

Evaluation of National and Regional Public Health Reports

Summary

In the research project "Evaluation of national and regional health reports" within the Health Monitoring Programme of the European Union national and regional public health reports have been collected and analysed with the objective of identifying best practice models of effective health reporting.

Based on an agreed list of criteria 57 of 132 health reports submitted were analysed using each of the following aspects as measures: comprehensiveness, structure, policy orientation, conceptual approach, integrative approach, prospective approach, and data. A best practice model was identified for each of these areas.

Simultaneously, a qualitative analysis of semi-structured interviews with policy makers on every level was carried out to get an insight into experiences, ideas and expectations of these particular user groups.

The results show that health reporting is characterised by a great heterogeneity with most health reports covering the widest possible range of health issues and presenting all available data and indicators. In contrast to this, policy makers require analysed information about health status and determinants linked to the provision of health care and finances, future health trends and an evaluation of implemented activities.

To improve health reporting in the European Union further, it would be beneficial to put more energy into the development of a common methodology for public health reporting, providing guidelines for international, national, and regional health reporting to increase the attention information on health should achieve.