



EU Health Highlights

November II

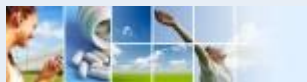


CONTENTS LIST

Main News Stories
News from EuroHealthNet
News from the Council and the EU Presidency
News from the European Commission
News from the European Parliament
News from other EU Bodies and Agencies
Other International News
Other National and Local News
Events
Publications

MAIN NEWS STORIES

European Commission – New Health for Growth and Consumer Programmes



The European Commission adopted proposals for a new “Health for Growth” and Consumer Programmes. These new programmes will run from 2014-2020 with a budget of €446 million for the Health for Growth Programme and €197 million for the Consumer Programme. Focus will be on fewer concrete actions that offer clear EU added-value.

READ MORE



For further information about the new Health for Growth and Consumer Programmes, click [here](#)

To access the questions & Answers, click [here](#)

For more information about EuroHealthNet position, click [here](#)

European Parliament – Towards more action against poverty and social exclusion



The European Parliament adopted a report on the European Platform against poverty and social exclusion. MEPs approved plans to investigate a legally-enforceable Europe-wide minimum income - and to classify poverty as a violation of human rights. They also recognized that poverty and social exclusion remain a key social determinant of health and living conditions, including life expectancy, particularly in view of the impact of child poverty on child health and well-being, and whereas there is still a significant gap between rich and poor when it comes to affordable access to health services and to income and wealth, which is continuing to widen in some respects.

[READ MORE](#)



To access the report adopted by the European Parliament, click [here](#)

For more information about EuroHealthNet position, click [here](#) or contact EuroHealthNet Policy & Advocacy Coordinator, [Stecy Yghemonos](#).

Presidency and Commission on the key messages from the Convention are now available [here](#).

Launch of the UCL Institute of Health Equity – To narrow the health gap



The UCL Institute of Health Equity will build on previous work to tackle inequalities in health led by Professor Sir Michael Marmot and his team, including the 'Commission on Social Determinants of Health' and 'Fair Society Healthy Lives'. Current work includes leadership of a review of Social Determinants of Health and the Health Divide for the WHO European Regional Office.

[READ MORE](#)



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

EU - High-level conference on Inequalities in Europe and the future of the welfare state



EuroHealthNet will participate in the conference to be held in Brussels on 5-6 December will take stock of how inequalities develop and explore ways of how to mitigate them. Seven panels will deal with crucial aspects of inequalities:

- Labour market inequalities and their mitigation
- Geographic dimension of social inequalities and their mitigation. Mitigating inequalities through taxation – taxing fairly and efficiently
- Role of health and equal opportunities policies in mitigating inequalities
- Redistribution, cash benefits for mitigating inequalities
- Role of education and child policies - tomorrow's inequalities are here, in our children

- Conclusions, Europe 2020 and the future of a sustainable welfare state in the EU



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

WHO Europe – Conference on Health 2020



EuroHealthNet has been invited to participate in a Conference on the new WHO Europe strategy, on 28-29 November 2011. It continues development of the Health 2020 policy that the European Region plans to endorse formally in September 2012. The meeting aims to explore how a whole - of-government and whole-of-society approach can further improve health and well-being, and to review and identify ways to establish or consolidate dialogue with critical stakeholders and all levels of government for Health 2020.



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

The working document “The new European policy for health – Health 2020: vision, values, main directions and approaches” is available [here](#).

NEWS FROM EUROHEALTHNET

EUROHEALTHNET

Solidarity in health - Closing the health gap between EU Member States



EuroHealthNet participated in the EU Presidency conference “Closing the health gap between EU States”. EuroHealthNet Director Clive Needle was invited to make a keynote presentation on how the EU2020 agenda relates to social determinants of health and equity. During this speech, he was able to announce not only that a new research project called

DRIVERS will begin in January 2012, studying aspects of such work, but to indicate learning from the first analysis of a major study carried out for the European Commission by EuroHealthNet on the situation of health equity policies in 27 States.

[READ MORE](#)



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

The slides presented in the context of this conference are available on request or via the official site, [here](#)

Launch of the European Portal for Action on Health Inequalities



The [European Portal for Action on Health Inequalities](#) has been launched. The new website is an exhaustive source of information on health inequalities at EU, national and regional level, on social determinants of health and on Health in All Policies. It aims to provide visitors with practical and useful information and to give

them opportunities to promote their own work.

