



MENU FOR

CAPACITY BUILDING & AWARENESS RAISING ACTIONS

**to address the social determinants of health
and to improve health equity**

Welcome

This interactive guidance document includes a range of suggestions for actions that can be taken to facilitate efforts to address the social determinants of health (SDH) and to improve health equity. The document also provides resources that can be applied to support these actions.

EuroHealthNet, in close collaboration with the International Union on Health Promotion and Education (IUHPE), identified six priority areas to build capacity to address the SDH and to improve health equity.

This document was initially developed for DETERMINE partners, who selected at least one action and undertook a related activity in one of the six priority areas, to build the capacity of their organisation and/or region or country to address the SDH and improve health equity.

The suggested activities are diverse enough to be of interest to all who wish to work collaboratively to ensure that everyone has equal opportunities to good health. We hope that they will inspire you to take action!

This interactive document contains the following sections:

- Introduction - Capacity Building in the context of DETERMINE
- Six priority areas, actions, suggested activities and available resources
- Overview of actions.

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Introduction

DETERMINE (2007-2010) is an EU wide initiative to stimulate action to address the social and economic determinants of health (SDH) and to improve health equity in the EU and its Member States.⁶ It brings together a Consortium of over 50 health bodies, public health and health promotion institutes, governments and various other non-governmental, professional and academic organizations and networks from 26 European countries. Achieving equal opportunities for health and strong health outcomes for everyone in society, and leveling up the health gradient is an ambitious and complex goal, which requires knowledge and action in a wide range of areas. This goal cannot be achieved by the health sector alone, but is a shared responsibility across sectors and involves partnership working. Addressing the SDH to improve health equity therefore requires building capacities at the organisational level and across government.

Capacity Building has been defined as 'an improvement in the ability of public sector organisations, either singly or in cooperation with other organisations, to perform appropriate tasks.'⁷ Another definition refers to capacity building as 'an approach to development that ... gives people and organisations a greater ability to address new challenges, whatever those challenges may be.'⁸ These definitions indicate that capacity building goes beyond simply training or providing technical assistance. It also involves assisting people to gain the knowledge and experience that is needed to solve problems, implement change, build effective actions and reach sustainability.

During the first two years of the DETERMINE initiative, partners engaged in a range of activities that contribute to a better understanding of how to address the SDH and improve health equity (see results at www.health-inequalities.eu). In the final year of the project they applied the outcomes of these activities, as well as other information that is available on SDH and health equity, to build capacity within their organisation, region and/or country to address these issues.

EuroHealthNet, in close cooperation with the IUHPE, identified six priority areas and related actions to help them do so. The priority areas and actions were selected because they build on the needs identified in the context of DETERMINE's activities on Health in All Policies (HiAP), Innovative Approaches and Policy Maker Consultations.⁹ They were also based on a review of relevant literature in the field, and take forward recommendations of the WHO Commission on the Social Determinants of Health (CSDH).¹⁰

DETERMINE is not in itself a capacity building initiative. Partners were limited in terms of the time (6 months) and resources available to implement capacity building activities. One of the aims of capacity building in the context of DETERMINE was to stimulate partners to get a better insight into their capacity building needs. Partners also had the opportunity to exchange experiences and resources on their capacity building actions. DETERMINE outcomes have reinforced that countries and regions in the EU vary greatly with respect to the political priority being given to addressing the social determinants of health and health equity, the level of action being taken and the amount of expertise available in this field. The size, nature, resources available to and the influence of DETERMINE partners also differ. This menu was therefore designed to provide a range of actions so that all partners could select and advance in at least one of these areas, regardless of the current level of expertise and action on SDH and health equity. The suggestions were not intended to be prescriptive, but to provide an indication of the types of activities that DETERMINE partners can undertake in each action area. We recognise that many of the proposed actions and activities are interlinked. The suggested resources are limited to those available in English.

Given the broad approach that has been taken, we hope that this menu will also serve as a useful resource to bodies beyond the DETERMINE partnership that aim to build capacities on the social determinants of health and health equity.

