

PROGRESS FOR HEALTH IN CHALLENGING TIMES

A summary of the work of EuroHealthNet in 2011 – 2012 towards its aim of improving health and equity within and between the states of Europe

2012



WELCOME MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT AND BOARD

Time is an amazing concept. We often complain about not having enough of it to carry out all the things we want to. I can certainly say that this past year since our 2011 General Assembly in Ljubljana has appeared to flash past. The prime value of a network lies with its members. As for every international organisation in Europe, EuroHealthNet as an active members' network has had to face up to the economic challenges faced by many of our national and regional members. Through the support of the General Assembly last year and the hard work of the team in Brussels we have not only maintained an effective network but even taken on exciting new work and partners. Our activities continue to feature in work nationally and locally as well as at international levels. I have sensed a growing recognition within the Commission of the value of our ability to bring together senior decision makers from a number of Directorates to consider mutual areas of work. In addition we have extended that role to include colleagues at WHO Regional Office for Europe and from the South East European Health Network in relation to EU and WHO plans for health and social determinants towards 2020 or even beyond.

We do not ignore financial challenges. This year we must attend to the long term sustainability of EuroHealthNet. The board and directors will continue to seek to develop in new paradigms. To do that we need your active support. This coming year will be one which encourages even more participation by the members in taking us forward beyond 2013. We also warmly welcome readers who are not currently our members. There are many benefits from joining us, so please consider the possibility of doing so via the links in this Report, which I hope you will find informative.

David L Pattison, President



DAVID PATTISON



BOSSE PETTERSSON



HELENE REEMAN



MALCOM WARD



MOJCA GABRIJELCIC-
BLENKUS



BIRGER CARL FORSBERG



NICOLINE TAMSMAN



ANTTI UUTELA

INTRODUCTION FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

The EuroHealthNet network of expert agencies in states and regions across Europe is supported by a professional office in Brussels, close to all the main EU institutions and many other organisations. 2011-12 has been a period of rapid development. We developed core work within our Framework Contract funded by the EU PROGRESS Programme. We started two major research projects, SPREAD and DRIVERS, and completed another, GRADIENT, funded by the 7th EU Framework Programme. We carried out two important public health studies for the EC on capacities and inequalities. We co-hosted a WHO Europe consultation on a new action plan. All this and more is highlighted in this summary report of activities. We hope you will find it useful, then learn more by joining, partnering or networking with us, in what promises to be another busy and productive period next year. Thank you for all your interest and support for EuroHealthNet.



CLIVE NEEDLE



CAROLINE COSTONGS

OUR NETWORKING

The way we operate our network is set out on our website www.eurohealthnet.eu. There you can access our membership and partnership criteria, our legal statutes and other documents about how we work.



An important component is that all members meet each year to decide our work programme and hold our office and governance processes to account. All members have an equal vote and can elect our Board. Our General Assembly in 2011 was held in Ljubljana, Slovenia, at the kind invitation of the National Institute of Public Health and the Ministry of Health.



Three major new developments happened there:

1.

EuroHealthNet welcomed participation by two other European networks. The Northern Dimension Partnership (www.ndphs.org) presented its work in the Nordic, Baltic and Russian spheres of interest, and several network members are or will be linked with that work. The South East Europe Health Network (seehnsec.blogspot.be) not only introduced its growing role in the region, but also invited reciprocal participation in its Ministerial Meeting in Banja Luka later in 2011, where EuroHealthNet signed a pledge of cooperation. Following that a Memorandum of Understanding has been agreed and signed by our Board which will lead to practical development work together in liaison with WHO Europe.

2.

EuroHealthNet revitalized its membership and partnership approaches to offer inclusive support for all responsible for common aims to improve health and equity within and between states of Europe. By amending our procedures for a trial year, all government and regional authorities, centres of expertise and relevant statutory bodies working for health and equity can choose to join us with full rights at reduced fees, or to become collaborating partners with fewer benefits but without cost. These options are now being taken up in 2012 and will be reviewed by the next General Assembly. Full details are via www.eurohealthnet.eu

3.

Some of the tangible benefits of our part funding through a Framework Contract with the EU PROGRESS programme were demonstrated. Capacity building workshops and initiatives were held at the General Assembly offering all members new information about EU social equity roles. These explored how international learning and networking can be applied to meet needs in organisations, states and communities towards the goals of improving health and equity within and between states. This successful innovation will be repeated at future General Assemblies.