[READ MORE](#)



For more information on the European Portal for Action on Health Inequalities, please visit the website [here](#) or contact EuroHealthNet's Health Equity Project Officer [Yoline Kuipers](#).

EUPHA Conference: Public Health and Welfare – Welfare development and health

In the context of the 4th European Public Health (EUPHA) Conference, plenary and parallel sessions focused on the question of how the crisis is affecting societies and whether certain welfare models fared better than others. The Conference also focused on the issue of public health training and education in shaping the future's public health professionals, and on the contribution of health services to the welfare of the elderly population.

[READ MORE](#)



For more information about Gradient, click [here](#) or contact EuroHealthNet Research & Knowledge Coordinator, [Giorgio Barbareschi](#).

For more information about EUPHA Conference, click [here](#)

UNICEF/IRC - OECD Conference: The Learning for Well-being Consortium / European Commission Child Well-being Expert Consultation



UNICEF Innocenti Research Centre, the OECD, the Learning for Well-being (LfWb) Consortium and the European Commission discussed issues related to on-going cross-national research on child indicators and well-being. The purpose of the conference was to share recent developments in the field, and to discuss in greater detail age-related data and research needed to inform policies to improve children's well-being. EuroHealthNet Health equity Coordinator Ingrid Stegeman attended on behalf of the GRADIENT project.

[READ MORE](#)



For more information, click [here](#)

Please contact EuroHealthNet Health equity Coordinator [Ingrid Stegeman](#)

Report commissioned by Hungary when it held the EU Council Presidency during the first half of 2011: *Child well-being in the EU: better monitoring instruments for better policies* is available [here](#).

Towards a more sustainable future - SPREAD project



SPREAD project held a high-level roundtable for policy-makers, experts and practitioners. Experts from policy, business, society and design presented their visions for more sustainable futures, while four existing promising practices from across EU were presented by entrepreneurs and practitioners. Policy-makers, experts and practitioners also discussed over existing policies and regulations and the way they could support the emergence of promising practices, or what policy innovation is needed to make the visions happen and what policies are urgently needed as "must haves".



The findings and results will be published on [SPREAD Sustainable Lifestyles online](#)

[community](#) network.

For more information, click [here](#) or contact EuroHealthNet Senior Public Health Officer, [Cristina Chiotan](#).

EUROHEALTHNET MEMBERS

France- INPES - To decrease social inequalities for health



INPES published a report where it underlines that all indicators show that health social inequalities increase. INPES has always been involved in this issue. Prevention, promotion and education must be for all, for equity reasons.



To access INPES publication, click [here](#).

Germany – BZgA - HIV prevention partnership goes online



WHO/Europe, along with BZgA (the Federal Centre for Health Education, Germany) and AIDS Action Europe, launched the IQhiv initiative with the objectives:

- to promote the routine inclusion of quality improvement practices into HIV prevention across Europe at the project, programme and policy levels;
- to disseminate information on quality-improvement practices that have been shown to enhance the effectiveness of HIV prevention at the project, programme and policy levels.

[READ MORE](#)



To access Iqhiv, click [here](#)

Slovenia - Institute of public health Murska Sobota - ASPHER Workshop with public health professionals



The Regional Institute of Public Health Murska Sobota is organizing an ASPHER – EuroHealthNet workshop with public health professionals in Slovenia. The workshop will discuss the European Public Health Core Competencies Programme made by ASPHER.

The aim of the workshop is to help think practically about the skills and knowledge needed to work as a public health professional, and whether those skills are included in the ASPHER competencies list. Representatives from all regional public health institutes, the Ministry of Health and the School for Health Care Izola are invited to the event.



For more information, click [here](#) or contact [Tatjana Kraijnc-Nikolic](#) or [Karen Vandeweghe](#) .

Sweden - Swedish National Institute of Public Health - Pre-conference on monitoring public health trends and policies



Swedish National Institute
of Public Health

The Swedish National Institute of Public Health held a pre-conference, "Monitoring public health trends and public health policies in the 21st century", just prior to the start of the annual European Public Health Conference.



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

Switzerland - Health Promotion Switzerland- Platform for quality development in health promotion

Health promotion Switzerland has launched a platform aiming at presenting quality development in health promotion and prevention offers. The platform presents:

- Planning chart, charts, checklists and other tools,
- An online community,
- A project database,
- A project management tool,
- Educational and consulting services



The platform is available [here](#).

