



The Commission's approach to Health determinants



Jürgen Scheftlein

Health Determinants Unit

DG Health & Consumers

May 2010



Our approach:

**Tackle the underlying determinants
behind non-communicable and
chronic diseases**



Mission (UMP)

- Improve the health of European citizens and
- reduce health inequalities
- through actions to address health determinants:
 - lifestyle (nutrition and physical activity, sexual health),
 - mental health,
 - addictions (alcohol, drugs)
 - social and environmental determinants
- Implement HIV/AIDS strategy and action plan

	Working areas				
Inequalities	Nutrition and Physical Activity	Healthy Environments	Addictions	Mental Health	HIV/AIDS, Sexual Health
Stakeholders					

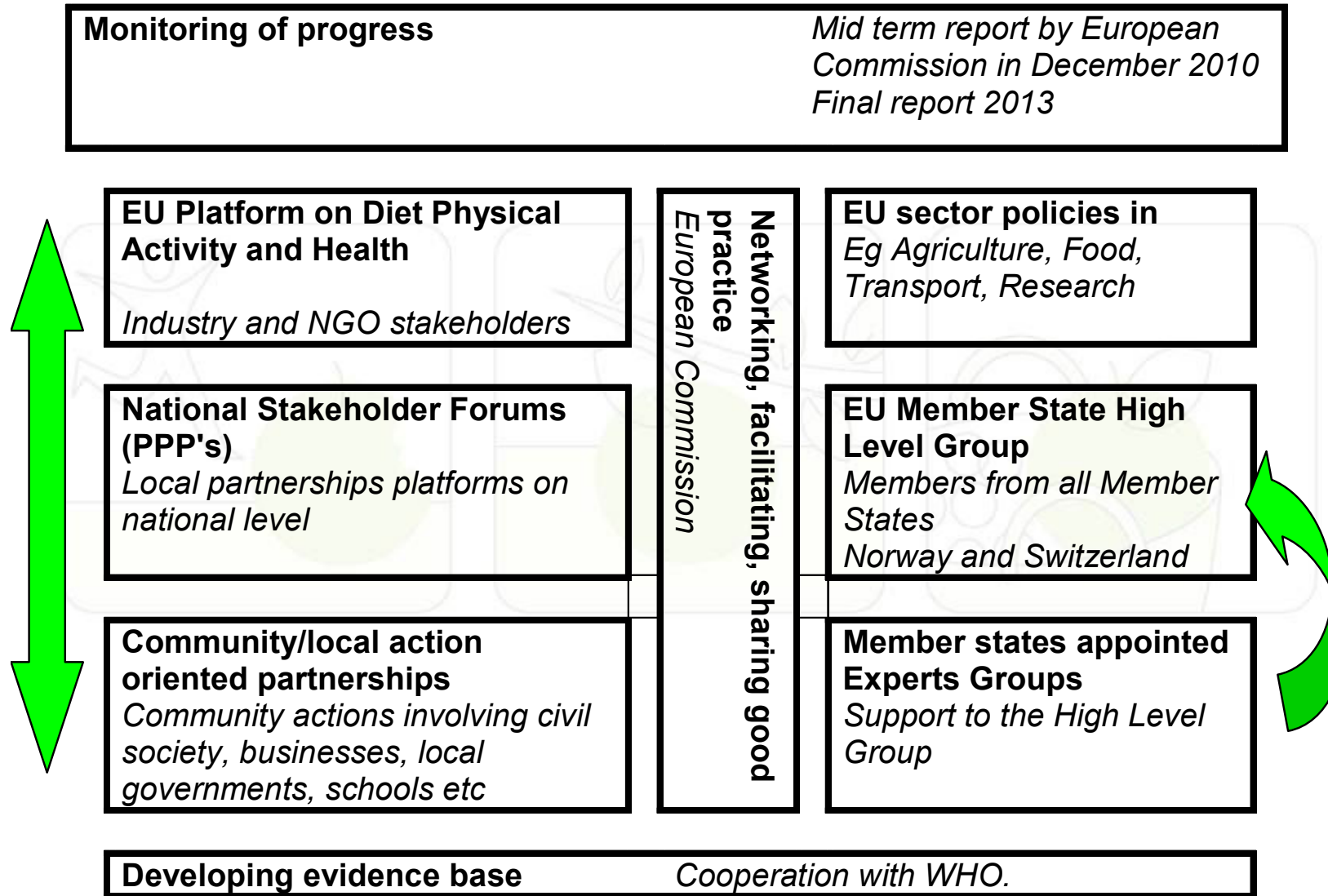
2007-2013 EU strategy on Nutrition, Overweight and Obesity related health issues

- An inter-sectoral vision – work across policies (EAC, INFSO, AGRI, RTD, ...)
- Develop community actions to support Member States across range of sectors
- Challenges to stakeholders
- Partnerships essential – these need to be developed at all levels
 - Continue to develop EU Platform
 - Encourage MS multi-stakeholder networking
 - High Level Group adds Member State policy dimension to debate at EU level
- Salt reduction a good first initiative to test strength of partnerships





Structures to support implementation





Addictions: Alcohol

- 2006-2012 EU strategy to support Member States to reduce alcohol-related harm:
 - vulnerable groups,
 - high risk drinking,
 - drink driving,
 - workplace
- Coordinating Member State action and good practice; Committee on National Policy and Action
- Stakeholder platform: European Alcohol and Health Forum
- Cooperation with WHO on monitoring
- 2011/12: Evaluation of strategy



