Action on Health Inequalities

Caroline Costongs
• **PARTNERSHIP**: National Public Health Institutes, nat/reg health agencies, universities, MoHs

• **MISSION**: Tackling persistent health inequalities in Europe, through action on the social determinants of health / on HiAP governance / on SDGs
Leading in research to inform policy and practice

WHO Health Information Initiative
JA on Health Information
Contributing to research consortia:
• CHAIN – global child health inequalities
• Forum for Health Promotion Research Coordination INHERIT Horizon2020 on healthy & sustainable lifestyles
INHERIT Aim and objectives

To define effective **policies & interventions** that can enable people **to live and behave in ways** that simultaneously improve:
- environment
- health
- conditions for more socially-vulnerable people

AIMING FOR A ‘TRIPLE-WIN’
What matters daily across sectors

- **LIVING**: Green space & Energy efficient housing
- **MOVING**: Active travel & Active lives
- **CONSUMING**: Food production, consumption & waste

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BCW
1. Capability
2. Motivation
3. Opportunity
Living
Restructuring Green Space
The Malvik Path – creating quality green space
Thinking fadura – making green space accessible
Place Standard tool – getting citizens’ views
Energy efficiency – training peer-trainers
Cost-benefit analysis of energy efficiency measures

Moving
Lifestyle e-coaching
Urban cyclers App

Consuming
The Vegetable Academy
Ghent a Garde – Shortening the food chain citywide
PROVE – connecting small producers and consumers
The Food Garden Rotterdam – food & social inclusion
Sustainable food in public schools
Restructuring Residential Outdoor Areas
Green Gyms + Meatless Mondays

15 INHERIT studies
12 qualitative
7 quantitative
4 cost-benefit

Impact assessments
www.inherit.eu
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Work-Life Balance EU/National</th>
<th>Educating for Sustainability EU/National/Local</th>
<th>Integrated governance and impact assessments EU/National/Local</th>
<th>Securing Big Data EU</th>
<th>Access to Green Space Local/National</th>
<th>Inclusive community gardens Local/National</th>
<th>Green Corridors EU</th>
<th>Optimising space in urban areas Local/National</th>
<th>Decentralised energy productions Local</th>
<th>Sustainable Mobility Plans EU/National/Local</th>
<th>Reducing private car use EU/National/Local</th>
<th>Encouraging cycling and walking National/Local</th>
<th>Health promoting health insurance National</th>
<th>Reducing (food) waste EU/National</th>
<th>Enterprising healthy and sustainable food EU/National</th>
<th>EU Food Guidance Council EU/National</th>
<th>A Common EU Food Policy EU</th>
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Informing the policy process, and advocating for health equity

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Supporting European Pillar on Social Rights</th>
<th>European Semester analysis with members input</th>
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<tr>
<td>Response to MFF EU budget proposals (14)</td>
<td>Health equity responses to EU policy consultations</td>
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</table>
The European Pillar of Social Rights: 20 principles and rights

All are important to achieving health equity
The European Semester

“*The annual cycle for economic and fiscal policy coordination*”

- **Annual Growth Survey** (end of the year)
- **Country Reports** (February)
- **Country Specific Recommendations** (May)
- **National Reform Programmes** (April)
- **National Action** (rest of the year)

**Social Pillar**
- setting the priorities
- assessing progress, indicating areas for further reform
- tailored policy guidance to Member States
- incorporates recommendations into reforms

**Social**
New Multiannual Financial Framework
(proposals for 2021-2027)

✓ From 1.10 % to 1.11 % of EU GNI
✓ Health in “Investing in People, Social Cohesion and Values” (ESF+ → 100 billion)
✓ Health Programme around 8% cut (449 mil → 413 mil)
✓ EaSI Programme cut (815 mil → 761 mil)
✓ Horizon Europe extra funding (20 bill. extra), incl for health equity, but more private engagement required
✓ Erasmus+ boosted (funding doubled)
✓ Health & HE also in Global Health proposals, Agriculture, Digital Europe, LIFE+…
✓ InvestEU – increased importance, has now a social strand
Making the connections and strengthening links (implementing HEiAP)

- Engaging with European policymakers across DGs
- Meeting cabinets of Commissioners
- EMPL events on Semester and many other events
- Social Protection Committee
- Childrens Alliance and other groups
- Statements to WHO RCs
- Etc etc
Facilitating knowledge exchange & capacities

Country Exchange Visits
- Child health inequalities (France, 06/18)
- Health inequalities, social inclusion, mental health and de-institutionalisation (Bulgaria, 11/18)

15 national Policy Dialogues for CHRODIS+

Capacity Building – Help Desk ESIF & EFSI on funding and financing action for Health Equity
ESI Funds for Health

• Total budget for 2014-2020 period => €645 billion
• The ESI Funds has 11 thematic objectives.
• Health is in nr 9 ‘Promoting social inclusion, combating poverty and any discrimination’
• Financial allocations for health is around €9 billion => invested in 7,404 health projects
• Around €1,9 billion (2,535 projects) cover health promotion / healthy ageing / healthy workforce. Health equity impacts unclear.
• Blending ‘soft’ (ESF) and ‘hard’ (ERDF) elements of interventions is possible across ESI funds – however not yet well known
• ESI funds are valuable for piloting and innovation for health equity before scaling up to regional or national level.
InvestEU supports four different policy areas, focusing on where the EU can add the most value by providing a budget guarantee to attract private investment:

1. Sustainable infrastructure (€11.5 billion)

2. Research, innovation and digitisation (€11.25 billion)

3. Small and medium-sized businesses (€11.25 billion)

4. Social investment and skills (€4 billion)

How to access these funds? How to encourage quality investments that reduce health inequalities?
Take away messages

• Action on HI in RESEARCH, POLICY & PRACTICE
• Team up with other sectors, like environment
  • SDGs helpful framework
Constant advocacy for Health Equity at all levels is needed
• Work with Social Pillar and European Semester
  • Finance policy ⇔ health policy
• Health people need to become more finance literate
• Quality health equity guidelines for finance people
• Cooperation and capacity building remain key
EuroHealthNet Partnership to improve health equity and wellbeing – THANK YOU