BUILDING A SUCCESSFUL NETWORK OPERATION - PROGRESS

Our PROGRESS framework contract 2011 – 2013 allows us to bring new learning and benefits for our members and the states and communities which they in turn serve.

In 2011 we introduced a new initiative: **Study Visits**

Organised by members themselves with professional support from our office plus an expert facilitator, former NHS Health Scotland Chief Executive Graham Robertson, the initial two study visits have been very well evaluated.

SCOTLAND

Members participated in a visit hosted by NHS Health Scotland in Edinburgh to look at innovative whole of government approaches to tackle health and social inequalities.

FLANDERS

Members took part in a visit guest hosted by VIGeZ to study social aspects of mental health approaches in settings such as workplaces. A field visit was held in Ghent to see how the government initiatives are implemented at local level.

Learning from these visits has been captured in the members' section of the website www.eurohealthnet.eu

A membership survey was carried out by our office, with results discussed at the General Assembly, resulting in improvements to our organisation and services.

An expert evaluation of our PROGRESS team was carried out by our specialist evaluator Simon Wilson. Results and recommendations were presented to our Board and subsequently incorporated into our work programme

Learning from this was taken up in employee training sessions. In 2011 these focussed on

- **ACHIEVING AIMS AND OBJECTIVES** – which resulted in an improved mission statement;
- **ADVOCACY** – which resulted in better whole of office approaches to making the case for health equity;
- **TEAM WORKING** – which resulted in an internal Code of Conduct

During the year the Board met to consider implementing the Budget, Annual Work Programme and the Strategic Development Plan to 2014, which will be reviewed in 2013. As part of this, we implemented the Operating Framework called “How we work” which sets out for members, stakeholders and employees our efficient, ethical, sustainable and equitable approaches to successful networking and fair employment.

We are grateful to all concerned at the European Commission - DG Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion for this valuable development and contribution to promoting social inclusion via addressing the social determinants of health equity.

COMMUNICATIONS

The main mechanisms we use to network are our communications tools, developed over a decade of experience, but now radically updated thanks to our PROGRESS and FP7 funding implemented by our augmented team at the Brussels office from 2011.



www.equity-channel.net is an important informative and professional networking site for everything relevant to the link between health and social equity, including social determinants, social inclusion, employment, gender, anti-discrimination and tackling poverty. It focusses on Europe but has a global reach with contributors from across the world to interest groups or information pages. This is where you will find news about the EU PROGRESS programme and its components or projects.

www.healthy-ageing.eu is a new site launched in 2012 to support the EU Year on Active Ageing and Intergenerational Solidarity. Its aim is to highlight the health aspects of active ageing, contribute to the EU Innovation Partnership on this vital demographic theme, and be source of information for public, practitioners and policy makers.



www.eurohealthnet.eu is the core site and “shop window” for our health promotion and public health work. It features news and links from our members and partners, and offers a password access area containing special information about EU funding and policies for all those who join us.

We also have a range of e-publications:



HEALTH ACTION MEMO is our monthly news service for our members on the latest key issues, or exchanges within the network or our projects;



HEALTH HIGHLIGHTS is an open service for all, providing rapid twice monthly summaries of all relevant activities in the EU institutions and from related bodies and organisations nationally, regionally or in Europe.



POLICY PRÉCIS is a helpful guide, published four times annually, about key elements of EU policies concerning social, economic and health equity.

Back copies and further information about subscribing to our publications, plus links to all our sites, can be found via www.eurohealthnet.eu

OUR POLICY AND ADVOCACY APPROACH



Sharing knowledge

The crucial aspect of EuroHealthNet work is that, while we influence and learn on an international basis, we support and impact nationally, regionally and locally. We constantly gather and communicate information about what is happening in the EU institutions, and what matters in all the state and regional capitals that affects health and wellbeing. Our members now access an updated Dossier on all EU work Programmes. The value of such shared intelligence has been estimated to exceed 100,000 euro per year if each country had to gather it separately – and some agencies have won bids of over 5 million euro as a result. Compared to our cost-effective membership fees of just 20,000 euro maximum, with discounts available, that represents good value investment.



