



EuroHealthNet Annual report 2018-2019

— Pathways to sustainability



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Who we are

Building a healthier future for all by addressing the determinants of health and reducing inequalities.

EuroHealthNet is a not-for-profit partnership of organisations, agencies and statutory bodies working on public health, disease prevention, promoting health, and reducing inequalities. Several research centres are also part of our partnership.

We work on public health and social equity **policy, practice, and research**. We also explore and strengthen the links between them.

Our approach focuses on health in all policies, reducing health inequalities gaps and gradients, working on determinants across the life course, and sustainability.

This annual report describes our activities between June 2018 and May 2019.

About EuroHealthNet

The EuroHealthNet partnership includes 61 members, associate members, and observers. They come from 28 European countries, including 24 EU Member States. They steer the work of the Brussels office through three collaborating platforms: Practice, Policy, and Research. A core team works to unite and amplify the platforms' work. The partnership is governed by the General Council, which comprises all partners, and the Executive Board.

Read more about our structure, areas of work, and financing in the [‘How we work’ section](#).



BE RESPONSIVE

adapt to challenges and use opportunities;

Why we act

Despite progress, health inequalities exist and persist in Europe between people facing different social and economic situations, as well as within and between countries.

Among the 20% richest Europeans, only 3.9% describe their health as bad or very bad. This compares to the 13.2% of the poorest who feel the same.¹ Low-income households are still five times more likely to report unmet care needs than high-income households, mainly for financial reasons.²

There are big differences in life expectancy between European countries. Life expectancy ranges from 83.3 years and 83.2 years in Spain and Italy respectively, to 74.5 years in Latvia and Bulgaria. Within countries there are also large regional differences in health status.

These inequalities cost €980 billion per year, or 9.4 percent of European GDP, as a result of lower productivity and higher healthcare and welfare costs.³



BE EQUITABLE

address the 'causes of the causes';

These health inequalities can be reduced. EuroHealthNet's vision is of a society in which all citizens enjoy their fundamental right to the highest attainable standard of health, without distinction of race, religion, or economic or social condition.

Addressing the determinants of health is an effective and efficient way of reducing inequalities and improving standards of health, quality of life, and levels of wellbeing.

Most health outcomes are the result of the conditions in which we are born, live, grow, work and age. By addressing and improving those conditions we can better prevent ill health and promote the best possible health outcomes for individuals. We need to address the communities, societies, and systems which shape our lives and our health.

It is estimated that 790,000 people in EU countries died prematurely in 2016 due to just four risk factors: tobacco smoking, harmful consumption of alcohol, unhealthy diets, and lack of physical activity. More than 1,200,000 deaths could have been avoided in EU countries in 2015 through better public health policies or more effective and timely health care.⁴

EuroHealthNet believes that investing in health and more equitable societies pays off, and that integrated policy objectives which are aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals are the best way to achieve improved health, wellbeing, and equity.



BE VALUE DRIVEN

develop values and the right to health in new contexts;

¹ *Self-perceived health by sex, age, and income*; Eurostat (2017 data)

² *Inequalities in access to healthcare: A study of national policies*; European Social Policy Network (2018)

³ Mackenbach, J.P., Meerding, W.J. & Kunst, A.E., 2011. *Economic Costs of Health Inequalities in the European Union*. *Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health*, 65(5), pp.412-419

⁴ *Health at a Glance: Europe 2018*; European Commission / OECD

The term 'health' refers to both physical and mental health, which are interlinked. EuroHealthNet upholds the values of equity, justice, community engagement and empowerment of women and men, which lie at the heart of health promotion.

Editorial



What's new this year

A new President and Executive Board

At the EuroHealthNet General Council Meeting in June 2018 Dr Mojca Gabrijelčič Blenkuš (Senior Adviser, National Institute of Public Health (NIJZ), Slovenia) was elected president. A new Executive Board was also elected.



BE NEW

create and implement new ideas

Actions in a new Framework Contract with the European Commission

January 2018 saw the start of our new, four-year framework contract with the European Commission, through the EU Programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI). Under this contract, each year our work will focus on a different topic: in 2018 we assessed and made progress on our core priorities; in 2019 we are focusing on children and young people.



BE UPDATED

act smartly to influence 21st century realities;

A new focus on sustainable financing

Over the last 12 months we have examined novel ways health promotion and prevention can be financed, as well as financing for initiatives that reduce health inequalities.



BE ACTIVE

practice inclusive engagement

A new podcast and video

This year we produced our first podcast about [‘The effects of the gig economy on young people’s mental health’](#) for the EU Mental Health Alliance – Employment and Work. We also published a video called ‘1,000 lifechanging days’ which explains the importance of early experiences on health and wellbeing.



BE JOINED-UP

build partnerships and governance across sectors;

A new network for communication

A new network of communication departments was established to improve the exchange of information around the partnership, to strengthen the flow of information between European, national, and regional levels.



BE RESPONSIVE

adapt to challenges and use opportunities;

A new home in Brussels

EuroHealthNet moved into a new more modern and healthier office in July 2018. Our new premises give members the opportunity to have an office space in Brussels whenever they need, and is much better suited to our growing team.

New initiatives

In April 2019 we started working as a partner of the Centre for Global Health Inequalities Research (CHAIN) based at NTNU, Norway. We also joined the EU Joint Action on Health Inequalities (JAHEE) to provide support for knowledge building via communication and advocacy.



BE ETHICAL

promote fair standards in all we do;

New Members and Staff

Five new colleagues strengthened the team this year. 1 new member, 5 new associate members, and one observer joined us.

REJUVENATE: A framework for a sustainable future

The [REJUVENATE Statement and Framework](#) has been developed since 2016 by EuroHealthNet to contribute towards the implementation of the global Sustainable Development Goals through modern health promotion approaches. It is composed of ten steps to promote health in a rapidly changing world to create a healthier, more equitable and sustainable future.

The ten REJUVENATE elements are still as important as ever. They are woven into all our work and can be found throughout the report.

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|---|---|
|  <p>1. BE RESPONSIVE
<i>adapt to challenges and use opportunities;</i></p> |  <p>6. BE ETHICAL
<i>promote fair standards in all we do;</i></p> |
|  <p>2. BE EQUITABLE
<i>address the 'causes of the causes';</i></p> |  <p>7. BE NEW
<i>create and implement new ideas</i></p> |
|  <p>3. BE JOINED-UP
<i>build partnerships and governance across sectors;</i></p> |  <p>8. BE ACTIVE
<i>practice inclusive engagement</i></p> |
|  <p>4. BE UPDATED
<i>act smartly to influence 21st century realities;</i></p> |  <p>9. BE TECHNOLOGICAL
<i>understand and apply technical and digital advances;</i></p> |
|  <p>5. BE VALUE DRIVEN
<i>develop values and the right to health in new contexts;</i></p> |  <p>10 BE ECOLOGICAL
<i>sustain and protect our environments;</i></p> |

EuroHealthNet's year in numbers

898 Participants at EuroHealthNet events

90% Annual seminar participants rating the event as 'excellent' or 'good'

61 Members, associate members, and observers from 28 European countries in 24 Member States

55 Presentations made and events moderated

227 External meetings participated in

19 Newsletters published sharing information about our Partners and our world of work

15 Press releases sent

23% Increase in Magazine readership

7,812 Social media followers (16% increase)

4 capacity building events in Paris, Sophia, Lisbon, and Brussels

13 Policy briefings and consultation responses

197,004 Website views (21% increase)

2 A sustainable partnership

EuroHealthNet's core activities, financing, and structure are designed to ensure a long-term and effective future for the partnership.

This includes:

An organisational structure and governance to ensure accountability and diversity.

Finance which is reliable and transparent, and ethical **Funding and Procurement practices**.

A General Council Meeting at which all members of the partnership discuss and decide the strategic direction of the organisation and elect an Executive Board.

Thematic Working Groups and project teams to bring specialists across Europe together.

Smart analysis and actions to engage with relevant policy and practice developments.



BE ETHICAL

promote fair standards in all we do;

Outreach visits to make sure EuroHealthNet is delivering the right services and to understand the needs of members.

Communication to connect ideas and people; to provide up-to-date information where it's needed; and to amplify the voices of our communities.

General Council Meeting 2018

A new board was elected during the General Council meeting, held in Brussels in June.



BE TECHNOLOGICAL
understand and apply technical
and digital advances;

Dr Mojca Gabrijelčič Blenkuš (*Senior Adviser, National Institute of Public Health (NIJZ), Slovenia*) was elected as President.

