalition, click [here](#).

The Website of the EU conference "Towards the European Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations (2012) is available [here](#).

The official logo of the European Year 2012 is available [here](#).

European Week Against Cancer: A joint commitment to prevent cancer

Cancer is the second most common cause of death in Europe (29% of deaths for men, 23% for women). This figure is expected to rise due to the ageing European population. However, it is estimated that around one third of cancers could be prevented if people made healthier choices (or if people adopted healthier living habits). This year's European Week Against Cancer, which has been re-launched under the leadership of the Association of European Cancer Leagues as one of the activities of the European Partnership for Action Against Cancer, focussed on healthy living.

- The new EU campaign "Ex-Smokers are Unstoppable" will be launched in the coming weeks. In addition, the Commission is currently working on plans to put forward a proposal for the revision of the 2001 Tobacco Products Directive in 2012. Following an analysis of a consultation launched last year and the preparation of an impact assessment, the Directive could be strengthened and adapted to reflect international commitments, developments in tobacco products as well as advances in science.

- Partnership

The latest initiative of the Commission in the field of cancer is the European Partnership for Action Against Cancer (EPAAC) launched in September 2009. The Partnership brings efforts of different stakeholders together into a joint response to prevent and control cancer and aims to support Member States in tackling cancer more efficiently. By the end of the Partnership, all Member States should have integrated cancer plans. This should contribute to achieving the long-term aim which is to reduce the incidence of cancer by 15% by 2020. The *first Open Forum* of the EPAAC will be held on 14-15 June 2011 in Spain and will focus on cancer healthcare and research.

- Research

EU financial support for cancer research since 2003 amounts to close to €1 billion, funding 183 projects. Significant efforts are being made on breast cancer and rare cancers, melanoma, leukemia and cancer imaging. Cancer in women and children receives special attention. For example, for the first time in Europe, a project (PanCareSurFup- <http://www.pancaresurfup.eu/>) will focus on the long-term side effects of treatment in childhood cancer survivors.

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

World Day without tobacco - The Fight Against Tobacco in the EU

The European Commission released a document showing the overview, per country, of the fight against tobacco. The EU and Member States authorities work together on tobacco control. A central pillar of tobacco control is EU legislation on tobacco products and on tobacco advertising. So far, 15 Member States have laws that protect citizens from exposure to tobacco smoke in a comprehensive manner. Total bans on smoking in all enclosed public places and workplaces, including bars and restaurants are in place in Ireland, the UK, Greece, Spain and Hungary. Italy, Sweden, Malta, Latvia, Finland, Slovenia, France, the Netherlands, Cyprus and Poland, have introduced smoke-free legislation, however, allowing for special enclosed smoking rooms.

The Commission is currently considering to put forward a proposal for the revision of the 2001 Tobacco Products Directive in 2012.

Speech by Commissioner Dalli is available [here](#).

Current legislation to protect citizens from tobacco smoke, per Member State, can be seen [here](#).

The overview per country is available [here](#).

Promoting Mental Health and Well-being at Workplaces – Publication of the report of the conference under the European Pact for Mental Health and Well-being

The conference under the European pact for mental health and well-being was organised by the European Commission and the German Federal Ministry of Health in cooperation with the German Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs with the support of the Hungarian EU-Presidency.

- *EuroHealthNet participated in the conference hosted by the European Commission "Promotion of Mental Health and Well-being in Workplaces", in Berlin. The conference was the last of a series of five events. Among its conclusions, the conference recognised that prevention and health promotion are crucial and can contribute to the achievement of the EU 2020 objectives of inclusive growth.*

All reports and presentations are available [here](#).

E-Health Benchmarking

The European Commission published a study providing the result of a survey on Benchmarking deployment of eHealth services in acute hospitals in 30 European countries. Chief Information Officers were asked about the availability of eHealth infrastructure and applications in their hospitals whereas Medical Directors were asked about priority areas for investment, impacts and perceived barriers to the further deployment of eHealth, funded by DG Information Society and Media.

The study is available [here](#).

