

‘Health in times of transition’

Some reflections on dissemination

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- A dissemination *warning*
- About the Observatory
- Enabling policy context
- Bridging evidence to practice



Observatory: mission & central principles

- We support and promote evidence-based health policy-making through comprehensive and rigorous analysis of the dynamics of health care systems in Europe
- Comparative analysis of existing evidence
- Bridge the gap between scientific evidence and the needs of policy makers
- Development of practical lessons and options in health policy making



A partnership that reflects evidence-based policy-making

• **International agencies**

- WHO Regional Office for Europe, the World Bank, the European Investment Bank, the European Commission



• **National and regional governments**

- Belgium, Finland, France, Greece, Norway, Spain, Sweden and Slovenia, as well as the Veneto Region of Italy



• **Academia**

- the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine (LSHTM)



- **Country monitoring (HiT)**
- **Comparative studies**
- **Dissemination**

<http://www.euro.who.int/observatory>

Enabling policy context

- **Health in All Policies**
 - Finnish presidency of EU (2006), Rome declaration (2007), EU health strategy (2007), Alma Ata anniversary (2008)
- **WHO Commission on Social Determinants 2005 - 2008**
- **Health systems, health and wealth**
 - Evidence on health and economic development
 - Lisbon agenda, EU health strategy (2007), Tallinn Charter / Ministerial Conference (2008)
- **Addressing the economic crisis**
 - Oslo conference (2009)
- **Financial sustainability**
 - Czech presidency of EU (2009)
- **Health systems performance assessment**
- **Economics of prevention**

Bridging: evidence to practice

- Personal contact
- Trust
- Timeliness
- Provide summary & recommendations
- Client and policy question (not research) driven
- Context specific
- Decision making framework
- Broader understanding of evidence

Bridging: evidence to practice

- Steeped increase in research: *evidence on evidence transfer* or knowledge brokering
- Information packaging mechanisms
 - e.g. policy briefs
- Interactive knowledge sharing mechanisms
 - e.g. policy dialogues
- Organization models for knowledge brokering
 - e.g. attachment to ministries?
- Use of knowledge brokers

Policy briefs

- Address practical (key) policy questions
- Targeted and opportunistic
- Focus to policy makers needs
- 1 / 3 / 25 structure
- Timing
- **New HEN WHO and Observatory series**



Policy dialogues

- Key strategic questions / policy windows
 - ‘Rapid reaction triggers’
- Demand driven / supply induced
- Co-organised with policy makers
- Target small group of senior policy makers
- Evidence on alternative options
- Emphasis on implementation
- **Evidence as a neutral platform for consensus**

