

Meeting the Public Health Challenges: Report on the WHO Study

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What are the Key Public Health Issues Facing Europe?

- WHO Europe covers 53 member states and 900 million people – large and diverse entity
- Noncommunicable diseases cause 86% of deaths in the Region
- Increasing impact of wider social determinants and widening health inequalities
- Demographic change, globalisation, migration
- Ensuring a fair response to the economic crisis
- Environmental degradation and climate change
- Public health emergencies such as extreme weather events and communicable disease epidemics



Focus of Health 2020

- Investing in health through a life-course approach and empowering people
- Health in All Policies (HiAP)
- Influencing the wider determinants of health
- Whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches
- Importance of whole system leadership and ‘soft power’



What is the European Action Plan

- A main pillar of the implementation of Health 2020 strategy
- Framed by 10 Avenues for Action
 - Underpinned by 10 Essential Public Health Operations (EPHOs)
 - Endorsed by 53 Member States at Regional Committee 2012



EAP-PHS Avenues for Action

1. Surveillance of population health and well-being
2. Monitoring and response to health hazards and emergencies
3. Health protection including environmental and occupational health, food safety and others
4. Health promotion, including action to address social determinants and health inequity
5. Disease prevention including early detection of illness
6. Assuring governance for health and well-being
7. Assuring a sufficient and competent public health workforce
8. Assuring sustainable organizational structures and financing
9. Advocacy, communication and social mobilization for health
10. Advancing public health research to inform policy and practice

EAP-PHS Midterm Progress Report

Study design

- Surveys – one of Member States and one of WHO Partner Organisations
- Key informant interviews
- Analysis of EPHO self-assessment tool – 7 country case studies and a horizontal analysis of self-assessment reports





Durham Centre for Public Policy & Health
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WHO Collaborating Centre on
Complex Health Systems
Research, Knowledge and Action

Key Findings from EAP-PHS Midterm Progress Report (1)

Success factors and enablers

- EAP-PHS well-received by Member States – useful and helpful to countries promoting and developing public health
- EPHO self-assessment tool welcomed and useful
- Increase in collaboration and cooperation
- Greater preparedness for crisis situations
- Use of evidence in support of policy formation

Key Findings from EAP-PHS Midterm Progress Report (2)

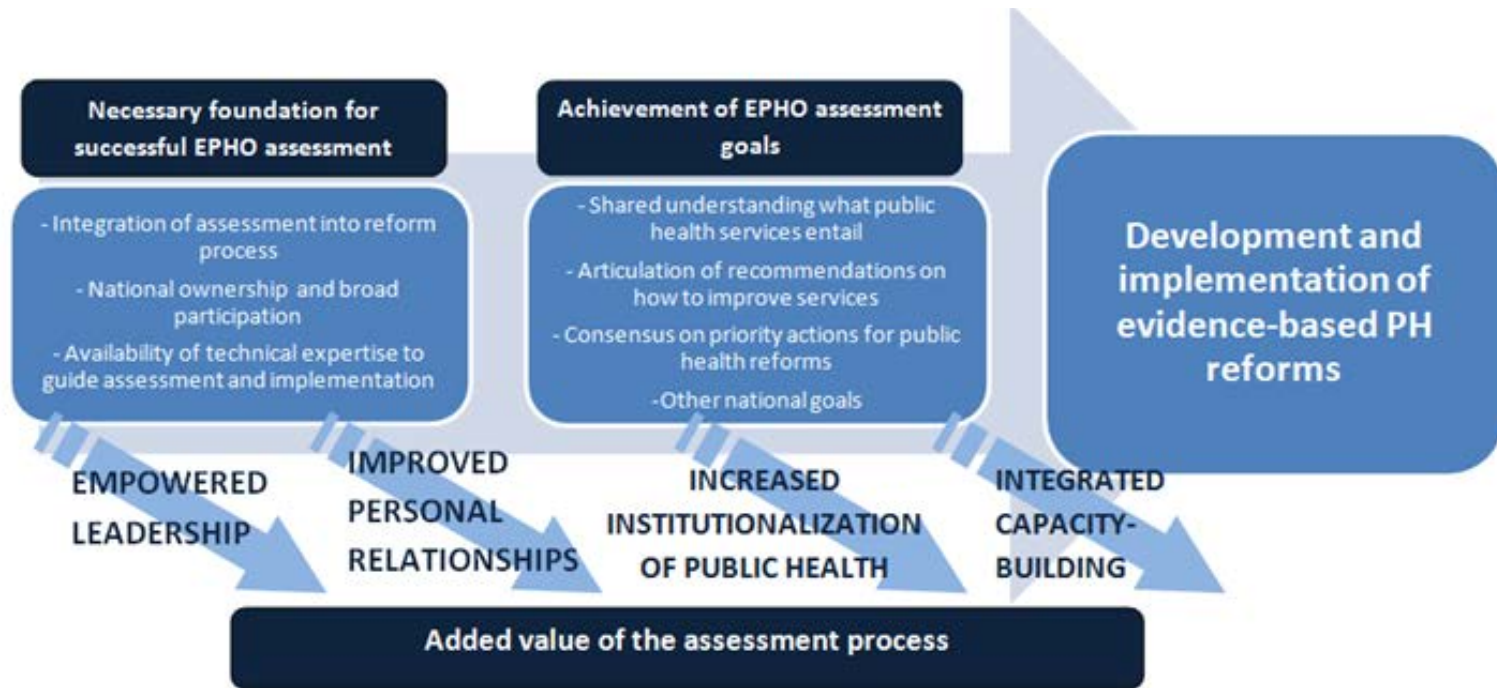
Barriers to progress

- Visibility of EAP-PHS could be higher and its existence promoted by Member States and WHO
- Resources - under-funding of public health and impact of austerity; aging workforce and lack of qualified staff
- Politics - frequent changes of health minister; EAP-PHS widely appreciated by public health practitioners, less influential with politicians and policy-makers
- Collaboration - weak between levels of government
- Evidence - lack of evidence base; failure to use it, e.g. cost-effectiveness of public health interventions

Country Experiences with Assessing EPHOs

- Better intersectoral coordination between governmental departments
- Sharper focus on tackling health inequalities
- Improved primary care
- Improved NCD prevention activities
- Need to engage NGOs and patient/citizen groups in assessment process
- Technical assistance needed from WHO and others
- Even if goals not met, assessment process has value

Characteristics of a Successful EPHO Self-assessment



Key Issues to Consider

- Governance for health and equity
- Public health workforce
- Financing of public health services
- Organisational models for delivery of public health services
- Public health legislation



Future Challenges for Member States with WHO Support

- Strengthen analytical, technical and political capacities to support whole-of-society approaches at all levels of government
- Strengthen public health capacities at community level and empower citizens
- Strengthen capacities in health promotion and disease prevention in order to increase coverage of core population and individual services addressing NCDs
- Reduce fragmentation and improve coordination and intersectoral cooperation to increase efficiency in service delivery

Key Challenges for Next Phase, 2016-2020

- Raise visibility and importance of EAP-PHS - build on positive reception from Member States
- Committed political leadership and political will essential
- Address shortage of resources, financial and human
- Public health workforce lacks adequate staffing levels and appropriate skills
- More active support role for WHO in being an advocate for change