6 million Euros allocation to clinical trials for Alzheimer's disease

Within the context of the Seventh Framework Programme (FP7), the European Commission has awarded EUR 6 million to an international research consortium known as NILVAD. The aim of the consortium is to develop a new Alzheimer's disease treatment. NILVAD is comprised of 18 European universities, hospitals and pharmaceutical companies and includes Alzheimer Europe. It is led by Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland.

For further information click [here](#).

"Getting young people into work" – European Youth Week - Youth on the move 2011 - EU Commissioner László ANDOR

The Europe 2020 Strategy sets targets for education, employment and poverty reduction — and all three concern young people. This will involve action in three areas:

- improving education and training systems;
- stepping up efforts to improve youth employment;
- increasing EU youth mobility for learning and labour market access.

Speech by Commissioner Andor is available [here](#)

Transforming Ageing Economies - EU Commissioner László ANDOR

The European Commission published a Green Paper on pensions in July 2010. It sought to ascertain views of what the EU could do to help the Member States ensure that income in old age was adequate, sustainable and

safe — both now and in the longer term. The next step will be the White Paper on pensions before the end of 2011. Apart from helping the Member States to opt for the right types of reform, this exercise will also lead to some EU level initiatives, e.g. on the portability of occupational pensions, and the regulation of pension funds, since higher level of safety is fundamental, especially if the EU wants to convince the people that they should save more (and invest in private schemes). In the Annual Growth Survey, the Commission has already called for establishing a link between life expectancy and the retirement age within Member States. National governments can achieve this by implementing appropriate reforms.

Speech by Commissioner Andor is available [here](#).

7th Framework Programme for Health - 2012 orientation paper

Proposed priorities for innovative health research 2012 have been published. Improving the health of European citizens and increasing the competitiveness and boosting the innovative capacity of European health-related industries and businesses, while addressing global health issues including emerging epidemics. Emphasis will be put on translational research (translation of basic discoveries into clinical applications including scientific validation of experimental results), the development and validation of new therapies, methods for health promotion and prevention, including promotion of child health, healthy ageing, diagnostic tools and medical technologies, as well as sustainable and efficient healthcare systems.

The 2012 calls are expected to be published in July 2011.

The New: FP7 Health - 2012 orientation paper is available [here](#).

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

Green Paper on the future of European research and innovation funding - Over 2.000 responses

The consultation on the Commission's February 2011 Green Paper on the future of European research and innovation funding ([IP/11/138](#) and [MEMO/11/76](#)) got over 2 000 responses. Initial collation indicates that over 1 300 online questionnaires were completed and more than 700 position papers were received. An [interim analysis](#) at the end of April showed researchers and entrepreneurs broadly welcoming the Commission's concept of a Common Strategic Framework for future EU research and innovation funding. The Commission will present its analysis on June 10 at a major conference in Brussels, at which more than 700 scientists, entrepreneurs, politicians and other stakeholders are expected, including EurohealthNet. The Commission will present to the European Parliament and to Member States by the end of this year a legislative proposal to implement the future Common Strategic Framework.

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

- *Responding to the European Commission (EC) consultation on a common strategic framework for EU research and Innovation funding, EuroHealthNet highlights that EU research and innovation funding should be used to benefit EU society as a whole rather than be applied primarily to foster economic growth and stimulate market demand. Moreover, EuroHealthNet further 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. For example, research from Sweden estimates that unhealthy living habits cost society 120 billion SEK (13.3 billion euro) per year. These costs can be reduced, in part by investing in public health research and innovative solutions to promote healthier eating habits, more*

physical activity and the consumption of less alcohol and tobacco and injury prevention. This evidence should continue to be improved and applied in policies. EuroHealthNet stresses the importance of a distinctive European approach that can lead world class research, not follow inappropriate models from other continents. Innovation may be a current "buzz word", but health promotion and approaches based on social determinants of health with associated studies and evidence are intrinsically new and innovative concepts with emerging multiple benefits.

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

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

Taxation: Commission refers Spain to Court over reduced VAT rate for medical equipment

The European Commission has decided to refer Spain to the EU's Court of Justice concerning its illegal application of a reduced rate of value added tax (VAT) to general medical equipment, appliances to alleviate animals' physical disabilities and substances used in the production of medicines. These goods do not qualify for a reduced VAT according to the rules laid down in the [VAT Directive](#), and the application of a reduced VAT rate may distort competition within the EU.