⁶ See glossary in the DETERMINE Framework (background concept paper), available under 'About DETERMINE' in www.health-inequalities.eu

⁷ UNDP: Capacity Building for Development Programme. <http://www.undp.org/capacity21>

⁸ Leeder S. Capacity Building. Presentation at the NSW Symposium: Mastering the art of the Invisible. Sydney University, March 2000

⁹ See Working Documents available under the section 'DETERMINE outcomes' on: www.health-inequalities.eu

¹⁰ CSDH (2008) Closing the gap in a generation: health equity through action on the social determinants of health. Final Report of the Commission on Social Determinants of Health. World Health Organisation.

Traditionally, society has looked to the health sector to deal with its concerns about health and disease. ... But the high burden of illness responsible for premature loss of life arises in large part because of the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age. ... Action on the social determinants of health must involve the whole of government, civil society and local communities, business, global fora, and international agencies. Policies and programmes must embrace all sectors of society not just the health sector. That said, the minister of health and the supporting ministry are critical to change. They can champion a social determinants of health approach at the highest level of society, they can demonstrate effectiveness through good practice, and they can support other ministries in creating policies that promote health equity.

Closing the gap in a generation: Health equity through action on the social determinants of health. WHO CSDH page 1

**Box 17.1 of CSDH report:
WHO Strategic Objective (SO) no. 7 and related organisation-wide expected results:**

SO7: To address the underlying social and economic determinants of health through policies and programmes that enhance health equity and integrate pro-poor, gender-responsive and human-rights based approaches.”

Expected result 7.1: Significance of social and economic determinants of health recognized throughout the organisation and incorporated into normative work and technical collaboration with Member States and other partners.

Expected result 7.2: Initiative taken by WHO in providing opportunities and means for inter-sectoral collaboration at national and international levels in order to address social and economic determinants of health and to encourage poverty reduction and sustainable development.

Expected result 7.3: Social and economic data relevant to health collected, collated and analysed on a disaggregated basis (by sex, age, ethnicity, income, and health conditions such as disease or disability).

Expected result 7.4: Ethics- and rights-based approaches to health promoted within WHO and at national and global levels.

Six priority areas of Capacity Building & Awareness Raising

Policy development

Addressing the SDH and improving health equity depends on strong mandates for action at the highest political levels, to stimulate the implementation of effective and efficient structures and mechanisms to achieve joint policy goals. This requires assessing what cross-sectoral policies and practices are in place and influencing policy makers to develop or improve these.

Organisational development

This refers to processes that ensure that the policies, structures, procedures and practices of an organisation are in place to address the SDH and that change is managed effectively. Building the capacity of an organisation to address the SDH may involve interventions in several areas of organisational functioning, such as strategic planning, management change, improving policies, procedures and resources, or adapting the organisational culture.

Develop the information and evidence base

Taking action on the SDH depends on the availability and accessibility of data that provides a clear understanding of the existing situation. Information is also needed about the effectiveness of policies and interventions to address the problem. While the link between social economic status and other indicators of disadvantage and health status has been clearly established, the quantity and quality of information available and accessible to policy makers and practitioners varies.

Skills development

Success in improving health equity depends on the commitment and abilities of a wide range of people at the organisational, local, regional and national level. It is important to build a cadre of trained experts that are able not only to adopt and implement an SDH approach but also to develop new techniques and strategies.

Partnership development and Leadership

This means improving the possibility of people or organisations to collaborate. Developing capacities to work with other sectors requires strong leadership from the health sector. Effective partnerships are characterised by related or shared goals and clear working relationships including good communication, mutual planning, and sustained outcomes.

Awareness Raising and Advocacy

Generating the willingness and the ability to act on the social determinants of health rests on an ongoing process of informing and sensitising key stakeholders and decision makers in effective ways. This requires clear and effective communication tools and strong arguments about the importance of addressing the SDH and reducing health inequalities.