NEWS FROM THE COUNCIL AND THE EU PRESIDENCY

Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council (EPSCO)

In the context of the next EPSCO Council, employment, social protection, consumer protection, health and equal opportunities Ministers will discuss several important issues.

[READ MORE](#)



For more information, click [here](#)

The draft conclusions related to the Health for Growth Programme 2014-2020 are available [here](#).

The draft conclusions about early detection and treatment of communication disorders in children, including the use of e-Health tools and innovative solutions are available [here](#).

The draft conclusions on "closing the health gaps within the EU through concerted actions" are available [here](#).

The draft conclusions on "prevention, early diagnosis and treatment of chronic respiratory diseases in children" are available [here](#).

Agriculture Council - Food for the most deprived persons

In the context of the Agriculture Council, the Polish Presidency indicated that a qualified majority within the Council could be confirmed, at a later stage, in favour of the

temporary continuation of the programme for the distribution of food to the most deprived persons. This should guarantee the effective functioning of the programme in 2012 and 2013 under specific conditions. The Presidency will include this item on the agenda of one of the next Council sessions with a view to reaching an agreement on the basis of a Presidency compromise.

[READ MORE](#)



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

General Affairs Council - Stop to sexual abuse and exploitation of children and child pornography



The EU Council of Ministers adopted a directive aimed at combating sexual abuse and exploitation of children and child pornography, harmonizing about 20 criminal offences and setting a high level for penalties. The directive penalises a number of offences across the EU including the sexual abuse of children, sexual exploitation of children, child pornography and grooming, and sets lower thresholds for their maximum penalties as compared to a previous framework decision from 2004.

[READ MORE](#)



For more information about the Council directive, click [here](#).

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

Polish Presidency - European Day of the Brain

The Polish Presidency organized a meeting in the context of the European Day of the Brain, ageing, Stroke and Alzheimer's disease. The conference aimed at discussing progress in brain research in Europe and the situation of patients, with particular regard to the diseases referred to.

[READ MORE](#)

5th European Equality Summit

The theme of the 5th European equality summit was the "Implementation of equality policies at the regional and local level". Debates were conducted on the following subjects:

- Equality as a factor in regional development
- Boosting regional and local partnership
- Effective use of EU funds at the regional and local level to implement anti-discrimination policies addressed to minorities, including the Roma people.

[READ MORE](#)



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

NEWS FROM THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

HEALTH

Antimicrobial resistance - Action Plan



In the context of the European Antibiotic Awareness Day, the European Commission has tabled a comprehensive Action Plan on Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) which unveils 12 concrete actions to be implemented in close cooperation with the Member States. EU-wide data published by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) on antibiotic resistance shows that resistance to last-line antibiotics is increasing in

Europe.

READ MORE



To access the Action Plan on Antimicrobial resistance, click [here](#).

The ECDC 2010 report on Antimicrobial resistance surveillance in Europe is available [here](#)

Nutrition - EU Platform on Diet, Physical Activity and Health Meeting

The EU Platform on Diet, Physical Activity and Health will meet and will focus on EU strategy on nutrition. Stecy Yghemonos, EuroHealthNet Policy and Advocacy Coordinator will attend the meeting.



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

Fight against alcohol - High level meeting of the Committee on National Alcohol Policy and Action



The EU Alcohol and Health Forum is a platform where bodies active at European level can debate, compare approaches and act to tackle alcohol related harm. Representatives met in order to discuss the actions taken at EU and national level and to study the added value from the EU alcohol strategy and coordination and EU level.



For more information, click [here](#)

For more information about the EU Alcohol strategy, click [here](#)

Fight against alcohol – 3rd European Alcohol and Health Forum (EAHF)



The European Alcohol and Health Forum (EAHF) activities have been assessed. The results of this evaluation are presented in a report. The EAHF was established in 2007 and represents a platform for all interested stakeholders at EU level that pledge to step up actions relevant to reducing alcohol-related harm. The report describes the policy context in which the EAHF is operating. It then provides an overview of the 2011 quality evaluation process and describes the main relationships between member categories and monitored commitments.



