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***Health System Performance
Assessment – contributing to regional
health policy***

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Part 1:

**A public health vision for the WHO
Regional Office for Europe**

Part 1



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A public health vision...

- Understands health and disease
 - Measuring health status, carrying out surveillance, and control
- Promotes health and well-being
 - Understanding determinants, encouraging population health and working across sectors for HiAP
- Ensures and improves efficiency
 - Using evidence based policy and performance measurement
- Advocates and communicates for better health
- Leads and works in partnership
 - Positioning health, linking disciplines and shaping the future



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Regional Director's priorities

1. Health policy and social determinants of health
2. Health systems and Public Health
3. Non communicable disease, disease prevention and health promotion
4. Health security and communicable diseases
5. Information, evidence, science, research and innovation
6. Environment and health, and climate change

The case for a renewed European Health Policy – underpinned by European Study on Social Determinants of Health/ Health Divide

Vision

- To bring the Region closer to the ideal of better health for Europe for the next Biennium and beyond, by giving expression to health across the whole spectrum of government policy making at [Local, Regional, National and European levels](#)

Goals

- To strengthen and further articulate the foundations for realising public health as a whole of society endeavor
- To foster political, scientific and technical leadership around improving health for all and reducing health inequities within and between countries
- To create the conditions which bridge local to national to regional and international processes and serve as an enabling environment for sustained investment, action and impact on population health
- To foster and maximize the diversity of stakeholders, communities and perspectives engaged in health improvement across Europe and within countries



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From an European Health Policy to National Health Plans and Strategies

This is a global initiative

The Regional Office for Europe proactively embarks on while recognizing the specificities of the region

....including.....



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From an European Health Policy to National Health Plans and Strategies

“The variety of decentralized health system approaches in Europe is a further element to be taken into account. Some countries are marked by a federalist structure with the elucidation and implementation of health plans seen as more a regional than a national or central competence, while in others the federal level sets the vision and the regions do the budgeting and implementing. It is clear that the role of national and regional governments in defining the health policy varies greatly across the Region, and that accounting for this in delineating EURO specific attributes of health policies and strategies will need to be well-thought through.”

Source: Information note on National Health Policy and Strategy Development in the European Region



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From an European Health Policy to National Health Plans and Strategies gathering some evidence...

What about the sub-national level?

| Topics | Questions |
|---|--|
| 1) Governance tool: Health targets | How are health targets being used at regional level? |
| 2) Governance tool: Health plans | How are health plans being used at regional level? |
| 3) Other health policies and strategies | How are health strategies and policies being developed at regional level? |
| 4) Alignment of regional level with national level | Are mechanisms in place to align regional health policies to a national health policy? |
| 5) Decrease of regional disparities | Are mechanisms in place to decrease regional health disparities? |
| 6) Governance tool: Health System Performance Assessment (HSPA) | What strategies are in place to measure success? |



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Part 2:

Health System Performance Assessment and Policy

Important note:

Tools proposed for use at national and sub-national levels

All principles remain the same...

(cascading or bottom-up?)



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Part 2

Definition

HSPA “seeks to monitor, evaluate and communicate the extent to which various aspects of the health system meet their objective”

(Performance measurement for health system improvement: experience, challenges and prospects, Smith et al. 2008, Tallinn Conference Background Document.)

Assessing health system performance assessment involves:

- measuring and analyzing how well a health system is meeting its ultimate goals...
- and how its performance against intermediary objectives contributes to helping serve these goals
- And, for performance management, how health system functions perform to contribute to achieving intermediary objectives



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Key message 1: **Towards a strategy-based HSPA**

