

EURODIALOGUE 20

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FOREWORD

The Journal of European Issues “Evrodijalog” marks the 20th anniversary of its renewed publishing, as a continuation of the Journal of Theory “Dijalog”, scoping the progressive theoretical thought in the 1970s and 1990s.

On the occasion of this anniversary, the 20th special edition is dedicated to health in the contemporary context in which it is necessarily linked to socio-economic development and growth, both as an investment and as a target of organized proactive engagement of all sectors and stakeholders in the society.

The contemporary global and European agenda for human and social development have positioned their epicenter in health, based on scientific facts and evidence. The people and their rights, and the universality of the right to health without any discrimination, remain in the focus of the modern understanding of proactive social engagement for health and well-being, with a particular emphasis on reducing inequalities of any kind.

This edition is issued in a period of efforts to design a modern and proactive health policy at national level. It is prepared and published with technical and financial support of the World Health Organization Country Office in Macedonia, as the most important actor, promoter and enabler of health and well-being agendas on a global, regional and national level.

Health and well-being in this compendium of policy briefs are discussed through the prism of contemporary international context and liabilities, commitments and national needs, and through the process of broad social and sectoral dialogue on the preparation, adoption and implementation of

national policies. The purpose of this compendium is to publish the views of the experts from different areas and disciplines and thus contribute to the creation of a broad substance of contemporary professional information, based on evidence, which can be used in the process of policy making for better health and well-being for all.

The first part, **International commitments and national policies for health**, takes the perspectives of the right to health (Memeti), the new 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the role of WHO in the processes of development of national health policies (Chichevalieva, Milevska Kostova), the importance of human resources in health from a global perspective (Jankulovski), as well as the right to health in emergencies, explored through the migrant crisis that is happening in the European Region today (Oncheva, Spasenovska).

The second part examines the **Public health and health through life course**, through the decision-national strategic framework for Public Health Action Plan to 2020 (Kostovska, Celevska, Velickovski), the health of mothers and infants in the context of sustainable development (Petruševska), and the need to ensure health equity for all (Mladenovik, Kuli), the behavior of children in school age (Kjosevska) and their eating habits (Spiroski); putting focus on preventive measures and activities for better health by acting upstream, starting from the beginning of life.

The third part, **Health and Environment** overviews the national efforts to intersectoral collaboration through the development of a strategic framework for health and environment with action plan until 2020 (Gjorgjev), and discusses specific measures to tackle climate change, especially in protection of workers and their health (Karadzinska Bislimovska). These briefs emphasize the need for adoption of the planned guidelines for action and offer efficient and effective policy alternatives for public health interventions to resolve this and related issues.

The fourth part, **Non-communicable diseases and risk factors** considers issues related to the significant non-communicable diseases and risk factors, in order to address them for the point of view of the prevention and early detection of this epidemics of today. Among them, special focus is put on the cardiovascular diseases (Boshevski), eliminating diseases caused by asbestos (Minov, Karadzinska Bislimovska) and food safety (Ristovska), as some of the well-established underlying causes, along with physical inactivity, unhealthy habits such as smoking, excessive alcohol consumption, and so forth.

The fifth part, **Communicable diseases and emergency preparedness and response** addresses the problems of infectious diseases for which un-

fortunately we still cannot claim complete elimination or containment at global level. Antimicrobial resistance is elaborated through the perspective of global threat it represents (Boshevska, Panovski), alongside the prevention and control of HIV/AIDS (Mikik), which remains an issue globally. The preparedness and response of the health system during hazards, disasters, and states of emergency is also elaborated (Kochubovski, Spasenovska) as an important element of protection of health and well-being and preservation of conditions and undisturbed functioning of the society in the extraordinary conditions.

The experience worldwide shows that policies give best results when based on adequate information on health status, exchange of experience and evidence of effective prevention and protection measures for improved health. The sixth chapter, **Knowledge and evidence informing policies for health** provides such input, addressing patient safety through the prism of accreditation (Zisovska), the health information system and its increasing role for health (Chichevaliev), and the importance of building a new culture and institutionalization of the use of evidence in policy- and decision-making processes (Jankovik, Milevska Kostova).

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