José Maria Albuquerque (*Member of the Executive Board (VP) of the National Institute of Health Dr. Ricardo Jorge, Portugal*) was elected as Vice President.

Dr Paolo Stoco (*National Executive Committee of Federsanità ANCI, Italy*) and Professor Mirośław J. Wysocki (*National Institute of Public Health of Poland*) were re-elected as Executive Board members. Giovanni Gorgoni (*CEO, Agenzia Regionale Strategica per la Salute e il Sociale Puglia, Italy*) and Vertti Kiukas (*Secretary General, SOSTE Finnish Federation for Social Affairs and Health, Finland*) were elected to the Executive Board for the first time.

Three new organisations were approved as members:

- The National Centre of Public Health and Analyses (Bulgaria);
- The Regional Agency for healthcare and social affairs – Puglia (Italy);
- The Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (Latvia).

The École d'Assas (France) joined as an associate member, and the Ministry of Health Slovakia joined as an observer.

At the meeting, the Partnership also discussed and decided on our current programme of work and future strategies, including:

- Health and social policies in the EU, including the European Pillar of Social Rights and the European Semester;
- The EU Horizon Europe research programme and prospects for health and equity in all EU Programmes post 2020;
- EU Joint Actions on Chronic Diseases (CHRODIS Plus) and Health Inequalities;
- Achieving global Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals;
- The WHO Coalition of Partners for Public Health;
- Projects to address health inequalities experienced by LGBTI+ people;
- Showcases for initiatives by our Partners.



BE NEW
create and implement new ideas

The Partnership General Council agreed and published a [Joint Statement on Innovative Funding for Health Promotion including for EU Programmes.](#)

How we work

EuroHealthNet activities are spread across three areas:

- [The Practice Platform](#) focuses on the implementation of strategies, methodologies, capacity building, and actions to reduce inequalities and promote health.
- [The Policy Platform](#) monitors, analyses and informs the policy processes that affect health and inequality at international, European, national, and sub-national levels.
- [The Research Platform](#) works within EU and international programmes to contribute to research projects which address the causes of health inequalities, while connecting and supporting research institutes.

A core team links the work of the platforms and is responsible for management and coordination, communication, finance, and administration.

Members

EuroHealthNet members are accountable public bodies with responsibilities and/or expertise in public health, health promotion, health inequalities, disease prevention, or other relevant fields. Usually national or regional institutes, authorities and government departments, they work on improving health, addressing the social determinants of health, and/or reducing health inequalities.



BE JOINED-UP

build partnerships and governance across sectors;

Members are part of all platforms and receive additional core member services. They set the direction of the partnership.

Associate members

Associate Members are universities, civil society organisations, and others which are not necessarily statutory bodies but identify with EuroHealthNet's mission and want to take part in the work of EuroHealthNet that is most relevant to them. Associate members can join one or more of one of the three platforms and pay a reduced fee for the more limited services received. They have no voting or governance role.

General Council

The General Council is one of EuroHealthNet's two governing bodies. It comprises members and associate members. The General Council meets annually to discuss progress, and to approve annual reports and budgets. The General Council also elects the Executive Board.



BE RESPONSIVE

adapt to challenges and use opportunities;

Executive Board

Members of the Executive Board are elected from the General Council. They serve terms of two years during which they develop annual strategies, work plans, and budgets. The Executive Board is informed by an external evaluator.

Observers

Observers are mostly Ministries of Health. They play a specific, mutually agreed role. Their status is reviewed and granted on an annual basis by the General Council and is by invitation only. They do not have a voting or governance role.

Staff

EuroHealthNet's office is based in Brussels and staffed by a skilled team of 14 employees working in a diverse and dynamic environment with highly experienced leadership by Director Caroline Costongs.

“EuroHealthNet is now firmly established as a serious contributor to sustainable development in Europe following our involvement in both the ‘Spread’ and ‘Inherit’ projects; our capacity building through events, workshops and study visits; and our ongoing policy development and advocacy work. However, none of this would be possible without the active involvement of our members, whose collective expertise and knowledge are crucial in informing our valued and influential engagement with our national and international stakeholders and partners.”

Malcolm Ward Public Health Networks Manager,
Public Health Wales, UK (Executive Board member)



Thematic working groups

Until December 2018, EuroHealthNet ran four thematic working groups (TWIGS) bringing together experts on:

- Chronic and non-communicable diseases (NCDs)
- Mental Health
- Health Systems
- Healthy Ageing

The TWIGS are open to staff from Members of the partnership. Following a consultation, the EuroHealthNet's working groups are ready to be relaunched.

Outreach Visits

Throughout the year, EuroHealthNet organises outreach visits, hosts webinars, and invites its members to visit the EuroHealthNet office in Brussels. Examples include:

- The Austrian Health Promotion Fund (FGÖ)
- Members in Puglia (Italy)
- Members in the Netherlands.
- The National Ministry of Health, Consumer Affairs and Social Wellbeing in Spain
- NHS Health Scotland
- The Institute of Public Health, Ireland
- The Ministry of Health, Malta
- The Ministry of Health, Slovakia
- The Federal Centre for Health Education (BZgA), Germany
- The National Institute of Health (ISS), Italy

Communication

The EuroHealthNet communication unit amplifies the voices of the members of the partnership, connects ideas and people across Europe, and delivers up-to-date, evidence-driven information to public health and social equity communities and beyond.

Connecting ideas and people

We facilitate exchange of information and best practices across the partnership, and with the sectors that affect health and equity.



BE JOINED-UP

build partnerships and governance across sectors;

EuroHealthNet's new communication network

This year we established a network of communication departments to improve the exchange of information around the partnership, to help partners express their interests and concerns at an international level, and strengthen the flow of information between European action, and national and regional agencies.

The group meets three times per year via video conferencing to share updates and news.

Calls and Opportunities Alerts

Calls and Opportunities Alerts include exclusive opportunities for funding, training, and capacity building. They are sent to Members approximately once per month, or as opportunities arise. Between July 2018 and April 2019, nine were sent.



BE TECHNOLOGICAL

understand and apply technical and digital advances;

Health Highlights

Each month, EuroHealthNet publishes a collection of the most important news in our fields in an email newsletter, *Health Highlights*. It is sent to more than 2,500 people. It covers leading stories, news from the partnership, news from EU institutions and agencies, international news, publications, and events. This year, the newsletter was refreshed with a new design.

Developing projects and partnerships

EuroHealthNet contributes to communicating the outputs of associated initiatives and projects, making sure work is joined-up. This year, we have joined the Joint Action on Health Inequalities (JAHEE) as a subcontractor and are working on stakeholder analysis and communication.

Our work as part of the new Centre for Global Health Inequalities (CHAIN) research centre also began this year. Our focus will be on bridging research, policy, and practice.

Providing clear, up-to-date information where it's needed

This year, EuroHealthNet's twice-yearly magazine was redeveloped, and more translations of articles are now available. It is designed for public health professionals and health promotion experts to share what's happening in their field, and to see how their areas of work are being addressed in different countries and contexts. The magazine continues to be a popular resource.

[Read the latest edition](#)

The launch of a podcast

This year we produced our first podcast. ‘The effects of the gig economy on young people’s mental health’ was created for the EU Alliance for Mental Health – Employment and Work. It looks at how employment is changing, and the risks and benefits for young workers.

**BE NEW***create and implement new ideas*[Listen online](#)

Easily accessible information online

EuroHealthNet manages three websites, each providing information for different audiences and purposes.

EuroHealthNet.eu hosts all resources produced by EuroHealthNet as well as information about the partnership.

Health-Inequalities.eu provides specific information about health inequalities in each Member State, information about financing and European funding to tackle health inequalities – including our support desk for members of the Partnership in search of financial support, and databases of policies, projects, and publications.

Healthy-ageing.eu contains resources about active and healthy ageing.

Amplifying the voices of the European health promoting communities

**BE UPDATED***act smartly to influence 21st century realities;*

We strengthen the messages, evidence, and action of members of the Partnership at an international level

1,000 lifechanging days

We published a video demonstrating the importance of the first 1,000 days of life on long term health and wellbeing. It describes how early experiences shape development and what actions are needed. It has been translated into **xxx** and is available for members to use in their own advocacy activities.

Watch ‘1000 lifechanging days’ [link to be added when live](#)

Making news

We produce news releases to inform wide audiences within and outside the public health sphere about important changes and developments for health equity. Between September 2018 and March 2019, 15 news releases were published covering topics such as health and environmental change, the European Semester, the EU budget, and the European Pillar of Social Rights.