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

Fight against tobacco - Tobacco lobby threatens EU over plain packaging



Australia adopted a legislation aiming at forcing tobacco companies to sell cigarettes in buff packaging free of trademarks and logos but carrying dominant pictorial health warnings. However, amendments must still be approved by the lower house before becoming law in December 2012.

[READ MORE](#)



For more information, click [here](#)

Fight against tobacco - EU move to reduce cigarette ignited fires to save hundreds of lives each year



Cigarettes left unattended are one of the leading causes of fatal fires in Europe. Evidence shows that the number of fatalities can be reduced by over 40% with the introduction of 'Reduced Ignition Propensity' (RIP) cigarettes. This means cigarettes which self-extinguish when left unattended and which are thus less likely to cause fire. This safety measure is already in place in some countries globally (US, Canada, Australia), and, in the EU, in Finland since April 2010. Once the new safety standards are published in the EU Official Journal all cigarettes sold in Europe will have to comply with these measures. It will be the role of the national authorities to enforce this new fire safety measure.

[READ MORE](#)



For more information, click [here](#)

Global Health Governance - Global health Policy Forum

The Global Health Policy Forum met in order to discuss on global health governance. The representatives also focused on the role of the EU in the global health governance.



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

European Innovation partnership - Towards actions to turn ageing into an opportunity

The steering group of the pilot European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing agreed on joint actions in response to the societal challenge of an ageing population. Five specific actions ready to be launched next year have been determined.

[READ MORE](#)



For more information and to access the joint actions to be launched in 2012, click [here](#).

To access the final texts of the strategic and operational plans from the Steering Group Meeting of the European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing, click [here](#)

Electromagnetic fields and health - Conference



This scientific conference on Electromagnetic fields and health was organized in the context of the periodic review of the scientific evidence on the potential health effects of electromagnetic fields (EMF). Its aim was to identify the main sources of uncertainty in EMF & health research, to identify the areas of scientific consensus on the potential health effects of electromagnetic fields, to define the key remaining knowledge gaps and to develop proposals on a strategy to address them. This strategy would prioritize research actions according to health relevance and by decreasing level of health concerns.

[READ MORE](#)



For more information, click [here](#)

To access the 2010 Eurobarometer on electromagnetic fields, click [here](#).

SOCIAL

New action for growth, governance and stability

The Commission has adopted a package containing: the 2012 Annual Growth Survey setting out the economic priorities for the coming year; two Regulations to tighten economic and budgetary surveillance in the euro area; and a Green Paper on Stability Bonds. The key message of the 2012 Annual Growth Survey (AGS) is that, faced with a deteriorating economic and social situation, more efforts are needed to put Europe back on track and sustain growth and jobs.

[READ MORE](#)



For more information, click [here](#)

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

Stronger focus on jobs as Europe faces “turbulent and tough times”, Statement by EU Commissioner László Andor

In an address to the International Labour Organization (ILO), European Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion, László Andor said the European Union was going through “turbulent and tough times”. Underlining the importance of cooperation between EU and ILO, both in and outside the EU, he called for a reinforced focus on job creation in the EU and referred to long-term unemployment, job precariousness and youth

unemployment as the most pressing issues



For more information, click [here](#)

Ageing - Designing effective strategies for tackling elder abuse

The purpose of the conference is to take stock of the achievements of recent EU projects related to elder abuse and to exchange views about what needs and could be done at national and European level to protect the dignity and well-being of older people.

[READ MORE](#)



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

Labour Force Survey 2010

In the EU27, there were 41.3 million persons working part-time in 2010, of which three quarters were women. Among those employed part-time, 8.5 million, or 21%, wished to work more hours, were available to do so¹ and can therefore be considered to be underemployed. The share of part-time workers who are underemployed was higher for men (27%) than for women (19%).



For more information, click [here](#)

RESEARCH

Fight against alcohol - Binge drinking more common in northern Europe



The relationship between drinking and damage to one's health is stronger in the Baltic countries and Sweden than in Italy, new research from Europe shows. The findings, published in the journal *Alcoholism: Clinical & Experimental Research*, suggest that the northern part of Europe tends to report higher alcohol-harm relationships because of a stronger propensity to indulge in heavy episodic drinking, what experts label 'binge drinking'.



