

EUROHEALTHNET CAPACITY BUILDING TRAINING

(MEMBERS ONLY MEETING)



Inclusive participatory processes to design and implement initiatives to improve public health and reduce health inequalities

Format and Time

The training will be organised as two separate **online** sessions. We encourage members to join for both sessions if possible, as they will build on each other. They will be held one week apart and focus on:

- **Session 1:** Overview, good practices, and members' exchange on Friday 23 September (10:00 – 12:30 CET)
- **Session 2:** Building capacity and sharing expertise on Friday 30 September (10:00 – 13:00 CET)

Background

There is growing awareness of the importance of participatory processes to help design and implement policies and initiatives. Meaningfully engaging with those impacted by these policies helps to ensure that the measures address real needs, empowers the stakeholders involved and gives them a vested interest in the success of these activities.

Engaging inclusively across the social gradient is critical to making sure that policies and initiatives are representative of different perspectives and lived realities, and that they appeal to different population groups. Co-creating with communities can for instance help to ensure just green and digital transitions that help reduce rather than widen health inequalities. Such processes are increasingly encouraged within EU research funding programmes.

The public health sector can make use of participatory processes to foster trust and ensure greater take-up of measures to promote health and reduce inequalities. Such processes can however be complex and resource-intensive to organise and implement, as it may be difficult to recruit and engage representative target populations, and to follow-up on and evaluate outcomes. As a result, the public

health sector may not sufficiently or effectively employ participatory processes to advance their objectives.

EuroHealthNet is organising an online capacity-building training to explore this topic and to help facilitate the design and implementation of inclusive participatory processes at different levels of governance (national/regional/local). The training will focus on inclusive citizen engagement, but also consider how to engage civil society organisations.

Agenda – Session 1 (Friday 23 September, 10:00 – 12:30 CET), online

Overview, good practices, and members' exchange on inclusive participatory processes

10.00 Welcome & overview of aims and formats of the capacity-building sessions

- EuroHealthNet

10.10 Setting the scene: why are inclusive participatory processes important for health interventions and what role for public health actors?

- Prof. Daniel La Parra-Casado, Department of Sociology Institute of Social Development and Peace, University of Alicante

10.20 Good practice examples: inclusively engaging across the social gradient

- Public Health Scotland: *engaging with communities to develop the climate lens resource as part of the Place Standard Tool*
- Roberta Bottai, Responsible for Participatory Processes, Tuscany Region: *Citizens' Council for Health: collaborating to design and develop health services and monitor equity of access*
- Dr Dheepa Rajan, Health Systems Adviser, WHO: *building systemic engagement with civil society for more inclusive health governance*

11.00 Break

11.20 Breakout groups: ‘fact-finding’ exchange. Participants will be invited to discuss:

- Whether they apply participatory processes in their work, as part of measures to promote health and reduce inequalities?
- Are these processes being implemented sufficiently? What are some of the benefits as well as some of the challenges?
- Is there a focus on ensuring these processes are inclusive, and engage the hard-to-reach? If so, how is this implemented? What are some facilitators/barriers?
- What are some of the opportunities as well as the needs they are facing?

12.05 Plenary feedback and discussion on key issues

12.20 Wrap-up and looking ahead to Session 2

- EuroHealthNet

12.30 END

Agenda – Session 2 (Friday 30 September, 10:00 – 13:00 CET), online

Building capacity and sharing expertise: designing and implementing inclusive participatory processes

To note: The design of the session will be refined to take into account the outcomes and needs identified during Session 1. It is intended to be an interactive session: EuroHealthNet will provide elements of training, while members will be invited to respond to this information based on their knowledge and expertise.

10.00 Welcome & overview of aims and format of the Session 2

- EuroHealthNet

10.10 Who participates (inclusivity)?

- Training and discussions in plenary and breakouts on ensuring inclusive engagement, techniques for participant engagement (motivations, messaging), barriers to participation, etc.

11.30 Break

11.45 How do they participate (intensity)? and; How are discussions and decisions linked with policy or public action (influence)?

- *Training and discussions in plenary and breakouts on principles underlying inclusive participation, tools and methods, and taking forward discussion outcomes*

12.45 Wrap-up and identifying potential areas for further collaboration amongst the EuroHealthNet partnership

- EuroHealthNet

13.00 END



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