Environmental Health and Social Vulnerabilities

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14-year difference in life expectancy (men) between EU Member States

Source: Eurostat

Life expectancy at birth 2007 for EU Regions
5-fold difference in infant mortality rate between EU Member States

source: Infant mortality 2007 EU Regions
Causes of health inequalities:

- **Living conditions**: basic needs, warmth, food, water, housing, environmental quality
- **Services**: healthcare, education, social protection
- **Work and working conditions**: job quality, health and safety at work
- **Health related behaviours**: life skills, smoking, alcohol, exercise
Burden of diseases

About 20% of global BoD caused by environmental exposures

Major environment-related health effects

- CVD
- Chronic Respiratory diseases, asthma and allergies
- Injuries
- Obesity
- Annoyance, Mental health and wellbeing
Living conditions

Exceedence of Annual limit value for particulate matter PM10 - 2007

Living conditions

IAQ disease burden (DALY)* ETS excluded

EUROPE-26

CV-diseases: 1 288 511
Asthma & allergy: 306 181
Lung cancer: 154 880
U&L Respiratory symptoms: 238 159
Acute toxication: 122 169
COPD: 45 658

SANCO call for tender
Leading causes of fatal injuries in adolescents 15-24 Years

- Road traffic: 48%
- Fires: 1%
- Falls: 2%
- Interpersonal violence: 3%
- Drowning: 3%
- Poisoning: 5%
- Self inflicted other causes: 20%
- Other causes: 18%

Source: EU injuries database 2009 statistic summary
Socio-economic inequalities in injuries

Mortality for road traffic in Europe is double in low income and medium countries Vs high-income countries.

A study conducted in England and Wales (Edwards et al 2006) showed following rates in mortality between children of long term unemployed and higher professional occupation:

- Pedestrian: 20.6
- Cyclist: 27.5
- Fires: 37.7
Overweight and Obesity in Teens (2005-06)
Prevalence based on self-reported data 2005-2006
Health Behaviour in School-aged Children Survey

Girls

Boys

25% or more
20 to 25%
15 to 19%
10 to 14%
5 to 9%
less than 5%
no data
Excess risk of obesity in low educational level:

Percentage of obese people per educational attainment, 2004

Source HIS data 2004
Silence that dreadful bell!
Othello, Shakespeare

Noise exposures during night time

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Source: WHO night noise guidelines

Poor and less affluent population are most exposed to Environmental noise
Communication on a « European Environment & Health Strategy »
(June 2003 - COM(2003)338 final)

SCALE initiative

Science
Children
Awareness

Legal Instrument
Evaluation
Objectives

- To reduce the disease burden caused by environmental factors in the EU
- To identify and prevent health threats caused by environmental factors
- To strengthen EU capacity for policy making in this area
**Action Plan on Environment and Health 2004-2010**

**13 key actions** for the period until 2010, three broad themes

- Improving the **information** chain by developing integrated environment and health information (actions 1-4)

- Filling the knowledge gap by strengthening **research** (actions 5-8)

- **Response**: review policies and improve communication. (actions 9-13)
Cooperation Partnerships and involvement of regional and local authorities in a new pan-European dimension

The Parma Ministerial Declaration on environment and health

• Renewed commitments
• Focus on inequity
• Focus on effective implementation
Equitable distribution of health as part of overall social and economic development

- Europe 2020
  - Poverty platform
  - Healthy ageing platform
  - Consideration of indicator
“Solidarity in health: reducing health inequalities in the EU”

Commission Communication COM (2009) 567
Adopted 20 October 2009
EU actions

- Collaborate with Member States, Regions and other Stakeholders
- Awareness raising
- Measurement and knowledge
- Health inequality audit
- Integrated Policy Development
- Health as part of overall social and economic development
- Targeted action for vulnerable groups – Roma, migrants
- EU Cohesion, rural development funds
- EU Employment, social, public health policies
- EU PROGRESS, Health Programme
- EU Global health initiative
- Report 2012
Conclusions

Clear link between environmental and socioeconomic conditions and health

Environmental and health policies need to take into account socioeconomic conditions.

Focus to vulnerable population groups

Involvement of Regional and local level to booster the implantation of actions
Thank you!