[Read our news releases](#)

Making a statement

On behalf of the partnership, we issue statements, joint letters, and articles describing EuroHealthNet's positions on key legislative developments and other matters. Topics covered this year include work/life balance, the EU's next long-term budget (The Multi-Annual Financial Framework (MFF)), financial protection systems, and the need for investment and reforms for sustainable health and care systems.

[Read our recent statements](#)

Communication in figures

146,502 views of EuroHealthNet.eu

15,460 Contacts in our database

4701 Twitter followers

1450 Facebook fans

1661 LinkedIn followers

Funding

EuroHealthNet's funding comes from three main sources:



BE ECOLOGICAL

sustain and protect our environments;

- member and associate member fees,
- a core grant from the EU Programme for Employment and Social Innovation (EaSI),
- co-funded EU project grants or specific funded work.

We continue to make efforts to increase the share of funding from direct participation. We do not accept funding from for-profit bodies.

In addition to internal financial management and planning, an external accountant prepares the annual financial and balance reports, which are then certified by a separate auditing firm. The General Council approves the financial reports at its annual meeting.

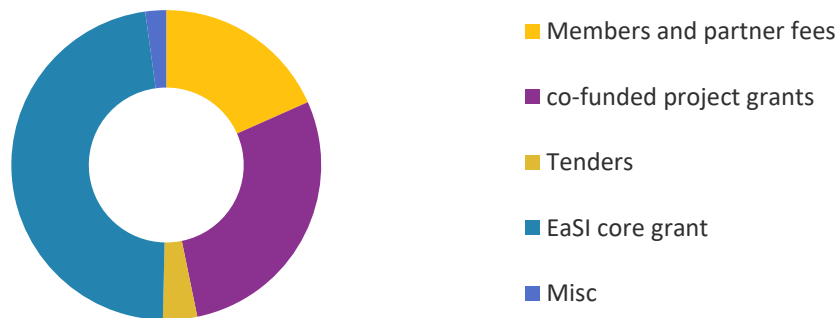
EuroHealthNet works in a transparent, ethical, and independent way. We have adopted a code of conduct for the organisation and membership, and ethical guidelines for partnership building. Procurement, risk management, and financial rules are set out in the EuroHealthNet 'How We Work' document, available on request. We consider and evaluate the environmental impacts of all actions and procurement decisions.



BE ETHICAL

promote fair standards in all we do;

Income 2018 (€1,150,000)



Expenditure 2018 (€1,150,000)



3 A Sustainable Development Approach

Our work in practice, policy, and research revolves around a sustainable development approach. That means developing holistic and systemic solutions which work now and in the future. Social, environmental, and economic factors are balanced and considered in unison.

[The Practice Platform](#) focuses on the implementation of effective strategies, programmes, and initiatives to promote health and reduce health inequalities. This has included:

- Knowledge building and exchange on early childhood interventions, de-institutionalisation, the social inclusion of people with chronic diseases and mental ill-health, and digital health literacy.
- Action on the prevention of chronic diseases through national analyses, integrating promotion and prevention into health systems, and transferring best practices between countries.
- Collaborating on Joint Actions on health equity and vaccination.

[The Policy Platform](#) works to ensure that policy initiatives at European and sub-national levels are joined-up and reflect real needs on the ground. This year we have worked on:

- The links between health and environment – how our food systems need to change and how health promotion needs to be integrated into action on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.
- Using the European Semester and the European Pillar of Social Rights as tools for boosting health equity.
- Providing responses and evidence for consultations on tobacco taxation, integration of long-term unemployed people in the labour market and the EU Child Guarantee for Vulnerable Children, among others.
- Engaging in dialogue with new partners in the fields of sustainability, food systems, environmental health, migration, and vaccination.
- Building alliances on topics such as diet and physical activity, investing in children, mental health and the future of work, and digital health, including strengthening partnerships with the WHO Regional Office for Europe and EU co-funded organisations.

[The Research Platform](#) contributes to building evidence for policy and practice. This year the focus has been on:

- Studying behaviour change and solutions in our homes and neighbourhoods, in the way we travel and in the way we eat which are good for health, equity, and the environment.

- Exploring what growing up in a digital world means for young people's health.
- Collaborating on CHAIN, a world leading research network on health inequalities research.
- Being part of the European Forum for Health Promotion Research, the Joint action on Health Information, and the European Health Information Initiative.

The Practice Platform

Implementing effective strategies, programmes, and initiatives to promote health and reduce health inequalities.

Building and exchanging knowledge between members



BE UPDATED

act smartly to influence 21st century realities;

The Practice Platform works to ensure international knowledge and best practice exchange. This work includes country exchange visits, in which senior staff from EuroHealthNet member organisations visit other countries and organisations to examine how they approach different issues. The visits are co-organised by EuroHealthNet and members. Seminars, workshops, and other similar activities are also organised.

This year we organised two country exchange visits and one workshop. In addition, capacity building and other activities relating to financing health promotion and prevention were organised. More information is available in the chapter on '*Financial sustainability for health promotion and health equity*'.

Giving all young children a healthy start – an exchange on evidence-based interventions

Country Exchange Visit Paris, France. 12-13 June 2018

The aim of this visit, hosted by Santé Publique France, was to explore initiatives relating to the first 1,000 days of life and to facilitate exchange of related best practices, policies, and experiences between national and regional organisations. The visit examined measures such as the new French prevention plan and changes at the EU level. It also considered interventions such as baby-friendly hospitals, family allowance funds, a low birthweight programme in Wales, positive parenting interventions in Spain, child and maternal protection centres in France, and the WHO Healthy Cities Network. Participants discussed pregnancy and environmental health, promoting health and attachment of new-borns and parents, childhood and youth poverty prevention, and the WHO Collaborating Centre on Childhood and Adolescent Health.

[Read the report](#)

Health Inequalities, de-institutionalisation and social inclusion of people with chronic diseases and mental ill-health

Country Exchange Visit Sofia, Bulgaria. 13- 14 November 2018

This exchange, hosted by the Bulgarian National Centre of Public Health and Analyses, covered four topics: health and social inclusion, including current work in Bulgaria on health promotion and prevention; mental health and wellbeing, including an exchange on best practices and a visit to a centre for psychosocial rehabilitation; the inclusion of people with chronic non-communicable diseases, looking at how to strengthen existing and innovative approaches; and action on chronic diseases at the EU level. The discussions also involved the WHO Europe Country Office and considered relevant examples from the Netherlands, Portugal, Italy, France, Hungary and Slovenia.

[Read the report](#)

Digital Health Literacy - An Intersectoral Approach

Expert Workshop Lisbon, Portugal. 28 February 2019

In collaboration with the Portuguese Directorate-General of Health, we held an expert workshop on Digital Health Literacy. Digital health literacy is the ability to seek, find, understand, and appraise health information from electronic sources and apply the knowledge gained to address or solve health issues. However, people from lower socio-economic backgrounds, people experiencing vulnerabilities, or older people may not fully benefit from technological advancements. The workshop explored how an intersectoral approach to digital health literacy can be addressed, with a focus on people in 'vulnerable' groups. We brought together key experts at national and European levels to exchange knowledge on the implementation of digital health literacy within national public health policies. The workshop produced a series of recommendations for strengthening digital health literacy for all.

[Read the expert recommendations](#)



BE TECHNOLOGICAL

*understand and apply technical
and digital advances;*

Implementation, innovation, and prevention of chronic diseases

EuroHealthNet is a partner in the EU Joint Action on Chronic Diseases, 'CHRODIS Plus'. The action focuses on the implementation of policies and practices that have been demonstrated to be successful to reduce the burden of chronic diseases. EuroHealthNet's work in Joint Action CHRODIS Plus covers two work packages:



BE RESPONSIVE

adapt to challenges and use opportunities;

- we lead work on health promotion and disease prevention in close cooperation with our member, the Finnish National Institute for Health and Welfare (THL);
- we also lead a consortium of twenty-two partners from fourteen countries, to build on the successful results from the previous Joint Action CHRODIS.

Country reports on health promotion and disease prevention

EuroHealthNet, along with THL, has analysed and assessed the health promotion and disease prevention landscapes from twenty-one countries. The resulting [country reports](#) give a quick idea of the situation and key actors in the respective countries; provide an understanding of what is needed in terms of health and other relevant policies and strategies (physical education, anti-smoking laws, employment policies, etc.) and in terms of implementation of good practices for the target groups; present a helpful reference point for more efficient cross-national learning; and provide insights from an EU perspective into broader health systems organisation as well as be the input source for policy dialogues. An overview report has also been published and presented to the EU Health Policy Platform in a dedicated webinar organised by European Commission DG SANTE.

