



Healthy, Prosperous Lives for All

The WHO European Health Equity Status Report


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6 Key challenges hindering progress

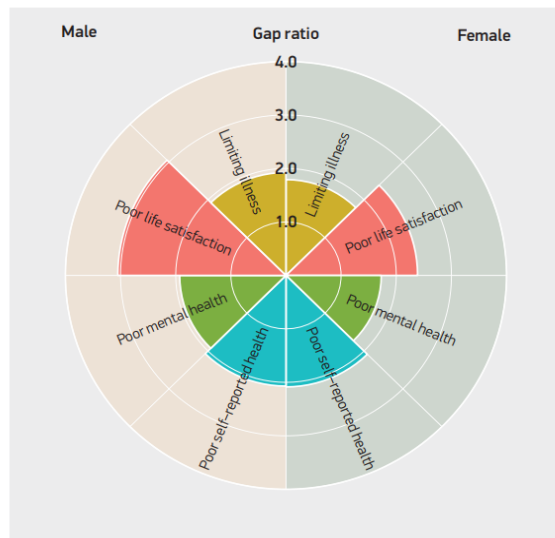
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- A photograph of a road blocked by a large concrete barrier. Above the barrier is a circular arrow icon, suggesting a cycle or a loop. The road is paved with asphalt and has a yellow double line down the center. The background shows green foliage and a guardrail.
- ❖ ITS NOT POSSIBLE !
 - ❖ WHAT POLICIES AND INVESTMENTS TO PRIORITISE
 - ❖ HOW TO DO IT?
 - ❖ HOW TO MEASURE PROGRESS
 - ❖ WHO TO INVOLVE?
 - ❖ HOW TO INFLUENCE AND SUSTAIN ACTION



	Average life expectancy within countries in the WHO European Region	Gaps in life expectancy within countries in the WHO European Region
Women	82.0 years	2.3 – 7.4 years
Men	76.2 years	3.4 – 15.5 years

"THE HEALTH GAP"

Inequities in the quality of years of life lived in good health



Inequities in health indicators

- Limiting illness
- Poor life satisfaction
- Poor mental health
- Poor self-reported health



- 1.5 x higher poor mental health
- 2.5 x higher poor life satisfaction
- 2x higher illness limiting daily life

Gap increased in + 33% of countries in last 10yrs



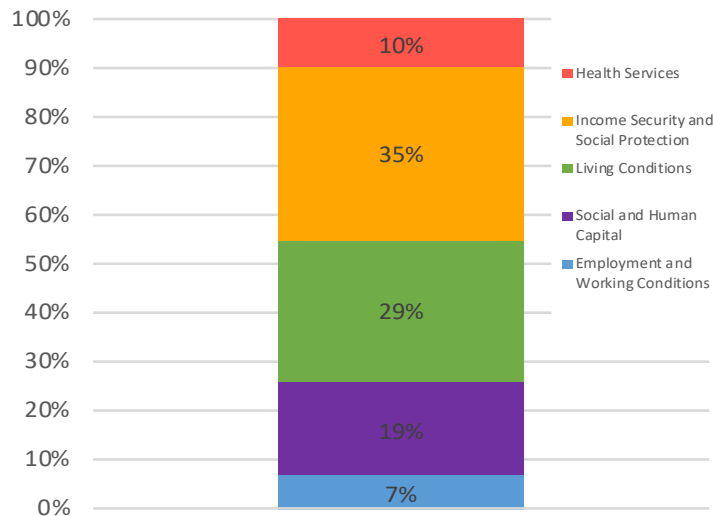
- 2 x higher poor mental health
- 3 x higher poor life satisfaction
- 2 x higher illness limiting daily life

Gap increased in 20% of countries in last 10yrs

Source: authors' own compilation based on the Health Equity Dataset.

What is holding people back from good health and a decent life?

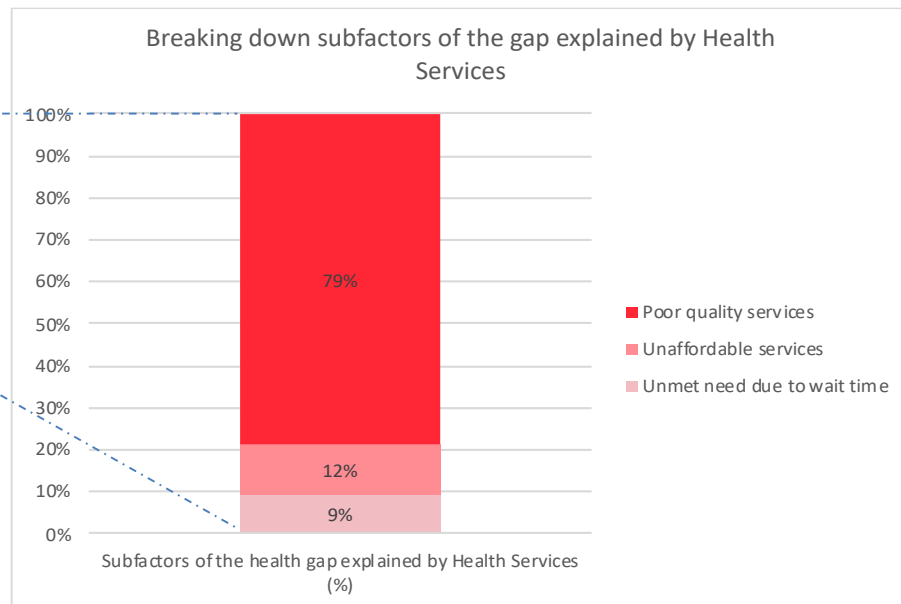
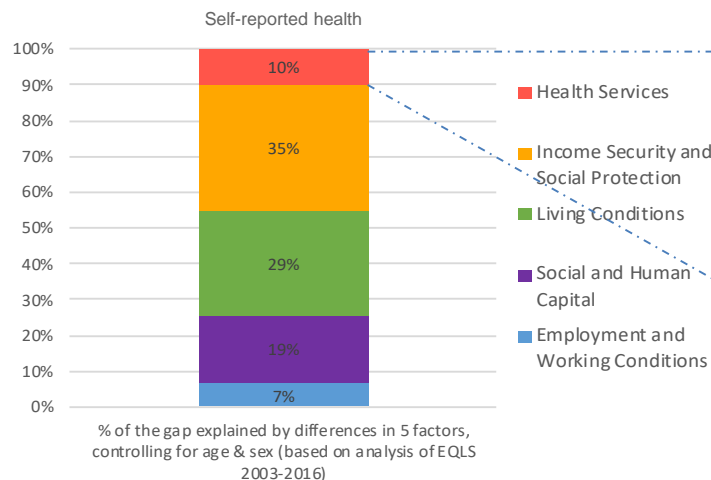
Decomposing the gap in health status between poorest and richest income quintiles over 36 European countries



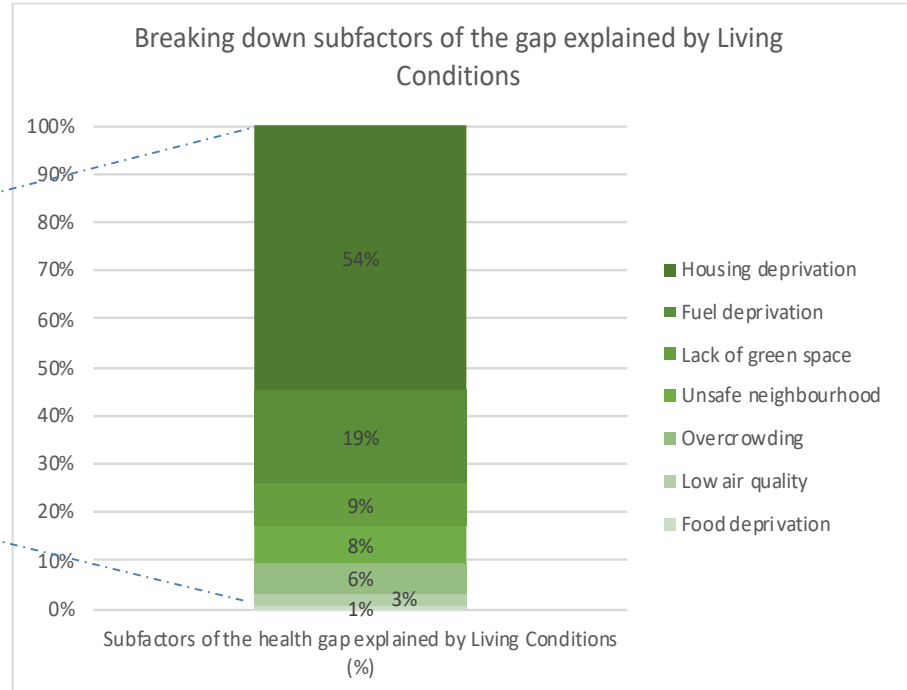
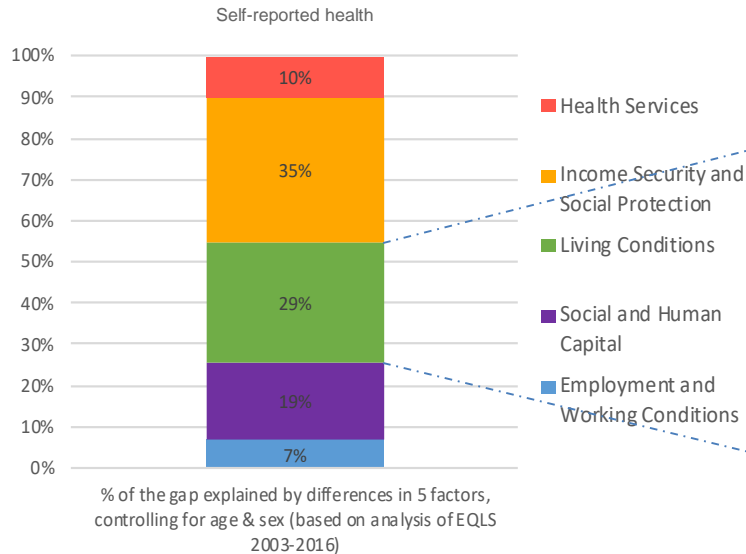
% of the gap explained by differences in 5 factors, controlling for age & gender (based on analysis of EQLS 2003-2016)

- 10%** Inequity in access to and quality of health care
- 35%** Financial Insecurity *'not being able to make ends meet'*
- 29%** Poor quality housing and underdeveloped and unsafe neighborhoods
- 19%** Lack of trust, agency and sense of belonging + poor access and quality of education
- 7%** Lack of decent work and poor working conditions

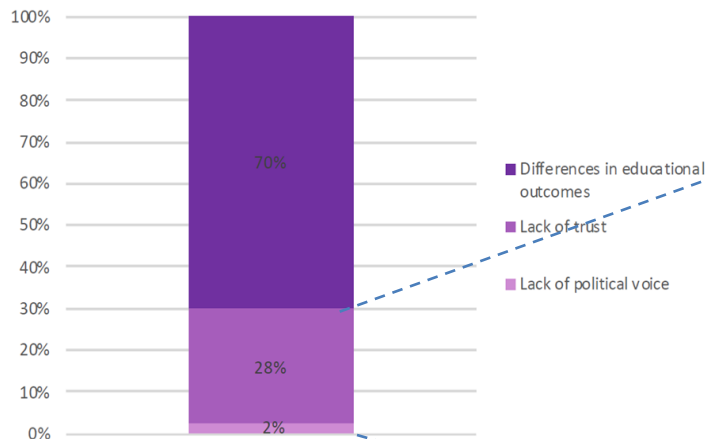
10% inequities are due to differences in quality, availability and affordability of health services



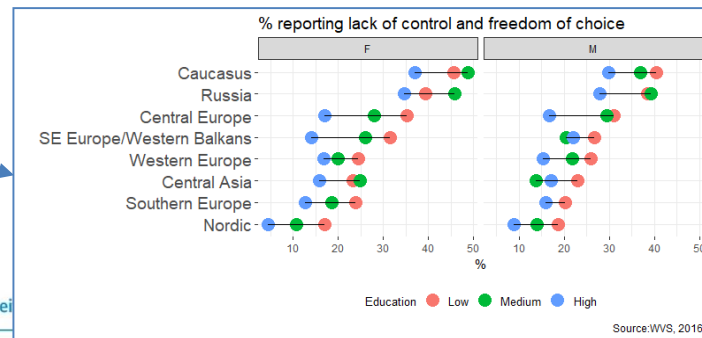
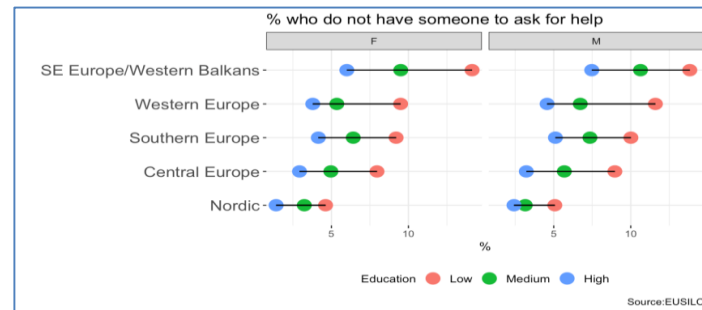
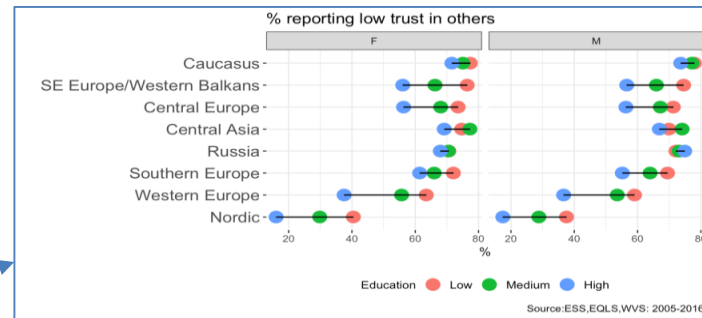
29% Inequities due to differences in quality of homes and local neighborhood condition & personal sense of safety



19% inequities arise from low social and human capital



- Low trust in others
- Low social support
- Lack of agency
- Low quality and availability of education and training



Investment, Coverage and Impact of Policies 2005-2016



Health & Health Services

OPPs stayed the same or increased in 60% of countries



Health & Living Conditions

53% countries disinvested in housing and community facilities



Health & Personal and Community Capabilities

65% countries increased investment in education but more € went to better off regions and cities.



Health & Employment and Working Conditions

50% of all new jobs created since 2008 are 'insecure' and 80% of these are occupied by lowest income quintiles

