



# EU Health Policy

"European Public Health - 20 years  
after the Maastricht Treaty - Turning  
past experiences into visions"

Maastricht, 23 May 2013

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Health and  
Consumers



# The EU Health Policy

*Treaty provisions on public health  
(Art. 168 TFEU)*

*A high level of health as an objective of all EU policies*

*EU Health Strategy (2007)*

*«Together for Health: A strategic approach for the  
EU»*

*Investing in Health (2013)*

*Commission Staff Working Document adopted as part  
of the Social Investment Package*



# Legal Basis

## *Art. 168 on Public Health*

*"A high level of human health protection shall be ensured in the definition and implementation of all Union policies and activities."*

*The EU shall:*

*Complement national policies towards: improving public health, preventing physical and mental diseases, promoting research as well as information and education, and monitoring and combating serious cross-border health threats*

*Encourage cooperation between Member States; the Commission may, in contact with Member States, take any useful initiative to promote coordination*

*Foster cooperation with third countries*

*Adopt legislation to meet common safety concerns related to human components, the veterinary and phytosanitary fields, medical products and devices;*

# Legal Basis

## *Art. 168 on Public Health*

*The EU may adopt incentive measures to protect and improve human health:*

*concerning monitoring, early warning of and combating serious cross-border threats to health*

*regarding tobacco and the abuse of alcohol (excluding harmonisation of laws of Member States)*

*The EU shall:*

*"Respect the responsibilities of the Member States for the definition of their health policy and for the organisation and delivery of health services and medical care*

*"Responsibilities of the Member States include the management of health services and medical care and the allocation of the resources assigned to them"*

# The EU Health Strategy



Brussels, 23.10.2007

## **WHITE PAPER**

**Together for Health:  
A Strategic Approach  
for the EU 2008-2013**

### Principles

- > Shared EU health values : universality, access to good quality care, equity and solidarity
- > Health as the greatest wealth
- > Health in all policies
- > Strong EU voice in global health

### Strategic objectives

- > fostering good health in an ageing Europe
- > protecting citizens from health threats
- > supporting dynamic health systems and new technologies



# The EU Health Strategy

Mid-term evaluation (2011)

*Lessons Learnt:*

*A consistent guiding framework*

*A reference for actions taken at national and EU level*

*BUT difficult to demonstrate direct impact on national health policies and other EU policies*

*Next Steps:*

*The objectives and principles defined in 2008 remain valid for the next decade*

*"Investing in Health" complements and updates the EU Health Strategy and establishes Health as part of Europe 2020*



# The European Semester

## *Annual Growth Survey 2013:*

*"reforms of healthcare systems should be undertaken to ensure cost-effectiveness and sustainability, assessing the performance of these systems against the twin aim of a more efficient use of public resources and access to high quality healthcare"*

*"tap the job potential of expanding sectors, such as the green economy, healthcare and ICT"*

*"Active inclusion strategies should be developed, encompassing [...] broad access to affordable and high-quality services, such as social and health services, childcare, housing and energy supply"*

## *Country specific recommendation (CSR) on health (2012):*

*Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Germany, Cyprus, The Netherlands*