Transferring best practices

EuroHealthNet led work to transfer recognised [good practices](#) into different contexts. CHRODIS plus partners have adapted and implemented selected practices into their respective countries and contexts. Partners focused on three thematic groups: children in schools, adults in the workplace, and older people.



BE ETHICAL

promote fair standards in all we do;

Over the last year, partners have reviewed and agreed on the common framework for systematic assessments of their chosen good practice in relation to their context, including an analysis of the feasibility of the transfer. Additionally, partners have developed an action plan and assessed and adapted the intervention to their local context. Since January, the partners have commenced the implementation stage which, as work package leaders, EuroHealthNet oversees.

The good practices that will be implemented for children in schools include:

- The Irish JA-CHRODIS Good Practice "Active School Flag" (ASF) implemented by Piedmont Regional Health Promotion Documentation Centre (DORS, Italy) and Institute of Hygiene (HI, Lithuania).
- The Dutch JA-CHRODIS Good Practice "JOGG" implemented by Directorate of Health (DOHI, Iceland)

- The Greek JA-CHRODIS Good Practice “ToyBox” implemented by Directorate of Health and Disease Prevention Malta.

The good practice focusing on adults in the workplace is:

- The Italian JA-CHRODIS Good Practice “Lombardy Workplace Health Promotion Network” implemented by Andalusian Regional Ministry of Equality, Health and Social Policies (CSJA Spain).

The good practice focusing on older people in care settings is:

- The Icelandic JA-CHRODIS study “Multimodal Training Intervention in Communities – an Approach to Successful Ageing” be implemented by Institute of Hygiene (HI) in Lithuania, Institute of Health Carlos III (ISCIII) in Spain, and Directorate of Health (DOHI) in Iceland.

Some of the good practices being implemented:

Active School Flag:

The Active School Flag (ASF) is an initiative which aims to enhance levels of physical activity for children by developing a physically active and physically educated school community. When schools become part of the initiative, they evaluate current provisions and commit to improvements. Partnerships with the wider community are made. An Active School Week becomes part of the school calendar. The initiative takes a whole school approach and focuses on inclusion and partnership; this may help address inequality and maintain physical activity in the long term.

JOGG:

JOGG (Young People at a Healthy Weight) is a movement which encourages all people in a city, town or neighbourhood to make healthy food and exercise an easy and attractive lifestyle option for young people. It focuses on children and adolescents themselves, along with their parents and the direct environment. The main aim is to reverse the increasing trend of young people (0-19 years) with overweight/obesity.

ToyBox:

ToyBox is a multicomponent, kindergarten-based, family-involved intervention, focusing on the promotion of water consumption, healthy snacking, physical activity and the reduction/breaking up of sedentary time in preschool children and their families (four EBRBs). The main aim is to prevent overweight/obesity in early childhood. It covers changing the environment (adding water and healthy snacks), prompts from teachers, interactive activity sessions, and information for care-givers.

Integrating promotion and prevention into health systems

EuroHealthNet's remit also covers work that is examining ways to better integrate health promotion and disease prevention in the healthcare and wider social care systems. Led by our member, the Dutch National Institute for Public Health and the Environment (RIVM), we identified the factors that facilitate and/or hinder collaboration, examine efficient ways of working between sectors, and support synergies between community-based and healthcare services efforts. This work has involved analysing intra-sectoral collaboration within healthcare that addresses both the prevention and management of chronic diseases and inter-sectoral collaboration between the broader health system and other sectors that provides opportunities for health promotion and disease prevention. A report that will outline recommendations for intra- and inter-sectoral collaboration for health promotion will be published in 2020.



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*develop values and the right to
 health in new contexts;*

Integration into National Policies and Sustainability

We have continued with the organisation of 15 National Policy Dialogues that aim to identify policies or changes to existing policies that can tackle major risk factors, and/or strengthen health promotion and prevention programmes, as well as healthcare approaches to chronic diseases and multimorbidity. We helped to organise, attended and reported on policy dialogues in:

- Ireland (Tobacco control and inequalities – reflecting on the first five years of Tobacco Free Ireland – 12 June 2018)
- Poland (Prevention of cardiovascular system and respiratory system diseases and their consequences by modification of the Comprehensive Geriatric Assessment – 27 November 2018)
- Portugal (Advertisement of Food and Beverages to Children – 30 January 2019)
- Lithuania (mental health literacy, with a particular focus on divorce and interventions for parents and children) – 6 May 2019
- Spain (How to effectively implement the article 35 of the Public Health Act on Health Impact Assessment? – 9 May 2019)

The Policy Dialogues involve senior national policymakers and serve to elaborate national action plans for improved prevention and management of chronic diseases. As part of this work we have developed a guide for national organisers and held three webinars to aid the planning, moderating, and reporting of policy dialogues (Planning – July 2018, Moderating 13 November 2018, and Reporting - 19 March 2019).

General Assembly and Conference

May 13 – 15 2019, Budapest, Hungary

This was an opportunity for over 160 partners and stakeholders to explore the activities of CHRODIS Plus. The event provided a balance of practical presentations followed by in-depth group

discussions. The key intention was interaction and practicality. As a work package leader, we made a series of presentations.

Collaborating on EU Joint Actions on Health Equity and Vaccination

Participation in the EU Joint Action Health Equity Europe (JAHEE)

The aim of [JAHEE](#) is to improve health and well-being of European citizens and achieve greater equity in health outcomes across all groups in society – both in participant countries and in Europe as a whole. People in vulnerable groups including refugees and migrants will be in focus. In 2019 EuroHealthNet became a subcontractor in the Action. Our work will focus mostly on policy and dialogue building, communication and dissemination, and advocacy.

In 2018, EuroHealthNet [co-organised a seminar on Health Inequalities at the European Public Health Forum Gastein where the JAHEE approach was debated](#).

Collaboration with the Joint Action on Vaccination

The European [Joint Action on Vaccination \(EU-JAV\)](#) brings together 20 partners in 17 Member States to monitor more accurately vaccination coverage, ensure that everybody in the European Union has access to vaccination, improve forecasting of vaccine stocks and systems for the prevention of shortages, set priorities for research and development on vaccination, and enhance the public confidence in vaccination

EuroHealthNet has signed a Memorandum of Understanding to collaborate as a part of the EU-JAV Stakeholders Forum. We will support the activities on dissemination, integration of national policies and sustainability, and vaccine hesitancy and uptake.

In 2019 we updated our factsheet on vaccination. [This was published during vaccination week](#).

The Policy Platform

Ensuring that policy initiatives at European and sub-national levels are joined up and reflect real needs on the ground.

Informing the policy processes, and advocating for health in all policies

EuroHealthNet provides information and evidence from health bodies to policy makers and informs them about policy developments and prospective changes. The aim is to make sure that policy developments respond to and meet needs on the ground, and health bodies can adapt to change. We advocate for evidenced based actions which improve health and wellbeing for all.

Integrating health promotion with sustainability goals

EuroHealthNet is committed to making the links between health systems and wider sustainability goals. Indeed, two of the Sustainable Development Goals are directly connected to our work: SDG10 – reducing inequality, and SDG3: better health and wellbeing and many others are connected. Health systems and the wider systems that influence health, such as education and social protection, are themselves large employers and make significant contributions to economies and prosperity. The sustainability transition must apply to those systems too.

In January 2019 the European Commission published a Reflection Paper ‘Towards a sustainable Europe by 2030’. We [published a briefing](#) on this Reflection Paper, with recommendations for future action.



BE RESPONSIVE

adapt to challenges and use opportunities;

The European Semester instruments for sustainable health and social equity

The European Semester is the European Union’s economic and social policy coordination mechanism. Until relatively recently it focused on analysing EU Member States’ economic and fiscal situation, monitoring progress, and providing country specific recommendations towards meeting the EU2020 strategic objectives and targets on economic growth and avoiding budgetary deficits. Since the 2017-2018 annual reviews, however, it increasingly also provides recommendations on social policy areas, in particular health, social inclusion and protection systems. These can have a substantial impact on health and health equity outcomes. We believe more could be done to improve health and sustainability through the Semester process, and it could be steered more towards better use of funding opportunities and priorities of the next EU funds – as the current plans already point to.