Priority area 1: AWARENESS RAISING and ADVOCACY⁶

ACTIONS	SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES	AVAILABLE RESOURCES
<p><i>Collect compelling information and use it to develop advocacy material on the social determinants of health and health inequalities, incorporating information that is relevant to your country.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Assess the quantity and quality of information available in your region or country on the SDH and health equity that has been developed for awareness raising and advocacy purposes. → Complement existing information on the SDH and health equity (including DETERMINE outcomes) with specific facts and figures that are relevant to your country, region or locality to engage decision-makers and other key stakeholders.⁷ → Develop attractive communication materials (brochures, information on web-based resources, etc) incorporating the above-mentioned information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → DETERMINE Action Summary, Working Documents and the DETERMINE Framework, as well as materials developed by other DETERMINE Partners, available on www.health-inequalities.eu → The Unnatural Causes website: www.unnaturalcauses.org → The Equality Trust: www.equalitytrust.be → Final report of the WHO Commission on the SDH (CSDH) 'Closing the gap in a generation: Health equity through action on the social determinants of health': http://www.who.int/social_determinants/thecommission/finalreport/en/index.html → Resolution at the Sixty-second World Health Assembly (WHA62/R14) on 'Reducing health inequities through action on the social determinants of health': http://www.who.int/social_determinants/en/
<p><i>Develop a stakeholder map and an advocacy strategy and implement elements of this strategy.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Consider, and establish a discussion forum to examine effective 'advocacy' in different contexts, what approaches can be used and what the positive and negative effects might be of undertaking an advocacy function. → Develop a stakeholder map. → Develop an advocacy plan. → Implement elements of your stakeholder map and advocacy plan by e.g.: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presenting to colleagues within your organization; - Presenting to policy makers, civil society or representatives from other policy areas that impact on health. → Disseminate information through the media via e.g. internet sources (chat groups, blogs), articles or op-eds in newspapers and journals, radio, television, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → 'Advocacy for public health: a primer.' J Epidemiol Community Health 2004, 58:361-365. Doi: 10.1136/jech.2003.018051 → Richard Sayers "Principles of Awareness Raising": http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0014/001476/147637e.pdf → Table 4 in the Equity Gauge on developing a stakeholder map (pg.20): http://www.gega.org.za/download/gega_gauge.pdf → Table 5 in the Equity Gauge which identifies Advocacy actions and the Actors, Strategy, Resources and Timeframe required (pg.21): http://www.gega.org.za/download/gega_gauge.pdf → Equity Channel LinkedIn group: http://www.equitychannel.net/get-involved

⁶ CSDH Action Area 16.3: Provide information on the social determinants of health to policy actors, stakeholders and practitioners and invest in raising public awareness

⁷ Such information can be: data on cost effectiveness, cost benefits etc. of investing in the SDH and the reduction of health equity; personal stories that illustrate the effects of socio-economic determinants of health that are appealing to the media; a published health status report from your country or international cross-analysis; a detailed community profile from a key location in your country or region that focuses on the SDH and health outcomes.

Priority area 2: DEVELOP THE INFORMATION AND EVIDENCE BASE ⁸

ACTIONS	SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES	AVAILABLE RESOURCES
<p>Improve information systems to describe, measure, understand, analyse and track inequities in health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Assess what information systems are available in your organisation, region and/or country to analyse and monitor social determinants and health equity. → Analyse whether the information systems in place are sufficient and/or how they can be improved. → Organise a meeting or event to present these suggestions to relevant experts and/or decision makers. With the input of participants, develop a plan that establishes how information systems on health inequalities and the SDH can be improved. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Pg 11-16 on 'Monitoring' of the Health Equity Gauge': http://www.gega.org.za/download/gega_gauge.pdf → Chapter 16 on 'Knowledge, Monitoring and Skills' of the CSDH Report: http://www.who.int/social_determinants/en/ → OECD: Working paper on measurement of health inequalities. http://oecd.org/document/25/0,3343,en_2649_33929_2380441_1_1_37407,00.html → EuroHealthNet briefing on Monitoring and Evaluation of SDHI at EU level, available on: www.health-inequalities.eu → Urban Health – Health Equity Assessment and Response Tool: http://www.who.or.jp/2008/urbanh/URBAN_Health_Equity_Assessment_and_Response_Tool_(HEART).pdf → "Using small area data for public health intelligence". Technical briefing by the Association of Public Health Observatories to support public health practitioners and analysts in identify and analyse data on health inequalities for small community groups. http://www.apho.org.uk/resource/item.aspx?RID=74894
<p>Develop the evidence base by improving and generating more evaluation on measures that address the SDH and health equity and/ or economic assessments (e.g. cost/ benefit analysis) in this area.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Asses what knowledge is available in your country or region to evaluate policies and practices that address the SDH and health equity → Assess what knowledge is available on economic assessments of initiatives to address the SDH and health equity. → Assess what measures are needed to improve and generate more evaluation and/ or economic analyses in this field. → Exchange with DETERMINE and/or national partners through e.g. a discussion forum on this topic and present findings at an appropriate event. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → DETERMINE Working Document 4 on 'Economic arguments for addressing the social determinants of health inequalities': www.health-inequalities.eu → Economic appraisal of public health interventions. Briefing paper: http://www.chsrf.ca/kte_docs/Economic_appraisal_of_public_health_interventions[2].pdf → Health Status and Living Conditions in an Enlarged Europe – 2007 Monitoring Report prepared by the European Observatory on the Social Situation: http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/spsi/reports_and_papers_en.html

