Regional Policy and Health Inequalities

Meeting of the Expert Group on Social Determinants and Health Inequalities

JMO Building,

Luxembourg, March 3, 2006

Peter H. Ungar
European Commission
Directorate-General Regional Policy
Thematic development and impact
Structure

- **Part 1**: Contribution of investment in health to regional development
- **Part 2**: Suggested planning and programming cycle 2007-13
- **Part 3**: Objective-tools relations and principles
Part 1: Contribution of investment in health to regional development
Regional development and Lisbon strategy - some basic threats to labour markets

- ageing population
- out migration
- decline of human capital
- bad health status
Health and regional development – some basic questions

• chicken or egg?
• necessary or sufficient condition?
• public good?
• external effects?
• over/under-provision
Investing in health = growth and jobs = economic and social cohesion?

- increased productivity
- less sickness leave
- higher employment rates
- increased average of effective retirement age
- more sustainable public health budgets
- more attractive for investment
Inequalities – some facts and figures

- Life expectancy for men: On average a Latvian lives 12 years shorter than his Swedish neighbour
- 17 times more cases of tuberculosis in Lithuania than in Sweden
- In Baltic states HIV/AIDS is growing faster than in Africa
- In Hungary there are three times more deaths caused by lung cancer than in Sweden
Part 2: Suggested planning and programming cycle 2007-13
Three EU objectives (336 bn; then 308 bn)

- Convergence (79 %; then 82 % of the cohesion budget)

- Regional competitiveness and employment (17 %; then 16 %)
  • national level
  • regional level

- Territorial co-operation (4 %; then 2 %)
Cohesion policy

- **Convergence objective** 
  - Regions > 75% in EU25

- **Convergence objective** 
  - statistically affected regions

- **Objective Regional Competitiveness and Employment** 
  - Phasing-in regions, "naturally" above 75%

- **Objective Regional Competitiveness and Employment**

Index EU 25 = 100

*Quelle: Eurostat*
Role of health related ERDF activities in the programs 2007-13 as suggested by the Commission in July 2004

- **Convergence objective:** Health, including investments to develop and improve health provision which contribute to regional development and quality of life in regions

- **European territorial cooperation:** developing collaboration, capacity and joint use of infrastructure in the health sector
Role of health related ERDF activities in the programs 2007-13 - Draft presidency compromise December 2005

- **Convergence objective:** Investments in health and social infrastructure which contribute to regional and local development and increasing the quality of life

- **European territorial cooperation:** unchanged
Cohesion policy

Planning and programming cycle

- Community strategic guidelines, Commission communication July 2005
- National strategic reference frameworks
- Operational programs
- Program management and project selection
- Strategic follow-up and annual debate
Community strategic guidelines (1)

- seek synergies between cohesion policy and the Lisbon agenda
- focus on Community priorities
- define a framework for interventions
- to be complemented by national and regional priorities
Community strategic guidelines (2)

- regulations define purpose and scope of assistance

- strategic guidelines will identify areas - within that scope - particularly important for the (2005 renewed) Lisbon strategy

- to be adopted by the Council
Community strategic guidelines (3): 'Cohesion Policy in Support of Growth and Jobs'

- make regions more attractive for investment and work
- knowledge and innovation for growth
- more and better jobs
- territorial dimension
Community strategic guidelines (4): Strategic elements for health

- part of the guideline 'more and better jobs'
- preventing health risks
- health infrastructure and efficient health services in regions lagging behind
Cohesion policy

Community strategic guidelines (5): Preventing health risks

- generic health information campaigns
- transfer of knowledge and technology
- necessary skills for health services
- products and equipment to prevent risks and minimise their potential damage
Community strategic guidelines (6):
Health infrastructure and efficient health services in regions lagging behind

- for regions eligible under the Convergence objective
- when economic development is being affected
Community strategic guidelines (7): Health infrastructure and efficient health services in regions lagging behind

- filling the gaps in health infrastructure
- promoting efficient provision of health services
- optimal level of services provision
- appropriate technology, such as telemedicine and the cost-saving potential of e-health services
National strategic reference frameworks (1)

- develop the links between Community priorities and the national/regional priorities
- to be prepared by Member states using their respective SF partnership structures
- shall be send to the Commission as soon as possible after adoption of the Community strategic guidelines
Cohesion policy

National strategic reference frameworks (2)

- specify strategy chosen
- ensure consistency with Community strategic guidelines
- define the thematic and territorial priorities
- select the regions for 'competitiveness and employment' objective
National strategic reference frameworks (3)

- list of operational programs
- indicative annual allocation by Fund
- balance between regional and thematic action
- Commission adopts frameworks
National strategic reference frameworks (4): The example of Poland

OP infrastructure and environment:

- health safety and effectiveness of the health care system
- health infrastructure
- medical rescue system
- modern medical services
National strategic reference frameworks (5): The example of Poland

OP human capital:

- prevention
- health promotion
- improvement of health status
Part 3: Objective-tools relations and principles
Objectives and tools

- economic and social cohesion
- reducing regional disparities
- convergence, competitiveness and employment, territorial cooperation
- sector policies
Hence, it follows…

- do not understand SF as a mere financing, but as a strategic development instrument
- integrate health priorities and operations into the overall program
- provide evidence and justify
• look for efficient solutions (e.g. synergies between new infrastructures and innovative/IT-based workflows)

• estimate and justify financing gaps

• consider modern forms of financing (incl. PPP) and contracting
Cohesion policy

Principles (1)

- complementarity
- consistency
- compliance
Principles (2)

- programming
- partnership
- subsidiarity
- proportionality
Principles (3)

- shared management
- additionality
- equality between genders
End of the show

Thank you very much for your attention!

http://europa.eu.int/comm/regional_policy