In November 2018 EuroHealthNet published an analysis of how three key social determinants of health are addressed in the European Semester process: (i) Access to and affordability of health care, for all population groups; (ii) Early childhood education and care; and (iii) Poverty and income

inequalities. It also looks in detail at how these factors are addressed in reports and guidance for to a selection of countries: Slovakia, the Netherlands, Sweden and Finland. Analyses were made for all health-recommendation receiving countries, accompanied by suggestions on how the process could be improved.

To help build the links between our partners in the health field with wider European policy changes we have published

- European Semester guide for members (August 2018)
- An analysis of the EU Multi-Annual Financial Framework (September 2018)
- An analysis of the European Semester from a health equity perspective (November 2018)
- A briefing on the Semester 'Autumn Package' including the annual growth survey (January 2019)
- A briefing on the Semester 'Winter Package' (March 2019)
- A webinar on the European Semester and members' engagement (April 2019)

Supporting the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights

The aim of the Pillar is to stimulate upward convergence towards better living and working conditions. After intensive work to develop the European Pillar of Social Rights and since its proclamation in November 2017, EuroHealthNet has been encouraging EU Institutions, as well as national and local level policy-makers, towards the Social Pillar's implementation.

EuroHealthNet has worked with members, associates, and partners to establish how it can be further used as a tool to strengthen health and reduce health inequalities in their countries, and to ensure that policies are aligned. To this end, we have monitored and disseminated progress towards the European Commission's new legislative initiatives: access to Social Protection for All Workers and the Self-Employed Regulation, and the Work-Life Balance Directive.

Publishing information on how to create healthy, sustainable, and inclusive food systems



BE ECOLOGICAL
sustain and protect our
environments;

Despite growing concern about sustainability, Europe's food systems still put undue stress on our environment. By restraining access to decent and affordable nutrition, our food systems perpetuate and drive up health inequalities.

In April 2019, EuroHealthNet published [a policy précis](#) on why and how we need to transition to healthy, more sustainable and inclusive European food systems. In it, we look at how progress can be made at international and national levels.

We worked with the Austrian EU Presidency in the development of a conference on '*People's food - people's health: Towards healthy and sustainable European Food Systems*' held in Vienna in October 2018 and contributed to presentations, panel sessions, workshops and conference outcomes. Moreover, we contributed to work by the International Panel of Experts on Sustainable

Food Systems (IPES-Food) collaborating on recommendations for a *'Common Food Policy Vision for the EU'*.

Providing expert opinions to public and targeted stakeholder consultations

The European Commission and other stakeholders regularly organise and invite EuroHealthNet to take part and provide feedback on possible future policy and actions. EuroHealthNet collects opinions and practices on specific issues from members of the partnership, and compiles these into collective and coherent responses. In doing so, it strengthens their position at the policy-making environment at EU, national, and local levels. In the last year, EuroHealthNet responded to five consultations. The following highlights some of the main points raised.

[Read a full list of responses and their content](#)

[On tobacco taxation and health equity](#)

This consultation addressed matters related to fiscal measures applied to tobacco products linked to consumption. Additionally, it sought stakeholders' opinion on extending of the fiscal measures onto novel nicotine-releasing devices (e-cigarettes). In its response, EuroHealthNet expressed strong support for the further increase of tobacco taxes and the EU-wide harmonisation of fiscal policy regarding e-cigarettes, an effective and comprehensive EU-level regulation, mitigation of the risk of e-cigarettes becoming a 'gateway' product to tobacco consumption, particularly those who are young and/or vulnerable. We advised a cautious endorsement for the use of e-cigarettes as one element of comprehensive smoking cessation programmes.

[On impact assessment evaluation and fitness check of the European Social Fund \(2014-2020\)](#)

EuroHealthNet's response assessed our Partnerships' experience of how the European Social Fund (ESF) promotes social inclusion and combats poverty and discrimination, the use of the fund's prioritisation and implementation of structural reforms at national and local levels, as well as the visibility, usefulness, relevance, value for money and effectiveness of various ESF measures.

For EuroHealthNet, ESF represents a valuable instrument to reduce health inequalities between and within EU Member States and further boost investments in structural determinants of health, health promotion and disease prevention measures.

[On the role of regions and cities in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals](#)

In our response to the Committee of the Regions and OECD consultation on the role of regions and cities in achieving the SDGs, we highlighted our work in a context of our EU-funded project, INHERIT. We specifically emphasised the importance of establishing conceptual frameworks around sustainability indicators that would embrace both health and socially equitable sustainability. We also highlighted the potential for transferability and scalability of actions they would measure. Our contribution included sharing examples of good practices happening around Europe and at multiple governance levels.

On the EU child guarantee for vulnerable children in the framework of the next ESF+

Over a quarter of all EU children are at risk of poverty and social exclusion⁵. In 2015, to strengthen the implementation of the 2013 EU Recommendation on Investing in Children, the European Parliament called to *“introduce a Child Guarantee so that every child in poverty can have access to free healthcare, free education, free childcare, decent housing and adequate nutrition, as part of a European integrated plan to combat child poverty”*.

EuroHealthNet, when asked for its opinion on the initiative, highlighted that better support should be provided to address child poverty and social exclusion if adverse health outcomes are to be avoided. Integrated services should efficiently combine prevention with investment in building resilience and skills of people from the early years.

⁵ https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Children_at_risk_of_poverty_or_social_exclusion

Strengthening links and channelling the expertise of the Partnership

Engaging with European policy-makers, participating in key events, strategic dialogues and expert groups.



BE NEW

create and implement new ideas

Throughout the year, EuroHealthNet meets European policy makers to exchange information on developments and to suggest recommendations for effective action on health equity and health promotion. EuroHealthNet staff and members actively contributed to strategic dialogues, reviews and experts' exchanges, spoke at and moderated several important events.

July 2018

- South-Eastern European Health Network (speaking)

September 2018

- 68th WHO Regional Committee Meeting (Speaking)
- Forum Mediterraneo in Sanita (Speaking)
- ESI Funds for Health Workshop (moderating)

October 2018

- The Health Inequalities session at the European Health Forum Gastein (speaking)
- WHO International Healthy Cities Conference (Speaking)
- DG EMPL event on EU semester and health workshop (Speaking)
- UNESCO chair inauguration & Health Promotion Research Forum seminar (Speaking)
- Innovation in NCDs Prevention for Young People (moderating)
- Steering Board Conference Social Infrastructure Investment (moderating)
- Healthy Stadia Conference (Moderating)
- EU Platform for Action on Diet, Physical Activity and Health (speaking)

November 2018

- Change the climate of our health – European Parliament (speaking),
- EHMA Innovative prevention of the Non-communicable Diseases in Young People (moderating)
- #INHERITYourFutureForum Transferability Conference (Speaking)
- European Public Health Conference (Speaking)
- WHO expert meeting on health and the circular economy (Moderating)
- The Social Protection Committee of the European Commission meeting on Inequalities in Access to Health and Socio-economic determinants (speaking)

December 2018

- European Structural and Investment Funds conference (speaking)
- Health Equity Project (HEPP) conference (speaking)



BE ACTIVE

practice inclusive engagement

January 2019

- A seminar on Social Investments and Health Research at the Social Situation Monitor of the European Commission (speaking)

February 2019

- The European Commission event on Cohesion Policy Investment in Health 2019 (moderating)
- The European Parliament Access to Health through Social Inclusion 2019

March 2019

- Lifepath final conference (speaking)
- RE-INVEST final conference (speaking)

April 2019

- CHAIN - Global Centre for Health Inequalities Research Kick off (Speaking)

May 2019

- EIP AHA Age-friendly environments Action group (speaking)
- ESF Transnational Platform conference (moderating)

Building alliances

EuroHealthNet participates in several platforms and alliances and on a range of public health initiatives.



BE VALUE DRIVEN

develop values and the right to health in new contexts;

The EU platform for action on diet, physical activity and health

EuroHealthNet has been a long-standing member of the EU Platform for Action on Diet, Physical Activity, and Health which is a forum for European stakeholders and organisations, including NGOs and food and advertising industries. We also contributed to the annual monitoring and evaluation of the EU Platform. EuroHealthNet's input relates specifically to reviewing the methodology behind the European Commission's monitoring framework and its indicators relating to WHO global NCD targets and providing EU added value.

EU Health Policy Platform

The EU Health Policy Forum is made up of health-related interest groups. Its purpose is to provide a framework and a forum for transparent dialogue and active collaboration with the European Commission and between the stakeholders on relevant public health issues and expertise.

