



**INAUGURATION
OF THE SEAT OF THE SECRETARIAT OF
THE
SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE HEALTH
NETWORK (SEEHN)
SKOPJE, REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA
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**SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE
HEALTH NETWORK**

Conclusions from the Round Table

1. SEEHN has the long-term commitment to Health in All Policies expressed in Banja Luka Pledge, 2011

2. The SEEHN:

- EMPHASISES that health and well-being of SEE population are important values per se;
- STRESSES that health is largely determined by health determinants outside health care services;
- REITERATES that many health determinants are linked to individual choices and lifestyles, while others lie beyond the control of individuals and health policy;
- RECOGNISES that policies can have positive or negative impacts on health determinants and that such impacts are reflected in health outcomes and the health status of the population; while there is a significant delay between political decisions and their impact on health outcomes, the effects on health determinants can be seen much sooner;
- UNDERLINES that the impacts of health determinants are unequally distributed among population groups resulting in health inequalities;
- CONSIDERS that everyday environments such as day-care centres, schools, workplaces, neighbourhoods and the commute between them have significant effects on health; and that health, in turn, has an effect on the economy by enabling active and productive participation in working life;
- CONSIDERS that lifestyles are not only the result of individual decisions but also of the availability of and support given for healthy choices in everyday environments;
- CALLS for broad societal action to tackle health determinants, in particular unhealthy diet, lack of physical activity, harmful use of alcohol, tobacco and psychosocial stress, since the individual capacity to control these determinants that account for major public health problems, is strongly associated with broader societal determinants of health, for example the level of education and available economic resources;
- WELCOMES the efforts of the partners on health in all policies; the development of methodologies for health impact assessment and health systems impact assessment,
- WELCOMES further policy dialog on Health in All Policies to underline the need to give greater consideration to health impacts in decision-making across policy sectors at different levels in order to protect, maintain and improve the health status of the population; and

- TAKES NOTE of the results of this round table, in particular that:
 - Many national policies have a potential positive or negative impact on health, which is mediated by a number of health determinants;
 - An improved knowledge-base on health determinants and analysis of effect relationships would significantly increase the possibility of informed policy making and policy coherence and the development of policies that enhance social cohesion and social capital and improve health and safety and so contribute to higher productivity and economic growth in the SEE;
 - The main health determinants influenced by national policies should be identified, and monitored and their trends regularly reported; the health impacts of the most critical policies with regard to health should also be systematically evaluated and the results broadly disseminated using available measures
 - Health determinants related objectives should be included in national policies across sectors, bearing the impact on the overall economy in mind; this concerns particularly economic, employment, cohesion and competitiveness policies and the health and safety at work;
 - Many policies with overlapping health objectives would benefit from intersectoral collaboration with common objectives; this particularly concerns employment, social and health policies in the improvement of health and safety of work; and environmental and transport policies in the development of healthy and sustainable solutions for supporting environment and urban planning;
 - Population's health status can be improved by reducing health inequalities, most effectively achieved by broad intersectoral action;
 - Improved health status of the population has positive repercussions for overall social development and the economy, and for health expenditure;
 - Broad action across policy sectors complements the more specific tasks carried out by the health sector; public health and health care institutions and health professionals should act as advocates and experts for intersectoral work;

- URGES the Member States and the Partners:
 - To ensure the visibility and value of health in the development of national legislation and policies by, inter alia, health impact assessments;

- INVITES the Partners:
 - To set out a plan for work in Health in All Policies with a specific emphasis on equity in health and consider including such activities in line with WHO H2020;
 - To underline equity and the influences of other policies on public health in its future initiatives on health issues;
 - To investigate and where necessary develop further coordination mechanisms to ensure that health considerations are taken into account in decision-making across sectors, including international treaties, in a systematic and structured manner;
 - To further develop the knowledge base and methodology necessary for better understanding of health determinants and the ways in which they are affected by public policies at all levels, including evaluation of the relevance of current impact assessment practices for public health by for example ex-post evaluation,

- To provide information on trends in health determinants and links between public health and social and economic development in the SEE, at national and regional level;
 - To exploit synergies between policy sectors with interrelated objectives for example through programme cooperation, in particular concerning health at work;
 - To encourage and support exchange of good practices and information on intersectoral policies between Community sectors, Member States and other stakeholders, with special emphasis on health inequalities; and to support capacity building in intersectoral health policy;
 - To cooperate with international organisations on issues related to intersectoral policies;
 - To ensure reporting on current member states' practices in health impact assessment; and
- INVITES the Member States:
 - To develop the knowledge base on health and its determinants, trends in them, and in health inequalities;
 - To take into account in the formulation and implementation of their national policies the added value offered by cooperation between government sectors, social partners, the private sector and the non-governmental organisations for public health;
 - To undertake, where appropriate, health impact assessment of major policy initiatives with a potential bearing on health;
 - To pay special attention to the impact which major government policies have on equity in health, including mental health, and guarantee necessary efforts to tackle health inequalities;
 - To focus on capacity building in policy analysis and development for improved intersectoral policies.