

## DETERMINE Key Messages

The DETERMINE Consortium highlighted the following key messages on how to act on the social determinants of health and reduce health inequalities:

1. Health systems<sup>1</sup> in EU Member States should ensure that reducing health inequities by addressing their underlying determinants is at the forefront of the policy agenda.
2. Health inequities are a population-based issue. Social position is directly correlated with health, resulting in a 'health gradient' that affects all groups of society. This needs to be widely understood by policy makers and practitioners within and beyond health systems across the EU.
3. The EU and its Member States should focus on gathering data on health inequities that is understandable, comparable and actionable.
4. Health systems within EU Member States should give greater priority to improving engagement with other policy sectors, promoting 'health equity in all policies' approaches. This involves developing legislation, reorienting and developing the health workforce and increasing the resource base for health promotion.
5. The EU and its Member States should invest in and coordinate efforts to develop better regulatory practices to ensure the most efficient and effective use of public resources to improve health equity. This requires more systematic application of and involvement in impact assessments procedures and economic analysis, and investing more in policy research and evaluation.
6. The EU and its Member States have a role to enhance the ability of local level actors to address health inequities by raising awareness about the health gradient and to provide them with tools and mechanisms to work with other sectors and disadvantaged populations on a regular basis.
7. The EU and its Member States should continue to invest in promoting, exchanging, and building on knowledge in this field, thereby actively supporting efforts to build a stronger basis for cross-sectoral work, such as initiated by the DETERMINE partnership and others. This involves exchanging information, building capacities, and greater engagement of the media and the public.

*A full version of these key messages is included in the final DETERMINE publication "The Story of DETERMINE. Mobilizing Action for Health Equity in the EU" available at: [www.health-inequalities.eu](http://www.health-inequalities.eu)*

1. Health systems is defined as in the Tallinn Charter on Health Systems for Health and Wealth. <http://www.euro.who.int/document/E91438.pdf>

# DETERMINE: EU action in a global dynamic

DETERMINE was a major initiative in the EU comprised of public health and health promotion institutes, governments, non-governmental organisations and academic organisations from 24 countries who came together to identify what is being done to improve health equity in the EU and to stimulate further collective action. This collaboration also took forward actions outlined in the EC Communication on “Solidarity in Health, Reducing Health Inequalities in the EU”.<sup>2</sup> DETERMINE built on the momentum generated by the work of the WHO Commission on the Social Determinants of Health (2005-2008). Amongst the goals of the CSDH was to create a sustainable global movement for action on health equity and the social determinants of health.<sup>3</sup>

**By focusing on what can be done in the EU,  
DETERMINE contributes to global learning in this area.**

## DETERMINE in summary

**Time frame:** June 2007 – June 2010

**Coordinator:** EuroHealthNet

**Countries involved:** 24

**Contract holder:** Czech National Institute of Public Health

**Co-funder:** DG SANCO under the EU

Public Health Action Programme

**Other Work Package leaders:**

Finnish Centre for Health Promotion, German Federal Centre for Health Education (BZgA), Institute for Public Health in Ireland, Social Marketing Centre (England), International Union for Health Promotion and Education (IUHPE)

**Products:**

- [www.health-inequalities.eu](http://www.health-inequalities.eu)
- DETERMINE film [www.youtube.com/eurohealthnet](http://www.youtube.com/eurohealthnet)
- 120 good practices in website database
- 4 Consortium Meetings
- 40 Consultations with Policy Makers
- 1 Action Summary in 14 languages
- 1 Interactive ‘Menu of Capacity Building Actions’
- 5 Working documents on policies, innovative practice, economic arguments, inter-sectoral action and capacity building
- 22 capacity building actions in 20 countries
- A package of tools and guidelines
- Final report in different languages



2. (COM 2009) 567 final [http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph\\_determinants/socio\\_economics/cons\\_inequities\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_determinants/socio_economics/cons_inequities_en.htm)

3. CSDH (2008). Closing the gap in a generation: health equity through action on the social determinants of health. Final report of the Commission on the Social Determinants of Health. Geneva. World Health Organisation.

