



WHO Europe & EC Joint Project Health System Actions to tackle Socially Determined Health Inequalities 2007 - 2010

**Expert Working Group on Social
Determinants & Health
26-27 November 2007**

Background

- Inequalities in health – priority within Europe & growing body of evidence
- Inequalities from Health Systems performance (eg. financial risk protection) – less well known
- Health Systems in Europe – continuously changing – different health policies etc
- What is the impact on health inequalities?

Objectives

- Improved availability & access to evidence on HS performance
- Knowledge about equity impact of policies (in & outside) Health Systems
- Tools & mechanisms for skills development – Know-how

Working definition of social inequities in health

- Whitehead & Dahlgren that practically all health differences in Europe are socially determined.

We use the term social inequities and consider it synonymous to inequalities and variations in health, in the context of this project.

Working definition of social determinants of health

The social determinants of health encompass the full set of social conditions in which people live and work.

Ref: Tarlov in WHO global Commission on Social Determinants of Health

One umbrella - two projects

1. Developing a Geographic Information System (GIS) & maps/atlas of

- Structural determinants
- Intermediary determinants
- Health outcomes

(Work Packages 1-10)

2. Developing a range of resources to enable countries to take action (especially at HS level) to address socially determined health inequalities

(Work Packages 11-13)

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