

"It is of great importance for our institute and country that we are engaged within EuroHealthNet"

"The films on YouTube are very good – well done!"

"Many thanks for your valuable information"

"This report will be a very valuable tool"

"Congratulations & thanks for the opportunity to comment on your draft response"

"We are really benefiting a lot from being your member"

The EuroHealthNet Report

and future prospects

"Many thanks for your informative 'Action Memo' that we send out and spread in our institute; it is very useful for us"

"We have extensively used the knowledge gathered at the policy workshop"

"Being connected in this network is good added value for us as a regional public health institute"

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Our Report

The aim of this Report is:

- To provide a summary of the collective work of EuroHealthNet's employees, officers, members and partners during the period 2009 to early 2010
- To inform others of our work, our plans and encourage new partnerships – and membership where appropriate

(The comments on the front cover were received from members and partners during 2009)

Welcome

EuroHealthNet is a not for profit network of organisations, agencies and statutory bodies working to promote health and equity by addressing the factors that determine health directly or indirectly. We have operated with an office in Brussels since 1996, and support our members' work in EU and associated states through policy and project development, networking and communications.

We offer advice and information for policy makers, promote good practices and innovations, and seek to practice ethical and sustainable methods to achieve the aims and objectives set by our members and partners.

We welcome applications for membership from all eligible bodies according to our statutes with a wide range of organisations, agencies and statutory bodies from institutions, national, regional and local governments, civil society and centres of expertise.

We also welcome formal or informal partnerships with people and public, private or voluntary organisations working on common or related objectives.

*Now you can see us
on YouTube*



<http://www.youtube.com/EuroHealthNet>

*And our
Determine project*



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sc0mHfQEKAU>

What we do

2009 -10 has been the most productive and busy period for EuroHealthNet in its existence so far.

We

- Provided frequent issues of our rapid information service “EU Health Highlights” for members and subscribers.
- Briefed members with insights into opportunities for international policy and project work, for example via our regular “Health Action Memo” online newsletter
- Responded to members’ requests for support, for example by co-organising a seminar on health and disabilities with European Commission participation
- Liaised with a huge range of organisations and built contacts with decision makers
- Advocated for our objectives in EU consultations and many events in Brussels and beyond
- Began our first research project, Gradient, in the EU 7th Framework Programme
- Helped to deliver outputs from the groundbreaking Determine Consortium
- Initiated the Equity Channel as part of an International Collaboration on social determinants
- Published reports on obesity & equity and health equity indicators
- Won funding bids, for example on public health and joined promising consortia developing projects on youth health and sustainable lifestyles
- Developed proposals for projects to be co-funded by the European Commission
- Contributed to the invitation only advisory bodies the EU Health Policy Forum, the EC Platform on Diet Physical Activity & Health and the EU Expert Group on Health Inequalities
- Prepared the first “Week Promoting Health and Equity” in Brussels
- Managed a family of websites promoting members’ work on public health, inequalities, health promotion, policy research and social determinants.
- Organised our first Week for promoting health and equity with events and publications
- Held our Annual General Assemblies in Edinburgh and Brussels
- Moved into well placed offices nearby EU institutional headquarters in Brussels

Those are just the headlines. They allude to a heavy workload, details of which are explained in this Report. Our capacity has been stretched, both by the specific work undertaken by the network, and the increasing demands from EU institutions whose role in policies affecting health and its determinants has increased significantly – for example as set out in the welcome new European Commission Communication *Solidarity in Health* on tackling health inequalities that was published in October 2009.

We urge you to read the reports summarised here and follow links from our projects, our policy teams and our communicators, and to use them to stimulate practical implementation on the ground, whether in local communities, institutions or governments or international organisations. That is their purpose – to provide added value to meet the real needs of people in and beyond Europe.

Added value

That added value is crucial to our aims, restated in our consultations with members during this year. We believe in true international networking: sharing knowledge, seeking common solutions to problems. Our members and partners are among the best in the continent in their fields. The contributions they make are valuable, and the returns that can be received from network membership and participation, tangible and otherwise, are considerable. Do follow our online links to their own sites to see the remarkable things our members and partners are achieving.

Our increased commitments have been matched by recruitment of some excellent new professionals to join our experienced core team. Together with the influential and supportive network of members and partners, we can report good progress towards our objectives in the past year, and our thanks are due to all concerned. But this publication is also about the future.

Looking to the future

Our 2009 General Assembly in Edinburgh highlighted the serious obstacles to be faced in a decade of social, economic and environmental challenges, in the wake of a severe global financial crisis. Arguably, never have the values and solutions offered by health promotion been needed more; rarely have the prospects for achieving them looked so difficult. Our governments and the new European Commission and Parliament look anxiously towards the Europe of 2020. So must we.

In that context our Board was charged with the preparation of a strategic review, building on lessons from our history as a network since 1996, views from members and partners, voices from relevant fields, and analysis of realities. 2010 is a year for decisions by our members about our next steps.

Already it is clear that there are opportunities for careful progress. Those prospects are offered by growing evidence on the benefits of approaches towards health across all policies and sectors, and growing knowledge of how combining health promotion values with measures to tackle health determinants, including wider factors beyond health systems and across boundaries, is vital.

Reaching out

So this Report also reaches out to those yet to commit to working with us: whether public bodies for whom we can provide a useful piece in their jigsaw of solutions, or potential partners who can benefit from our support in a wide range of research, policy and practice environments.

Do share this Report with others who may find it useful to their work, and do take up our invitation to join us or seek our support. We welcome your interest, we welcome your comments, we welcome new friends and we welcome your help in making progress towards a health promoting Europe.