European Health Forum Gastein
Creating a better future for health in Europe



A voice for our values and evidence

Our Policy & Advocacy team lead evidence based work to inform EU policy processes on how promoting health and tackling social and economic inequalities can benefit Europe. We have responded to many formal consultations with expert inputs from our members they may otherwise have missed, including on programmes that offer funding. We meet frequently with EU officials and parliamentarians. Our concrete research and case studies are brought to the attention of decision makers and funders. We monitor and contribute to many EU events and processes annually.

Policy Action Groups

To develop our own expertise in addition to EU co-funded projects, in 2011-12 we have initiated new Policy Action Groups (PAGs). Coordinated by our office and lead by our Board and members, the Groups so far address Healthy Ageing plus Non Communicable Disease Prevention. They offer a focus for learning from knowledge in states and regions, sharing ideas, and linking directly into key EU stakeholder processes such as the EU Health Policy Forum (of which we are a founder member); the EU Platform on Diet, Physical Activity & Health, and the Active Ageing Innovation Partnership. More PAGs may be added by demand in 2013, to be decided by demand of our members.



PROMOTING HEALTH AND SOCIAL EQUITY IN ACTION

Joint Equity Action

Equity Action is the EU funded Joint Action on Health Inequalities. The programme focuses on developing capability across Member States with a particular focus on:

- **DEVELOPING KNOWLEDGE** for action on health inequalities;
- **SUPPORTING** the engagement of Member States, regions and other stakeholders in action to tackle the socio-economic health inequalities;
- **SHARING LEARNING** between Member States & other actors; and
- Supporting the **DEVELOPMENT OF EFFECTIVE ACTION** to tackle socio-economic health inequalities at EU policy level.

EuroHealthNet is a partner leading the work on supporting regions, and contributes strongly in the stakeholder engagement and policy strands. Network members are active partners at state level.



Regions

The work package involving 30 regions involves examining opportunities at sub national levels for impacting positively on health inequalities and social determinants, for example by better use of EU funding. After

initial analysis and discussion, guidance and training is in preparation.

Stakeholders

EuroHealthNet has advised the work package leaders from Germany (BZgA) and Hungary (OEFI) on events and engagement work, contributing to debates, tools and information sharing.

EU Expert Group

EuroHealthNet has been represented in the EU Expert Group of member states on social determinants and health inequalities and has presented on its specific work to inform governments.

Study

EuroHealthNet is playing a leading role in the latest study to update knowledge on the situation regarding health inequalities in the EU states, including a major survey of policy responses. The report is due to be published in late 2012 and will be reported in detail to members.

Portal

EuroHealthNet has created and manages the comprehensive online presence for the Joint Action and other work on tackling health inequities, including publication of news updates and case studies. For all information concerning work in the EU on these subjects, see: www.health-inequalities.eu

EUROPEAN PORTAL FOR ACTION ON
HEALTH INEQUALITIES 

COMPLETED WORK

Our first research project: GRADIENT



Our first ever project funded by an EU Research Programme has now been successfully completed by EuroHealthNet and partners. “Tackling the Gradient” has been a 3 year task to study the social gradient in health inequalities for children, young people and families in the EU context.

The main outcomes are:

- **GEF TOOL AND APP:** A GRADIENT evaluation framework has been developed by a team led by Brighton University and is available for use by decision makers and practitioners. Allowing equity implications to be evaluated when applied to young people and families, this has also been produced by EuroHealthNet in a simplified APP for fast reference and wider uses.
- **BOOK:** A significant publication has been produced in 2012 setting out learning on the theoretical models and background, policy developments and applications in Europe and beyond, learning on social capital and child centred approaches.
- **REPORT:** the work of four research groups during the project, together with a range of outputs and advocacy materials, is being collected and published during 2012 and is available via: www.health-gradient.eu

STUDY on health in all policies: CROSSING BRIDGES



Funded from the second EU Public Health Action programme, Crossing Bridges has been coordinated by EuroHealthNet from 2011 - 2012 to study methodologies concerning how work between health and other relevant sectors can contribute to tackling societal needs and inequities.

In particular this work has focussed on examples in transport, education and school fruits distribution, where EuroHealthNet members have gathered information and case studies.

A training and capacity building module has been led by NW England health authorities.

A final report of the project outcomes, including theoretical models and practical learning is being published during 2012.

All information is available via www.health-inequalities.eu or www.eurohealthnet.eu

Our continuing research work:

SPREAD



SPREAD Sustainable Lifestyles 2050 is a European project running from January 2011 to December 2012. Different stakeholders including EuroHealthNet are participating in the development of a vision for sustainable ways of living in 2050. The overall aim of SPREAD is the formulation of a research agenda for the EU and its Member States on how to address the challenge of reducing current levels of energy, transport and resource use while at the same time improving health and quality of life of an ageing European society.