Structures to support Alcohol strategy implementation

European Alcohol and Health Forum	Committee on National Alcohol Policy and Action (CNAPA) Member States	Health in other policies <ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ transport▪ youth▪ information society▪ research▪ employmenttaxation
Plenary		Committee on Data Collection Indicators and Definitions
Open Forum		Community Health Programme
Task Forces		
Science Group		





Socioeconomic determinants/health inequalities



Solidarity in Health - Commission Communication
Adopted 20 October 2009



EU actions on health inequalities

- Based on Communication "Solidarity in Health – Reducing health inequalities in the EU"(COM (2009) 567 of 20.10.2011)
- In collaboration with Member States, Regions and other Stakeholders
- Objective of a fair distribution of health as part of overall social and economic development
- Improve measurement and knowledge
- Strengthen means for collaboration with partners
- Develop health inequality policy audit
- Targeted action for vulnerable groups – Roma, migrants
- Better use of cohesion, rural development opportunities
- Use PROGRESS, Health Programme and other funds
- Initiative on global health



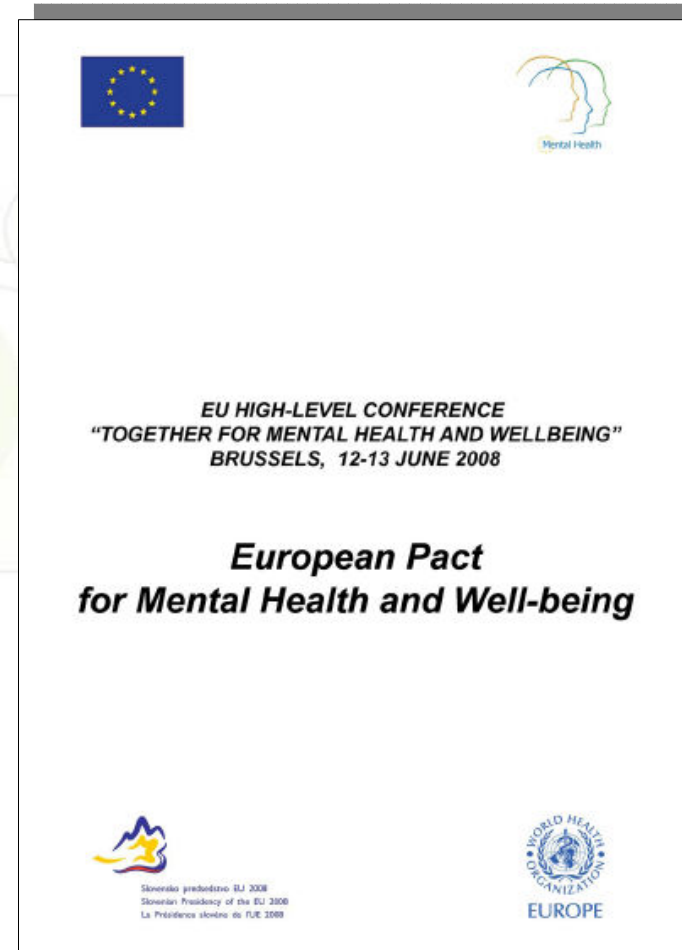
Chronic diseases

- Summit of UN General Assembly on the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, 19-20 September 2011
- Based on the Summit on HIV/AIDS of 2001, which created a Global Fund
- The ageing of the population is expected to lead to an increase by 30% to 40% within the next 20 years
- A focus will be put on cardiovascular disorders, chronic respiratory disorders and diabetes.



A mental health pact, working across policies

- Launched 2008
- Framework for cooperation at EU-level on mental health challenges and solutions
- EU-institutions, Member States, non-governmental stakeholders





Mental Health Pact – Priority Themes

- **Mental Health in Youth and Education** – Stockholm, September 2009
- **Prevention of Depression and Suicide** – Budapest, December 2009
- **Mental Health in Workplace Settings** – Berlin, March 2011
- **Mental Health of Older People** – Madrid, June 2010
- **Combating Stigma and Social Exclusion** – Lisbon, November 2010
- **Mental health compass** - on the web
 - Good practice, sharing experience
- Hungarian Presidency – **Council conclusions** 2011



AIDS/Sexual health

■ Commission Communication on combating HIV/AIDS in the EU and neighbouring countries, 2009 – 2013

- > 25000 new HIV cases in EU/year (2 million people infected in broader region)
- Coordination with DEV HIV policy

■ Priorities

- Prevention
- Priority groups (MSM, IDU, migrants)
- Priority regions (specific countries and urban areas)



AIDS/Sexual health

Implementation of HIV action plan

- EC services : research / external relations / development, and agencies: ECDC, EAHC, EMCDDA
- Member States and Stakeholder involvement: HIV/AIDS Think Tank and HIV/AIDS Civil Society Forum
- Work with UNAIDS/WHO, June: International AIDS congress, Vienna

Broader context: sexual health (of young people)

- Stakeholder driven process at technical level: Sexual Health Forum: data and knowledge, exchange of good practice
- Funding through Health Programme
- EC DGs : education / research
- ECDC: surveillance of STIs



Stakeholder Bodies in Health

- Bodies to provide input into policy development
 - EU Health Policy Forum
 - Environment and Health Consultative Forum (with DG ENVI)
 - HIV/AIDS Civil Society Forum
- Action Platforms in the field of health
 - EU Platform for Action on Diet, Physical Activity and Health
 - European Alcohol and Health Forum
 - Cancer Platform



EU Health Policy Forum

- **Advise** the Commission, dissemination of information and **exchange** of experience, **networking**
- **Renewed composition:** European umbrella organisations from NGOs and patients, health professionals and trade unions, health service providers and health insurance, industry
- 1st meeting in new composition on **20 May**
- **EU Open Health Forum** conference planned on 29–30 June 2010