For more information on EU infringement procedures, click [here](#).

European Parliament

Adoption - Measuring sustainable development and supplementing GDP

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 will vote on 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. Further 'modules' - for example on the use of water and forest resources - may be added in future, following a review. Rapporteur and Environment Committee Chair Jo Leinen (S&D, DE) said, "Environmental accounts are a missing piece of the puzzle in terms of better understanding economic activities. I am pleased that the EU is taking a step towards properly accounting for its natural capital. This is an important contribution to a new welfare index, comprising economic, environmental and social progress in a society." 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.

MEPs will also vote on a non-binding resolution on "Beyond GDP" in response to a 2009 European Commission communication of the same title. MEPs have indicated they support the Commission's groundwork towards supplementing this economic measure with social and environmental indicators and they will call for concrete and consistent proposals for indicators that can be monitored by Eurostat. Anna Rosbach (ECR, DK), who drafted the resolution, commented: "I hope we will have new indicators in the very short-term. The EU is coming to this a bit late and in my view we have to step up the pressure."

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

The adopted text will be available [here](#).

The EC Communication on GDP and beyond: measuring progress in a changing world" (COM/2009/0433) is available [here](#).

Comparative Study - Purpose, Scope and Procedures of Impact Assessments Carried out in the EU Member States

The European Parliament has published a study on Comparative Study on the Purpose, Scope and Procedures of Impact Assessments carried out in EU Member States.

The study is available [here](#).

Seminar outcome - Health workforce and professional mobility, 31st May 2011

A half-day seminar on “Developing a Community approach to addressing health workforce and professional mobility challenges” was held in the European Parliament in Brussels. This event was organised with the cooperation and support of the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies and the European Commission's Directorate-General for Health & Consumers. The purpose of this seminar was to discuss the political relevance of the ongoing health workforce crisis in Europe and the need for a coordinated response to address the important challenges for Member States to plan for the required skilled health professionals, to train them for meeting the healthcare needs of the future, and to attract and retain them in the health workforce. It was also an occasion to present the steps and initiatives taken so far in the related policy process and the evidence generated on the subject.

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

European Parliament policy debate – The role of Public Health in the Common Agricultural Policy, 16 June 2011

On June 16th 2011, European Public Health and Agriculture Consortium (EPHAC) with a support from EuroHealthNet and the European Public Health Alliance (EPHA) organise a European Parliament policy debate on The role of public health in the Common Agricultural Policy. This event, hosted by Oana Elena Antonescu MEP, with participation of EU Commissioner for Agriculture Dacian Cioloș, EU Commissioner for Health John Dalli, and WHO Regional Director for Europe Zsuzsanna Jakab, will debate the importance of the role of the Common Agriculture Policy (CAP) in tackling chronic disease and inequalities in health.

The programme is available [here](#).

To register, click [here](#).

- *In the frame of its response to “The reform of the CAP towards 2020 - Impact Assessment”, EuroHealthNet underlined that while quality is important in maintaining EU competitiveness in agriculture, this must not be at the expense of the affordability of a safe and nutritious diet for all. The primary role of EU agriculture is and should remain guaranteeing the production of safe, nutritious, affordable food. CAP should not promote production and export of “crops” or products defined as public health damaging (such as tobacco) whilst the EU is increasing efforts and funding to encourage healthier lifestyles. For EuroHealthNet, the CAP should address extreme price volatility in food prices but ensure that food is affordable for all layers of society. Instruments should be developed that not only manage crisis but work towards a more sustainable and fair food system, addressing concentration and power in the food system to prevent distortions and instability in prices or food availability. CAP must also support investment in innovation in agriculture and food, providing a balanced research agenda that not only invests in new technology, but agro-ecological and human ecological models of research.*

EuroHealthNet's response to the “The reform of the CAP towards 2020 - Impact Assessment” is available [here](#).

European Parliament policy debate - Under the influence: protecting teens from the impact of alcohol marketing, 21 June 2011

Alcohol marketing has a powerful impact on young people's drinking behaviour and undercut the efforts by public health authorities to reduce harmful drinking among youth. The speakers will analyze the scientific evidence on the cumulative impact of alcohol marketing and will present the results of two recent European projects on how to better regulate the content and volume of marketing in order to protect young people. The event is organised by the project AMMIE "Monitoring Alcohol Commercial Communications in Europe (AMMIE)", which is receiving cofunding from the European Union in the frame of the Health Programme 2008-2013.