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

Innovation Convention – Research and innovation main motors for sustainable job creation

This first EU Innovation Convention will be opened by President Barroso one year after the adoption of the Innovation Union flagship initiative, the EU's roadmap to turn Europe into a more innovation-friendly and competitive continent.

[READ MORE](#)



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

OTHER

Commission adopts 2012 Work Programme for European Renewal

President Barroso presented the 2012 work programme of the European Commission. The Programme sets out how the Commission aims at building on the set of proposals to respond to the economic crisis already on the table with further measures next year. The Programme underlines that significant attention will have to be given next year to taking forward proposals already adopted or in the pipeline for the coming weeks. These include measures on the economy, the Single Market, and the wide range of proposals now coming forward on spending programmes to drive reform and renewal. New proposals will build on this programme to reinforce the drive to job-creating growth. One of the main aspects of the Commission programme is to "Build a Union of growth and solidarity".



The Commission Work Programme 2012 is available [here](#).

NEWS FROM THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Stop to the illegal online gambling and protect children



The European Parliament adopted a resolution asking the Commission to explore the possibilities for stronger cooperation to fight illegal online gambling and protect vulnerable consumers. Stronger cooperation among Member States, common standards or a framework directive could be possible tools to this end, MEPs said.

[READ MORE](#)



For more information, click [here](#)

Conference - Staying active - The impact of (un-)employment on the mental health of an ageing Europe

MEP Frieda Brepoels (Belgium, PSE) and Mental Health Europe organise a debate on Staying active - The impact of (un-)employment on the mental health of an ageing Europe. The current economic downturn has had a significant adverse effect on the mental health of the European society as an increased number of people are experiencing mental health problems such as depression, burnout and anxiety. The impact of the economic crisis was particularly acute for older people, who are currently at greater risk of losing their jobs, and less likely to be retrained and re-employed. It is therefore crucial to address the mental health needs of this already vulnerable group.



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

RESPONSE TO PARLIAMENT QUESTIONS

E-Health

Petru Constantin Luhan (Romania, PPE) asks the Commission what concrete steps will it take to support the e health system and the local and regional authorities that will implement that system?

[READ MORE](#)

Obesity as an urgent issue

Oreste Rossi (Italy, EFD) asks the European Commission if it intends to undertake an awareness-raising campaign on obesity issue, promoting a quality-oriented food culture?

[READ MORE](#)

EU tobacco policy coherence

John Stuart Agnew (UK, EFD) asks the European Commission by how much does the EU support and/or subsidise the production of tobacco? How does such expenditure relate to EU spending to discourage tobacco smoking and what efforts, if any, are made to ensure coherence in overall EU policy and spending in the tobacco sector?

[READ MORE](#)

Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing

Marina Yannakoudakis (UK, ECR) asks the Commission how it foresees to continue partnerships formed under the European Innovation Partnership driving innovation in health, particularly in terms of funding?

[READ MORE](#)

Protecting vulnerable groups from having their electricity cut off

Konstantinos Poupakis (Greece, PPE) asks the European Commission how it intends to guarantee the protection of vulnerable social groups and consumers faced with the property tax that is to be collected directly through electricity bills issued by the Greek Electricity Board (DEI), so as to ensure immediate payment.

[READ MORE](#)



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

For more information regarding manifestation against the DEI, click [here](#)

NEWS FROM OTHER EU BODIES AND AGENCIES

European Court of Justice (ECJ) – For a paid annual leave accumulated during period of unfitness for work

In its judgement, the Court made clear that, in case of a worker who is unfit for work for several consecutive reference periods, the EU law does not preclude national provisions or practices, such as collective agreements, which limit, by a carry-over period of 15 months on the expiry of which the right to paid annual leave lapses, the accumulation of entitlement to such leave.

[READ MORE](#)



To access the ECJ judgment, click [here](#)

EUROFOUND - Working together for youth employment - From education to the workplace: a global challenge



A seminar on Youth and Employment was hosted by the Employment and Social Affairs Committee of the European Parliament, jointly organised by European agencies.

The agencies highlighted the complementarity of their work by each presenting different aspects and perspectives related to youth employment in Europe and its neighbourhood countries. Topics included the transition from education to the workplace, guidance for young people at risk, safe and decent jobs for young people, the 'NEETs' phenomenon and its economic costs, the active inclusion of disadvantaged young people in employment and the global dimension of youth employment.



