



Oral statement by EuroHealthNet at the 67th session of WHO Regional Committee for Europe on the 'Roadmap to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, building on Health 2020 -the European policy for health and well-being' (*agenda item 5a*)

Today's society is both unsustainable and unfair. We are creating and sustaining conditions that widen health inequalities. The proposed Roadmap to implement Agenda 2030 is not only essential to our survival, but is also an opportunity to build a more equal European region and inspiring the rest of the world.

The most effective way of linking public health with the SDGs is indeed the 'determinants approach'. The solutions to many of our current problems lie in the too weak, or even non existing, links between sectors. There must be a radical shift in governance: finding ways to collaborate across interests and search synergies, including economic priorities. For progress to be made, leadership is essential. The WHO has a major opportunity to actively encourage other sectors into action and achieve the SDGs.

Resources exist and can be mobilised. People can be empowered to live in ways that protect and promote their health and sustain the environment. We should do so by working with them and addressing their real needs and concerns- and pay particular attention to those most vulnerable. Engagement, empowerment, and working with the assets people have, is the key to change.

Resources also exist within national public health institutes and health promoting organisations. They have a vital role in facilitating inter-sectoral work as well as in working with people. However, we are worried. Some national institutes are merging; others suffer reduced funding or are even disappearing. Strong public health institutions and workforces for health promotion contribute to inter-sectoral action, and are essential for achieving SDG targets. Yet, funding for this work represents a very small proportion of overall health budgets and is often inadequate.

EuroHealthNet welcomes the roadmap and envisaged national development plans. We are ready to work together with WHO Regional Office and Member States through our membership to bring our added value of shared experiences and learning to help make this Roadmap reach its destination in Europe.