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

To register click [here](#).

Formal Responses to Parliamentary Questions

Harmful effects of alcohol

Niki Tzavela (Greece, EFD) asks the Commission what action can it take to make people in the Member States aware of the harmful effects of alcohol ?

Commissioner Dalli :The Commission has set up a Committee on Alcohol Policy and Action to foster dialogue and exchange of information and best practice between Member States. Another tool for EU level action is the Alcohol and Health Forum which brings together a wide range of stakeholders and encourages them to take action to reduce alcohol related harm.

A useful tool for citizens is the European Code Against Cancer, which provides simple, evidence-based, user-friendly advice on how to prevent cancer, particularly by adopting a healthier lifestyle. The code includes a recommendation which specifically invites citizens to moderate their consumption of alcohol.

The Code can be consulted [here](#).

Smoking in cars

Nessa Childers (Ireland, S&D) wants to know if the Commission has considered or published any proposals or opinions relating to this issue of damaging second-hand smoke? Can the Commission provide any further information on this matter?

Commissioner Dalli replies that the Commission supports Member States' efforts to effectively protect their citizens from exposure to tobacco smoke in enclosed public places, workplaces and public transport in line with the Council Recommendation on smoke-free environments of 30 November 2009. The Commission has also completed the first stage consultation of the social partners at EU level on the direction of a possible initiative in the area of the protection of the health and safety of workers at work. A second stage of consultation, on the content of a possible EU initiative, is planned by the end of 2011. The issue of children's exposure to environmental tobacco smoke, including in private cars, has been analysed in detail in the Impact Assessment accompanying the 2009 Commission proposal for a Council Recommendation on smoke-free environments. In line with the Commission proposal, the Council Recommendation calls for specific measures to reduce children's exposure to tobacco smoke. In addition, a question on smoking in private cars has been included in the latest [Eurobarometer on Tobacco](#). As smoking bans fall under national competence, the Commission encourages Member States to adopt and enforce legislation to protect citizens, in particular children, against tobacco smoke.

Ensuring the quality of medical practitioners

Nessa Childers (Ireland, S&D) underlines that there is upcoming legislation on boosting the internal market through better recognition of professional qualifications. How does the Commission intend to ensure that the quality of medically qualified persons is not compromised by any future legislation?

Commissioner Barnier replies that, in the Single Market Act published on 13 April 2011 one of the key actions is the modernisation of the system for recognising professional qualifications. The aim is to simplify procedures for the mutual recognition of mobile workers, modernise the legislative framework, review the scope of regulated professions and strengthen trust and cooperation between Member States. The creation of European professional cards could particularly encourage the mobility of professionals, whilst boosting confidence between the competent authorities of the Member States and ultimately benefiting consumers and employers.

In view of this key action, the Commission is currently evaluating Directive 2005/36/EC. Following the evaluation a public consultation on policy orientations will take place ahead of proposals to revise the Directive at the end of 2011.

Initiatives to tackle poverty-related diseases

David Martin (UK, S&D) asks if the Commission will allocate additional funding to poverty-related diseases under the 7th Framework Programme and the Common Strategic Framework. Can it outline how it intends to address the recommendations made in the Council conclusions regarding the Commission communication on the EU role in global health?

Commissioner Geoghegan-Quinn reminds that the Commission considers research in the poverty-related diseases field a priority and has been supporting research in this area throughout the different Framework Programmes for Research and Technological development (FPs). During the first years of the Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP7, 2007-2013), EUR 203 million have been allocated to collaborative research for Poverty Related Diseases (PRDs) (65 million to Tuberculosis, 82 million to HIV/AIDS and 56 million to malaria). Currently, the Commission is setting its priorities for future funding for the remaining two years of the FP7 and further support for research into PRDs is envisaged. The Commission is notably supporting the implementation of the Global Strategy and Plan of Action on Public Health, innovation and intellectual property through several joint initiatives with the World Health Organisation (WHO), focussing on: prioritizing research and development needs; building and improving innovative capacity; transfer of technology.