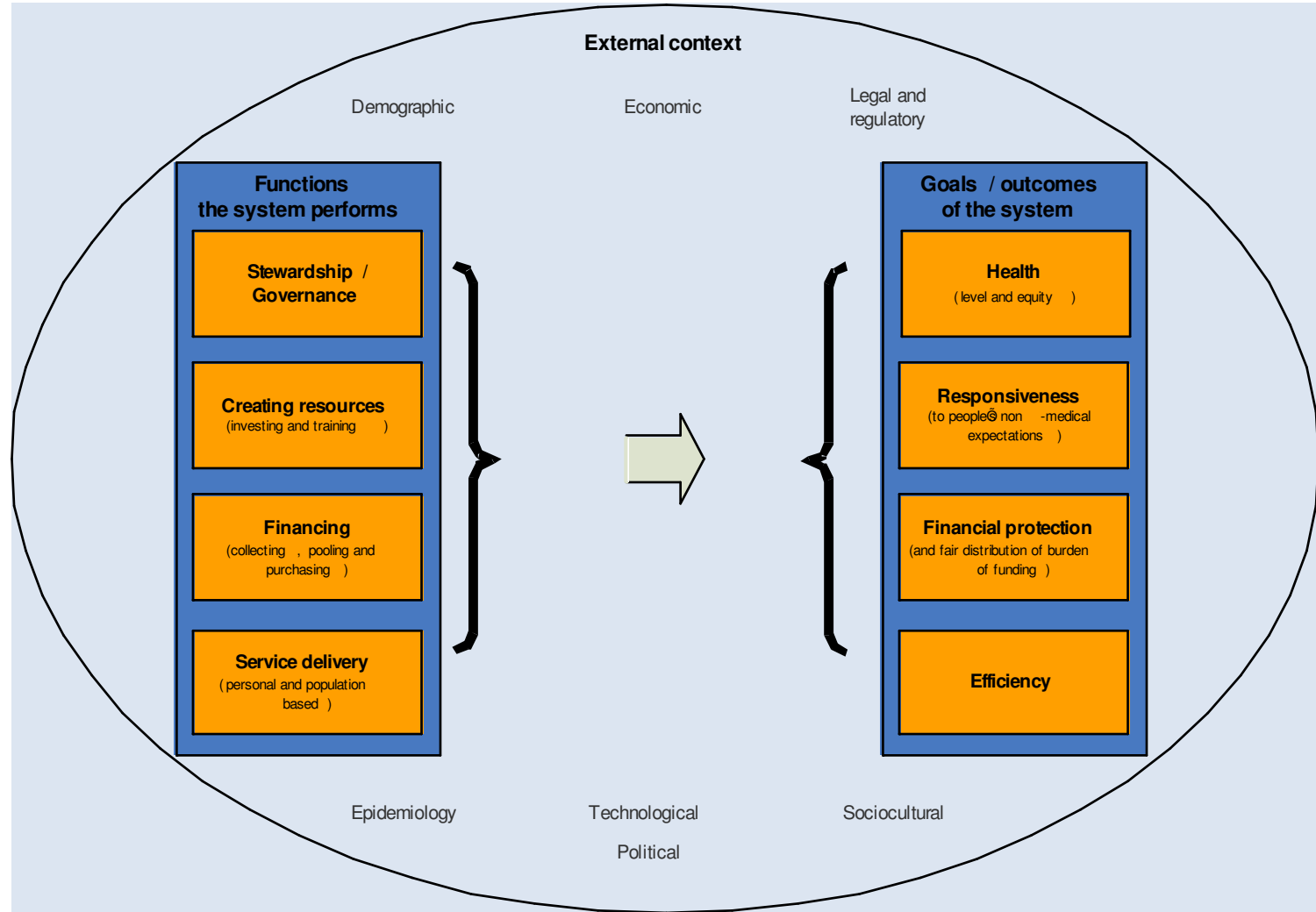
- Strategy based HSPA brings a focus on health system performance improvement
- Make sense out of performance measurement rather than “simply” measure it
- Assess regularly to build evidence more systematically into decision-making
- Focus on performance improvement: help make the various levels of the healthcare system more accountable for better health outcomes

Aligning performance measurement to strategy and institutionalizing HSPA at the country level for performance management and accountability



