


Directorate Public Health and Risk Assessment **SANCO**



The European Union as an actor in Global Health

A view from the Commission

Negotiating health in the 21st Century
 21 October 2008




EU's Competence in Health

- Original Treaties focused on economics
 - Some occupational health, food safety
- Introduced in the Maastricht Treaty 1994
 - Article 129: Prevention and health promotion
- Developed by the Amsterdam Treaty 1999
 - Article 152: Broader scope and powers
 - Subsidiarity
 - No harmonisation of laws and regulations



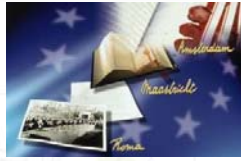

Evolution of health policy:

Treaty of Maastricht



- **The Maastricht Treaty developed the specific role of Public Health in the EU.**

Evolution of health policy: Treaty of Amsterdam



- **Art. 152 (129) : "a high level of human health protection shall be ensured in the definition and implementation of all Community policies and activities"**

Article 152 on public health

1. Health in all Community policies and activities
 - Community complements national policies
 - Target: public health, prevention, sources of danger (major health scourges, drugs)
2. Cooperation and coordination between MS
3. International cooperation
4. Co-decision to enact
 - high standards of organs, human substances and blood
 - veterinary and phytosanitary measures
 - incentive measures - no harmonisation
5. Health services by MS

Further evolution of EC-health

- SARS, 9/11, anthrax, Pan-flu etc
- ECDC
- Lisbon – health as a performance indicator for competitiveness
- EU Health strategy 2007

Health in Community policies

- All Community actions shall contribute towards a high level of health protection
- Policies should work together to protect health
- Environmental, social or economic policies have an impact on health system
- But healthcare systems is controlled at national – or even regional – level.

In Public Health EU aims to:



- Deliver a high level of health protection
- Promote healthier lifestyles
- Respond to disease outbreaks
- Encourage member state co-operation on health
- Provide accurate health information and data
- Invest to tackle health inequalities
- Combat smoking through legislation and campaigns
- Deliver quality standards for blood, tissues, and cells
- Think and act internationally!
"Enabling good health for all"

EU Public Health toolbox

- HEALTH STRATEGY
- LEGISLATION (SoHO, Tobacco, Communicable Diseases)
- AGENCIES e.g. EFSA, ECDC, PHEA
- PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMME – 321,5 Mio € over 6 years
- SOFT TOOLS:
 - Working Groups,
 - Think Tanks,
 - Health Foras, Platforms, Public consultations
 - Open method of cooperation



Together for Health -EU Strategy

White Paper: 'Together for Health: A Strategic Approach for the EU 2008-2013' was adopted on 23 October 2007

Strategic Objectives:

1. Fostering good health in an ageing Europe
2. Protecting Citizens from Health Threats
3. Supporting Dynamic Health Systems and New Technologies

http://ec.europa.eu/health/ph_overview/strategy/health_strategy_en.htm



EU Strategy - Principles

1. **Strategy based on shared health values:**
 - Universality, access to good quality care, equity and solidarity;
 - Citizen's empowerment;
 - Reducing inequalities in health;
 - Scientific evidence;
2. **Health is the Greatest Wealth**
 - Health as a key factor for economic growth
 - Economic relationship between health status, health investment, economic growth and development
3. **Health in All Policies**
 - Impact of other policies on health policies (regional, environmental, transport, taxation; research, health and safety at work etc.)
 - New partners in health policy
4. **Strengthening the EU's voice in Global Health**



EU Strategy – EU in global health Strengthening the EU's voice in Global Health

Why?

- **Globalisation** – global health issues impact on internal health policy and vice versa
- Need for **coherence** of internal and external health policy
- Health important element to **fight poverty** and respond to **health threats**
- EC can **share** experience, expertise and values in health issues
- Better health outcomes through sustained collective leadership in global health

EU Strategy – EU in global health

How?

- Better interaction of different policy areas needed (health, development cooperation, external action, research, trade)
- Strengthened coordination on health issues with international organisations
- Strengthened coordination with other strategic partners

EU Strategy – EU in global health

Which actions?

- Better inclusion of health in EU external assistance
- Promote implementation of international health agreements (IHR/FCTC)
- Enhance Community status in international organisations
- Strengthen cooperation with strategic partners and countries (emphasis on regional dimension)

EC Health Strategic Countries and Partners

Candidate countries - screening

European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP)



Russia – discuss agreement

China – map opportunities

ACP/African Union – AIDCO/DEV/RELEX

USA/Canada – bilateral actions e.g. obesity, RA
WHO, FAO etc

G7+ (GHSAG) and G8

EC cooperation with ENP

Current areas

- ENP action plans:
 - Communicable Diseases and health threats
 - Health Information
- Health at work (DG Empl - NDPHS)
- Tobacco (SEEHN)
- SoHO (blood, cells and tissues safety, donation standards) (SEEHN)

Areas of further potential for the regions

- Nutrition
- Mental Health
- Implementation of international health legislation

NDPHS/SEEHN/EC networking Jan 2008 meeting conclusions

- Regional cooperation can be an engine of the EU policies in the health sector;
- Networking can facilitate participation of the regions in programming and discussions on EU policies;
- Regional cooperation is a mechanism for SANCO to reach out to the individual countries and to promote the EU global health strategy as well as other EU health policies;
- The regional networks help to promote implementation of international health treaties.

Value of the Regional Networking

- Promotion of EU health policies, in particular the EU Health Strategy objectives and principles in the regions.
- Mechanism to start, to intensify or to complement cooperation with EU neighbouring countries.
- Support to the EU MS and partners to implement the strategies, policies and EU health legislation.
- The experience from existing activities can be useful in contacts with other regions.

SANCO support to Regional Networks

- NDPHS database project co-financed from PHP
- Networking of regional cooperation in public health – NDPHS/SEEHN/EC meeting, Brussels, 30.01.08
- NDPHS – Committee of Senior Representatives, Brussels, 21.04.08
- SEEHN meeting, Brussels, 01.07.08
- TAIEX workshop for SEE HN on health manpower mobility, Brussels, 30 June–1 July 2008
- TAIEX workshop for SEE HN on blood safety, Bucharest, 21.11.08
- Neighbours networking for health, Bad Gastein workshop, 01.10.08

Closing thoughts...

- How we can manage multitude of countries and variety of international initiatives around us?
- How to streamline and make international health architecture more user-friendly?

The portal: <http://ec.europa.eu/health-eu>





Health & Consumer Protection
Directorate-General



The **objectives** are to:

1. Improve citizens' health security
2. Promote health, including the reduction of health inequalities
3. Generate and disseminate health information and knowledge

Financing over 6 years is 321,5 million euro.