The conclusions of the seminar are now available [here](#)

Eurostat - Between 8% and 25% of adults are obese across Member States



Obesity and overweight are serious public health problems that can be statistically measured using the Body Mass Index (BMI) of adults. Obesity is defined as a BMI of over 30. Among the 19 Member States for which data are available, the proportion of obese people in the adult population varied in 2008/9 between 8.0% and 23.9% for women and between 7.6% and 24.7% for men. In the USA, the corresponding figure was 26.8% for women and 27.6% for men in 2009.

[READ MORE](#)



For more information, click [here](#)

European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies - Migration and health in the European Union



The European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies published a report on Migration and health in the European Union. The increasing diversity of populations in Europe, including a growing proportion of migrants, creates new challenges for health systems, which have to adapt in order to remain responsive.

[READ MORE](#)



To access the publication, click [here](#)

AGE and the EY2012 launches joint Manifesto for an Age-Friendly European Union

AGE and the Stakeholders' Coalition for the European Year 2012 for Active Ageing and Solidarity between Generations have issued its Manifesto for an Age-Friendly European Union. EuroHealthNet was represented by its Deputy Director, Caroline Costongs.

[READ MORE](#)



For more information, click [here](#)

OTHER INTERNATIONAL NEWS

WHO - Women and cancer



One in five women in the WHO European Region will get cancer before the age of 75. WHO supports countries in implementing the four basic components of cancer control – prevention, early detection, diagnosis and treatment, and palliative care – to prevent and cure many cancers, and alleviate suffering.

[READ MORE](#)



For more information, click [here](#)

International Day of Persons with Disabilities

The International Day of Persons with Disabilities aims to promote an understanding of disability issues and mobilize support for the dignity, rights and well-being of persons with disabilities. It also seeks to increase awareness of gains to be derived from the inclusion of persons with disabilities in every aspect of life.

[READ MORE](#)



For more information, click [here](#)

EPHA - PES Convention - "Health as a public good"

EPHA will organise a workshop at the Party of European Socialists convention, entitled "Health as a Public Good - Fiscal measures supporting national health systems and preventing ill-health", the workshop will be part of the "just society and equality" workshops of the PES convention. The event will bring together 1000 participants from social democratic parties, from trade unions and civil society, to discuss the future political

challenges and to prepare the PES' first European Fundamental Programme.

[READ MORE](#)



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

European Food Information Council (EUFIC) - Nutrition labelling can guide consumers but a lack of motivation and attention stand in the way of healthier food choices



FLABEL project (Food Labelling to Advance Better Education for Life) suggests that, despite good understanding and prevalence of nutrition information on food labels in Europe, a lack of motivation and attention of consumers may prevent labels from impacting positively on food choices. The project studies consumer behaviour and nutrition labels, and will provide guidelines for research, industry and policy-makers.

[READ MORE](#)



For more information about Flabel project, click [here](#)

For more information about EUFIC, click [here](#)

European Heart Network (EHN) - Report on Diet, Physical Activity and Cardio Vascular Disease (CVD) Prevention in Europe

The report on Diet, Physical Activity and Cardio Vascular Disease (CVD) Prevention in Europe, which represents the most up to date review of the evidence on the relationship between CVDs and nutrition and physical activity shows that:

- the cost of CVD in the EU is estimated at 192 billion Euros.
- 12 000 Europeans die every day due to heart attacks, strokes, and other cardiovascular diseases.

[READ MORE](#)



To access the report, click [here](#)

IFMSA Week of Global Action on Social Determinants of Health

The IFMSA Week of Global Action on Social Determinants of Health (WOA-SDH) is an IFMSA-wide global event that hopes to promote a "social determinants" paradigm to medical students and young people at large across the globe. Adopting the theme "Root Out, Reach Out," this campaign also aims to ignite young people's participation in generating global action to tackle the social determinants of health – locally, nationally, and globally.



For more information, click [here](#)

European Forum on the Rights of the Child

This year's meeting of the Forum was the first since the Commission adopted the EU Agenda for the Rights of the Child and aimed to take stock of achievements so far and look ahead to the next steps to be taken. The purpose of the Forum was to gather all key actors in children's rights at EU level (EU institutions, Member States, Ombudspersons for children, Council of Europe, UNICEF and civil society) and to help them implementing the

EU Agenda for the Rights of the Child.