In 2018, EuroHealthNet contributed to development of a [Joint Statement on Stimulating Consumption of Fruit and Vegetables](#), which was presented and published widely. Beyond raising issues of consumption and commercial determinants, it calls on for adequate actions also at the production side of the fruit and vegetable supply chain.

European Alliance for Investing in Children



BE JOINED-UP

build partnerships and governance across sectors;

The European Alliance for Investing in Children promotes effective, child-centred policies and practice to tackle child poverty and promote child wellbeing. As part of the Alliance, EuroHealthNet contributed to continuing efforts to identify and spread the best policy entry points for effective, sustainable and timely implementation of the provisions outlined in the EC's Recommendation on Investing in Children.

We published a [joint statement on the Multi-annual Financial Framework 2021-2027](#). We also co-organised a side event in a context of the Annual Convention for Inclusive Growth 2018, and a European Parliament seminar on Integrated child-centred services and potential for an EU Child Guarantee.

Chairing the European Alliance for Mental Health: Employment and Work

EuroHealthNet is part of this informal coalition of organisations working together to promote good mental health in the workplace, to advocate for equal access to employment for people experiencing mental ill-health, and to stimulate appropriate policy actions at EU level. In 2018 EuroHealthNet chaired the Alliance, ensuring its effective and timely operation and implementation of its annual workplan. Highlights of the year of the Alliance were analysis of the European Semester's Country Specific Recommendations in relation to mental health in an (un)employment context, a joint statement for the World Day for Safety and Health at Work, and

production of a podcast on the impact of the 'gig economy' and the future of work on mental health of young people.

Collaborating with the WHO

EuroHealthNet has a long history of engagement and collaboration with WHO in Europe. The EuroHealthNet office in Brussels has been involved in various activities co-organised with WHO offices in Copenhagen (on European Healthy Cities Network, NCDs, Migrants Health Network, and gender health), Bonn (on environment, circular economy and climate change), and Venice (on health equity and determinants of health).

Over the year, we have strengthened our cooperation with WHO Europe, culminating in being recognised as a non-state actor for collaboration with the organisation. We have also continued working together with the WHO Coalition of Partners, as well as on WHO Health Information initiative and WHO Observatory on Health Systems and Policies initiative on Civil Society and Health.

The EuroHealthNet Director presented two statements to the 68th session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe in Rome, September 2018. [The statements](#) responded to items concerning 'Can people afford to pay for health care? New evidence on financial protection in Europe' and on Reports on the WHO meetings on Health Systems held in Sitges and Tallinn.

In April 2019 we provided consultation responses on the WHO Global strategy on digital health 2020-2024 and WHO European roadmap for implementation of health literacy initiatives through the life course.

The Research Platform

Providing the evidence base for policy and practice

Case studies for sustainability

EuroHealthNet is the coordinator of [INHERIT](#) (2016-2019), a four-year research project funded by the EU Horizon 2020 programme. INHERIT involves a multi-disciplinary consortium of 18 partners across Europe including Universities, Public Health institutes, companies, and not-for-profit organisations.

INHERIT explores how we can change lifestyles and behaviours that are related to how we live, move, and consume, to simultaneously improve the environment (win 1), health (win 2) and contribute to fairer societies (win 3). These three wins have been labelled as the 'INHERIT triple-win'.

For the past three years the 18 INHERIT partners have been identifying and studying promising practices that are being implemented across Europe, that simultaneously contribute to this 'triple-win'. INHERIT has been working on the evaluation of 15 triple-win case studies. This evaluation aspires to develop models of good practice for intersectoral work in the areas of living, moving, and consuming, including guidelines to support use and transferability across Europe. A mixed-method approach was applied, combining a qualitative evaluation, a quantitative evaluation, and an economic evaluation. The qualitative evaluation involved focus groups in 12 cases studies, bringing together all the sectors that were involved in implementation. The focus groups aimed to gain insight into the inter-sectoral collaboration process behind each triple-win case study. In addition, the quantitative and economic evaluations required a close collaboration between the INHERIT consortium and the local implementers of the case studies to be able to inform on the benefits, impacts and cost effectiveness of these case studies.



BE ECOLOGICAL

sustain and protect our environments;

Interventions to improve health, reduce inequalities, and protect the environment

Gardening with Green Gyms and Meat Free Mondays: Two promising practices are being combined in a London primary school in a deprived community: The '[Meat free Mondays](#)' and the '[Green Gyms](#)'. In practice, this entails developing a school garden and linking the activities of gardening with curriculum along with having meat free (plant based) lunch once a week.

Restructuring Green Space: Two green space interventions are being combined in low-income urban neighbourhoods in the Dutch cities of Rotterdam and Breda. In both neighbourhoods, a green space area was restructured to improve the quality of the neighbourhood and increase the use of the space. The aim is to gain insight into the impact of restructuring green spaces and how this affects the use of the space, activity levels, and the health and wellbeing of those that use it.



BE TECHNOLOGICAL

understand and apply technical and digital advances;

Scaling up best practices

On 21 November 2018, INHERIT hosted a one-day conference in Vienna, the *#InheritYourFuture Forum*, which aimed to explore how the initiatives presented could achieve the ‘triple win’ and considered how these initiatives could be implemented at a broader scale across Europe.



BE EQUITABLE

address the ‘causes of the causes’;

The event gathered 110 participants including INHERIT case study partners, case study implementers, public authorities, academics, and citizens. Expert speakers presented and debated initiatives from across the EU that may achieve the triple-win of improving environmental sustainability, health, and health equity. With a total of eight media partners, the event saw significant press coverage. The conference discussed the idea that people will not change if they do not have the motivation, the capabilities, and the opportunities to do so. They are more likely to change if the process is enjoyable and fun, which is why it is important to inspire hope by developing positive visions and providing examples of what can be done. Co-creation, connection, and participatory approaches emerged as important methods. It was recognised that many similar, good things are happening across Europe, but that those involved must connect for a stronger collective voice to influence the levers of power. It is important to identify and work with the champions of ‘triple-win’ approaches, in all sectors.

Business and policy round tables

In addition to the coordination of the INHERIT project, EuroHealthNet is the leading partner on work which involves transferring the results to policy makers and developing online training for public health professionals.



BE JOINED-UP

build partnerships and governance across sectors;

A ‘*Policy and Investment Tool Kit for Healthy and Sustainable Lives*’ is being developed and will be ready by November 2019. Draft recommendations were tested with several roundtables with EU-level policymakers, businesses and civil society that EuroHealthNet organised in May 2019.

The realities of a digital world, what it means for young people's health

In November 2018, EuroHealthNet organised the opening plenary session of the research-focused European Public Health Conference with a session on the impact of being born into a digital world on young people's health. Digital media and new technologies are changing children and youths' lives and providing them with many new opportunities, but they can also pose challenges to their health and well-being.

The aim of the session was to raise awareness of the positive and negative impacts of digital technologies on children and young peoples' health and well-being, across the social gradient. It was also to discuss, with policy makers and experts, possible ways forward and to gather input from panellists on the role of public health, health promotion and research.

"NIPH (Warsaw) has been a member of EuroHealthNet for some 15 years. We find EuroHealthNet a very effective provider of public health projects in which we can participate and cooperate with European institutes and especially with institutes of Eastern and Central Europe which need technical development and support".

Prof. Mirosław J. Wysocki
(Executive Board member from the National Institute of Public Health)

The session was moderated by EuroHealthNet president Dr Mojca Gabrijelčič-Blenkuš. The speakers were:

- Jeff Chester, Executive Director at the Center for Digital Democracy, Washington, USA on *Youth exposure to digital marketing and media*
- Joao Breda, head of the WHO Europe Office on NCD Prevention in Moscow on *Life in 'likes' - on the social media experience of children aged 8–12 years*
- Martin Lennon, Head of Public Affairs, Children's Commissioner for England on *digital marketing, lifestyle determinants and health- alcohol, tobacco, nutrition, physical activity, gaming, gambling*
- Uršula Mavrič from No Excuse Slovenia, on *Improving mental health and wellbeing of young people by making better use of the internet, social media and mobile technologies*
- Amandine Garde, University of Liverpool on *Legal right to protect children from all kinds of marketing*



BE TECHNOLOGICAL

understand and apply technical and digital advances;

The Centre for Global Health Inequalities Research (CHAIN)

EuroHealthNet is a partner in CHAIN, which aims to become a world-leading centre and research network for the international study of global health inequalities.