Health technology assessment (HTA)

Marina Yannakoudakis (UK, ECR) underlines that the newly adopted Cross-border health care directive gives a legal basis for continued cooperation on Health Technology Assessment and calls for transparency and stakeholder involvement in the process. How does the Commission intend to ensure that stakeholders (particularly patients) will be considered within the HTA process and how does the Commission foresee increased transparency within the decision-making procedures of HTA?

For **Commissioner Dalli**, the directive 2011/24/EU on the application of patients' rights in cross-border healthcare gives a legal basis for establishing a voluntary network on health technology assessment (HTA) in Europe. The transposition period of the Directive runs until 25 October 2013. In the following months, the Commission intends to engage in a dialogue with Member States on how this voluntary network should be set up and, what its working methods and governance structure should be including the involvement of patients and other stakeholders. Member States involvement of stakeholders such as patients and health professionals in health technology assessment differs

Research into ways of combating the HIV virus

Nikolaos Salavrakos (Greece, EFD) underlines that, according to the 'Vima' webpage of 31 March, a vaccine capable of 'annihilating' the HIV virus which causes AIDS is likely to have reached the medical testing stage next year. He therefore asks the Commission if it is following international research into ways of combating the HIV virus and if it is contributing to such research and if so, how?

Commissioner Geoghegan-Quinn replies that the Commission does monitor the outcome and results of the research which is carried out internationally in the global effort to combat HIV/AIDS by actively participating to international scientific conferences, workshops and discussion with stakeholders. The Commission considers research in the HIV/AIDS field as a priority and has been supporting research in this area through the Research Framework Programmes since the discovery of the virus. EU-funded research includes new therapeutic and preventive strategies against HIV/AIDS, from early discovery to clinical testing of new drugs and therapeutic approaches, microbicides and vaccine candidates. In particular, several topics for research in this area are planned for the Health Theme of the Work Programme for 2012, including innovative strategies for prevention and treatment, new diagnostics tools and research to study co-infections and co-morbidities.

Flagship initiative 'European Platform Against Poverty'

Georgios Papanikolaou (Greece, PPE) reminds that the Hungarian Council Presidency's working programme for the current six months includes the statement that the Council will give special attention to the problem of child poverty. Would the Council state: Does it regard the flagship initiative as an adequate mechanism for combating child poverty?

As the poverty rate in most Member States has stagnated or even increased over the past year, would the Council also state whether in its opinion the continuing economic crisis in the European Member States is jeopardising implementation of the Europe 2020 Strategy targets for combating poverty and early school-leaving among young people?

The Council reminds that the Council Declaration on the European Year for Combating Poverty and Social Exclusion: "Working together to fight poverty in 2010 and beyond", adopted on 6 December 2010, stated that combating child poverty should be a top priority of the EU and of its Member States in the next decade and that financial consolidation and budgetary policies should duly take into account the need to protect all vulnerable people and to prevent social exclusion. The Presidency will submit draft conclusions to the Council taking into account the Trio Presidency declaration adopted at the end of the Conference "Roadmap for a Recommendation on Child Poverty and Child Well-being", held on 2-3 September 2010, in which the Spanish, Belgian and Hungarian Presidencies presented a number of recommendations for future action.

Competence of the WHO as regards price and tax policies relating to tobacco products

Vincenzo Iovine (Italy, ALDE) reminds that the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control examined a report on price and tax policies relating to tobacco products and set up a working group to draw up guidelines for the implementation of the measures in question. As the European Union is one of the contracting parties to the Framework Convention, it is legally bound by the provisions thereof.

For **Commissioner Dalli**, the Commission does not consider that the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommendations are in breach of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) Agreement on Technical Barriers to Trade. The EU, when implementing such recommendations will ensure respect for WTO obligations, in particular the obligations enshrined in the Agreement.

The main objective of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control is to

protect present and future generations from the health, social, environmental and economic consequences of tobacco consumption. Both the EU and 26 Member States are contracting parties to this Convention. The Convention recognises that price and tax measures are an effective means of reducing tobacco consumption and states that each Contracting Party determines and establishes its taxation measures, taking into account its national health objectives regarding tobacco control.