[READ MORE](#)



For more information, click [here](#)

To access Commissioner Reding statement, click [here](#)

To access the European Website on the Rights of the Child, click [here](#)

OTHER NATIONAL AND LOCAL NEWS

Austria – European Observatory on health Systems - Analysis of the status of public health

The report explores the key challenges facing Austria's public health system. Set firmly in the context of the history, scope, functions and responsibilities of public health in developed countries, it examines how the Austrian system has developed and adapted over the last 50 years to the benefit of the population. It also looks at the challenges presented by life in the 21st century.

[READ MORE](#)



To access the report, click [here](#)

France – APRIL Health Equity Foundation - First survey on health equity

For French people, population health cannot be only measured with cares but also with some other factors such as, environment, climate, working conditions, nutrition, way of living, prevention etc. The Equity Health Foundation has therefore elaborated the 1st survey on equity and health.



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

Estonia - European IUHPE Conference on Health Promotion "Health and Quality of Life"

The 9th European IUHPE Conference on Health Promotion "Health and Quality of Life" will be held in 27-29 September 2012. in Tallinn, Estonia as a collaboration project in between Estonian Medical Association, Estonian Union for Health Promotion, Estonian Health Foundation and International Union for Health Promotion and Education.

[READ MORE](#)



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

Norway - University of Oslo - Commission on Global Governance for Health

A Commission on Global Governance for Health was established as a result of deliberations by the Lancet, Harvard School of Public Health, the Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs and the University of Oslo. Over the next two years, the commission shall examine aspects of governance, at both national and global levels, within the health

sector and in other sectors that impact health.

[READ MORE](#)



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

Slovenia – Workshop - Estimating the economic burden of alcohol

The workshop was part of activities agreed in the biennial collaborative agreement for 2010–2011 between WHO and the Ministry of Health of Slovenia. Slovenian experts participated in a capacity-building to estimate the economic burden of alcohol drinking in their country.

[READ MORE](#)



For more information, click [here](#)

Sweden – University of Gothenburg - Ageing: study shows active life leads to more quality years

A new study from Swedish researchers has shown that regular physical activity is associated with a lower risk of suffering depression in old age. Writing in the journal *Health Psychology*, the University of Gothenburg explains how their findings show that self-determined motivation and perceived competence are important factors in persuading elderly people to exercise more.

[READ MORE](#)



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

Wales – increase of obese hospital patients

The number of obese patients treated in Welsh hospitals is rising significantly, new figures obtained by BBC Wales suggest. The number of cases where obesity is considered a factor worth noting has gone up every year since at least 2006. And the age of those with obesity-related conditions is plunging, with Type 2 diabetes found in people in their 20s and younger. Dr Tony Jewell, the chief medical officer, referred to last year's Welsh health survey which said 57% of adults were overweight or obese.



For more information, click [here](#)

EVENTS

November 2011

- 28 November 2001: [Ageing in dignity – Designing effective strategy to tackle elder abuses](#) (Brussels, Belgium)
- 28 November 2011: EU Platform on Diet, nutrition, and physical activity.
- 28-29 November 2011: [First WHO European Conference on the New European Policy for Health - Health 2020](#) (Jerusalem, Israel)
- 29 November 2011: High-level Group on Nutrition and Physical Activity and Platform for Action on Diet, Physical Activity and Health – joint meeting (Brussels,

- Belgium)
- 28 November-1st December 2011: [15th Annual Public Health Days](#) (Montreal, Canada)
- 30 November: 2nd December 2011: [Eurochild's Annual Conference 2011](#) (Cardiff, Wales-UK)