CHAIN is part of the Norwegian University of Technology and Science (NTNU), which is a EuroHealthNet Associate Research member.



BE EQUITABLE

address the 'causes of the causes';

The centre will monitor health inequalities within and between countries, identify the drivers of those inequalities, and evaluate interventions to reduce them. EuroHealthNet, in close

cooperation with UNICEF will help CHAIN build bridges between research, and policy and practice. CHAIN brings together academia, the UN system, civil society and the private sector.

The European Forum for Health Promotion Research



BE UPDATED

act smartly to influence 21st century realities;

EuroHealthNet is part of the European Forum for Health Promotion Research, which brings

Researchers. The aim of the Forum is to foster synergies, develop common theoretical and methodological grounds for health promotion research and facilitate collaboration.

It was launched at the 10th IUHPE European Conference and International Forum for Health Promotion Research in Trondheim, Norway, to which EuroHealthNet contributed.

Joint Action on Health Information (InfAct)

The aim of [InfAct](#) (Information for Action) (March 2018 – March 2021) is to create and develop a sustainable solid infrastructure on EU health information through improving the availability of comparable, robust, and policy-relevant health status data and health system performance information. It will build on the [BRIDGE Health project](#) and other initiatives in health information.

EuroHealthNet sits on the evaluation committee.

The European Health Information Initiative (EHII)

The European Health Information Initiative (EHII) brings together the WHO European Region, OECD, European Commission, states and stakeholders to develop up to date health data information and indicators linked to HEALTH 2020 and covering relevant public health related aspects in the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's); mechanisms to support and assist Member States' striving to elaborate and improve their public health related statistics system; and indicators and data also related to well-being.

EuroHealthNet's Honorary Advisor Bosse Pettersson is representing EuroHealthNet within EHII and has provided input and advice on linking data to policy uptake. This initiative has a huge potential for the strengthening of public health both technically and politically.

4 Financial sustainability for health promotion and health equity

Investing in health promotion and prevention is an efficient way to reduce the burden on health care services. However, the rate of investment on prevention is persistently low – the latest figures suggest 3% of health budgets in 2017⁶. There is a clear need to improve understanding of how health promotion can be financed, and build bridges between financial decision makers, investors, policy makers, and project implementors and designers.

Over the last year much of EuroHealthNet's work has focused on how to ensure financial sustainability for health promotion. Our activities include:



BE UPDATED

act smartly to influence 21st century realities;

- A seminar on innovative financing and investments for health
- A statement on the need to improve approaches to financing
- Building members' capacity to use novel finance instruments for health promotion
- Contributing to the Steering Board of partners for social infrastructure investment
- Developing a Guide to Financing Health Promoting services
- Collaborating on the European Structural and Investment Funds for Health project.

⁶ European Commission, *State of health in the EU Companion Report 2017*
https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/health/files/state/docs/2017_companion_en.pdf

Exploring modern financing for health promotion and prevention

EuroHealthNet's Annual Meeting including a Seminar is an opportunity for the entire Partnership to discuss priorities. During the General Council meeting we discuss our own strategy, programme of work, and how to tackle shared challenges. The seminar, open to the public, highlights one key issue and explores how progress can be made. In June 2018, the events took place in Brussels, with a specific focus on Financing.

Smart Investments – Let's talk prevention: Innovative financing and investments for health promotion.



BE ACTIVE
practice inclusive engagement

The 2018 seminar addressed strategic investments for health promotion and disease prevention in Member States and at EU level. How can the shift to prevention and promotion be financed? How can available funds and untapped resources be used for health promotion? What actions within and outside the health system could support system change?

The seminar was hosted by the Permanent Representation of the Federal Republic of Germany to the European Union, Brussels. A total of 121 participants from 22 countries took part.

The seminar was divided into four sessions covering

1. The need for the shift in funding to health promotion and disease prevention
2. How to ensure clever use of available funds for health promotion?
3. How to set up innovative structures for funding health promotion?
4. How to encourage Member States to take specific actions within their powers to advance investment shifts?

[Read the about the presentations and results in the seminar report.](#)

The speakers included Vytenis ANDRIUKAITIS, European Commissioner for Health, as well as representatives from the OECD, a WHO Collaborating Centre, the European Policy Centre, the European Commission Directorate General for Employment and Social Affairs, the Council of Europe Development Bank, and the German Ministry of Health. Representatives from EuroHealthNet members SALAR, BZgA, and Public Health Wales also spoke.

Calling for new and improved approaches to financing for health promotion and health equity

Following the seminar, the General Council issued a call for investors to focus and increase their attention on benefits of health promotion, disease prevention, and social equity.

[Read the statement](#)

Building knowledge and capacity for better financing

Financing is a persistent issue for health prevention and promotion, which attract only around 3% of health budgets⁷. To improve the situation, health professionals need to better understand the world of finance, and finance professionals need to understand the world of health. A common language needs to be found, along with better ways to measure value and returns on investments in prevention initiatives.

Building capacity on novel finance instruments for Health Promotion

EuroHealthNet organised a capacity-building workshop 17 October 2018 to engage our Partners in exploring new forms of finance. Some financial instruments, such as social impact bonds or crowdfunding initiatives, have the potential complement funding for health, wellbeing, and equity in Europe. Their use, however, will require new competencies and investment in human resources, knowledge, and collaborations with the financial sector. The workshop included practical sessions on different financial tools.

Guide to Financing Health Promoting Services

In collaboration with the WHO Coalition of Partners



BE VALUE DRIVEN

develop values and the right to health in new contexts;

A Guide to Financing Health Promoting Services in collaboration with the WHO and IUHPE. The guide will

include advice and case studies to encourage the uptake of innovative financial tools that can contribute to the sustainability of services. It is designed for line managers, decision makers and lead practitioners who are responsible for the design, organisation and overseeing of the delivery of public health and health promoting services at different levels (local, regional, and national). In addition, it will target health planners and decision makers who deliver services and influence policies in other sectors that contribute to health and wellbeing, and other professionals in sectors which influence health.

Contributing to the Steering Board for social infrastructure investment

EuroHealthNet, alongside representatives of organisations from social services, education, social housing, and ageing sectors, has formed the Steering Board for Social Infrastructure investment. The Steering Board is specially focused on monitoring of and engagement with plans for InvestEU and in particular its 4th window on social infrastructure investments.

Outputs of the steering board include a one-day symposium on 18 October 2018 on the role of the European Union in unlocking the much-needed investment into local innovative social infrastructure projects, solutions to current funding bottlenecks, and how the future InvestEU programme can be used. On 22 October the board presented a scoping note and statement to the cabinets of Commissioners Thyssen (Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility) and

⁷ European Commission, *State of health in the EU Companion Report 2017*
https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/health/files/state/docs/2017_companion_en.pdf

Katainen (Jobs, Growth, Investment and Competitiveness). In addition, direct feedback on the 'social window' in the new InvestEU plan has been given to the Commission.

Participating in Structured Dialogue with European Structural and Investment Funds' partners group of Experts.

To ensure that we are at the forefront of developments with the field of finance, funds, and investment we have actively participated in a series of workshops and dialogues throughout the last year. Structured dialogues on the European Structural and Investment funds have been and will continue to be an opportunity for us to speak on our members' behalf and to make sure that health promotion is considered by policymakers, advisors, and groups within in Brussels and wider European networks.



BE ETHICAL

promote fair standards in all we do;

Making the connections with health promotion and innovative finance

The European Structural Funds for Health Project (ESIF4Health)

Workshop series, report, and conference.

For the ESIF4Health project we explored the impacts of ESIF on health in the 2014-2020 period by mapping Member State programming and project spending. The aim was to uncover the extent to which the funds are supporting different types of health-related interventions. The project also compared spending trends with the main EU policy objectives, as well as relevant national objectives set out in the European Semester process. A review of funded projects found 7,404 health-relevant projects, of which 2,535 projects across twenty-three Member States addressed health promotion and disease prevention. This includes projects that focused on active and healthy ageing and healthy workforce. The value of these projects amounts to EUR 1.9 billion. The average size of the funded projects was EUR 0.8 million, which is low compared to projects in eHealth or Health system reform. Information about many of the projects studied can be found in the [ESIFforHealth database](#).