As regards the Common Agricultural Policy, a result of the reform of the sector in 2004, tobacco aid has been decoupled and fully integrated in the Single Payment Scheme which is a direct income support granted to farmers without any production obligation. In this respect, tobacco is not treated differently from other agriculture production.

The economic and social implications of any structural changes in tobacco production will be considered.

Other

European Medicines Agency (EMA) - Geriatric Expert Group

The European Medicines Agency's [Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use](#) (CHMP) has established a Geriatric Expert Group, to provide scientific advice on issues related to the elderly. The group's [mandate, objectives and rules of procedure](#), explain that the group will contribute to the work of the CHMP and the Agency secretariat by:

- giving input on guidelines under consultation;
- giving advice on geriatric aspects of the development, assessment or safety monitoring of medicines;
- taking part in meetings where expertise on geriatrics is needed;
- contributing to the geriatric implementation plan.

The establishment of the group forms a major step in the implementation of the Agency's [geriatric medicines strategy](#), adopted in February 2011 as part of the implementation of the Agency's [Road Map to 2015](#).

European Centre for Disease prevention and Control (ECDC): Excellence in prevention and control of infectious diseases – read the new corporate brochure

ECDC is mandated to communicate directly with the European public on current and emerging threats to human health posed by infectious diseases. ECDC's mission is to identify, assess and communicate current and emerging threats to human health posed by infectious diseases. From 1 April 2011 ECDC modified its organisational structure to better serve its mission.

The brochure is available [here](#).

European Centre for Disease prevention and Control (ECDC) - Chlamydia on the rise in Europe: new ECDC report on sexually transmitted infections

The new ECDC surveillance report 'Sexually transmitted infections in Europe 1990–2009' describing basic trends in diseases like chlamydia, syphilis and gonorrhoea. They are young, mostly female and their number is constantly growing: with nearly 344 000 notified cases in 2009, chlamydia is the most frequently reported sexually transmitted infection (STI) across Europe. The report shows marked differences in trends across Europe.

For more information, click [here](#)

European Court of Justice (ECJ) Judgement - minimum health and safety requirements regarding the exposure of workers to the risks arising from physical agents (noise)

The European Court of Justice has published its judgement on the minimum

health and safety requirements regarding the exposure of workers to the risks arising from physical agents (noise).
For more information, click [here](#).

National and local news

Finland – Launching of a Website devoted to gender equality

The Finnish programme which has already been running for two years continued to deliver valuable results in its 3rd year (2009-2010). *Equality mainstreaming* targeted at the public sector included a guidebook, online-training as well as active citizenship and human rights education for young people from ethnic minorities. *Positive action* involved the disabled and servicemen with cultural minority background. Newly set up local points reporting back to the ombudsman for minorities on discrimination should improve *measurement of discrimination* in the near future. A study on *multiple discrimination* faced by children and teenagers revealed that it exists in schools, streets and on the internet. Guidebooks on good diversity practices and recruitment of disabled persons, online-training for the public sector and diversity material for the army as well as the study on discrimination experiences of children and teenagers will have long-term impacts by raising awareness and further promoting social responsibility.

The Website is available [here](#)

France – National campaign « To make the society change regarding cancer »

The French Government launched a communication campaign related to the cancer in order the society to modify its behavior towards people having a cancer.

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

France - INPES - Health promotion actions for elders

INPES debated about health promotion actions for elders on 18 May in the frame of the days for prevention. INPES signed a partnership agreement with the *Caisse nationale d'assurance vieillesse (Cnav)* with the aim to develop synergies to develop actions towards elders.

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

Germany - Federal Centre for Health Education (BZgA)- National campaign "We are smoke free"

In the frame of the International Day of Stop Smoking (31st May), BZgA started a new campaign "We are smoke free" to encourage stop smoking by adults. In Germany, 1/3 men and 1/4 women above 18 smoke. With regards to this campaign; they have created a website: www.rauchfrei-info.de with information. The website is visited each month by 17 000 people.

For more information, click [here](#)

Spain – National Campaign " Health in Family"

¿*Qué es Salud en Familia?* is an online « community ». The aim is to reply to the needs of people requesting information related to health. This initiative is an opportunity to educate people who want to live a healthy life.