About us

EuroHealthNet has been established since 1996, originally as the European Network for Health Promotion Agencies (ENHPA), to network for health promotion in the EU following the establishment of public health as an EU competence in the 1992 Maastricht Treaty. Initial work was carried out with support from the EU Health Promotion Programme. The major piece of work was a co-funded report on health promotion measures to address health inequalities, whose recommendations were discussed at a high level with participation by the European Commission, MEPs and member states within a Belgian EU Presidency.

When the Programme was merged into the first EU Public Health Action Programme by 2003, EuroHealthNet (as it had become) became fully autonomous with a membership and partnership structure, a Brussels office and a legal Statute that included then and now the objective:

*To help improve health and health equity
within and between EU states*

Members agreed the functions to be networking and communications, policy and project work. Since then EuroHealthNet has grown from its initial 12 states to the comprehensive – and still growing – list set out in this Report. It has led or participated in several EU co-funded projects, notably on

- Closing the Gap – strategies to tackle health inequalities
- Capacity Building for health promotion in new EU states
- Health and Social Inclusion approaches
- Healthy Ageing

These and the numerous other projects which we have supported are set out at our website www.eurohealthnet.eu and current projects are set out in this Report.

Participation

The criteria to apply for participation in EuroHealthNet are

- An organisation, agency or statutory body supporting our objectives for public health and health promotion, disease prevention and determinants of health in an EU or associated state, region, municipality or area
- Willing and able to participate in network activities which are not necessarily refunded, abide by our statutes, rules and code of conduct and prepared to pay membership fees set by the General Assembly.

Details of our aims, objectives, rules, code of conduct, membership criteria, fees and requirements are set out on www.eurohealthnet.eu or by request to our office.

How we network

EuroHealthNet offers a strong support service with clear cost-effective benefits for its members:

- To brief about needs, ideas and actions based on our knowledge of the field in Brussels and in EU states
- To facilitate the exchange of knowledge, information and insights beyond borders
- To identify and support development of opportunities for co-funded projects with the EC and other donors according to our Code of Conduct. This may involve network collective projects or help for members to win bids for their own work.
- To connect directly with EU policy makers and investment decision makers in EU institutions
- To provide a “shop window” for our members through our publications, our family of websites where they can showcase what they do, and our prominence at relevant events and meetings
- To offer a helpdesk service from our professionally staffed Brussels office online or in person
- To offer support facilities such as a well equipped meeting room s in the heart of Brussels

An *example* of how this has been taken up was shown in 2009:

The National Institute for Public Health (FHI) Sweden suggested an initiative on how a people living with disabilities can often be overlooked when health promoting or other approaches are set. EuroHealthNet helped to arrange a joint seminar in our meeting room where EC officials came together with a range of relevant organisations plus the authors of a report from Sweden to consider how this can be addressed in the EU legislative programme. The results can be viewed from www.eurohealthnet.eu

We publish two frequent online news services, the *Health Action Memo* which contains notice of project and funding opportunities plus updates on activities, and the *Health Highlights* rapid information newsletter for a wider readership on news and events with an EU flavour. We also either operate or support a family of websites and online channels for communication.

All that is coordinated from our *Brussels office* which is within easy reach of EU Institutions, with helpdesk facilities for member and partners, and a well used meeting room. Details are set out at in this report. But beyond that our network of members and partners establishes high level links across the EU, working in national and regional capacities for health promotion, public health, disease prevention and for actions on the social determinants of health.

Our members include government departments, institutes and university departments, regional authorities and independent organisations. All have a measure of responsibility and accountability

for the fields in which we work. They initiate our work programme based on their priorities, and gain learning, publicity and wider influence for their work. If they participate in projects they also may receive co-funding from EU programmes.

Participation does have demands, in terms of time committed to this work plus the costs of fees and involvement in our governance and activities. But our growing membership indicates its value.

Our Partnerships

We are members of the *EU Platform on Diet, Health & Nutrition* and have established a Nutrition & Physical Activity Group, which is reported later. The work of the Platform and associated commitments is set out at: http://ec.europa.eu/health/nutrition_physical_activity/platform/index_en.htm

We participate in the *EU Expert Group on Inequalities and Social Determinants*. This high level body includes representatives from all EU member states and includes many of our member organisations plus representation from the Determine project. Its work is set out at: http://ec.europa.eu/health/social_determinants/events/index_en.htm#anchor0

We are a founder member of the EU Health Policy Forum. This body is reconstituted in 2010, but has already brought together the leading cross border associations working in the field of health at EU level. EuroHealthNet was a founder member and has continued to play a strong role in contributing to its advisory positions set out for the EU institutions at: http://ec.europa.eu/health/interest_groups/eu_health_forum/index_en.htm

We are part of an *International Collaboration on the Social Determinants of Health* (ICSDH) via our Equity Channel special project reported here, bringing together much of our work on health in all EU policies, advocacy and global communications. Non members working on health determinants can participate in our online “community” groups via www.equitychannel.net

Many members participate in other EU advisory committees and high level bodies. Members and staff frequently participate in EU Presidency events, international conferences, meetings in EU institutions and a host of informal meetings with officials, elected representatives, and stakeholders from public, private and voluntary sectors active in the EU context.

We have long had a strong cooperative partnership with the international Union of Health Promotion & Education (IUHPE – www.iuhpe.org). We communicate constantly, engage in joint project and policy work, and with their support have formed Joint Special Interest groups on common policies and practices, which are reported here.

We also work closely and value links with the World Health Organisation (WHO - www.who.int): this includes liaison with its officials in Geneva, Brussels, Copenhagen, Venice and Bonn in particular. Many of our members are collaborating centres for WHO Europe; some are national representatives to the World Health Assembly, or are part of technical or advisory WHO networks and initiatives.