December 2011

- 1 December 2011: [EUCERD/WHO Technical Workshop on the Classification of Genetic Diseases](#) (Luxembourg)
- 1 December 2011: [Health promotion: health education, health protection and disease prevention](#) (Slovenia)
- 1-2 December 2011: [Encouraging healthy ageing, healthy eating and active living in the family setting](#) (Brussels, Belgium)
- 3 December 2011: [International Day of persons with disabilities](#)
- 5 December 2011: [Medicine and surgery in optimising the care of obese patients](#) (Munich, Germany)
- 5 December 2011: [Advancing European health amidst global crises](#) (Brussels, Belgium)
- 5-6 December 2011: [High-level conference on Inequalities in Europe and the future of the welfare state](#) (Brussels, Belgium)
- 5-6 December 2011: [Innovation Convention](#) (Brussels, Belgium)
- 7 December 2011: [Staying Active – The impact of \(un\)employment on the mental health of an ageing Europe](#) (Brussels, Belgium)
- 8 December 2011: [Equality in the Workplace: Zero Tolerance on Gender-Based Discrimination, Harassment and Violence in Europe](#) (Brussels, Belgium)
- 9 December 2011: [Synergy in prevention and health promotion: individual, community, and environmental approaches](#), (Lisbon, Portugal)
- 9 December 2011: [How to measure impact of prevention campaigns?](#) (Paris, France)
- 12-13 December 2011: [Public Health Advocacy and Capacity](#) (Warsaw, Poland)
- 12-14 December 2011: [7th International Conference on Nightlife, Substance Use and Related Health Issues](#), (Prague, Czech Republic)
- 15 December 2011: [eHealth and Equity in the Global Health Communities](#) (Brussels, Belgium)

2012

- 18-19 January 2012: [IT @ Networking Awards 2012: Raise Awareness of the World's Most Innovative Healthcare IT Projects](#) (Brussels, Belgium)
- 6 March 2011: [Fifty years since 'Smoking and health' progress, lessons and priorities for a smoke-free UK](#) (London, UK)
- 7-10 March 2012: [27th International Conference on Alzheimer's Disease international](#) (London, UK)
- 2-3 May 2012: [High level conference on EU health programme -DG SANCO](#) (Brussels, Belgium)
- 23-24 May 2012: [8th Annual World Health Care Congress – Europe](#) (Amsterdam, Netherlands)
- 23-25 May 2012: [6th European Conference on Rare Diseases and Orphan Products](#) (Brussels, Belgium)
- 29-31 May 2012: [EuroHealthNet - Equity Week](#) (Brussels, Belgium)
- 12-15 June 2012: [EHMA Annual Conference - "Public healthcare: who pays, who provides?"](#) (Bern, Switzerland)
- 14-16 June 2012: [From individual to collective responsibility - The social determinants of mental health"](#) (Croatia)
- 12-14 September 2012: [European Urban health Conference: From research to policy](#) (Amsterdam, The Netherlands)
- 27-29 September 2012: [European IUHPE Conference on Health Promotion "Health and Quality of Life"](#) (Tallin, Estonia)

2013

- 10-14 June 2013: WHO - [8th Global conference on Health Promotion](#) (Finland)
- 25-29 August 2013: [21st IUHPE World Conference on Health Promotion](#) (Pattaya, Thailand)

PUBLICATIONS

British Medical Association (BMA) - [Social determinants of health – what can doctors do?](#)

Joseph Rowntree Foundation

- [Does income inequality cause health and social problems?](#)
- [Young people, alcohol and the media](#)
- [The State of World Population 2011: People and possibilities in a world of 7 billion](#)

Haute Autorité de Santé : [Equité en santé: Apports de l'analyse économique et perspectives de recherche](#)

Researches ordered by the European Commission

- [Long-term mental health care for people with severe mental disorders](#)
- [Making the long-term economic case for investing in mental health to contribute to sustainability](#)
- [Mental well-being: For a smart, inclusive and sustainable Europe](#)

[Community and household socioeconomic factors associated with pesticide-using, small farm household members' health: a multi-level, longitudinal analysis](#)

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

Want to express and share your views on Health equity issues?

Come and join the [Equity Channel Community](#) on the [Equity Channel Website](#)

Using Health Highlights

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

Would you like to inform other members about **new publications or events** in your organisation or country? Please send contributions to a.moret@eurohealthnet.eu

EU Health Highlights is produced for the internal use of organisations, institutions, authorities and departments interested in health promotion, disease prevention and public health in the EU. It is funded only by fees paid to us.

If any reader knows of people or bodies who might find it useful to receive Health Highlights, please do not copy it externally beyond your agency without our authorisation, but do send details to us at: a.moret@eurohealthnet.eu

We will be pleased to make contact and offer our services, including a free trial period. Your

comments and suggestions will also be welcome. Thank you for your help.

If you wish to **unsubscribe from our Health Highlights**, please [click here](#).



This publication is commissioned by the European Union Programme for Employment and Social Solidarity (2007-2013).

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

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