Euro Healthy

Shaping EUROpean policies to promote HEALTH equitY

OBJECTIVES

The main objective of this project is to advance knowledge as to which policies have the highest potential to enhance health and health equity across European regions and within metropolitan areas.

The project will develop tools – based on a Population Health Index (PHI) – to evaluate and monitor overall health and well-being, as well as interactions between health and multiple dimensions at different geographical levels (for NUTS 2 regions and for ten selected metropolitan areas - Athens, Barcelona, Berlin, Brussels, Lisbon, London, Paris, Prague, Stockholm and Turin). Additionally, two case studies will be conducted (pilot metropolitan areas of Lisbon and Turin).

The PHI will be used to foresee and discuss the impact of multilevel policies and combinations of policies in population health and health equity across European regions, thus providing a basis for policy dialogue.

APPROACH

The PHI will be built upon evidence collected on the relationships between multiple determinants (e.g. demographic, social, economic, environmental, lifestyle, and health care) and health outcomes in the past 15 years, and using the views of experts and stakeholders on what influences population health. The index structure will be based on a multi-criteria model that captures how different factors contribute to the health and well-being of the European population. Building the multi-criteria model will follow a socio-technical approach, integrating the technical elements of a multi-criteria value model and the social elements of interdisciplinary and participatory processes to collect the views from stakeholders and experts.

Multi-criteria resource allocation models, conflict analyses, analysis of policy feasibility, and scenario analyses will assist in providing evidence on which policies have the highest potential to improve health and to reduce health inequities at different geographical levels, and will aid in suggesting alternative policy options for health policy development and regulation.

The space-time analysis and comparison of the population health across European regions will be enabled by a user-friendly WebGIS platform: web-based Geographic Information System.

PARTNERSHIPS

EURO-HEALTHY has brought together 15 multidisciplinary institutions from 12 European countries thus assuring a multi-sectoral approach required to employ cross-cutting determinants of population health. This highly collaborative partnership will enhance the capacity of all involved researchers to conduct transdisciplinary and interdisciplinary research by integrating a variety of disciplines to achieve a common objective. The project is supported by the Project Advisory Board which comprises of Alec Morton from University of Strathclyde Business School, UK (decision analysis and management science), Ana Diez-Roux from Drexel University School of Public Health, USA (multilevel determinants of population health and conceptual approach of health outcomes), Patricia O´Campo from Dalla Lana School of Public Health Sciences, and University of Toronto, Canada (multilevel modelling and monitoring methods on links between the socio-economic attributes of neighbourhoods and health), and Pedro Pita Barros from Nova School of Business and Economics, New University of Lisbon, Portugal (health economics and policy).

The project will progressively involve stakeholders and experts to actively engage into multiple research activities, including in the process of building a PHI and population health scenarios. The involvement of stakeholders is designed to improve their understanding of the impact that different policies can have on health promotion and health equity, thus maximizing the project's influence on the public debate.

EXPECTED IMPACT

The project was designed to significantly contribute to several dimensions:

Policy
Improve the knowledge and evidence regarding how multiple population health inputs vary across regions, and how changes in these health inputs have the potential to contribute to overall health and well-being under a common framework analysis.

European/Regional Economy
Evidence regarding feasible policies (and required resources and requirements) aligned with the promotion of population health for different countries and regions.

Social
Evidence on how inter-sectorial public policies can affect health determinants and promote health, well-being and health equity.

Technology
Development of a user-friendly WebGIS public application that will visualize, explore and analyse geographical patterns of PHI outputs from the last 15 years;

Development of decision support models and tools to build a population health index, population health scenarios and to evaluate policies.

European Legislation
Evidence for the development of policy statements, legislation and regulation (e.g. fiscal policies, taxation and subsidies) focusing on the promotion of healthier lifestyles and behaviours.

Environment
Translation of evidence into urban planning policies and interventions for a healthier built environment, emphasising the role they play in improving health and well-being.

PARTNERS

UC	Universidade de Coimbra, *(Lead Institution), Portugal*
IST	Instituto Superior Técnico, *Portugal*
ASPB	Agència de Salut Publica de Barcelona, *Spain*
PHE	Public Health England, *United Kingdom*
UCL	University College of London, *United Kingdom*
UPO	Universite Paris Ouest Nanterre la Defence, *France*
UM	Maastricht University, *Netherlands*
KI	Karolinska Institutet, *Sweden*
BEUTH	Beuth-Hochschule Fuer Technik Berlin, *Germany*
CUP	Univerzita Karlova v Praze, *Czech Republic*
UoA	Ethnico Kai Kapodistriako Panepistmio Anthinon, *Greece*
EUBA	Ekonomicka univerzita v Bratislave, *Slovakia*
VUB	Vrije Universiteit Brussel, *Belgium*
ASL TO3	Azienda Sanitaria Locale TO3, *Italy*
CSI Piemonte	Consorzio Per il Sistema Informativo, *Italy*

Euro Healthy

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