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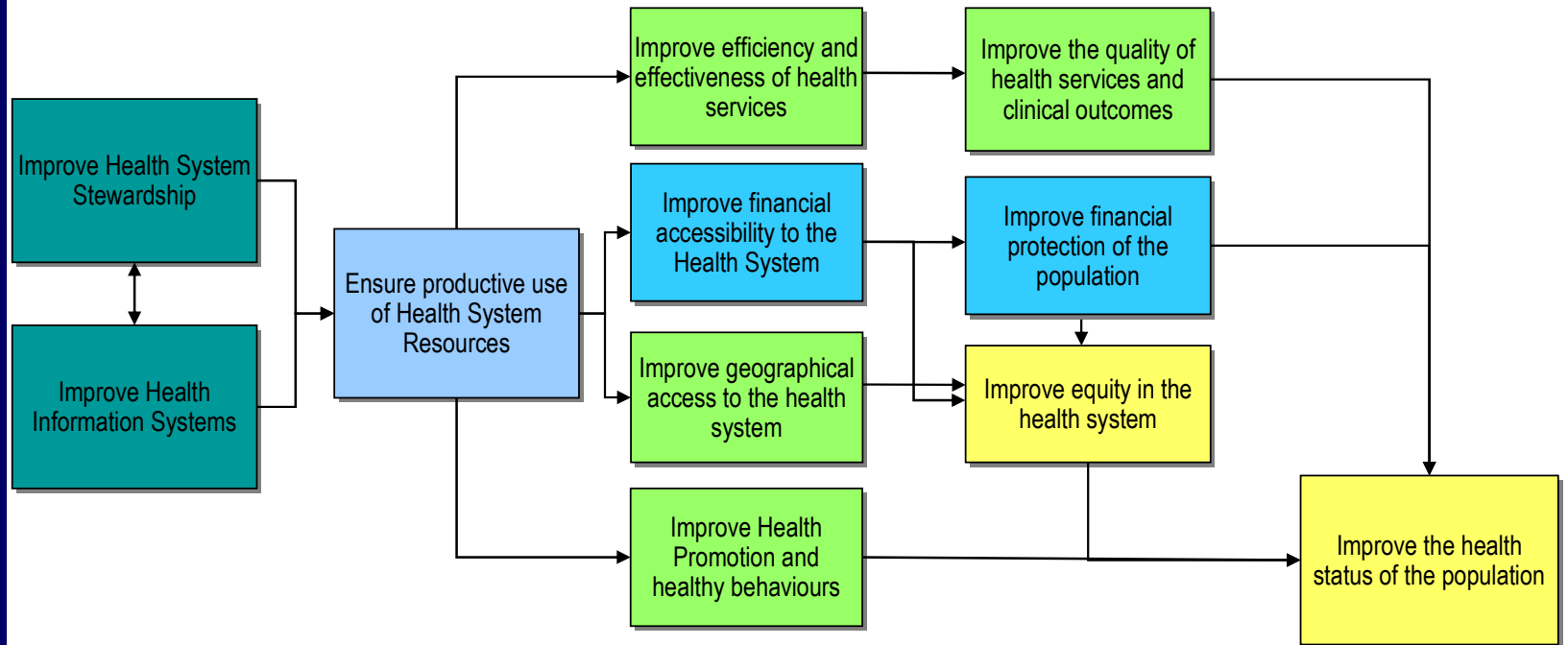
HSPA in Estonia: Health System Performance Assessment Framework





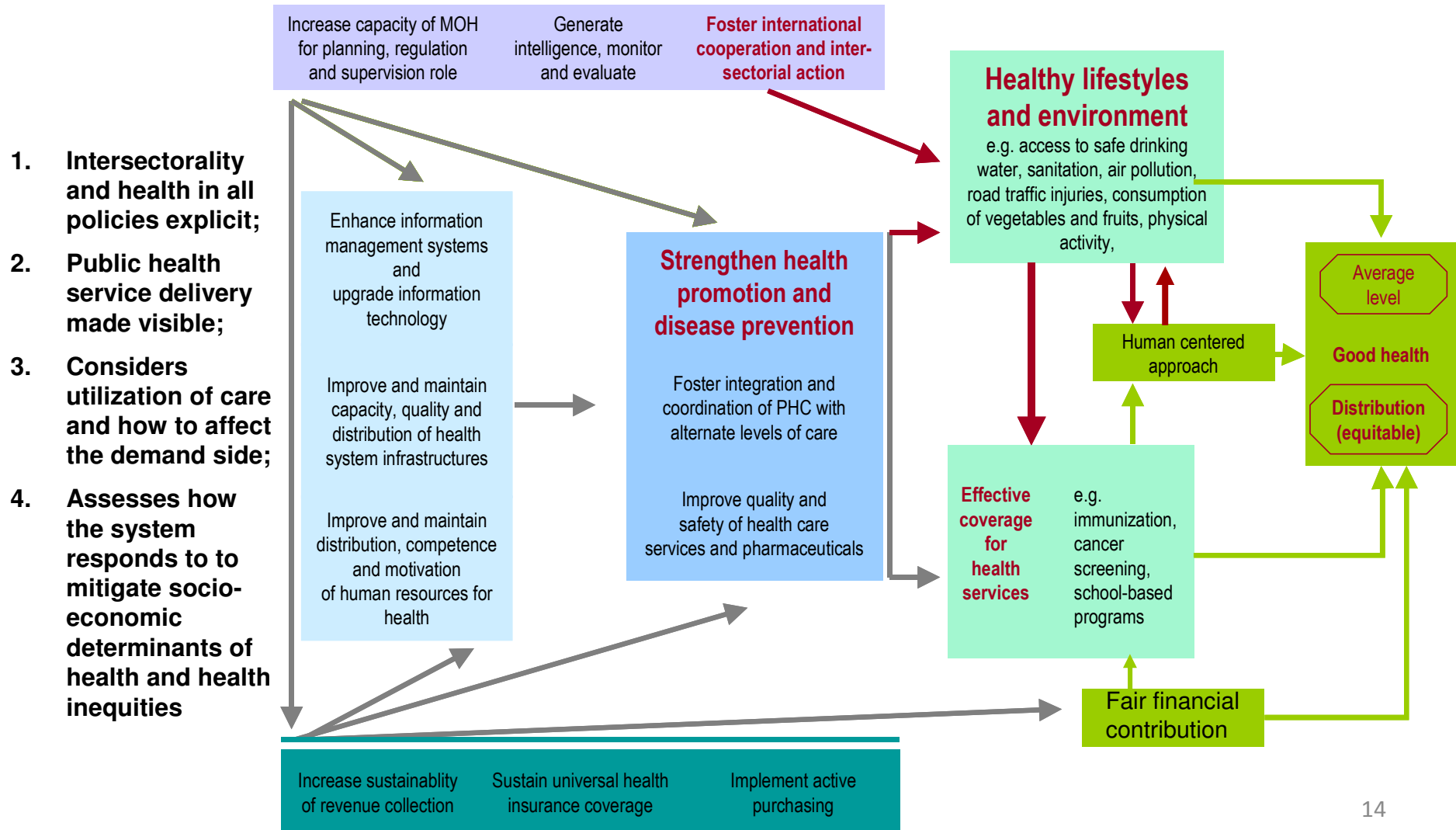
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HSPA in Georgia: Health System Strategy Map and corresponding health system functions