That high level collaboration is part of the added value of EuroHealthNet.

Our Governance

Our members have developed our internal processes and governance procedures in accordance with the laws of Belgium in which we are registered as an international not for profit organisation. Our most important body is the *General Assembly*. This is held annually, alternately in Brussels and by invitation of a member organisation in an EU or associated state, and all members have equal rights of participation.

Members abide by our Statutes, Rules and Code of Conduct which are all set by the General Assembly.

The General Assembly decides our structures, fees, budgets and work programmes, which are then implemented by our office and overseen by our *Board*, which is elected for two year periods and is open to all members. It in turn elects its officers.

Our Board

President: Maggie Davies (England)



Treasurer: Graham Robertson (Scotland)



Honorary Former President: Bosse Pettersson (Sweden)



Partners: Helene Reemann (Germany)



Members: Tatjana Nicolaij-Kranj (Mursk-Sobota Region, Slovenia)



Our Projects

Determine

2009 was a busy and productive year for the Consortium, as work undertaken during the first half of the initiative was applied and advanced. A number of partners built on earlier work to identify policies and actions in their countries that address the social determinants of health inequalities (HI), and gathered examples of economic arguments from their countries that can be used to convince policy makers to invest in the reduction of HI through a SDH approach. This information was analyzed in a working document entitled: *Economic Arguments for addressing social determinants of health inequalities* (available via www.health-inequalities.eu).

In addition, three small-scale pilot projects that contribute the reduction of HI, via a SDH approach, were implemented during the course of 2009, with a Report available from the same website.

DETERMINE's work on Capacity Building and Awareness Raising also took shape during 2009. This work built on the outcomes of consultations that partners undertook with politicians and policy makers in other sectors. EuroHealthNet, in collaboration with the IUHPE and an advisory expert group developed a "Menu of Actions" and accompanying resources that partners can apply to address the SDH and health inequalities. Partners used the Menu to assess their capacity building needs and to design and implement short term actions in the areas of e.g. advocacy and awareness raising and partnership building, to advance work in these areas in their countries and organisations.

The DETERMINE Consortium met twice during the course of 2009. Dissemination of the Consortium's work was stepped up, and outcomes were presented at numerous events, such as the Annual UKPHA Conference , an International Conference on Tackling HI in Germany, Health Equity Week in Slovenia and during meetings of the EC Expert Group. A short promotional film about the DETERMINE project has also been developed with support from EuroHealthNet's Equity Channel.

The DETERMINE collaboration comes to an end in 2010, with key messages presented at a Concluding Conference in Brussels, supported by the EU Council Spanish Presidency, which regards health inequalities as one of its health-related priorities. DETERMINE outcomes will be presented at the Spanish Presidency's Ministerial event on this topic, before publication of the project Final Report.

EuroHealthNet and Consortium partners will continue to apply and build on DETERMINE's outcomes. Further information and all DETERMINE outcomes, including DETERMINE publications and the short film are currently available on the DETERMINE Portal: www.health-inequalities.eu.



Tackling the Gradient

April marked the start of the first research project coordinated by EuroHealthNet, funded through the EC's Seventh Framework Programme. The GRADIENT project (April 2009 – 2012) researches health inequalities among families and children and aims to influence policy-makers in taking necessary steps to reduce the health gradient. It does this by addressing the knowledge gap that exists regarding the types of policies that are effective in levelling up the gradient and thus supports EuroHealthNet's other work. The focus of the research project is on families and children, since the greatest impact on reducing the health gradient can be achieved through early life policy interventions and by creating equal opportunities during childhood and adolescence.



The 11 partner institutions include Universities, Health Promotion agencies and Public Health Institutes. Core research activities are organized in 4 work packages, led by different partners, focusing on

- the development of a consensus-based European policy evaluation framework
- the development of hypotheses regarding the differential impact of policies on children of different SES groups
- the finding of evidence on protective factors such as social capital through secondary data analysis
- comparative analysis of the effects of universal and targeted policies in different policy contexts.

EuroHealthNet is responsible for the project's management and the formulation of policy recommendations and dissemination. During the first 9 months of this three year project:

- The project's management structure was established and the first Project Steering Group meeting was held at the EuroHealthNet office in Brussels
- Publicity material, such as an info leaflet and bookmark were developed and distributed widely and a website (www.health-gradient.eu) was set up
- A glossary was drafted by EuroHealthNet, defining the most important terms used in the project, to ensure consistency between work packages and to ensure unity in the project.

- EuroHealthNet compiled an Overview of EU policies affecting the health of children and young people, on which policy recommendations will be based, and which was published through the Gradient website (<http://www.health-gradient.eu/GRADIENT/EN/17083/>)
- The project was presented to several audiences, including to French public health actors at an INPES seminar in June, to the EU parallel session on Health Inequalities at the European Health Forum Gastein in October, to the task force on Health Promotion for Children and Adolescents in & by Hospitals in November and to a workshop on international collaboration in Sweden, also in November. Most of these presentations can be found the project website.
- The Gradient team at EuroHealthNet participated in and contributed to the final recommendations of several EU wide conferences on the subject of health inequalities amongst children, such as the Schools for Health Europe conference, Vilnius; the WHO/HBSC Forum on socio-environmentally determined health inequities among children and adolescents, Siena; the EU Youth Mental Health Conference, Sweden.

For more info on all these activities or to sign up for the newsletter, see: www.health-gradient.eu



Our New Project Development

One of the services EuroHealthNet provides is to identify, develop and pursue opportunities for projects from EU sources such as EC programmes relevant to our work and that of our members and partners, but also from donors according to our Code of Conduct. Our principle is that we will bid for work which we are qualified to undertake if agreed by our Board and work programme, not merely to fund operations.

