EU Policies, EU Health Strategy, EU Structural Funds, “Regional Health”

Kai Michelsen, Department of International Health
Treaty on EU / Functioning of EU

- Art. 4: **Shared competence** Union / Member States in common safety concerns in public health matters

- Art. 6: The Union shall have competence to **support, coordinate or supplement** the Member States to protect and improve health

- Art. 9: The Union shall take into account the protection of human health in defining and implementing **its policies and activities**
Health in All Policies?

- Agriculture
- Research and Innovation
- Institutional Affairs
- Culture
- Foreign and Security Policy
- Humanitarian aid
- Internal Market
- Taxation
- Audiovisual and Media
- Enterprise
- External Relations
- Energy
- Transport
- Fishery and Maritime Affairs
- External Trade
- Food Safety
- Justice, freedom and security
- Competition
- Costums
- Public Health
- Economic/Monetary Affairs
- Consumers
- Fight against fraud
- Regional Policy
- Information society
- Enlargement
- Development
- Employment, Social Affairs
- Education, Training, Youth
EU Health Policy Making (2002)

- **Direct health policy making**
  realising health objectives under article 152 (public health),
  regulations concerning the internal market (tobacco control
  legislation) or development aid and research policies (initiatives to
  tackle communicable diseases in the developing world).

- **Indirect health policy making**
  other objective than health, but health considerations play an
  important role (trade and economic integration: common safety
  standards, EU pharmaceutical policy).

- **Unintentional health policy making**
  affects on health in an unplanned manner (common agricultural policy
  with negative impacts on diets; European Court of Justice's cases on
  the free movement of patients)

(Duncan 2002)
EU Health Policy Making (2001)

“The challenge that the EU faces is that its secondary legislation, such as directives and regulations, and the Court’s interpretation of them, must be based on what is in the Treaties. However, the social character of European health systems is not embedded in the Treaties.”

Any changes? (1)

- “systematic encroachments on health policy by the EU, driven by the Court and justified by internal market rules and decisions”
  - Member States isolated health services and policy from the EU
  - unexpected consequences of legislativ and judicial EU institutions in areas outside health: legal environment under which health systems contract employees, purchase goods, finance services, and organize themselves have changed
  - today: EU as one of the formative influences in health policy
Any changes? (2)

- “Lamping [...] is certainly correct when he says that ‘health policy is a challenging example of how to make a formal non-topic one of the Union’s major future policy fields – despite the Treaty.”
  - the EU can only undertake policy activities if they have a clear added value to the existing policies of the Member States
  - but: it is necessary to look beyond the notions of EU health competences as defined by the Treaty
  - the completion of the single market that allows for regulations that have an important impact on national healthcare systems.

“Together for Health: A Strategic Approach for the EU 2008-2013”

• Principles
  – shared health values
    • universality, access to good quality care, equity and solidarity
    • Citizen empowerment
    • Reducing inequities in health
    • Built on scientific evidence
  – “Health is wealth”
  – Health in all policies
  – Strengthening the EU voice in global health

• Strategic Objectives
  – fostering good health in an ageing Europe
  – protecting citizens from health threats
  – supporting dynamic health systems and new technologies
EU Structural Funds (EU SF): The budget

Cohesion Policy for 2007-2013, Total: around 347 billion euros (current prices)

## Regional Policy - Objectives

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<th>2007–13</th>
<th>Financial instruments</th>
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<td>Objectives</td>
<td><strong>Convergence</strong></td>
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<td>ERDF</td>
<td>ESF</td>
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<td>Cohesion Fund</td>
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<td>Objectives</td>
<td><strong>Regional competitiveness and employment</strong></td>
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<td>Objectives</td>
<td><strong>European territorial cooperation</strong></td>
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<td>ERDF</td>
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Objectives and Regions
### Allocation EU SF (examples: EU SF 2007 > 1 % GDP)

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<tbody>
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<td>Bulgaria</td>
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<td>514.438.665</td>
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<td>2,36</td>
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Potential Areas of EU Health Investment

- Healthy aging: health promotion, screening, telemedicine, rehabilitation
- Healthy workforce: health promotion, disease prevention, safety at work ...
- Health infrastructure: construction, modernization, equipment ...
- Cross-border cooperation (services, information, knowledge, good practice)
- Health innovation and research
- Knowledge and information society: patient information, e-health, modernization...
- Human Capacity: training, education, management

European Commission, DG Sanco: Factsheet: Funding Health in your region. European Communities 2007
A Report on Health and Structural Funds

- EU principle of ‘health in all policies’ reaches a new dimension
- Identifiable element of planned direct health sector investment (mainly in health infrastructure) at around EUR 5 billion (1.5% of total Structural Funds; mainly ERDF)
- Indirect health sector investment might initiate onward investment to support development and implementation
- Non-health sector investment: added value in terms of health gain possible
- “Attention should be given to extending the impact evaluation of non-health sector investments”
Country and Regional Assessments

Content:
- country assessment summary
- eligible regions under cohesion Policy Objectives
- health investments in the National Strategic Frameworks and Operational Programs
- non health sector investment with potential health gain

http://ec.europa.eu/health/health_structural_funds/used_for_health/info_sheets/index_en.htm
Regional Policy - Inforegio

EUREGIO III

Home

Health investments in Structural Funds 2000-2006: learning lessons to inform regions in the 2007-2013 period

Within the European Union in recent years there has been growing recognition of the importance of sustainable regional development and the contribution of health to achieving it. This means health development leading to growth in social and human capital and the multiplier effect this can have in contributing massively to economic growth. This is reflected in the EU’s Cohesion Policy and in the 2007-2013 round. Structural Funds explicitly included health sector investment, with an early emphasis on health infrastructure.

In the newer Member States and Convergence regions across Europe, governments, politicians and policy makers see TF as an important funding source for supporting the modernization of health services. However, effective health investment needs to be well planned.

- Have public authorities invested in option appraisal to clarify investment planning and decision?
- Do public servants and hospital managers know how to use Structural Funds efficiently?
- Do they have enough data and evidence of the benefits of investments in health?
- What are the main difficulties in applying for funding and managing structural funds in the health sector?

In this context EUREGIO III (EIII) project has been developed.

Vence Stakeholder Event Report is published

Within the European Union in recent years there has been growing recognition of the importance of sustainable regional development and the contribution of health to achieving it. This means health development leading to growth in social and human capital and the multiplier effect this can have in contributing massively to ...
Major challenges

- EU SF architecture (co-financing, time pressure, evaluation)
- Assessment of regional needs
- Identifying good practice
  - Transferability
  - Sustainability
- Offering the right support at the right time in the periods of EU SF policies
- Integrating professional perspectives, needs and interests of ...
  - Program management
  - Economists / labour market experts
  - Public health professionals
at the EU-, national- and regional level
Thank you.