ACTIONS	SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES	AVAILABLE RESOURCES
<p><i>Identify good practice on how to address the SDH and improve health equity and assess transferability.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Building on good practices collected in the context of DETERMINE, identify more examples of successful policies and interventions that address the social determinants of health inequalities. → Exchange with other DETERMINE and/or national partners to consider why these policies and interventions were successful and what elements may or may not be transferrable. → Present results via relevant communication channels (e.g. presentation at an appropriate event, www.health-inequalities.eu, relevant journals or newsletters.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Good Practice Directory on: www.health-inequalities.eu → Strategic Review of Health Inequalities in England Post 2010 (Marmot Review), with effective interventions to address the SDH in nine areas: http://www.ucl.ac.uk/ghcg/marmotreview → WHO CSDH 'Knowledge Network' Reports: http://www.who.int/social_determinants/publications/en/index.html → The Canadian Best Practices Portal for Health Promotion and Chronic Disease prevention: http://cbpp-pcpe.phac-aspc.gc.ca
<p><i>Make existing data and evidence available and accessible to others</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Identify on-line information sources with eg. best practices on SDH that can be of use to your organisation, region and/or country. → Contribute to or set up user friendly mechanisms to communicate applicable data and evidence to policy makers and practitioners within and outside of the health sector. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Communicate via your national pages on www.health-inequalities.eu or via www.equitychannel.net → Apply existing databases such as e.g. WHO Health Evidence Network (HEN): http://www.euro.who.int/hen

8 **CSDH Action Area 16.1:** Ensure that routine monitoring systems for health equity and the social determinants of health are in place, locally, nationally, and internationally.

CSDH Action Area 16.2: Invest in generating and sharing new evidence on the ways in which the social determinants influence population health and health equity and on the effectiveness of measures to reduce health inequalities on social determinants

Priority area 3: ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

ACTIONS	SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES	AVAILABLE RESOURCES
<p><i>Undertake a baseline analysis of existing activities and structures in your organisation to address the SDH and health inequalities and share this with decision makers in your organisation.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Undertake a 'baseline analysis' of what is currently being done in your organisation to address the SDH and health equity. → On the basis of the outcomes of your baseline analysis, consider how your organisation can incorporate sustainable work on the SDH and health equity. → Formulate an action plan that incorporates your findings. The action plan should include short term activities, as well as long term measures for structural change. → Set up a meeting with the management of your organisation to present your ideas and discuss the action plan and its implementation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Tools for workplace health promotion that can generally be applied for organizational needs analysis, formulation of action plans and systematic implementation of plans: http://www.enwhp.org/index.php?id=4
<p><i>Identify resources that are available to your organisation, region and/or country to take action on the SDH and health equity and share this information with other potential actors.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Identify sources of funding within your organisation and the health sector to address the SDH and take initial measures necessary to access this funding. → Identify sources of funding from outside your organisation and the health sector that could be used to address the SDH and take initial measures necessary to access this funding. → Share this information with other organisations that can also take action. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → EU Regional Development Funds: http://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/funds/prord/prord_en.htm → EU Commission Portal: http://ec.europa.eu. See relevant pages on 'calls for proposals' from DG SANCO, EMPL, EDU and Culture, etc. → Compendium of Potential Donors Health Care Programs/Public Health Care Policy Programs CEE-NIS http://www.soros.org/initiatives/health/articles_publications/publications/compendium/donor_compendium.pdf