## *Commission collegial decision-making process:*

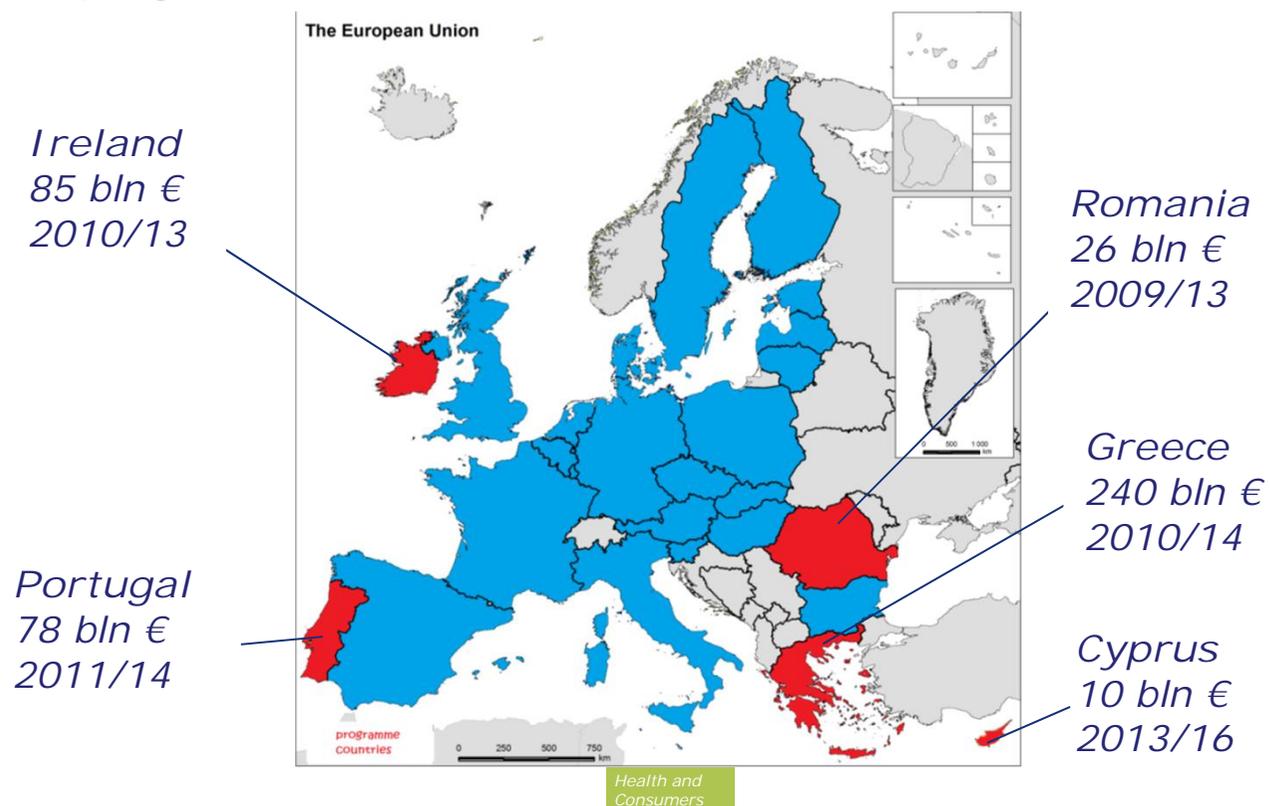
*Need to reconcile the views and objectives of different departments (Secretariat-General, Economic and Financial Affairs, Health and Consumers, Employment etc.)*



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# Economic Assistance

*Member States under Economic adjustment programme (IE, PT, EL) or Balance of Payment programme (RO)*





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# Investing in Health

## Health Systems

Reforms aiming at sustainable investments and cost-effective spending can bring savings and secure better health outcomes.

High spending not always leads to better health: how money is spent is essential.

Cost-effective technologies can bring efficiency gains

Knowledge and evidence on Health Systems Performance Assessment needed.

## Human Capital

Health can boost economic growth by enabling people to remain healthier and active for longer.

Health status influences labour market participation and productivity.

An ageing EU health workforce and increasing demand can lead up to 8 million jobs by 2020.

## Health Inequalities

Reducing inequalities in health contributes to social cohesion and helps reducing poverty and social exclusion.

Healthcare coverage can help reduce poverty and fighting social exclusion.

Multisectoral action should focus on less advantaged groups and address key risk factors in health behaviours.



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# Legislation

*Health Threats (Early Warning and Response, Preparedness, Surveillance)*

*Health Products*

- *Blood, Tissues, Cells and Organs (standards of quality and safety, technical requirements, traceability)*
- *Pharmacovigilance*
- *Falsified medicines*

*Health Determinants*

- *Tobacco products and advertising*
- *(Food information to consumers, Nutrition and Health Claims ...)*

*Patients' rights in Cross-border Healthcare*

*Currently in the Council and the European Parliament:*

*Revision of Clinical Trials Directive*

*Revision of the Medical Devices Regulatory Framework*

*Decision on serious cross border health threats*

*Revision of the Tobacco Products Directive*



# Legislation

## Patients' rights in Cross-border Healthcare

Dir 2011/24/EU Transposition by 25 October 2013

*Clarity for patients treated abroad*

*Cooperation between national health systems:*

*Health technology assessment (HTA): A permanent EU structure to help decision-makers to make the right decisions on health investment and spending*

*eHealth: A first step towards "interoperability" of ICT for health at EU level for safety and quality of care, continuity of care, and health research*

*European references networks: Bringing together specialised centres across Europe helping health experts to disseminate information and expertise in particular in the area of rare diseases*

*Mutual recognition of e-prescriptions*



# Cooperation

*European Innovation Partnership on Active and Healthy Ageing*

*Action Plan on Health Workforce (April 2012)  
and Joint Action on Health Workforce*