Examples of new initiatives include:

EU Youth Health Initiative

EuroHealthNet applied to take forward the EU Youth Health Initiative, which was launched in 2008 and aims to (1) involve young people more closely in EU health policies; (2) strengthen youth partnerships in the decision making process; (3) involve other sectors in prevention programs targeted at young people; and (4) support member states' activities on the health of young people.

As this report was printed it was not confirmed if this bid had been successful. If so, EuroHealthNet would do this in close collaboration with NIGZs Schools for Health Europe (SHE) network, *EuroChild*, the Confederation of Family Organisations in the EU (*Coface*), the HBSC Health Behaviour in School Aged Children Study (*HBSC*) and the European Youth Forum.

Specific actions during 2010 - 2011 would include the development of an attractive EC youth health website, using social networking sites to reach young people and establishing a liaison point for youth health partnerships in health policy. We will also test the Initiative during focus groups with young people, organise youth health related events in collaboration with the Commission and co-ordinate and prepare a series of scientific reports on youth health issues.

Developing Public Health Capacity

EuroHealthNet responded successfully to the EC Tender on Developing Public Health Capacity in the EU in cooperation with the Maastricht University who is the contract holder. In 2010, we will carry out a review and systematic mapping of the capacity of EU Member States to develop and implement public health policies and interventions.

We will identify the main strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats for public health in the EU, make recommendations for action in areas where EU support could provide added value and identify key gaps in knowledge, capacity, functions and performance. EuroHealthNet will mainly be responsible for data collection and will work together with EUPHA, IUHPE, ASPHER, EHMA and the European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies.

The outcome will be a report and an edited book on public health capacity in the EU and an online Atlas providing a visual representation of the data collected/compiled during the tender.

Sustainable Lifestyles Platform project (“SPREAD”)

The Sustainable Lifestyles Platform project aims to create scenarios of sustainable lifestyles in 2050 through a social platform, focusing on sustainable living, moving, consuming and healthy living and by setting up a peoples’ forum and an online platform hosting an ongoing dialogue open to public. The project will develop a routemap with a timeline on how to achieve sustainable lifestyles.

To support European policy makers in their work on sustainable lifestyles the project will present a research agenda for the future. If co-funding is successfully achieved, EuroHealthNet will work together with a wide range of environmental researchers, education experts, industry, services and civil society representatives.

The 24-month project is coordinated by the UNEP/Wuppertal Institute Collaborating Centre for Sustainable Consumption and Production (CSCP, Germany). The project partners are the Energy Research Centre of the Netherlands (ECN), the Northern Alliance for Sustainability (ANPED, Belgium), the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC), EuroHealthNet (Belgium), the International Institute for Industrial Environmental Economics at Lund University (IIIEE, Sweden), Demos Helsinki (Finland), Ecoinstitut Barcelona (ECOI, Spain) and Politecnico di Milano (Italy).

For updates on all our project work and links to specific initiatives see www.eurohealthnet.eu



Our Policy work

www.equitychannel.net

Equity Channel
Connecting People for Fair Health

The Equity Channel

Set up following the 2008 Report of the (WHO) Commission on Social determinants of Health (CSDH) Report and recommendations, which were subsequently taken forward by the World Health Assembly in May 2009, The Equity Channel has been devised as a Special Project for EuroHealthNet primarily funded by the department of Health for England with four objectives:

- 1. To facilitate opportunities for developing health determinants and health equity approaches in all EU policies**
- 2. To advocate for health determinants approaches in the EU**
- 3. To innovate by using modern communications tools to build partnerships**
- 4. To link with the International Collaboration on Social Determinants (ICSDH) and others**

By 2010 EuroHealthNet could report on strong progress on all four objectives. The benefits for EuroHealthNet members and partners mean they can now:

- Have direct access to first-hand information regarding the latest EU policy developments affecting health and equity;
- Exchange views through the Equity Channel forum;
- Share evidence and knowledge with people working in and outside their field of expertise;
- Connect with other people working on health equity all over the world;
- Stay Informed about work on the social and economic determinants of health.

Building on its unique communication tools, the Equity Channel is now well positioned to collect data, develop first-hand messaging and play its part at EU level as advocacy opportunities arise. To name but a few examples, in 2009, the Equity Channel:

- Coordinated responses to two consultation processes launched by the European Commission (Global Health and EU 2020 economic priorities)
- Developed a series of key policy briefs highlighting the linkages between certain policy issues, health and health equity
- Published 59 articles, circulated through the Equity Channel platform

The Equity Channel website (www.equitychannel.net) went online in March 2009 and was officially launched from EuroHealthNet's General Assembly onwards. Over 4600 people visited the site in its first months; there are ambitious targets to increase that in 2010, with evidence that visitors are returning more frequently and spending more time per visit.

Building a Community

The Equity Channel was originally called the Electronic Artery, but following market surveys the name was changed during 2009. Similarly an initial online networking facility was up rated at the start of 2010. A button on the website now leads directly to the Equity Channel community group, which is a moderated entry point for members and newcomers in all relevant fields alike.

A major advocacy programme for SDH and health promotion is now underway. Equity Channel has produced two films for EuroHealthNet and Determine, uses information from a survey of policymakers carried out by publishers of the European Parliament magazine and has advertised health equity issues thrice in that publication, directly reaching European decision makers. Better coverage of health issues has been achieved in EU media outlets such as the European Voice newspaper and *EurActiv* website, including on the EU Inequalities Communication and the Determine economic report among other publications.