This process will result in a roadmap for strategic action for policy makers and will deliver innovative ideas for business, research and society, regarding the enabling of sustainable lifestyles in European society. It will formulate a research agenda outlining research needs in the field of sustainable lifestyles. It is doing this by reviewing the knowledge base and learning from existing best practice cases, in the area of sustainable living, moving, consuming and healthy lifestyles.

A major baseline report has been produced: Sustainable Lifestyles: Today's Facts & Tomorrow's Trends. The report presents a synthesis of research, leading policy and practice, and stakeholder views on potential pathways toward a further spreading of sustainable lifestyles.

Relevant questions addressed include:

- ✎ What makes a lifestyle sustainable?
- ✎ Why do sustainable ways of consuming, living and moving appear to remain marginal?
- ✎ How to make sustainable lifestyles mainstream?
- ✎ What is happening now and how can we encourage positive trends to ensure a better future usage of our scarce natural resource base (including energy)?



The project is funded by the EU 7th Research Framework Programme and co-ordinated by the UNEP/Wuppertal Institute Collaborating Centre for Sustainable Consumption and Production (CSCP). Information is available on www.sustainable-lifestyles.eu or via www.health-equity.net

RETHI



EuroHealthNet is carrying out the evaluation of a project funded by PROGRESS programme of DG Employment on methods to tackle regional inequalities in health, managed by the Veneto Region, in Italy.



Our new research work: DRIVERS



In 2012 EuroHealthNet has launched an innovative new research study funded by the EU FP7 Programme for 3 years. Called DRIVERS, the main aim of this project is to review evidence, improve methods and apply new information to assess the relationship between health inequalities and 1) early childhood development; 2) employment and the work environment; 3) income, welfare and social protection. It will provide guidance and policy recommendations to ensure that policies and interventions in these areas serve as 'drivers' towards greater health equity.



This will be achieved through the following three objectives:

1. To review existing evidence and generate new knowledge about policies that drive the three social determinants of health mentioned above and the impact these have on health and health inequities using systematic review and meta-analysis approaches as well as comparative data analysis across EU Member States.
2. To analyse the methods which have been applied to assess these effects, and to improve these existing methods and/or develop new methods to determine the differential outcomes of policies and programmes on health inequities, using longitudinal data sets available to the consortium. We will then identify case studies, representing potentially innovative approaches, and test their effectiveness using the newly proposed methods.
3. To assess how research findings reflect and are applicable to real-life environments, to explore the opportunities for transferring them to potential users with maximum effectiveness, and to provide guidelines for effective advocacy - including policy recommendations to reduce health inequities.



EuroHealthNet is co-ordinating the project with our scientific lead partners: University College London, Department of Epidemiology and Public Health and the new Institute for Health Equity led by Professor Sir Michael Marmot (UCL). Work packages are led by Universität Düsseldorf, Institut für Medizinische Soziologie (Düsseldorf) and Stockholm Universitet Centre for Health Equity Studies (CHESS). Our leading civil society partners in this exciting work are EuroChild, Business in the Community (BiTC) and the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN), and numerous network members are involved as collaborating partners.

Other Joint Actions

In 2012 EuroHealthNet has been invited to participate in two new EU Joint Actions:



- 👉 **QUALITY ASSURANCE IN HIV / AIDS PREVENTION: COORDINATED BY BZgA**
- 👉 **MENTAL HEALTH: AS COLLABORATING PARTNER**

In each case the network office will contribute to communications work plus knowledge development and information sharing among stakeholders. Further information will be available via www.eurohealthnet.eu

OUR GROWING PUBLIC HEALTH ROLE

Capacity building in the EU states

EuroHealthNet has been a partner in a consortium carrying out a major study with recommendations on needs for capacity building for public health in EU member states, due to be published in late 2012.

Consultation with WHO Europe



EuroHealthNet was invited by WHO Europe to co-host and help to organise a major public consultation event in Brussels to contribute to the process of introducing an Action Plan for Europe, including agreement on essential public health operations. This has now been adopted by the WHO Regional Committee. Full information is via www.who.euro.int or www.eurohealthnet.eu

APHEA



EuroHealthNet has become a member of the new consortium aiming to organise accreditation of schools of public health in Europe through assessment and curriculum development processes.

