



**EQUITY** ACTION

TOOLS • REGIONS • KNOWLEDGE • STAKEHOLDERS •

# Situation and Needs Assessment Questionnaire (SNAQ)

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# SNAQ: Aims

- To obtain an initial scoping of how regions/local authorities address health inequalities,
- To identify what their needs and assets in relation to their approaches to tackle health inequalities are
- To assess what they expect from participation in the Equity Action



# SNAQ: Respondents

- Regional/local authorities whose competence and formal power in health can make a difference in addressing Health Inequalities.
- Officials who work at regional/sub-national level and are in a position to act on or influence the social determinants of health.



# SNAQ: Structure

- **Current Regional Situation**
- **Needs to address Health Inequalities**
- **Structural Funds: Use and Needs**
- **Trends**
- **Expectations relative to the Equity Action**



# The SNAQ: Analysis Summary

- Broad range of approaches, competencies, strategies, structures to address HI
- Good practices exist to address various SDH (e.g. access to healthcare, education, employment)
- There is great variability in the access to SF, also between regions within the same MS



# SNAQ: Needs to address HI

- **Belgium**: coherent policy to reduce HI; simplification of procedures in terms of access to health care
- **Czech Republic**: increased financial support; increased political will
- **England**: removing barriers to cross-sector financing; incorporating HIAef into national policy decision making
- **Finland**: establishment of permanent regional welfare development initiative
- **Germany**: improved networking; exchange of Federal States experiences



# SNAQ: Analysis Summary

- **Italy**: building strong consensus among all stakeholders; having explicit and clear commitment from the national level
- **Latvia**: providing informative methodological material; adequate funding
- **Scotland**: importance of local approach; need for international co-operation
- **Sweden**: improving knowledge; need for decisive leadership; enhancing communication (e.g. websites)
- **Wales**: cross-sectoral concentration on fewer but more specific issues; awareness of role of other sectors have on the reduction of HI



# SNAQ: Key Issues

- Improved Knowledge Base
- Impact of the Economic Crisis
- National Support
- Improved Organisational Structures
- Awareness Raising
- Communication
- Access to Structural Funds
- Direction of Efforts
- Targeting
- Future Trends



# Improved Knowledge Base

Need for:

- knowledge base around the issue of HI to be strengthened
- Increase in and sharing of evidence based information
- Sharing of best practices

→ Expected outcome of EA

This would help to:

- promote measures that effectively tackle the issue
- engage stakeholders across sectors



# Impact of the Economic Crisis

The economic crisis has had a significant impact on the efforts to tackle health inequalities within the regions.

- In some cases budget cuts mean less responses to HI
- In other cases increase in HI means more response to it

Regions are keen to identify innovative methods to:

- overcome the financial obstacles that have arisen
- deliver cost effective measures that can make a real difference



# National Support

Not enough is being done at a national level to address HI

What is needed from the national level?

- Increased leadership
- political will
- incentives

This would:

- assist the regions in formulating effective policies
- assist the regions in developing actions



# Improved Organisational Structures

- Need for improving existing organisational structures that are in place within the regions
- An increase in cross-sectoral collaborative partnerships would:
  - enable the full potential of integrated strategies
  - allow for effective policies to be realized



# Awareness Raising

Awareness of HI should be increased: Key deliverables anticipated from the EA!

This should help to:

- Increase the focus on effective solutions to HI
- Engage cross-sectoral stakeholders
- Promote healthy lifestyle choices to the general public



# Communication

Need for communication strategy to improve communication between:

- Authorities
- Sectors
- Stakeholders

This would make measures to address health inequalities effective



# Access to Structural Funds

- When access is granted, it is via initiatives that do not specifically target HI, but still address them.
- Obstacles to the use of EU structural funds in addressing HI:
  - limited knowledge
  - Limited experience
  - Limited expertise
- The application procedure is:
  - Confusing
  - Complex
  - Bureaucratic



# Direction of Efforts

- Desirable objective: Improved direction of efforts on a practical level
- Need for implemented actions to achieve effective measurable results!



# Targeting

Main targets: Vulnerable and marginalised groups!

Need for:

- understanding of the issue to be broadened within many regions and sectors
- adopting a more systematic approach to reducing HI across the social gradient



# Future Trends

- Focus on HI and SDH likely to increase in the next 5 years
- Equity Action can play a key role in ensuring that this increased focus leads to effective actions within the regions!



# Questions & Comments

Do you have any questions or comments?