- Stewardship
- Resource generation
- Service delivery
- Financing
- Health outcomes

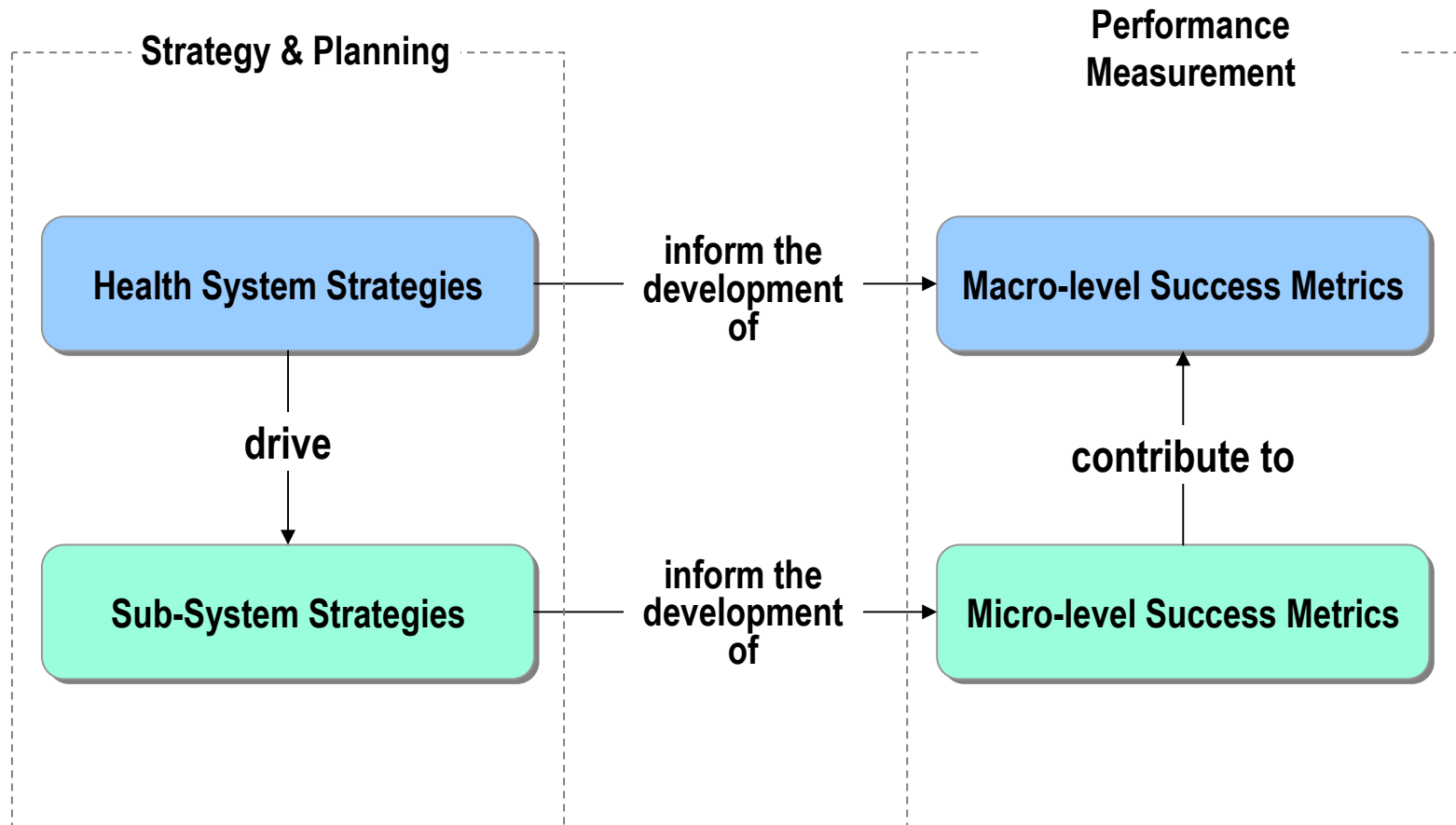
The HS framework revisited by MS to make strategic priorities explicit – country example