Supporting network members' work and fundraising

Our “helpdesk” function in advising members on funding opportunities and support for submitting bids is a major network benefit available only for fee paying members.



HOW WE ARE FUNDED

EuroHealthNet operates a Code of Conduct and is a signatory to the European Commission Transparency Register. We receive only fees from members agreed annually by our General Assembly, plus income from public sector grants for project work. Under certain ethical conditions on a case by case basis by agreement with our Board, we are permitted to consider funded work from external sources such as foundations or third parties. Bodies wishing to discuss this should contact the Director.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES

175,900

CO- FUNDED PROJECTS GRANTS

472,600

PROGRESS CORE GRANT

420,000

EQUITY CHANNEL GRANT

125,100

TOTAL INCOME

1,193,600

HOW WE USE RESOURCES

Our Annual Work Programme and Budget is agreed by our General Assembly and implemented by our Board and office. People are our greatest resource, whether the experts in our member agencies who contribute on a co-funded basis in projects or by submissions to our policy, advocacy or knowledge sharing and capacity building core work; or the talented team we have built since 1996 at our Brussels office.

Hence our major expenditure is on salaries and social protection for those people. We prioritise work on content and in the EU context which means primarily we work and participate in events in Brussels or with our members in states and regions. We seek to minimise administrative and travel costs and to practise sustainable development principles.

STAFF AND ADVICE COSTS



OTHER OPERATIONAL COSTS



TOTAL EXPENDITURE 1,193,600



Thanks to our accountants Pyxis.

OUR NETWORK OFFICE



Communications

Ariane Moret - Communications Coordinator



Health Equity

Ingrid Stegeman - Health Equity Coordinator



Yoline Kuipers - Health Equity Project Officer



Bruno Vilela - Junior Policy Officer



Network Co-ordination

Karen Vandewegue - Network Development Coordinator



Chrysi Spyropoulos - Administration Officer



Policy and Advocacy

Stecy Yghemonos - Policy & Communications Coordinator



Research & Knowledge Development

Claudia Marinetti - Research and Knowledge Coordinator



Cristina Chiotan - Senior Public Health Officer



Linden Farrer - Project and Policy Officer

Special thanks

Thanks to all who have worked with us in 2012, including our former Policy Officer - John Considine, who has moved on to bigger things - our volunteers, our evaluator Simon Wilson, our trainer Graham Robertson and all our technical and other suppliers and advisors.

Trainees 2011 - 2012

We also run a development programme for internships and volunteers at the Brussels office. This helps individual and collective learning about EU public health and equity. We support interns from University of Maastricht and the Karolinska University Stockholm and welcome other approaches. We also fund paid internships for up to six months twice per year appointed only after advertisement and a fair employment process. In 2011 our interns have included:

Francine Chevalier
Elena Danilova
Rory Kelly
Teresa Otte-Trojel
Jennifer Pearson
Mikaela Persson

Zsuzsa Pethö
Rinaz Rabiee
Hawraa Rufaya
Beatriz Romero
Liviana Zorzi

Thanks to all of them, we wish them the best for their future careers.

NB: No unsolicited applications are accepted.

JOINING EUROHEALTHNET

- ✦ Do you work in a government department at national, regional or municipal levels relevant to health, equity or its determinants?
- ✦ Are you in a research or policy institute working on related health, economic, environment or social studies?



**We could be
the European network **for you****

Mission of EuroHealthNet

We stimulate and support actions addressing the social determinants of health and equity to ultimately improve wellbeing and promote health equity for all in the EU and beyond. We operate at all levels to positively influence and apply relevant policies at EU/national/local level in the pursuit of greater health equity within and between Member States. We are committed to closing the health inequalities gap, sustainability, social cohesion, the EU cross cutting values and members' interests.

Our strategic purposes

1. To measure problems and understand solutions
2. To improve the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age
3. To promote sustainable economic, social and health equity
4. To address priority public health conditions and determinants



The principles by which we work are set out in our Mission Statement, our Statute, Rules, Code of Conduct and miscellaneous employment and other provisions. They are collated together for transparent application in our Operating Framework “How we work”, which may be amended by our General Assembly and applied practically in our Annual Work Programme.

Our network comprises:

- 👉 **MEMBERS**, who pay an annual fee and can play a full role in deciding our operations and receive full benefits of participation.
- 👉 **PARTNERS**, who can participate free on an annual basis, enjoy certain benefits and observe but not decide our operations.

