Whose health and whose rights?

Anu Kasmel

International Union for Health Promotion and Education
No health indicators in Europe are results of occasion – these are direct outcomes of political decisions and conditions in which nations live

William Farr, 1866
Life expectancy at birth in Europe, males

Lebenserwartung von Männern bei Geburt, 2004
Espérance de vie à la naissance des hommes, en 2004

Lebenserwartung, in Jahren
Espérance de vie, en années

77,5 – 79,3
76,0 – 77,4
74,0 – 75,9
71,5 – 73,9 *
68,5 – 71,4
65,0 – 68,4
60,0 – 64,9
58,9 – 59,9

keine Daten verfügbar
données non disponibles

* Median (73,1)
* Médiane (73,1)
Life expectancy prognosis for Estonian women to be EU average in year 2030

060101 Life expectancy at birth, in years, female

- Estonia
- EU(15-prior 1.05.2004) average
- CSEC(15) average
- CIS(12) average
- Nordic(5) average
Life expectancy prognosis for men in Eastern Europe to be EU average requires miracle or responsible social policy

060101 Life expectancy at birth, in years, male

- Estonia
- EU(15-prior 1.05.2004) average
- CSEC(15) average
- CIS(12) average
- Nordic(5) average
Life expectancy in the age of 45 in Europe, 2006

Health for all database, WHO
Preventable mortality holds more than half form total mortality in Estonia
Mortality in CVD, cancer and injuries per 1000 inhabitants in Estonia
General and individual quality of life in EU

Graph showing the relationship between quality of society and individual quality of life for various countries in the EU.
Mortality by education 1989 and 2000

Age-stand. mortality per 100,000

Men
Women

1989 2000

Leinsalu et al, 2003
Low self-assessment of health, depression and functional disability by income

Kunst et al. 2002

Low self-assessment of health, Depression, Funct. disability

Prosent

1 low  2  3  4 high income
Increase in average life expectancy among Estonian and Finnish men during half of century
POPULATION HEALTH
POPULATION HEALTH

Behavioral risk factors

Home  Family  Friends  Neighbours

School  Workplace  Leisure  Infrastructure

Economy  Education  Culture

Politics and policies
Behavioral risk factors

Home  Family   Friends   Neighbours
School  Workplace   Leisure   Infrastructure

Economy  Education  Culture

Politics and policies
The river of life
Health in the river of life
Association in between GDP per capita and disease activity score in 18 European state and USA

Sokka, T et al., 2009
Health and Social Problems are Worse in More Unequal Countries

Mortality risk by household income

Figure 1 - Income More Important for Health for the Poor

* 1990 Poverty Level for family with 2 adults and 2 children
Expenses for social protection in EU countries according to the purchase parity, 2005
In 2007 WHO declared: “Discussions around health determinants has ended with concrete and precise conclusions: These are socio-political determinants which shape nations health, form people selections and lifestyle and determine, whether health services are available and accessible. (Sir M. Marmot)

Dr Margaret Chan
WHO Secretar General
Genf, 28.08.2008
Whose health and whose rights

- People from lower socioeconomic groups live shorter, more often suffer from health problems, and have less opportunity to utilize health care and rehabilitation services.
- During the last two decades social inequalities in health have widened.
Opportunity to survive

Born in well-managing family, lives ca 10 years longer

Born in socially vulnerable family, lives ca 10 years less
Social inequality in health
What sense is to cure people and thereafter sent them back to the environment and conditions which determined their illness?

Sir Prof. Michael Marmot
Coping in everyday life

Individually oriented preventive action

Health hazards

Environmental health hazards
Lack of education
Easy access and availability
Unemployment
Poor Housing
Poverty

Source: adapted from Making Partners: intersectoral action for health.
The rights to the highest standard of health

- Was first articulated in the 1946 Constitution of the WHO.
- In 1948 The Universal Declaration of Human Rights highlighted health as fundamental right of human being.
- It equally has important place in Estonian Constitution.
- Convention Concerning Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment of Disabled Persons, 1983, UN.
Human Rights

- Human rights concern the relation in between the state and the individual;
- **They lead to** state obligations and individual entitlements
- Freedom from discrimination **underpins all human rights**
- It is ethical question.
Rights-based approach: Justice as a right, not as charity

A rights-based approach to rehabilitation - not simply in terms of human needs, and in terms of individual economical accessibility, but in terms of society's obligations to respond to the inalienable rights of individuals.
What governments can do

- Rehabilitation go far beyond the health field, and embraces a wide range of issues including education, social counseling, vocational training, transportation, accessibility and assistive technology;
- It is intersectoral issue which requires agreed rehabilitation policy at highest level.