Priority area 4: SKILLS DEVELOPMENT⁹

ACTIONS	SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES	AVAILABLE RESOURCES
<p><i>Develop and provide training on SDH and health equity to appropriate people in your organisation, region and/or country.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Assess if there are training courses available in your region or country and language on SDH and health equity. → Organise a training session on SDH and health equity for relevant staff, practitioners and/or policy makers. If training materials have to be developed, draw on existing courses. → HIA training: send key staff to a Health Impact Assessment (including Health Equity Impact Assessment) course or draw on existing literature and course materials. → Exchange with others on effective methodologies that communicate health promotion messages to targeted groups via a social marketing approach. → Develop and provide trainings on how to establish effective public/private partnerships (incorporating examples of successful collaborations, ethical considerations, etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → DETERMINE outcomes (e.g. Framework and WP 5, 6 and 7 Working Documents) www.health-inequalities.eu → 'Health inequalities - Understanding the essentials'. London Health Observatory LHO - Association of Public Health Observatories (APHO): http://www.lho.org.uk/LHO_Topics/National_Lead_Areas/HealthInequalitiesOverview.aspx → Seminar on Health Inequalities by the London School of Economics and Political Science(LSE) and EC DG EMPL on 7 May 2009: http://www2.lse.ac.uk/LSEHealthAndSocialCare/LSEHealth/eventsAndSeminars/health_inequalities/health_inequalities_seminar_2009.aspx → PAHO/WHO self-instructional course on the Social Determinants of Health: http://www.who.int/social_determinants/tools/en/ → EuroThine: one week course on health inequalities: http://survey.erasmusmc.nl/eurothine/index.php?id=144,0,0,1,0,0 → Course on 'Leadership for Health Improvement' : http://www.healthscotland.com/learning/courses-and-conferences/leadership-for-health-improvement.aspx → HIA training material from the Institute of Public Health in Ireland. http://www.publichealth.ie/hia → HIA Gateway: http://www.apho.org.uk/default.aspx?RID=40141 → Improving Health and Reducing Inequalities. A practical guide to HIA: http://www.cieh-cymruwales.org/uploadedFiles/Core/Policy/Public_health/improving_health_reducing_inequalities_English.pdf → National Social Marketing Centre: http://www.nsms.org.uk/public/default.aspx

ACTIONS	SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES	AVAILABLE RESOURCES
<p><i>Ensure that quality training on SDH and health equity is incorporated into undergraduate and postgraduate studies for health professionals.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Liaise with the relevant bodies in your country and region that are responsible for developing health professionals' curricula to determine how training on SDH and health equity can be incorporated or improved. → Liaise with the relevant bodies about the provision of specialised training on SDH and health equity data analysis, monitoring and evaluation. → Liaise with the relevant bodies about the provision of specialised training on economic assessments addressing SDH and health equity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → e.g. via the Association of Schools of Public Health in the European Region: http://www.aspher.org/

⁹ **CSDH Recommendation 16.7:** Governments build capacity for health equity impact assessments among policy-makers and planners across government departments.

CSDH Recommendation 16.5: Educational institutions and relevant ministries make the social determinants of health a standard and compulsory part of training of medical and health professionals.

Priority area 5: PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND LEADERSHIP ¹⁰

