

# Healthy Regions Toolbox = solution to health issues

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23/09/2010

# Overview

- Context
- Challenges for policy development and implementation
  - Trend of the first decade: cross-sectoral policy development
- Lessons learned
- Fill in missing links
- Recommendations for future opportunities in Europe

# Context

- Flanders – Regional Agency in Health and Care
  - Exclusive competences and shared competences
  - Policy maker and policy implementation
- EUREGHA:
  - European Network of Regional and Local Health Authorities
  - Chair of the network in 2010
  - Added value of regional cooperation
  - Planning and dialogue are crucial

# Challenges

- Policy development requires evidence based initiatives
- Can we compare tools – benchmark initiatives?
  - At what stage: policy development, implementation
- Tools for policy development?
- Tools for policy implementation?

# Challenges

- Communication with other policy areas
- Communication with groups addressing specific needs
- European, national policy development is wide, mere a frame and trendsetter
- Increasing role for regional and local policy development – target oriented
- Demanding effort to raise awareness of the public
- Costs and Benefits of policy changes
- **Health inequalities: reduce or minimize structural inequalities**

# Lessons learned

- Policy areas to be carefully looked upon
- Sustainability in policy initiatives requires focus and planning
- Project tools are useful for key shifts in thinking in health policy development
- Successful cross policy working requires
  - The launch of a sequential process
  - Partnership and ownership

# Fill in missing links

- Health in all policies = fact
  - What in reality?
  - What is missing: continuous process of dialogue
    - Mandatory and enforced
    - Voluntary basis
  - Strengthen awareness raising is key:
    - Evidence based intersectoral dialogue
    - *Strategic way*
- EU health dialogue: filters down to multi-level and multi-stakeholders dialogue
  - Health Strategy
  - Joint Actions
  - Dialogue groups
- Are the results satisfactory or do we need to move to another stage?
  - Mutual decline of the responsibility and financial support
  - Different priorities

# Recommendations for future opportunities in Europe

- More than dialogue: strategic planning
  - ‘HealthyRegions’ Toolbox
  - Comply with other tools - methods
  - Basis for all cooperation
- Reinforce strategic planning in policy development over a multitude of stakeholders, sectors and in multi-level governance
- Use the toolbox to develop in each sector political willingness, responsibility and funding
- Use the tools for sustainable policy development
- Future Health Strategy and focus of a future Public Health Programme to disseminate results and create a ‘Health Policy Literacy’



- These were my own thoughts
- Happy to share your views
- Thank you