We now have a professional approach to monitoring, disseminating and responding to EU policy activities. The internal dossier cross referencing the EU legislative programme with the recommendations of the CSDH is being updated and made accessible for partners. A wider range of EU policy initiatives are being communicated to members and we have organised joint responses to consultations on health promotion workforce issues, disabilities, economic, social and environmental issues, recognizing EuroHealthNet's leading role advising on health and equity matters.

The Equity Channel team continues to participate in numerous relevant events in health and related fields, and is leading the network links with the EU Year against Poverty and Social Exclusion 2010.

Report on monitoring systems for health inequities and social determinants

One of the main three overarching recommendations of the WHO Commission on Social Determinants of Health is “ensuring that routine monitoring systems for health equity and social determinants of health are in place, locally, nationally and internationally”. EuroHealthNet therefore decided to explore what is available at EU and national level in terms of monitoring systems, resources, and indicators.

We drafted a paper with the objective to provide a brief overview of the data currently collected; the European cross-national surveys, the set of European Community Health Indicators and other European initiatives that are available to monitor health inequalities and the socio-economic determinants of health. The aim is to present an overall picture that can lead to a better understanding of the existing situation in Europe and to highlight the need for a more coordinated approach.

This work was carried out by EuroHealthNet staff working in the context of the Determine project and the 2010 Spanish Presidency of the EU with funding from the Department of Health for England.

The report is available via: www.eurohealthnet.eu

Our Policy working Groups

Nutrition and Physical Activities

The Group has been established to provide specialist interaction around EuroHealthNet's participation in the EC Platform on Diet, Physical Activity & Health. That is a rather contentious body bringing private, public and civil society organisations into direct contact to seek voluntary commitments towards tackling obesity.

In addition to providing a flow of information between members and the Platform, and supporting a valuable voice in Platform discussions for members, EuroHealthNet sought to raise the profile for equitable initiatives in its commitments.

In July 2009, a report was published that demonstrates the link between health inequalities and rising rates of obesity, and how existing measures to tackle the condition might be able to take this into account. The report, *'Focusing on obesity through a health equity lens'*, was funded from the Equity Channel project. The document contains over 70 project descriptions running in 20 different European countries, from the European level to local community initiatives, and also gives an overview of implemented policies and strategies in Europe that are relevant to the prevention of obesity among different socio-economic groups. It is available via www.eurohealthnet.eu

After the launch of the report, the document was frequently downloaded, external website are now directly linking to the document and the report has been added to multiple (online) libraries and is thus being used by people working on health equity and obesity all around the world. Due to its success, it was decided to make a new commitment to the EU Platform, and thus to produce a second edition of the report in 2010 (launched during the health promotion and equity week in March). The aim of this new document will be to include more European countries, and also to describe

projects implemented 'overseas' (e.g. in Latin America, Australia and the United States of America).

Via the Equity Channel, EuroHealthNet has been able to join the consortium "Europe for Health and Agriculture", a civil society group working on public health approaches to reform of EU Common agricultural Policies. Reports are being distributed through the Equity Channel community.



Healthy Ageing

The Special Interest Group on Healthy Ageing is currently chaired by NHS Health Scotland, and consists of 21 members. During 2009, the SIG-HA used the official Healthy Ageing website (www.healthyageing.nu). As this website will no longer run, EuroHealthNet is currently re-developing its website, with a specific section dedicated to the SIG HA and its activities.

Ministerial Conference: Healthy and Dignified Ageing

The SIG HA presented the outcomes of its project (focusing on a stock taking exercise of Healthy Ageing policy, research and practices in EU Countries. Conclusions were drawn up and presented, including a call for ensuring healthy ageing is a priority for relevant EU programmes and ensure better co-ordination between EU instruments, alongside adopting a life course approach when addressing the challenges of healthy ageing.

Healthy Ageing in Europe - Lessons Learnt and Ways Forward

The main aim of this conference in Stockholm, organised by FHI and co-chaired by EuroHealthNet, was to stimulate more health promoting activities towards older people and to bring together experts in the field. A report was produced, presenting the summary of the conference and next steps forward for the Ageing agenda in the EU, along with future opportunities for the Special Interest Group on Healthy Ageing. Key messages were formulated on policy, practice and research to be taken forward by the European Commission to serve as a background when the Commission prepares an upcoming initiative on ageing and health.

- The SIG HA responded to the EC Communication on designating 2012 as the European Year of Intergenerational Solidarity and Active Ageing, calling for the EC to promote healthy and active ageing throughout the year, resulting in concrete policy proposals for the future.
- The European Commission is planning to work on an initiative focusing on Ageing and Health throughout 2010 - 2011. The SIG HA will look to play an active role with policy makers on this topic.
- In 2010 a thematic conference takes place on Older People and Mental Health, as part of the EU Mental Health Pact initiative. The theme of Mental Health has been a constant priority for the SIG HA.
- The EC will organize a Demography Forum in the last quarter of 2010, with a special focus on Ageing, with the themes 'Working Longer' and 'What happens when people retire'. EuroHealthNet is exploring possible participation.

For further information see www.eurohealthnet.eu

Our Communications

Publications

An emphasis on good communications runs throughout our work, as described elsewhere, and we now have a dedicated Communications team, through which numerous publications are disseminated from our projects, groups, members and staff.

Specifically, *Health Highlights* was circulated to a growing list of readers, including not only members but our partners, plus officials in the European Commission, Parliament, Council, Economic and Social Committee and Committee of the Regions. It is sent usually twice per month depending on information to be published, featuring news from around the EU institutions, states and regions. It received a facelift to start refreshed for 2010 in a better, more sustainable online version.