ACTIONS	SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES	AVAILABLE RESOURCES
<p>Identify how the public health, health promotion and health care sectors can improve their collaboration and provide greater leadership on the social determinants of health.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Scope opportunities for improved collaboration between the health, health promotion and health care sector to improve health equity, by e.g. identifying common goals.¹¹ → Present outcomes at an appropriate conference or event and/or approach relevant decision makers in the health sector to present information on SDH and health equity and to discuss how to achieve more effective leadership from the health sector. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → information on 'Plan Do Act' cycles in: AE Powell, RK Rushmer, HTO Davies. <i>A systematic narrative review of quality improvement models in health care. NHS Health Scotland</i>, February 2009. http://www.jitscotland.org.uk/downloads/1247818059-Quality%20Improvement%20Models%20-%20a%20systematic%20review%20NHS%20QIS%20Feb%202009.pdf
<p>Scope potential partners and initiatives in other sectors that affect health equity, identify common objectives and identify and act on priority areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Scope partners, policy, programme or project initiatives that are being planned or implemented in other sectors that affect health equity, and identify common objectives. → Approach actors involved in policy and programme initiatives that have an impact on health equity to highlight synergies and offer support. → Assess existing methods of inter-sectoral collaboration in your region/country. If none exist, set up exploratory meetings with one or more sectors whose activities impact on health equity (including the less evident, e.g. finance, justice and foreign affairs) to establish how greater collaboration can be achieved. → If inter-sectoral collaborations do exist, assess their effectiveness and present outcomes at an appropriate event and/or set up a meeting with relevant partners to determine how they can be improved. → Develop a discussion forum with DETERMINE and/or national partners on how to build effective cross- sectoral partnerships, particularly with those sectors where there is currently very little collaboration with health, such as justice, finance and trade.¹² → Explore links with the private sector for collaboration on initiatives that address the SDH and health equity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → <i>Voices from other fields. DETERMINE Working Document. 2009.</i> www.health-inequalities.eu for practical recommendations on building effective and sustainable partnerships. → <i>K.E. Smith et al. Partners in Health? A systematic review of the impact of organisations and partnerships on public health outcomes in England between 1997-2008.</i> <i>Journal of Public Health</i>, Jan 30, 2009, pgs. 1-12 → Business in the Community: http://www.bitc.org.uk/ → Use the Equity Channel LinkedIn group to exchange and start discussion forums: http://www.equitychannel.net/get-involved → Tool to assess the strength of synergy between partners in a network, developed by the Center for the Advancement of Collaborative Strategies in Health: http://www.cacsh.org/ and http://partnershiptool.net/

¹⁰ **CSDH Action Area 10.2:** Get the health sector right – adopt a social determinants framework across the policy and programmatic functions of the ministry of health and strengthen its stewardship role in supporting a SD approach across government.

¹¹ Fragmentation of the health sector (between the public health and health promotion sector that advocate for more 'social' solutions and the medical/biological perspective) limits the potential for effective leadership. See page 16-17 of: *Voices from other fields. An account of 40 consultations with non-health policy makers across Europe on tackling the socio-economic determinants of health inequalities. DETERMINE Working Document.* 30 January 2009. www.health-inequalities.eu

¹² Training could focus on, amongst other things: understanding mandates, approaches and needs of other sectors, identifying opportunities for mutual health and social gains; negotiation, consensus building, cross-departmental communications, how to develop frameworks for shared work.

Priority area 6: POLICY DEVELOPMENT ¹³

ACTIONS	SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES	AVAILABLE RESOURCES
<p>Undertake a policy assessment on the SDH and health inequalities and assess to what extent existing mandates are being put to practice.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Conduct a baseline analysis to assess your policy context. What are the existing mandates at national, regional and organisational level to work on the SDH and health equity? What structures, programmes, tools and mechanisms have been put in place to address this? → Identify and enhance opportunities to ensure recognition of the SDH and health equity in policy formulation. If strong mandates exist, is effective action being taken in practice? If not, why not and how can this be addressed? → Present at a relevant event and/or set up a meeting or event with decision makers in your region or country to discuss outcomes and how to advance action on the SDH and health equity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → DETERMINE year 1 questionnaire developed by WPS. www.health-inequalities.eu → Apply questions from the Health Equity Gauge (pg. 6-10) to undertake a policy context assessment in your country. http://www.gega.org.za/download/gega_gauge.pdf
<p>Explore how to mainstream action on the SDH in policy making processes and how to enhance implementation through cross-sectoral structures and other tools and mechanisms.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Identify how consideration for the SDH and health equity and evaluation of policy measures can be mainstreamed into policy making processes. → Identify central guidelines, common targets and mechanisms for action to address the SDH and health equity, assess where they can be established or improved and advocate for this in your national or regional context.¹⁴ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → 'Crossing sectors – experiences in intersectoral action, public policy and health' http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/publicat/2007/cro-sec/pdf/cro-sec_e.pdf → National Action Plan to Reduce Health Inequalities in Finland (2008): http://www.who.int/pmnch/topics/economics/2008_finlandnap/en/index.html → 'Equally Well', Report of the Scottish Government's Ministerial Task Force on Health Inequalities: http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Health/health/Inequalities/inequalitiestaskforce/ministerialtaskforce → Final Recommendations for Action on Health Equity by the 'Closing the Gap Partnership for Equity in Health': http://www.health-inequalities.eu/?uid=3641631b08fff8466e13dca35007fc26&id=Seite1733
<p>Ensure greater coherence between policies and actions taking place at the national, regional and the local level.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Assess whether there is coherence between the national, local and regional levels in efforts to address health equity and SDH. Is experience gained at local level fed back to national level and vice-versa? Do delivery targets match up across all levels of government? → Present outcomes at a relevant meeting or events with experts and decision makers to discuss how to improve coherence between national, regional and local level initiatives in this field. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Tools to assess policy coherence, developed in the area of environment and sustainable development that could also be applied to health: http://www.iisd.org/pdf/2007/measuring_policy.pdf and http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/32/8/41866464.pdf → Equality Impact Assessments, a workbook. Part of the UK government's Single Equality Scheme to make life better for children, young people and adults who experience discrimination and disadvantage. www.dcsf.gov.uk/des