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

Sweden – A coherent and responsible tobacco regulation for Europe - Information from the Swedish delegation

The Government of Sweden welcomes the fact that the European Commission

has initiated a revision of the Tobacco Products Directive (2001/37/EC). The review provides an opportunity for the EU to achieve uniform and responsible product regulation covering all tobacco products, with the focus on a high level of health protection. With this document, the Government of Sweden wishes to draw the attention of the other Member States to an issue with a bearing on both public health and the internal market. In Sweden's view, there are a number of aspects concerning tobacco regulation that need to be taken into account as part of a responsible tobacco policy. Aspects such as hazardous substances, additives, hygiene and labelling should be regulated, for example. For more information, click [here](#).

Other international news

WHO – Social determinants approaches to public health: from concept to practice

WHO published a report related to social determinants approaches to public health. The WHO publication entitled *Equity, social determinants and public health programmes* analysed from the perspective of thirteen priority public health conditions their social determinants and explored possible entry points for addressing the avoidable and unfair inequities at the levels of socioeconomic context, exposure, vulnerability, health-care outcome and social consequences. However, the analysis needs to go beyond concepts to explore how the social determinants of health and equity can be addressed in the real world. This publication takes the discussion on social determinants of health and health equity to a practical level of how programmes have actually addressed the challenges faced during implementation. The report is available [here](#).

WHO - World report on child injury prevention

Every day more than 2000 children and teenagers die from an injury which could have been prevented. This joint WHO / UNICEF report is a plea to keep kids safe by promoting evidence-based injury prevention interventions and sustained investment by all sectors. The report presents the current knowledge about the five most important causes of unintentional injury – road traffic injuries, drowning, burns, falls and poisoning – and makes seven recommendations for action. The report is available [here](#).

WHO - New database on nutrition, obesity and physical activity

WHO/Europe has mapped policies on nutrition, [physical activity](#) and obesity throughout the European Region in a new database. The purpose is to assist decision-makers and professionals who want to address the spiralling levels of noncommunicable disease. Noncommunicable diseases pose the greatest threat to health in the WHO European Region today. The WHO European database on nutrition, obesity and physical activity (NOPA) has been created in close collaboration with health [ministries](#) and with support from the European Commission. It includes details on more than 300 national and subnational policies in the WHO European Region that address nutrition, physical activity or obesity. Most of these policy documents have been developed in the past six years and refer to changing demographic and lifestyle trends such as the increasing consumption of industrially produced foods high in fat and sugar and declining physical activity. For more information, click [here](#).

OECD - Report "Help Wanted? Providing and Paying for Long-term Care"

It is estimated that people aged 80+ in the OECD countries (which includes the 27 EU Member States) will grow from 4% in 2010 to 10% in 2050. At the same time, family ties are becoming looser. This will challenge long-term care services and systems. The report published by the OECD looks at how countries can provide the necessary care for older people, despite the ageing demographic and societal changes. The report is the result of a 2 year project conducted between 2009 and 2010 through a mix of qualitative and quantitative methods. The report is available [here](#).

UN Commission on Information and Accountability for Women's and Children's Health- Being accountable for women's and children's health

The United Nations Commission on Information and Accountability for Women's and Children's Health presented their report, *Keeping Promises, Measuring Results*, and recommendations to increase the likelihood that pledges for women's and children's health are honoured and that resources are spent in the most effective way to save lives. The report is available [here](#).

UNAIDS - Reference Group calls on UN Member States to scale-up evidence-based interventions to address HIV among people who use drugs

Ahead of the 2011 United Nations High Level Meeting on AIDS, the Reference Group to the United Nations on HIV and Injecting Drug Use has issued a *statement* calling for Member States to focus on HIV transmission among people who inject drugs. The statement details eight key priorities for Member States as they negotiate the outcome document for June's General Assembly meeting. For more information, click [here](#).

European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies - Medical tourism and cross-border healthcare will develop and expand in Europe

The European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies published a new report, showing that the European cross-border healthcare and medical tourism will continue to develop and increase even more. Moreover, the study, "Cross-border healthcare in the European Union. Mapping and analysing practices and policies" explores trends and looks at the legal framework for cross-border care as well as examining uncertainties surrounding it. The report is available [here](#).