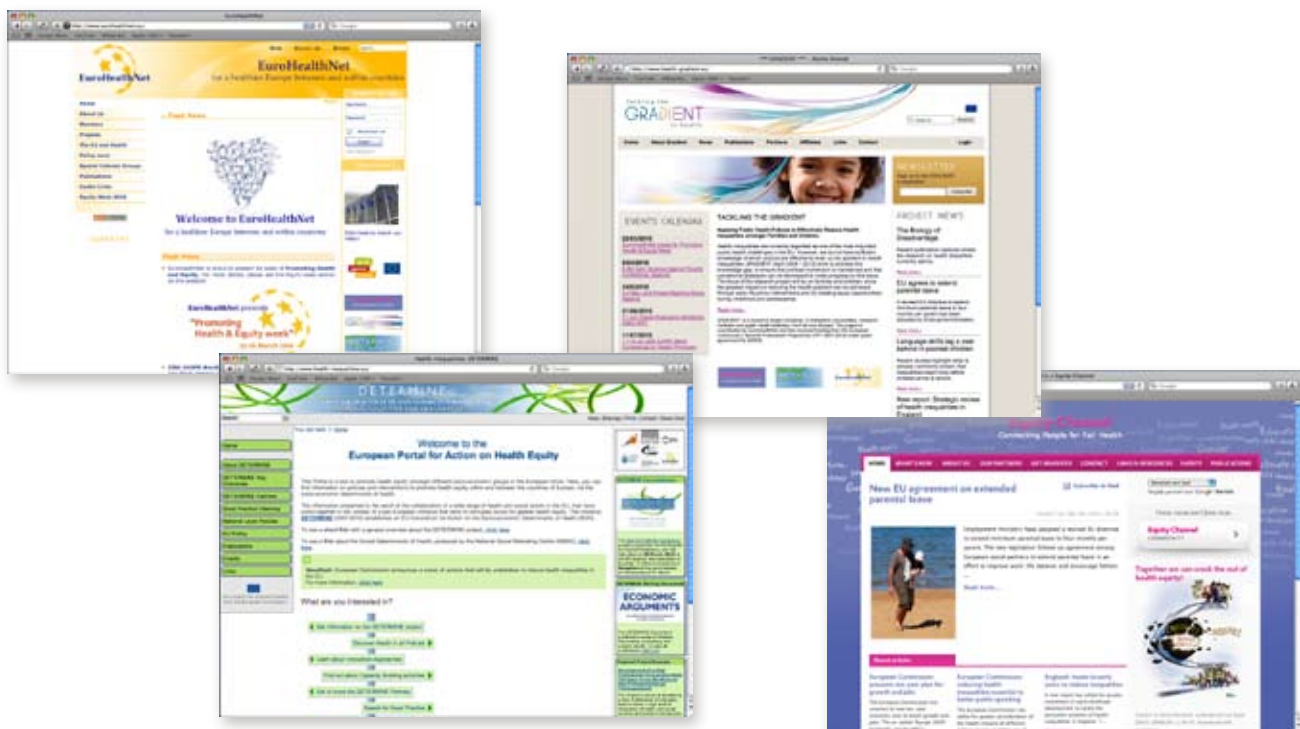
The *Health Action Memo* is only sent to members and partners on a monthly basis as it contains key information on projects and policy initiatives, sources of funding and opportunities for network activities. Both received strong and welcome feedback in 2009.

In addition we sent specific memos to members on urgent subjects, issue news releases to media on matters on which we can provide information and advice or can advocate on the basis of evidence, and produced project or policy briefings, factsheets and reports which are set out in relevant sections of this report. We also commissioned two films now available online via our websites.

Now in 2010 we are introducing a *Policy Précis* series summarising the links between our objectives and social, economic and environmental policies, also available via www.equitychannel.net

Our “Family” of websites

- ➔ www.eurohealthnet.eu is our network home site. It covers public health and health promotion issues, and is a general entry point to our work. It features the sites of our members, links to partners, introductions to EU policies and institutions and our policy working groups.
- ➔ Our member BZgA in Germany runs the www.health-inequalities.eu site for the Determine consortium but EuroHealthNet has played a leading role in its development and promotion, and thus promotes it vigorously among our group of online channels. It reaches a wide audience of bodies working in the fields related to health inequalities and contains a searchable good practice directory, a menu of actions and online versions of the project reports.
- ➔ The Gradient site www.health-gradient.eu offers a new policy research perspective focussing on tackling inequalities affecting children and families. It offers links to the groups working on the studies, plus a glossary and associated materials.
- ➔ www.equitychannel.net reaches out to wider stakeholders working on health equity and determinants globally. It features a frequent blog on topical news issues and now includes a direct link to the Equity Channel Community groups plus online versions of the new Policy Précis series and other briefing documents taking forward our work on health in all policies.



Our Finances

Income

Membership	217.300
EC Projects	164.255
Grants	70.519
Diverse income (credit interests etc)	11.880
Total income	463.954

Expenditure

Staff	291.170
Fees	61.860
Office charges	37.707
Communication	12.148
Travel	29.233
Events	5.431
New equipment	4.270
Other costs	3.558
Reserve	18.576
Total Expenditure	463.954

(NB: Expenditures on the Equity Channel special project are accounted for separately as part of the International Collaboration on Social Determinants of Health; included here is only the payments received from that project towards shared office expenditures as income under “grants”.)