For full information about our Membership and Partnership Criteria and how to join, contact:



EUROHEALTHNET OFFICE

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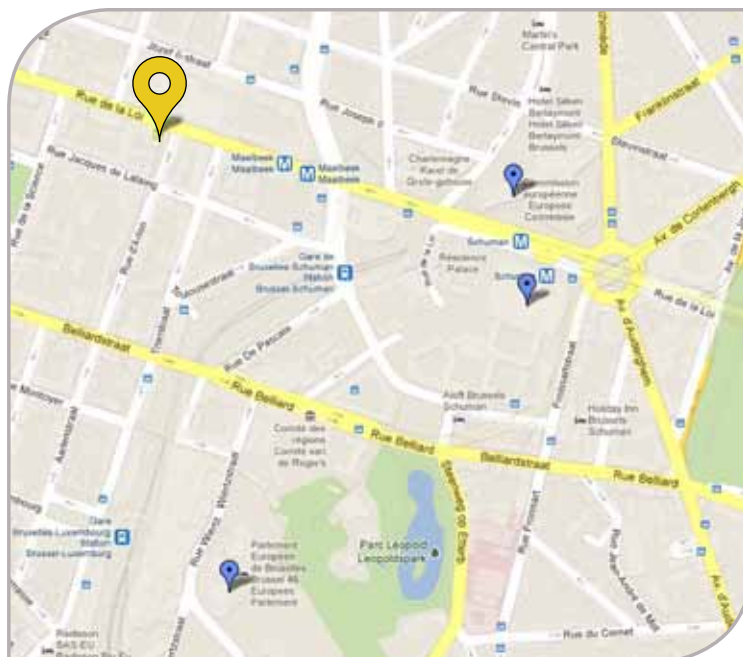
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EUROHEALTHNET - WHO WE ARE

31 Members and 14 partners in 31 European countries

AUSTRIA:	Austrian Health Promotion Foundation
BELGIUM:	Flemish Institute for Health Promotion and Disease Prevention (ViGeZ)
BULGARIA:	National Centre of Public Health Protection
CZECH REPUBLIC:	National Institute of Public Health
DENMARK:	National Board of Health
ENGLAND:	Department of Health Kent & Medway NHS North West Health Office
ESTONIA:	National Institute for Health Development
FRANCE:	National Institute for Prevention and Health Education (INPES)
FINLAND:	Finnish Society for Social and Health SOSTE National Institute for Health and Welfare
GERMANY:	Federal Centre for Health Education (BZgA)
GREECE:	Institute of Preventive Medicine, Environmental & Occupational Health Prolepsis
HUNGARY:	Hungarian National Institute for Health Development (OEFI) University of Debrecen
ITALY:	Veneto Region
LATVIA:	The Centre of Health Economics
THE NETHERLANDS:	NIGZ: Netherlands Institute for Health Promotion RIVM: Netherlands Institute Public Health and the Environment
NORWAY:	Norwegian Directorate of Health
POLAND:	National Institute of Hygiene – Public Health Research Institute
ROMANIA:	Institute of Public Health Iasi
SCOTLAND:	NHS Health Scotland
SLOVAKIA:	Public Health Authority of the Slovak Republic
SLOVENIA:	National Institute of Public Health Institute of Public Health Murska Sobota
SPAIN:	Ministerio de Sanidad y Consumo Universidad de La Laguna
SWEDEN:	Stockholm County Council
WALES:	Public Health Wales

Collaborating partners

BELGIUM - Health Promotion Research Group, Public Health Department, Ghent University

BELGIUM - Interface Demography at the Department of Sociology, Free University of Brussels

CROATIA - National Institute of Public Health

CZECH REPUBLIC - Health Authority of the Olomouc Region

IRELAND - Institute of Public Health

MONTENEGRO - Institute of Public Health

PORTUGAL - Research Centre on Child Studies, University of Minho

ROMANIA - National Institute of Public Health

ROMANIA - Institute of Public Health Iasi

SWEDEN - Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions

SWITZERLAND - Global Health Equity Foundation

UNITED KINGDOM - Health Action Partnership International (HAPI)

UNITED KINGDOM - East of England Brussels Office

UNITED KINGDOM - Department of Mental Health, Social Work and Inter-Professional Studies - Middlesex University



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