



Health in Times of Transition

an international research project
(2009-2013), EC-FP7 ref.# 223344

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INSTITUT FÜR HÖHERE STUDIEN
INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED STUDIES
Vienna

PRESS RELEASE

New study on trends in population health in neighbouring EU countries

Subtitle:

An international network of health experts and social scientists coordinated from Austria (IHS-Vienna) contributes to the improvement of health-care policies, living conditions and population health in CIS countries

Project acronym "HITT-CIS" stands for

Hea**l**th **I**n **T**imes of **T**ransition: Trends in Population Health and Health Policies in **CIS** Countries

The HITT-CIS project, coordinated by the **Institute for Advanced Studies (IHS)** in Vienna (Austria) is an international research effort that studies in detail the trends in population health and health policies in 10 countries in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS): **Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia.**

HITT-CIS is a cross-national research project funded by the 7th Framework Program of the European Commission (FP7) and is being implemented in 2009-2013 by a consortium of 13 teams from 9 countries. This is an expanded follow-up of an earlier project "*Living Conditions, Lifestyles and Health*" (LLH, 2000-2003, FP5, www.llh.at).

Dr. Alexander Chvorostov who coordinates the research explains:

"The project has gathered together a unique team of health-care experts, medical doctors and social scientists from EU and CIS countries and Canada. We closely collaborate during the last decades to reveal the trends in population health and changes in lifestyles in the post-soviet countries, which are the neighbours of the European Union and with which the EU has established highly intensive cooperation in trade, and in the spheres of human and cultural exchange."

Why this study is important for Europe and European Union? Dr. Chvorostov continues:

"The dramatic social re- and evolutions in CIS countries since early 1990s have led to considerable changes in the state of population health, patterns of consumption and structures of consumption. The critical questions, however, are: whether or not these changes have led to the real improvement of economic and social performances in these countries; whether or not these EU neighbors are becoming stable and reliable partners, or these societies are still vulnerable? The study of state of health and health care, alongside with the detailed account of economic and social trends as well as the analysis of life-style dynamics contributes to the better understanding of the state of the arts in the post-transition countries."

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Project funding:

European Commission
FP7-Health
Grant# 223344