¹³ **CSDH Action Area 10.1** Place Responsibility for action on health and health equity at the highest level of government, and ensure its coherent consideration across all policies.

CSDH Action Area 11.1 Strengthen public finance for action on the social determinants of health.

CSDH Action Area 11.3 Fairly allocate government resources for action on the SDH.

¹⁴ See *Voices from other fields. An account of 40 consultations with non-health policy makers across Europe on tackling the socio-economic determinants of health inequalities*. DETERMINE Working Document. 30 January 2009. www.health-inequalities.eu, for evidence of the need for central guidelines, common targets and mechanisms.

OVERVIEW OF PRIORITY AREAS

Awareness raising and Advocacy

- Develop awareness raising and advocacy material on the social determinants of health and health inequalities, incorporating information that is relevant to your country.
- Develop a stakeholder map and an advocacy strategy and implement elements of this strategy.

Develop the information and evidence base

- Improve information systems in your region or country to describe, measure, understand, analyse and track inequities in health.
- Develop the evidence base by improving and generating more evaluation on measures that address the SDH and health equity and/or economic assessments (e.g. cost/benefit analysis) in this area.
- Identify good practice on how to address the SDH and improve health equity and assess transferability.
- Make existing data and evidence available and accessible to others via e.g. www.health-inequalities.eu and other on-line tools.

Organisational development

- Identify how your organisation can do more to address the social determinants of health inequalities and share this information with management.
- Identify resources that are available to your organisation, region and/or country to take action on the SDH and health equity and share this information with other potential actors.

Skills development

- Develop and provide training on SDH and health equity to relevant people in your organisation, region and/or country.
- Ensure that quality training on SDH and health equity is incorporated into undergraduate and postgraduate studies for health professionals.

Partnership development and Leadership

- Identify how the public health, health promotion and health care sectors can improve their collaboration and provide greater leadership on the SDH.
- Scope potential partners and initiatives in other sectors that affect health equity, identify common objectives and identify and act on priority areas.

Policy development

- Undertake a policy context assessment on the SDH and health inequalities and assess to what extent existing mandates are being put to practice.
- Explore how to mainstream action on the SDH in policy making processes and how to enhance implementation through cross-sectoral structures and other tools and mechanisms.
- Ensure greater coherence between policies and actions taking place at the national, regional and the local level.

More about DETERMINE

The conditions in which people live and work can support or damage their health. Lack of adequate income, inappropriate housing, unsafe workplaces and lack of access to health systems are some of the main social determinants of health (SDH) leading to inequalities within and between countries. All policy areas, not just the health sector, are responsible for health equity. This calls for a collaborative approach.

DETERMINE brings together a Consortium of over 50 bodies in the EU, that are working together to advance action on the social determinants of health. The Consortium's activities are undertaken in the context of seven work-strands that are led by different organizations. Overall work is coordinated by EuroHealthNet and the Czech Institute of Public Health (contract holder) in collaboration with an executive group of work strand leaders.



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DETERMINE Consortium Members:

