

EU Health Highlights

News about health in the EU from EuroHealthNet Brussels Office

Issue # 14, October 2005

1. Main Stories

- **Green paper on mental health launched**

The European Commission has launched a Green Paper on Mental Health to help tackle mental illnesses that now affect over one in four adults in the European Union. The Green Paper aims to launch a major public consultation on the subject.

Speaking at the Luxembourg launch with experts, ministers and MEPs, health Commissioner Markos Kyprianou explained that the green paper suggests how the EU can play its part in supporting the action plan agreed by member states at the WHO Helsinki conference earlier this year. It proposes three main areas for debate:

- Opening up a dialogue with Member States to prepare an action plan
- Launching an EU Platform on Mental Health linking a wide range of stakeholders to look at how to integrate mental health into different sectors and EU policies, and how to develop ethical considerations such as fundamental rights of mental illness sufferers. EuroHealthNet Director Clive Needle will chair this Platform.
- Building up mental health information resources at EU level, including monitoring trends, collecting data, and identifying best practice.

The consultation is open until 31 May 2006, and responses will then contribute to a proposal for an EU strategy by the end of next year.

http://europa.eu.int/comm/health/ph_determinants/life_style/mental_health_en.htm

- **EU imposes live bird import ban**

As the import of captive birds is seen as an additional way of spreading the H5N1 virus, EU veterinary experts and the European Commission have agreed on a general EU ban on the import of wild and pet birds from all around the world.

<http://europa.eu.int/rapid/showInformation.do?pageName=middayExpress&guiLanguage=en>

- **European Week for Safety and Health at Work**

This year's European Week for Safety and Health at Work (24-28 October 2005) will focus on the issue of noise at work, under the slogan, 'Stop that noise!', with the tagline, 'Noise at work – it can cost you more than your hearing'. All Member States back the campaign.

<http://ew2005.osha.eu.int/>



- **UK Summit on Health Inequalities**

One of the main planks of the UK Presidency period in the field of health has taken place in London. A summit conference of over 600 experts, including many from EuroHealthNet, has addressed ways to address health inequalities within and between countries. Workshops on alcohol, nutrition and tobacco smuggling brought

forward recommendations, and other sessions featured analysis of data, research and practices. A new expert group of member state representatives is being formed.

The EuroHealthNet project managed by BZgA "Closing the Gap" featured prominently on the EC stand as information for sessions, and the background document co-authored by EuroHealthNet's Caroline Costongs and Kasia Jurczak together with Professor Ken Judge and Stephen Platt, was widely praised. Copies are available on request from the office.

Conclusions from the event will be presented to the Health Council in December and published in due course.

2. News from the Council

- **Health Ministerial Conference held near London**

The UK Presidency hosted an Informal Meeting of EU Health Ministers on the 20 and 21 October, chaired by Health Secretary Patricia Hewitt. Ministers discussed mainly the bird flu preparedness as well as values and common principles in health care and patient mobility.

<http://www.eu2005.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1107293561746&a=KArticle&aid=1129041607033>

- **EU leaders debate social problems and globalisation**

At the Tripartite Social Summit for Growth and Employment, an annual event being held in London on 24 October 2005, the social partners (trade unions, private employers, small businesses and public employers) met with the heads of government of the current and the two subsequent EU presidencies (the UK, Austria and Finland) to discuss the European Social Model.

The Informal Summit convened by the British EU Presidency for 27 October in Surrey was initially themed around the sustainability of European social models. However the meeting has been adjusted to discuss how to maintain and strengthen social justice and competitiveness in the context of globalisation; Europe's place in the world; and the security of our citizens.

<http://www.eu2005.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1107293391098&a=KArticle&aid=1119527321606>

3. News from the European Commission

- **EU Platform launches Action Database on diet and activities**

The EU Platform has published online a database of actions by its participants. The purpose of the database is to collate the actions of members for 2004/5 and use it as a baseline for subsequent actions from 2006.

These cover a diverse range of initiatives from many different public and private stakeholders, including from EuroHealthNet members and a major contribution from our Brussels based partners the European Heart Network.

The database has been designed as a means of effectively collecting actions and presenting them in a way that allows members and external parties to view, analyse, sort and compare actions.

http://europa.eu.int/comm/health/ph_determinants/life_style/nutrition/platform/platform_db_en.htm

- **DG SANCO: project descriptions and outcomes**

-Policy Impact Assessment of Public Health reporting. Funded project 2004, description of the project.

http://europa.eu.int/comm/health/ph_projects/2004/action1/action1_2004_16_en.htm

-Are we living longer healthier lives in the EU? Funded project 2004. First report of the EHEMU project.

http://europa.eu.int/comm/health/ph_information/indicators/lifeyears_ehemu_en.htm

4. Events and Publications

- **Data on Healthy Life Years in the EU**

An improvement in healthy life years is an important health goal for the EU and an indicator is included in the Lisbon process. Newly published data from EuroStat for 2003 provides evidence of important trends in disabilities and life expectancy.

http://europa.eu.int/comm/health/ph_information/indicators/lifeyears_data_en.htm

- **WHO Mental Health Atlas 2005**

The WHO has published the updated 2005 edition of the Mental Health Atlas (the first set of editions was entitled 'Atlas: mental health resources in the World, 2001' and 'Atlas: Country profiles on Mental Health Resources in the World in 2001'). It shows that global resources for people suffering from mental health and neurological disorders are insufficient to address the growing burden of mental health needs, and are unequally distributed globally.

http://www.who.int/mental_health/evidence/atlas/mnh/en/index.html

- **WHO European Health report 2005**

The WHO-Europe has published the 2005 European Health report entitled '*Public health action for healthier children and populations*'. The report highlights the importance of investing in children health and development and to reduce health inequalities.

<http://www.who.dk/ehr2005>

- **Immunisation week 17-23 October**

The WHO/Europe launched the initiative to make 17-23 October the European Immunisation week. The first annual European Immunization Week aimed at putting

immunization back in the spotlight: to raise understanding of its role in fulfilling every child's right to a disease-free childhood and as the most cost-effective means of disease prevention. Because every country needs to tailor its communications to its own specific challenges, WHO/Europe is working closely with six countries to assist them in this task in 2005 (Belarus, Ireland, Republic of Serbia, Italy, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia).

http://www.euro.who.int/2005features/20051012_1

- **Health in prison**

International health experts and representatives of the justice and prison authorities met in London to look at what countries are doing to reduce the health risks in prisons. Experts from across Europe were asked to consider the major challenges for prisons and public health.

The conference marked the tenth anniversary of the WHO Health in Prisons Project. It reviewed the Project's achievements and issue recommendations for the next decade. 15 best-practice awards will be made to correctional settings to recognise national achievements in improving health care services to inmates.

More information on the meeting will be available shortly at the following link:

<http://www.euro.who.int/eprise/main/WHO/progs/hipp/Home>

- **Source: a website on health and disability**

Source is an international information support centre designed to strengthen the management, use and impact of information on health and disability.

Source is a collaborative venture of the Centre for International Child Health (CICH), a department within an academic institution; Healthlink Worldwide, a non-governmental organisation working to strengthen information and communication on health and disability; Handicap International, a disability and development NGO; and Exchange, a networking and learning programme on health communications for development.

<http://www.asksource.info/index.htm>

- **Council of Europe declaration on the prevention of violence**

The Youth Ministers of Council of Europe Member States adopted a final declaration setting out several measures to curb and prevent all forms of violence, of which young people may be either the victims or the perpetrators. The participants pointed out how important it was that young people should help to devise and implement prevention strategies. A resolution on the Council of Europe's youth sector priorities for 2006-2008 was also adopted at the end of the conference. The main thrusts of the resolution are human rights education and intercultural dialogue, youth participation and democratic citizenship, social cohesion and the inclusion of young people, and youth policy development.

<http://portal.coe.ge/enews/EEkZIEkpypkWGFKKYa.php>

- **OECD Regional Centre on Health & Social Policy**

The OECD has opened a centre on health and social policies in Seoul. Its purpose is to promote policy dialogue between OECD and non-member economies and to provide capacity-building assistance to the non-OECD Asian economies by information-sharing and policy analysis.

http://www.oecd.org/topic/0,2686,en_2649_37407_1_1_1_1_37407,00.html

5. News from Member States / Organisations

- **France: campaign against alcohol abuse**

“Votre corps se souvient de tout.” (Your body remembers everything) says the latest campaign in France against alcohol abuse supported by EuroHealthNet member INPES. The campaign aims to remind people of the risks of alcohol abuse, how to consume with less risks and the equivalence between different types of alcohol.

Il y a la même quantité d'alcool dans
un demi de bière,
une coupe de champagne,
un ballon de vin,
un verre de pastis...

Consommés au-delà des seuils recommandés, 3 verres par jour pour l'homme, 2 pour la femme, tous les alcools représentent le même danger.
Pour rester en bonne santé, diminuez votre consommation.

