


The Consortium

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 **Business in the Community**
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 **Centre for Health Equity Studies,
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 **European Anti-Poverty Network**
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drivers
FOR HEALTH EQUITY

www.health-gradient.eu

Reducing health inequalities
through **Early Childhood,**
Employment and **Social**
Protection



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Drivers is co-ordinated by EuroHealthNet and has received funding from the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme FP7 / 2007-2013 under grant agreement n°278350

The Issue

Health inequities are caused by a wide-range of conditions, which relate directly to the physical and social environment. They are growing across Europe, yet they are preventable and therefore unfair. Research indicates that three of the most influential drivers of health equity and inequity are the conditions connected with early childhood, employment, and income and social protection.

The Project

Drivers is a three-year research project funded by the 7th Framework Programme. It brings together leading researchers, civil society organisations, businesses, and a European network of public health bodies with the aim of understanding and promoting health equity through policy and practice.

The Drivers

Early Childhood: The early years of a child's life are particularly important in determining future health. **Drivers** will further our understanding of the links between health and early childhood, concentrating in particular preparation for schooling and families experiencing multiple disadvantages.

Fair Employment: Protecting and promoting health at work is extremely important, given its centrality to the lives of many Europeans. **Drivers** will deepen our knowledge of links between employment and health, paying particular attention to psychosocial risk factors in the workplace.

Income & Social Protection: Disparities in income and the extensiveness and types of social protection systems have been linked to the existence of entrenched health inequalities across Europe. **Drivers** will analyse the effects of social protection and income maintenance policies on health inequalities in different social groups.

Activities

Research on the drivers of health equity will feed into work on advocacy methodologies and practical solutions to the issue of health inequalities. All of this will inform development of recommendations on reducing health inequalities for local, national and EU levels of government, practitioners and civil society organisations.

Step 1

Research on Early Childhood, Fair Employment, and Income & Social Protection

Reviewing existing scientific literature, identifying gaps in knowledge and assessing the effectiveness of existing policies and interventions.



Step 2

Advocacy for Health Equity

Researching existing forms of advocacy, consulting with stakeholders to identify effective methods of advocacy and producing new advocacy materials to raise awareness of the issue of health inequalities.



Step 3

Case Studies

Implementing case studies across Europe to test the knowledge developed by the project, and to evaluate the findings so that they are grounded in socio-economic reality.



Step 4

Recommendations

Bringing all of the work together to develop comprehensive recommendations for research, policy and practice.

