

Workshop 2

in framework of the Social Platform “Building Social Europe” [Flagship Conference](#) of 16-18 September 2019, Helsinki

Health equity and social justice: aligning two policy agendas for a flourishing Europe

Organised by the European Public Health Alliance (EPHA), **17 September**, Helsinki



Workshop outline

Social justice and health equity are two sides of the same coin: social inequity drives health inequities, and vice versa. Many of the deleterious effects of poverty and social exclusion manifest themselves as health problems, which further exacerbate poverty and social exclusion, creating a vicious cycle.

For instance, people who are exposed to socio-economic vulnerabilities experience higher rates of poor health, such as mental ill-health and obesity, and impaired access to adequate prevention, treatment and care. The costs associated with this state of affairs, many of which again manifest as health-related, are a major burden to the European economy and hinder significantly people’s life chances and social mobility.

This workshop will explore how socio-economic policies can promote health equity and how health policies can promote social justice, exploring this multi-dimensional dynamic. This will help align these perspective for the creation of a strong, integrated policy agenda for a Europe that promotes people’s flourishing.

During this workshop, we will answer the following questions:

- What is the added value of the EU working on this topic?
- What does the EU already do in this field (state-of-play)?
- What is missing (gaps) and how can EU engagement be strengthened?
- What are our recommendations for steps forwards?

Programme

10.00-12.00

Study visit

To start-off the workshop, we will visit an “Elokolo”, a **community centre** hosted by [EHYT](#), the Finnish Association for Substance Abuse Prevention. Elokolos are substance free 'living rooms' for anyone who wants to stop by. They serve free breakfast, offer access to newspapers and the internet and the staff is able to help with practicalities related to social security, benefit applications, housing services and other.

We will be received by **Mika Mikkonen, Elokolo coordinator for Helsinki**, who will provide an introduction into community centre activities and engage in further discussion. This visit will give a practical insight into how public health and social affairs intersect, and serve as an inspiration for the subsequent workshop discussions.

Address: Toinen Linja 31, Helsinki centre (approx. 15 min by bus from venue)

12:00 –13:00

Lunch at venue

13:00 – 14:30

Interventions and debate

- **Joana Madureira Lima, Division of Policy and Governance for Health and Well-being, World Health Organization, Europe** – New cross-sectoral policy approaches for tackling health inequities: the WHO Health Equity Policy Tool and outcomes of the June 2019 High Level Conference on Health Equity
- **Veera Laurila, Project Manager, Finnish Institute for Health and Welfare** – Employment and Well-being through Public Procurement: findings from a project
- **May van Schalkwyk, Public Health Registrar, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine** – How can (non-communicable) disease prevention policies contribute to social equity?
- **Hanna Heikkilä, Head of Division of regional cooperation, Finnish Association for Substance Abuse Prevention (EHYT)** – From community centre to EU policy: how to link local action with policy advocacy

Moderated by – **Nikolai Pushkarev, Policy coordinator, European Public Health Alliance (EPHA)**

14:30-15:00

Coffee break

15:00-16:30

Formulating recommendations for EU policy

What is the added value of the EU working on this topic?

- What does the EU already do in this field (state-of-play)?
- What is missing (gaps) and how can EU engagement be strengthened?
- What are our recommendations for steps forwards?

16:30-16:45

Coffee break

16:45 - 18:00

Plenary: reporting from study visits and workshops