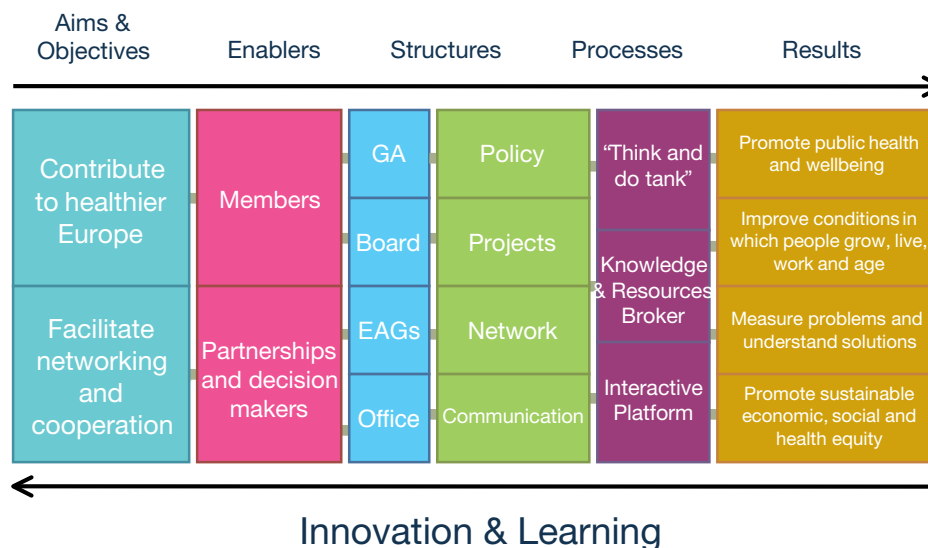
EuroHealthNet has received no funding from private sector sources.

Our Plans

Following a yearlong review and consultation led by the Board, a new Strategic Plan is proposed for 2010-14 to:

- Strengthen our objectives to clarify that we include action on social, economic and environmental determinants as well as health promotion, public health and disease prevention
- Clarify that our membership welcomes centres of expertise in institutes and academic bodies plus more regional and municipal bodies as well as national organisations, agencies and statutory bodies
- Develop from special Interest groups for our policy work towards “expert action groups” (EAGs) in a broader framework based on our objectives to encourage new partnerships, fast modern working and more effective results.

The process we envisage may be described as:



The Development Plan is decided by our General Assembly and enacted annually through our collectively agreed Work Programme, which is implemented by the Board and carried out by the office and members together.

The Budget and the level of fees payable by members is set annually. All members have an equal role in participation and the Board is elected by all members.

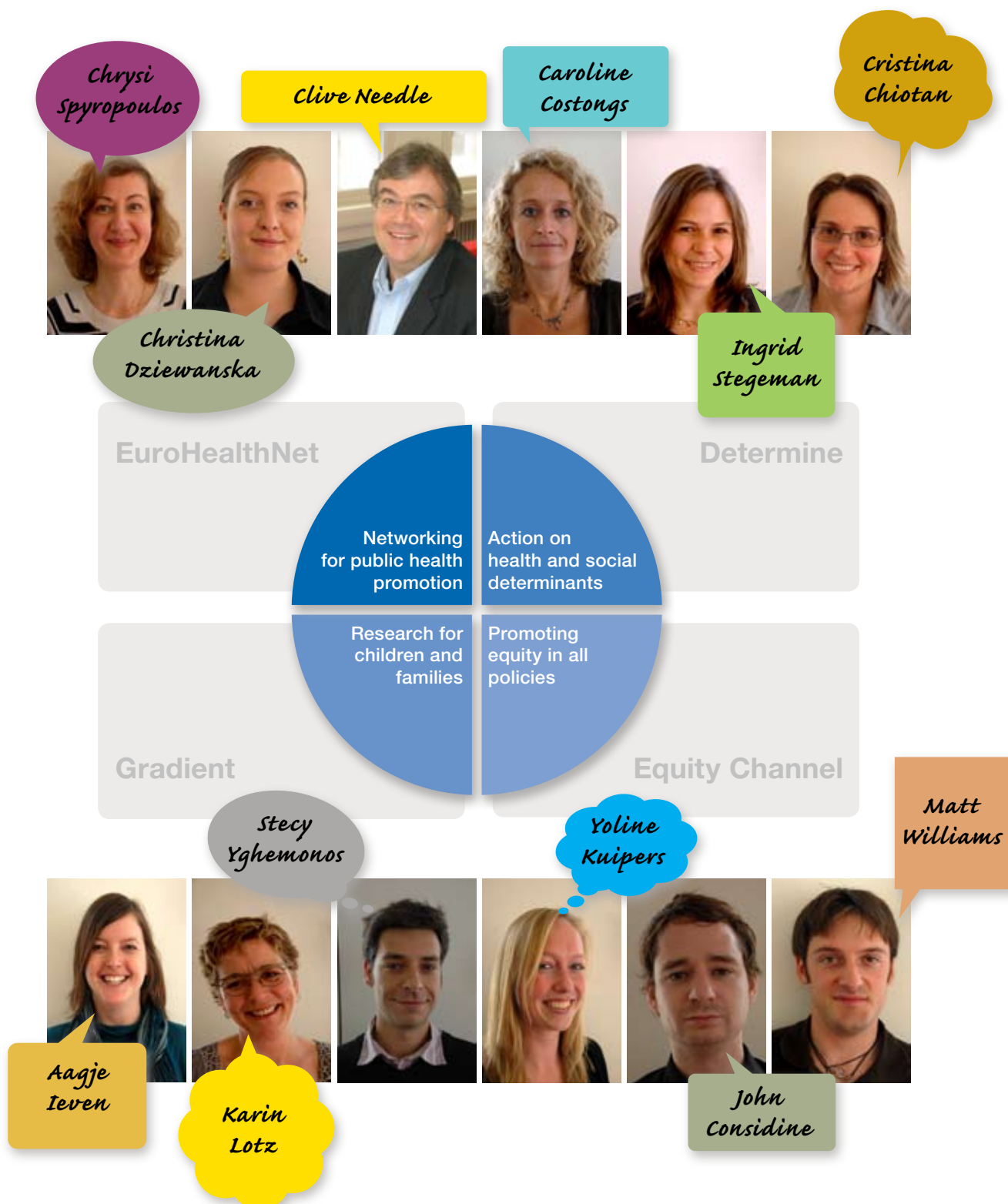
Thus our members and partners are at the heart of all we do.