Ministère de la Santé et des Solidarités | inpes | Assurance Maladie | ALCOOL | Votre corps se souvient de tout

More information and a video clip is available at
<http://www.inpes.sante.fr/>

- **Wales: Youth conference combats social exclusion**

The Welsh Assembly Government and the University of Wales are co-organizing a conference on 'how young people's participation in civic life contributes to the acquisition of skills and competencies, relevant to the work place, and can help combat social exclusion'.

http://www.cardiffyouthevent2005.co.uk/english_home.htm

- **UK health Watch report**

The [Politics of Health Group](http://www.pohg.org.uk) launched the 'UK Health Watch report 2005'. The report presents a series of articles arguing the case for the government to address social and economic factors responsible for ill health and inequality.

<http://www.pohg.org.uk>

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6. Calendar of international events

24-26.10.2005	Dusseldorf , International Conference 'Fair Globalization – Safe workplace http://www.ilo.org/public/english/protection/safework/labinsp/airglob.htm
27-28.10.2005	Paris , FEANTSA Conference on Social Emergency and Crisis Intervention in Large Cities http://www.feantsa.org/code/en/theme.asp?ID=31
27-28.10.2005	London , Meeting of EU Chief Medical Officers, UK Presidency Event http://www.eu2005.gov.uk
1.11.2005	London , 'Alcohol Concern' Annual conference and AGM 2005 Contact: swilton@alcoholconcern.org.uk
6-9.11.2005	Ottawa , 12th Annual Canadian Conference on International Health http://www.csih.org/what/conferences2005.html
7-8.11.2005	Brussels , EU Open Forum http://www.euhealthforum.org/
9-10.11.2005	Brussels , EPHA Conference on 'Future Europeans, the right start in life for children and young people in Europe, http://children.epha.org/
10-12.11.2005	Graz , 13 th European Conference on Public Health - EUPHA http://www.eupha.org/html/documents/2005_graz/eupha_graz_2005_first_announcement.pdf
11.10.2005	Brussels , Seminar in the area of e-Health http://www.ehealth-EU.org
14-15.11.2005	Brussels , Communicating European Research http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/conferences/2005/cer2005/index_en.html
14-15.11.2005	Barcelona , Forum EuroMed Health 2005 http://www.euromedsante.com/Du18/html/fr/Du18/index.html
17-18.11.2005	Strasbourg , Forum organised by the OECD on ' Reconciling Labour Flexibility and Social Cohesion' http://www.coe.int/T/E/social_cohesion/social_policies/04.Activities/4.Annual_Forums/2005/
20-22.11.2005	Amsterdam , 3 rd International Congress, the failing heart under stress. http://www.failingheart.com

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23-25.11.2005	Brussels , Child Health and the Environment: results from the EU Framework 5 Pinche, Children Genonetwork & Plutocracy Projects Contact: M.Saunders@bristol.ac.uk
28-30.11.2005	London , Patient Safety Summit, UK presidency event http://www.eu2005.gov.uk
1.12.2005	London , World Health Day
3.12.2005	European Day of Disabled People
7-8.12.2005	Birmingham , NICE 2005: Health and Clinical Excellence http://www.nice2005.co.uk
7-8.12.2005	Amsterdam , Proving the business benefit of Employees health strategy www.eng-nl.com
8-9.12.2005	Edinburgh , 'IN Good HEALTH' conference organised by EuroHealthNet and NHS Health Scotland http://www.eurohealthnet.org/EuroHealthNet/Site/EuroHealthNet/Conference/First_Announcement.html
9.12.2005	Brussels , Health Council
12.12.2005	Bilbao , Closing event of the European week for safety and health at work http://www.ew2005.osha.eu.int

Please note that EuroHealthNet is not responsible for the content of sites or publications mentioned in this publication.

Would you like to inform other members about new publications or events in your organisation or country? Please send contributions to l.coulet@eurohealthnet.org

Please see Events Calendar on www.eurohealthnet.org (under main menu item 'News') for upcoming events

EU Health Highlights is produced for the internal use of organisations, institutions, authorities and departments interested in health promotion, disease prevention and public health in the EU. It is funded only by fees paid to us. If any reader knows of people or bodies who might find it useful to receive Health Highlights, please do not copy it without our authorisation, but do send details to us at: l.coulet@eurohealthnet.org. We will be pleased to make contact and offer our services, including a trial period. Your comments and suggestions will also be welcome. Thank you for your help.