European Social Network (ESN) - Serving an Ageing Population Well: an EU challenge European roundtable on health promotion

ESN contributed to the European level roundtable *Serving an Ageing Population Well: Health promotion at the interface of social and primary care*, on 11 May in Brussels, bringing to the debate the experience from local government in promoting health and wellbeing in an ageing population.

- Hosted jointly by [EuroHealthNet](#) and the [European Health Management Association \(EHMA\)](#), the roundtable discussed health promotion for older people, drawing on experiences from local social and health care actors and finally, potential pathways for future action and support from the EU. Current research indicates that the number of Europeans aged 65 or more will increase by around 40% in the next 20 years and by 90% by

2060. As a result, total age-related spending is expected to increase by 4.75% of GDP by 2060 - from around 23.1% of GDP in 2007. The greatest increases will be in pensions, healthcare, and long-term care.

For more information, click [here](#)

CECOP-CICOPA Europe raises awareness about sustainable employment

CECOP – CICOPA Europe - *the European Confederation of Worker Cooperatives, Social Cooperatives and Social and Participative Enterprises* - carries out a European campaign on the theme of sustainable employment highlighting the fact that worker cooperatives, social cooperatives and other types of enterprises owned by their workers allow a more sustainable type of employment. The campaign seeks to create alliances with various components of European civil society around the concept of sustainable employment, and to interact on this concept with the representatives of the European Union citizens.

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

European Policy Centre (EPC) - Growth, well-being and social policy in Europe: trade-off or synergy?

Published within the framework of the 'Well-being 2030' project, co-financed by the European Commission, this new issue of *Challenge Europe* addresses the question of how to turn social policy into an effective productive factor, enabling well-being of Europeans and economic growth. While the first chapter explores the possible synergies between growth, well-being and social policy, the second part of this EPC's policy journal turns to those policy areas where intervention can be the most effective. Finally, in a third chapter, the authors look at the EU's room of manoeuvre and propose specific policy actions. The report is available [here](#).

COFACE - The role of family-friendly policies for the prevention of child poverty and the realisation of child wellbeing

In this paper, COFACE stands for a coherent EU approach to family policies and the child-rights agenda at EU level and calls for the adoption of a Commission Recommendation on Child Poverty and Wellbeing by 2012. Other key proposals include: the development of more accurate indicators to monitor the different dimensions of child wellbeing; the promotion of family-friendly employment policies, based on the principle of non-discrimination; the effective implementation of the Flagship Initiative 'A European Platform against Poverty'; the establishment of common EU criteria for quality early years' services; the full involvement of civil society, and in particular organisations representing children and families in the elaboration, implementation and assessment of all EU initiatives affecting them.

COFACE position is available [here](#).

Age Platform Europe - Intergroup meeting: Improving medicines for Older people

Older people constitute between 13% to 20% of the population of developed countries. They use more than 30% of prescribed medicines, and more than 40% of over the counter medicines. Moreover, in some countries, they account for up to 60% of total pharmaceutical expenditure. In addition, the percentage of older subjects who take several medicines is high and on the increase. Older

people also have the highest risk to develop Adverse Drug Events (ADEs). In Europe, ADEs cause 20% of physicians visits as well as up to 30% of hospital admission in older people. Despite the above, older people are still generally excluded from clinical trials. As a result medicines are not developed for their specific use in older people. In February 2011, the European Medicines launched a strategy on geriatric medicines to cover these issues, which was welcomed by a high number of organisations. Beyond this strategy, other challenges are also to be taken on board.

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

Assembly of European Regions (AER) - On the road to active and healthy ageing in Europe –

The members of Assembly of European Regions' (AER) Committee on 'Social policy and Public health' discussed the initiatives launched by the European Union in the field of active and healthy ageing, as well as the newly adopted directive on cross-border healthcare, both of which raise the fundamental question of managing healthcare in the regions of Europe.

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

Health and Environment Alliance (HEAL) - Scientists' Appeal on children's environment and health

Health and Environment Alliance's mission includes bringing latest science to EU and national politicians and raising awareness of the links between environmental and factors and health among the medical and health community and the public.

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



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

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