Our members and partners

Country	Organisation	Website	Contacts
<i>Austria</i>	Austrian Health Promotion Foundation	www.fgoe.org	R.Christ: rainer.christ@fgoe.org
<i>Belgium</i>	Flemish Institute for Health Promotion	www.vigez.be	A.Peeters: annemie.peeters@vigez.be
<i>Bulgaria</i>	National Centre of Public Health	www.ncphp.government.bg/en/index.php	S.Petrova: s.petrova@ncphp.government.bg
<i>Czech Republic</i>	National Institute of Public Health	www.szu.cz	H. Janatova: janatova@szu.cz
<i>Denmark</i>	National Board of Health	www.sst.dk	J.Falk: jf@sst.dk
<i>England</i>	Department of Health	www.dh.gov.uk	M.Davies: Maggie.Davies@hapi.org.uk
<i>England</i>	North West Brussels Office	www.northwesthealth.eu	C.White: c.white@nwhbo.org
<i>England</i>	Kent + Medway NHS Health + Europe Centre	www.healthanduropecentre.nhs.uk	A.Chapman-Hatchett: Alice.chapman-hatchett@kmpt.nhs.uk
<i>Estonia</i>	National Institute for Health Development	www.tai.ee	T.Pertel: Tiia.pertel@tai.ee
<i>Finland</i>	Finnish Centre for Health Promotion	www.tekry.fi	H.Parviainen: Heikki.parviainen@health.fi
<i>France</i>	INPES	www.inpes.sante.fr	J.Davies: Jennifer.davies@inpes.sante.fr
<i>Germany</i>	Federal Centre for Health Education	www.bzga.de	H.Reemann: helene.reemann@bzga.de
<i>Greece</i>	PROLEPSIS	www.prolepsis.gr	P.Karnaki: p.karnaki@prolepsis.gr
<i>Hungary</i>	National Institute for Health Development	www.oefi.hu	A.Taller: taller.agnes@oefi.antsz.hu
<i>Hungary</i>	University of Debrecen Faculty of Public Health	www.nk.unideb.hu	P.Makara peter@makara.eu
<i>Iceland</i>	Public Health Institute of Iceland	www.publichea.lth.is	S.Jonsson: stefan@publichealth.is
<i>Ireland</i>	Department of Health + Children	www.doh.ie	R.Breen: robbie_breen@health.irlgov.ie

Country	Organisation	Website	Contacts
<i>Italy</i>	Veneto Region	www.regione.veneto.it	L.Bertinato: Luigi.bertinato@regione.veneto.it
<i>Latvia</i>	The Centre of Health Economics	www.vec.gov.lv	D.Dzonsa: dzintra.dzonsa@vec.gov.lv
<i>Netherlands</i>	NIGZ	www.nigz.nl	J.Koot: jkoot@nigz.nl
<i>Netherlands</i>	RIVM	www.rivm.nl	M.Leurs: Mariken.leurs@rivm.nl
<i>Norway</i>	Norwegian Directorate of Health	www.helsedirektoratet.no	S.E Sørheim: ses@helsedir.no
<i>Poland</i>	National Institute of Hygiene	www.pzh.gov.pl	M.Wysocki: mjwysocki@pzh.gov.pl
<i>Romania</i>	Institute of Public Health Iasi	www.pub-health-iasi.ro	L.Smaranda: luminitasmaranda@yahoo.com
<i>Scotland</i>	NHS Health Scotland	www.healthscotland.com	G.Robertson: graham.robertson@health.scot.nhs.uk
<i>Slovak Republic</i>	Public Health Authority of the Slovak Republic	www.uvzsr.sk	S.Kovacsova: sarka.kovacsova@uvzsr.sk
<i>Slovenia</i>	National Institute of Public Health	www.ivz.si	M.Gabrijelcic: mojca.gabrijelcic@ivz-rs.si
<i>Slovenia</i>	National Institute of Public Health Murska Sobota	www.zzv-ms.si	T.Krajnc-Nikolic: Tatjana.krajnc-nikolic@zzv-ms.si
<i>Spain</i>	Ministerio de Sanidad y Consumo	www.msc.es	B.Merino: bmerino@msc.es
<i>Spain</i>	Universidad de La Laguna	www.ull.es	S.Daria-Curvo: sadacur@ull.es
<i>Sweden</i>	Swedish National Institute of Public Health	www.fhi.se/	C.Mattsson-Lundberg: Cristina.mattssonlundberg@fhi.se
<i>Sweden</i>	Stockholm County Council	www.sll.se	N.Bergman: nina.bergman@sll.se
<i>Switzerland</i>	Health Promotion Switzerland	www.healthpromotion.ch	U.Broesskamp: ursel.broesskamp@promotionsante.ch
<i>Wales</i>	Public Health Wales	www.wch.wales.nhs.uk	M.Ward: malcolm.ward@wch.wales.nhs.uk

Our Office



See www.eurohealthnet.eu for details of what we do, plus our excellent advisor Simon Wilson and our interns who have been or are part of our ongoing support and training programme.

Thanks to all for their work in 2009-10.

Contact us

For membership enquiries or further information
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