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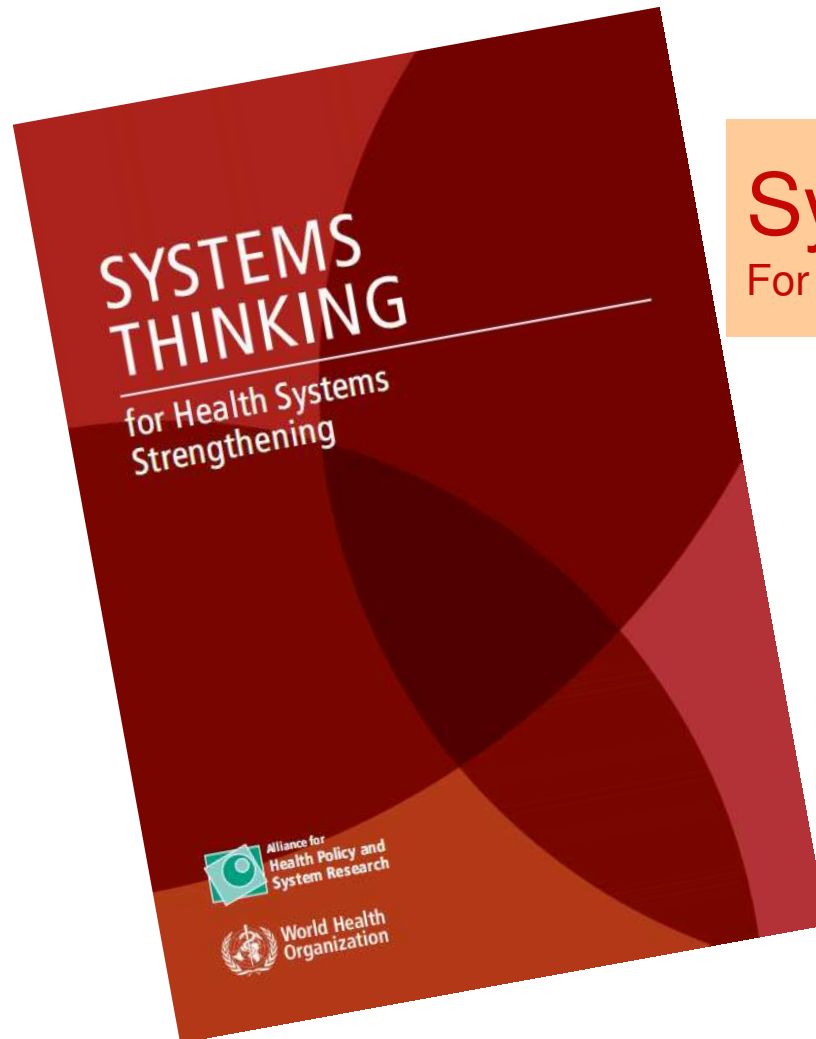
The strategy-performance measurement relationship drives higher performance in health





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Key message 2: Towards a system-perspective



Systems Thinking: For Health Systems Strengthening

Alliance for Health Policy &
Systems Research

Flagship Report Series



Part 2



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Key message 2: Towards a system-perspective

The health system's 6 building blocks alone do not constitute a system, any more than a pile of bricks constitute a functioning building. It is the multiple relationships and interactions among the blocks – how one affects and influences the others, and it is in turn affected by them – that converts these blocks into a system

De savigny et al. System Thinking, 2009.