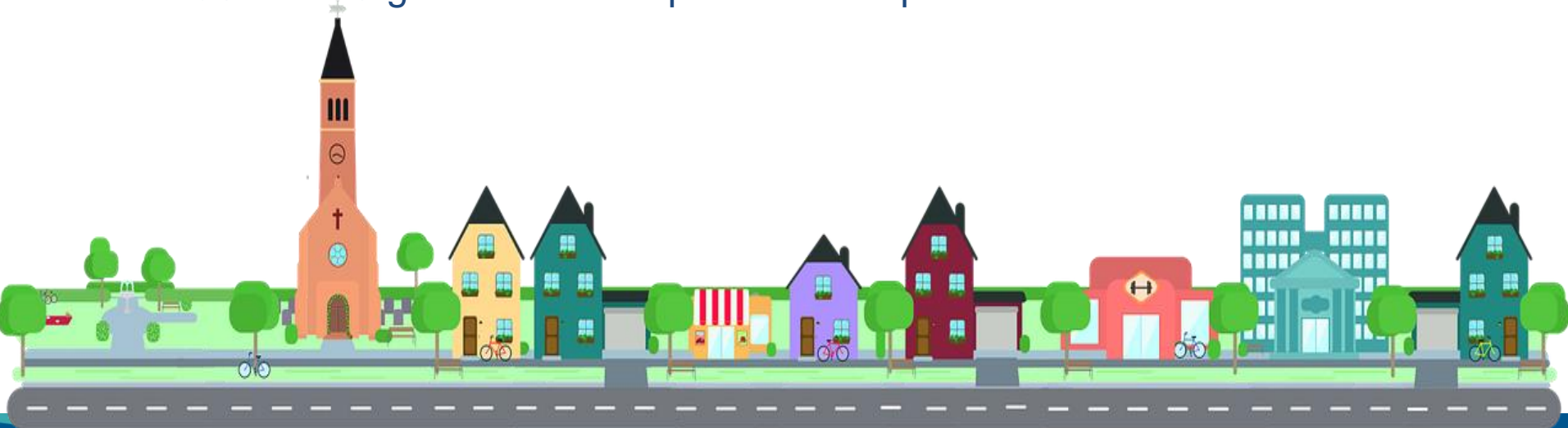


Health & Income and Social Protection

Social Protection expenditure decreased by 50%

Solutions

- **Invest** in the *essential conditions* needed to be able to live a healthy life
- **Accelerate** health gains through *progressive universal policies*
- **Incentivize** growth & development that equalizes health & life chances



Invest in the *essential conditions* needed to be able to live a healthy life



Reducing Inequities is achievable with visible results in 4 years

0.1 % GDP investment

- ✓ Social Protection Expenditure
- ✓ Labour Market Policies
- ✓ Housing & Community Amenities

NEWS

Lives improved from reducing health inequities

Country Population	Lives Improved
3m	10,000 lives
60m	250,000 lives
144m	500,000 lives

Accelerate health gains through progressive universal policies



Example: mental health inequities

The Policy Challenge

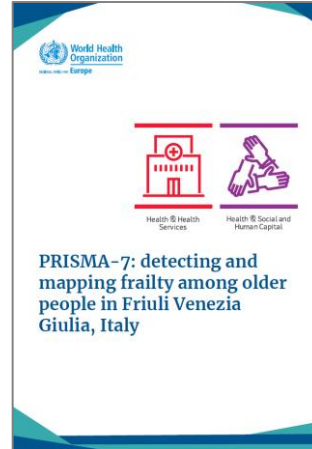
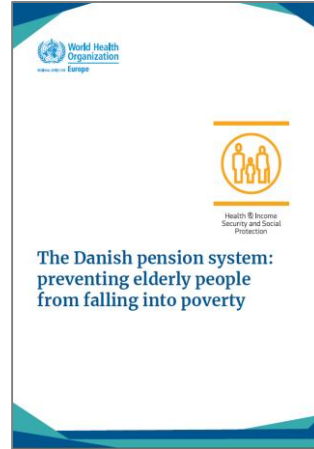
- One European in six experience mental health problems, and this comes at a cost
- **Bottom 20% income quintiles 2x higher rates of mental ill health**
- On average, mental illness costs EU countries more than 4% of GDP
- Direct and indirect effects **costs Europe 600 billion euro**



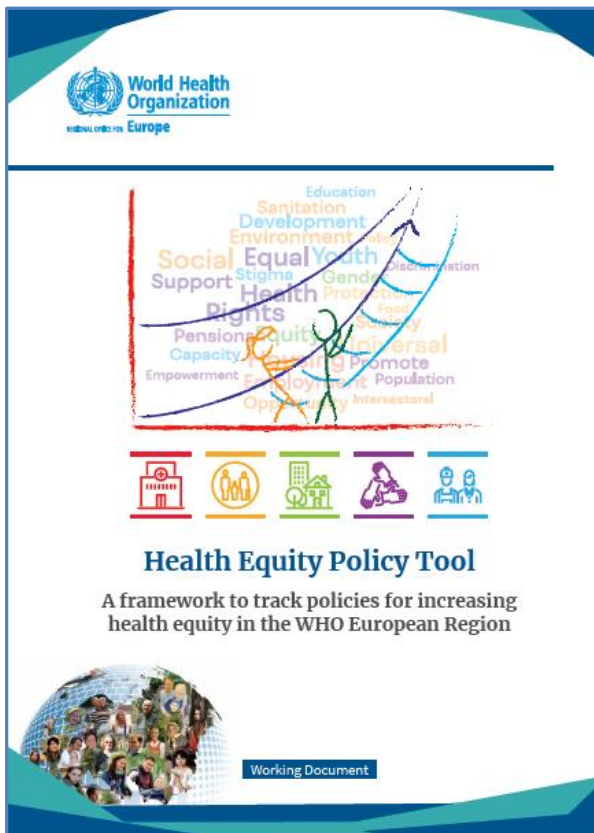
The Policy Decisions and Impacts

- Reduction in income inequality through taxation benefited bottom 10%
- Changes to SP policy increased delay to receiving financial support to bottom 20%
- Increase in insecure employment bottom 20% most affected
- Reduced investment in community amenities & community based organizations. Most underdeveloped areas adversely affected.
- Delays in access and affordability of trained mental health practitioners and services