A workshop focused on ESIF for health promotion was held in Croatia in June, led by EuroHealthNet President Dr Mojca Gabrijelčič-Blenkuš. The conclusions stressed the need to take a health equity approach to future funded projects. At the final conference, 6 and 7 November, discussions centred around how to use ESI Funds to support health investments and implications for the proposed Multiannual Financial Framework for 2021-2027. Director Caroline Costongs made the closing presentation, focussing on the new EU Programme plans and the opportunities for strengthening funding for health promotion projects and activities. Policy Advisor Clive Needle moderated a Ministerial Panel, plus a public follow up session at the EC headquarters in Brussels featuring the European Commissioners for both Health and Regional Policies.

Find out more at esifundsforhealth.eu

How are European Structural and Investment Funds being used for health? Two examples from EuroHealthNet members

[Let us be active!](#) (EUR 264,007) developed new volunteering activities for seniors in the cities of Pärnu, Riga*, and Turku to tackle social exclusion and improve healthy ageing. The project sought to make connections between the cities to share experiences and co-develop the most appropriate support system.

TRATAD (EUR 5,844,623.91 - 80 % - ESF) - Together for responsible attitude towards alcohol drinking (SOPA – Skupaj za odgovoren odnos do pitja alkohola) National Institute of Public Health (NIJZ)*

TRATAD established an interdisciplinary approach for screening and brief intervention of hazardous and harmful alcohol drinking in Slovenian adults, including capacity building in health professionals and social workers for doing brief interventions.

5 Be part of the partnership

Be part of EuroHealthNet

“To be a member of EuroHealthNet means not standing alone⁸.”

EuroHealthNet welcomes organisations and bodies that share our vision of a fairer, healthier, and sustainable future and who are working on the determinants of health and/or inequalities.

Full membership is open to accountable public bodies with responsibilities and/or expertise in public health, health promotion, health inequalities, disease prevention, or other relevant fields. They are mostly national or regional institutes, authorities, and government departments.

To allow non-statutory bodies such as universities, non-governmental and civil society organisations, and other international networks to become part of EuroHealthNet, the Associate Membership category was developed. Associate members can become part of one or more platforms.

Becoming a member of EuroHealthNet means:

- Access to capacity building for staff.
- Information exchange and peer reviews
- The opportunity to engage and participate in EU Consultations and decision-making processes.
- Analyses of EU policies which influence health and wellbeing.
- Access to information about funding and financing.
- Opportunities for research projects and funding.
- Support when applying for funding and building consortia.
- Links to international organisations including the European Institutions and the WHO.
- Placements and secondments in Europe.
- The opportunity to join specialist working groups on specific topics.
- International exchange and learning.
- A presence in the heart of Europe, including office and meeting space.

...And much more.

⁸ Quote from a member during our external evaluation.

To find out about how to become a Member of EuroHealthNet, or about many of the other ways to become involved in our work, contact d.hargitt@EuroHealthNet.

Thank you

Our work would not be possible without the continued commitment and support of Members and Associate Members, and the European Commission's EaSI Programme 2018-2021. Thanks to you we are delivering results that will create a healthier, fairer futures.

We would like to say a special *"Thank you"* to Nicoline Tamsma who was our president from 2014 to 2018. Your expertise and guidance were valuable.

We are sad to report that in September 2018 our friend, colleague and long-standing Executive Board member Ineta Zirina passed away. We remember her warmly for her commitment to working for health promotion and against inequality, and for her wonderful smile and sense of humour.

At the General Council meeting in June 2018, long-standing Executive Board member Birger Forsberg stood down, as did Nick Hay. We wish them all the best for the future.

We are also immensely grateful for the hard work and commitment of our team in Brussels. As well as the continuing support of our Honorary Advisor Bosse Petterson.

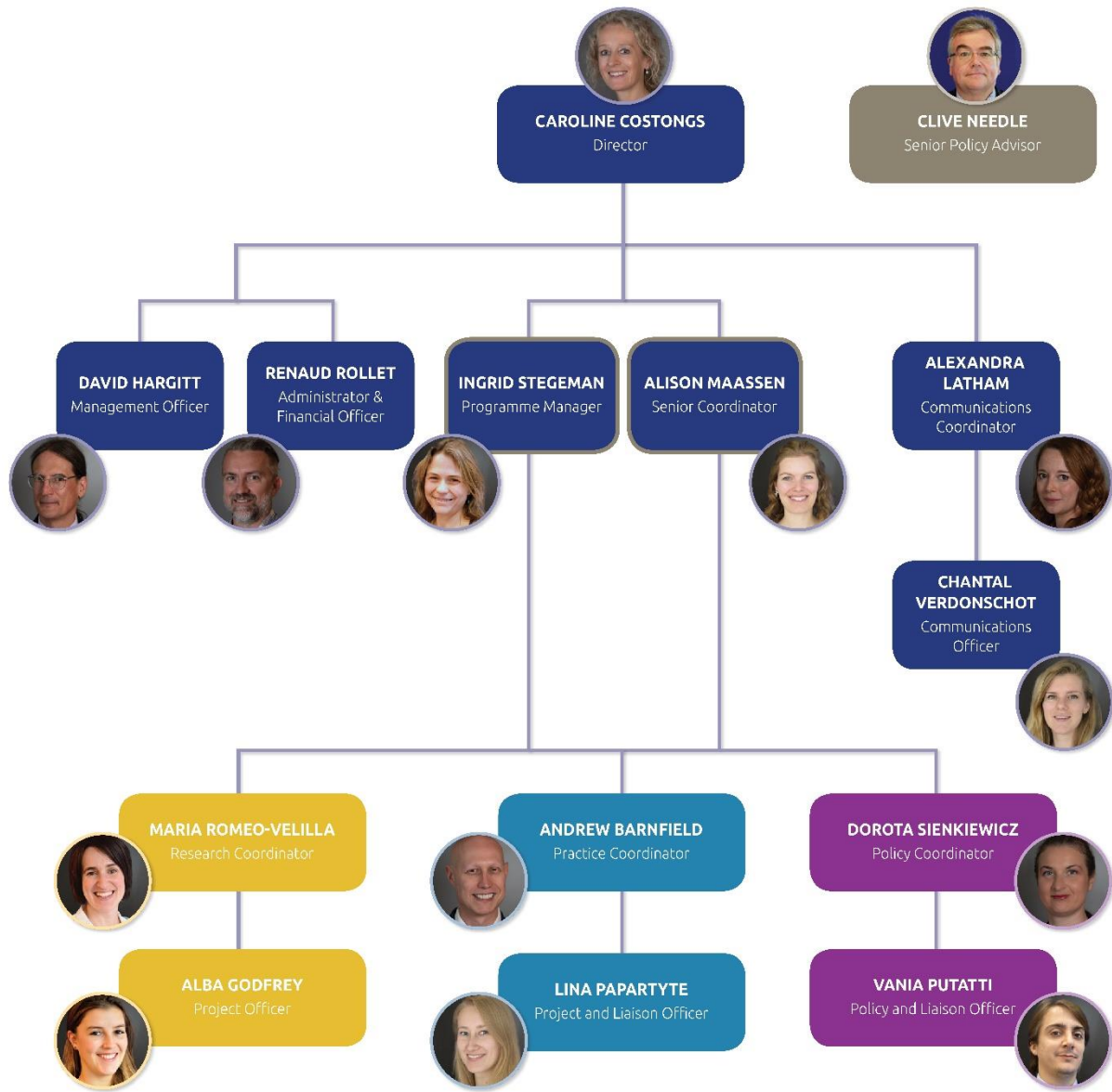
In the past year we have been joined by several new members of staff: Alba Godfrey (Project Officer), Alison Maassen (Senior Coordinator), Lina Papartyte (Project and Liaison Officer), Vania Putatti (Policy and Liaison Officer) and Chantal Verdonschot (Communications Officer). We are happy to have you with us.

We also said farewell to several colleagues: Monica Aberg Yngwe (Senior Research Coordinator); Aurelie Chun (Project officer); Cathrine Hernandez-Festersen (Policy Officer); and Claudia Marinetti (Programme Manager). We wish you the very best for the future.

Two interns have provided valuable support to the office this year. Thank you to Andrea Bidoli (Policy and Network Development Intern) and John Osborne.

We have worked with a number of external suppliers over the last year and are grateful for their support. Frédéric Demaude provides accountancy services, Alka provides IT support, Kwitelle provides graphic design and web services, MakeYourPoint manages EuroHealthNet.eu, JordacheWD redeveloped and maintains our magazine, CloudMachine has developed our videos, BusinessAndCode manages our CRM database, and Stephen Barnett is our external evaluator.

Organigram



List of members

In attachment