“Health system functions are interconnected; therefore, improving performance demands a coherent approach involving coordinated action on multiple system functions. Experience suggests that action on one single function or program is unlikely to lead to substantial progress or the desired outcome”

Tallinn Charter on health systems, health and wealth



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Key message 3:

An evidence base for intersectorial dialogue

- HSPA does not measure the performance of the ministry of health, health and social affairs, health, environment and veterinary services, health and medical industry, public health

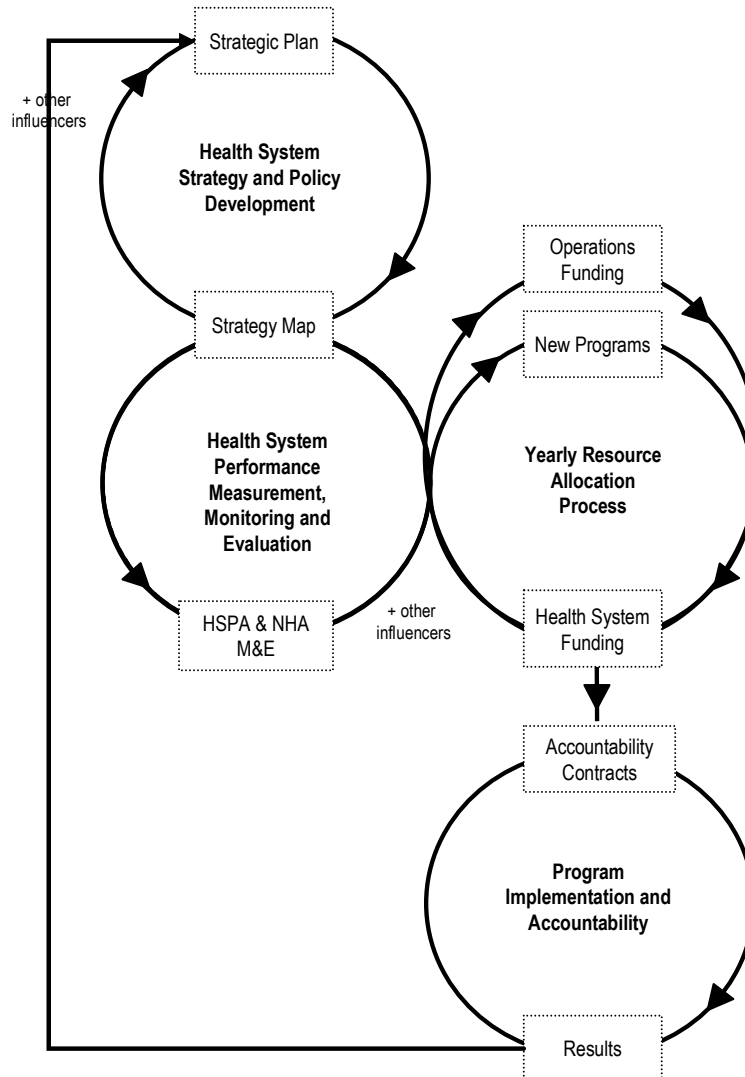
Go back to our roots.... The definition....

- The health system is an universe of all actors and activities whose primary purpose is to **promote**, **restore** or **maintain** health



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Key message 4: From a rethoric exercise to institutionalizing HSPA: managing performance systematically in order to stimulate improvement





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Part 3:

**Health System Performance
Assessment: Where does equity
stand?**

Part 3



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Part 4:

**Health System Performance
Assessment: Next steps towards
the development of operational
tools for the WHO Regional Office
for Europe**

Part 3



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A comprehensive workplan for this and next year

- | | | | |
|----|--|---|--|
| 1. | Attributes of health system performance | → | Content of the evaluation WHAT |
| 2. | Practical guide and case studies | → | Process – critical success factors HOW |
| 3. | Compendium of indicators and indicators passports | → | Tools BRICKS |
| 4. | OBS Methodological study | | Methodological foundation |
| 5. | Position paper and meetings to facilitate cross-country learning | → | Make sense |

Thank you!