- ✓ Value the knowledge of individuals' and communities' experiences: *'the lived experience'*
- ✓ Maximize the potential of empowering spaces e.g. youth groups, citizen's assemblies
- ✓ Explicitly move away from stigmatising narratives of disadvantage



Measuring the **equity** impact of policies

- **Investment** does a policy exist and the level and duration of investment in the policy.
- **coverage** the availability of a policy to certain population groups, especially those most left behind
- **uptake** the extent to which the policy actually reaches the groups it is intended to cover
- **effectiveness** change over time

Stratifiers: age; sex; socioeconomic status i.e. *education / income*; and place i.e. *urban, rural, local, regional*)

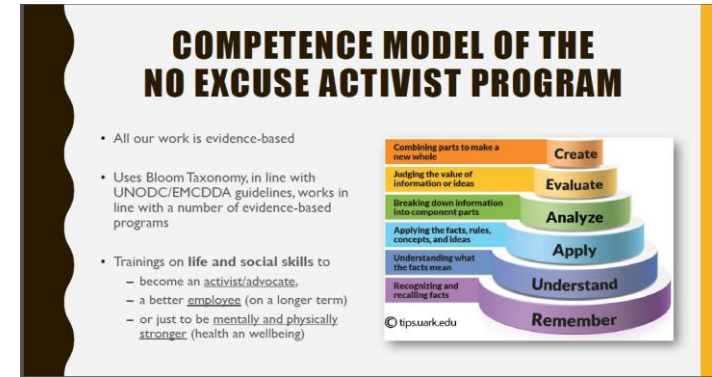
Incentivize growth & development that equalizes health & life chances





political participation, representation, accountability and transparency are preconditions for health equity

- ✓ Improve accountability through political, social and judiciary systems to reduce inequities in sense of control and trust
- ✓ Work with local communities to identify local issues, devise solutions and build sustainable social action. Tools: community development, asset-based methods





✓ Bring Social Values into Fiscal and Growth policies

Reducing Health Inequities is a good investment

- A 50% reduction in gaps in life expectancy would provide monetized benefits to countries ranging from 0.3% to 4.3% of GDP. Equivalent to **\$60bn in a country of 60m**
- Reducing Health Inequities is an investment in the wellbeing of the economy. Households that have poor health, no wealth or savings lack the security to pursue new opportunities in education or in work and cannot afford the essential goods needed to be healthy.
- Health Sector contribution to social and economic development
 - **£168-£196 m/yr to the local economy from a** shift of 10% of the total Health Sector spend to local suppliers. Impact on health, income and employment inequities. based on a City/Region of 3m people



Reducing Inequities has strong public support !



- Opinion polls show having good health is a top factor for getting ahead in life
- The public are concerned about growing inequities.
- 84% of Europeans believe that reducing inequities should be top of their governments agenda



Resolution

**Accelerating progress towards healthy, prosperous lives
for all, increasing equity in health and leaving no one
behind in the WHO European Region**



Health Equity Alliance

- ✓ A multidisciplinary alliance that enable ministries of various sectors and governments to ensure that the social values of solidarity, equity, well-being, inclusion and gender equality are considered and included in growth and development policies

Health Equity Solutions Platform

- ✓ A dedicated mechanism for countries and partner organizations to generate and implement solutions to key health equity challenges
- ✓ Live Policy Innovation Sites at level of country or regions “Influencer Countries”
- ✓ Acceleration technologies and events for uptake and adaptation across Europe

http://www.euro.who.int/_data/assets/pdf_file/0009/413838/69rs05_e_HealthEquityResolution_190589.pdf?ua=1

Thank you Scotland



Better health for Europe

more equitable and sustainable



World Health
Organization

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR **Europe**



Organisation
mondiale de la Santé

BUREAU RÉGIONAL DE L' **Europe**



Weltgesundheitsorganisation

REGIONALBÜRO FÜR **Europa**



Всемирная организация
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Европейское региональное бюро