*Antimicrobial Resistance Action Plan (November 2011)*

*Health Promotion and Disease Prevention (Nutrition, Tobacco,  
Alcohol, Cancer, Mental Health, Rare Diseases, HIV/AIDS, Health  
Inequalities etc.)  
and Joint Actions on Health Equity, Mental Health Chronic Diseases, Rare  
Diseases etc.*

*Reflection processes together with Member States  
Chronic diseases: Council conclusions (2010)  
Sustainable Health Systems: Council conclusions (2011)*



# Cooperation: International

*International health law and implementation*

*Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC)*

*International Health Regulations (IHR)*

*Global health policy*

*Communication on the EU's role in global health (2010)*

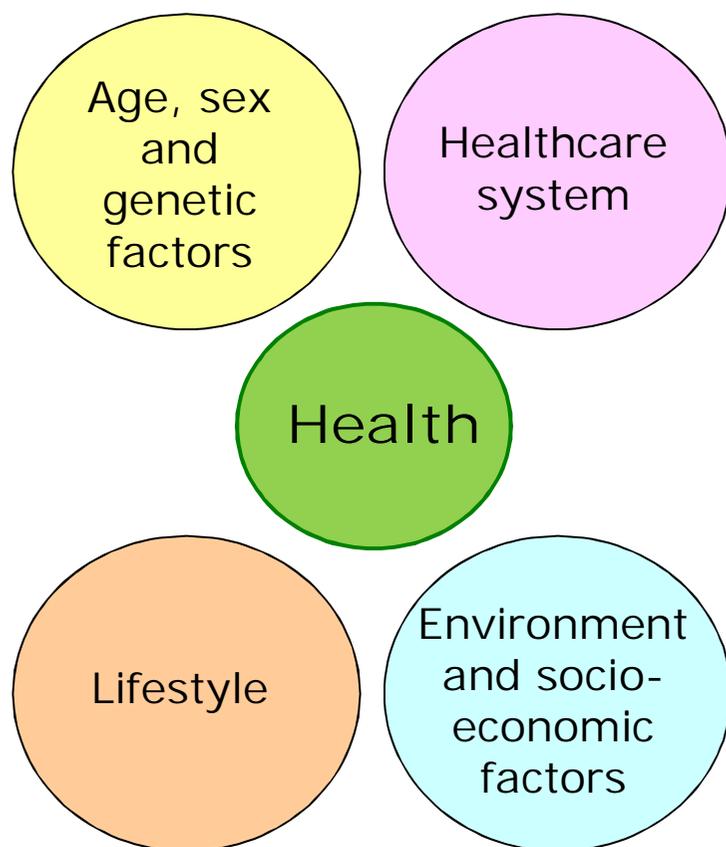
*Council Conclusions on the EU's role in global health (2010)*

*Regular Global Health Policy Forum meeting with stakeholders*

*Health in EU external policies*

*Enlargement policy, European Neighbourhood policy, and related financial instruments*

# Cooperation: Health in All Policies



*Importance of prevention and health promotion*

*Need for action at many levels*

*Examples:*

*Nutrition*

- *School Fruit Scheme since 2009*
- *Health Claims Regulation 1924/2006*

*Health in the Regions*

- *Cohesion Policy 2014-2020 (Common Strategic Framework, Position Papers etc.)*
- *Reflection Process on Health Systems (Subgroup 2 on Success factors for the effective use of Structural Funds)*



# Cooperation on Health Systems

*Reflection process with Member States aiming to identify effective ways of investing in health, so as to pursue modern, responsive and sustainable health systems (Council conclusions, June 2011)*

- Enhancing the representation of health in the Europe 2020 Strategy and in the European Semester process
- Success factors for the effective use of Structural Funds for health investments
- Cost-effectiveness of medicines
- Integrated care models and better hospital management
- Measuring and monitoring the effectiveness of health investments

*Reports expected by the end of 2013*



# Financing

## *Health Programme 2008 - 2013*

*Budget : € 321.5 million*

- Improve health security
- Promote health and reduce health inequalities
- Generate and disseminate health information and knowledge

## *Health Programme 2014 – 2020 (Proposal November 2011)*

*Budget : € 446 million*

- Develop innovative, efficient and sustainable health systems
- Increase access to better and safer healthcare
- Promote health and prevent diseases
- Protect people from cross-border health threats

*7th Framework Programme : €6 billion for health research*

*Structural Funds: €5 billion on health investments for 2007-2013*

*2014-2020 : Horizon 2020 and European Structural Investment Funds (ESIF)*



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[http://ec.europa.eu/health/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/health/index_en.htm)

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