The WHO European policy
Health 2020: not only numbers but narratives

….and the case for reporting on community resilience (among lots of other things…)

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European Health 2020 policy

• Emphasis on **health and well-being**;
• The **right to health and access** to care;
• **People** at the centre;
• Addressing the **determinants of health**;
• **Whole of society** approach;
• **Whole of government** approach;
• Importance of **partnerships**.
Health 2020 targets

1. **Reduce premature mortality**
2. **Increase life expectancy**
3. **Reduce inequities**
4. **Enhance well-being**
5. **Achieve universal health coverage**
6. **Establish national targets set by Member States**
New concepts in Health 2020 not previously measured

- transparency
- community resilience
- supportive environments
- enabling environments
- sense of belonging
- sense of control
- whole-of-society approach
- participatory governance
- responsible governance
- accountability
- life-course approach
- empowerment
- people-centred health systems
- fit-for-purpose health systems
- adaptive policies.

Medical humanities’ evidence as key source
How does Health 2020 define resilience?

Resilience

The dynamic process of adapting well and responding individually or collectively in the face of challenging circumstances, economic crisis, psychological stress, trauma, tragedy, threats, and other significant sources of stress. It can be described as an ability to withstand, to cope or to recover from the effects of such circumstances and the process of identifying assets and enabling factors. Health 2020 places particular emphasis on the importance of creating resilient communities and the idea of helping people to help themselves. The term “resilient communities” is also frequently used in the context of disaster risk reduction (such as flooding) and the importance of creating appropriate infrastructures, systems and decision-making processes.
What is resilience?

- Responding reactively;
- Positive adaptation;
- Recovery from adversity;
- ‘Bouncing back’.

- Responding proactively;
- Flourishing;
- Bouncing forward.

Individual, community and systems resilience
Why is community resilience important?

• Resilient communities cope better with crises;
• Resilient communities are healthier;
• Resilient communities have higher levels of well-being;
• Resilient communities live longer.
Travelling east from Westminster, each tube stop represents nearly one year of life expectancy lost.

Electoral wards just a few miles apart geographically have life expectancy spans varying by years. For instance, there are eight stops between Westminster and Canning Town on the Jubilee Line – so as one travels east, each stop, on average, marks nearly a year of shortened lifespan. ¹
‘The Ormesby Bank Gradient’

Middlesbrough, UK

The gradient of inequalities in health
Life expectancy reduces by 2 years for every mile from suburb to centre

© Professor David Hunter, University of Newcastle, UK
How can we measure resilience?

- **Challenges for traditional quantitative measurements**: issues of cross-cultural differences; positive adaption; indicators for social connectedness; capturing voices of marginalized groups;

- **Qualitative approaches must supplement quantitative data**: capturing subjective feelings, meanings and experiences.
What is WHO doing about this?

- Mainstreaming qualitative approaches in evidence through the Evidence for Health in Context project;
- Introduction of the Cultural Context of Health project;
- Health Evidence Network (HEN) reports on how to measure community resilience, empowerment, life course and whole-of-society approach in preparation;
- Rethinking health information and evidence as information and evidence for health.
53 WHO Member States calling for enhanced action to use evidence for policy: Regional Committee 2016

Adoption of Action Plan and Resolution on evidence-informed policy making
Action area 1: strengthening national health information systems, harmonizing health indicators and establishing an integrated health information system for the European Region

36. The Regional Office will undertake the following actions:

(a) promote and enhance the work of the EHII to harmonize and lead health information efforts in the European Region, ensuring collaboration with the European Union and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and their affiliated institutions in working towards a single integrated health information system for the WHO European Region;

(b) provide advice and support to Member States in the establishment of governance mechanisms for health information systems and e-health and in the development, assessment and evaluation of supporting strategies and policies;

(c) propose and use new and relevant forms of quantitative and qualitative evidence from multiple sectors and disciplines, and suggest relevant health evidence and indicators to non-health sector policies in line with Health 2020 and other major policy frameworks; and

(d) support the harmonization in the European Region of health-related indicators, including methods and data sources, and promote the use of appropriate classifications and standards in order to ensure international comparability of data;

(e) streamline data reporting by Member States, in harmony with national laws, to international organizations through the development of a joint set of indicators for the European Region;

(f) report regularly to Member States on the health situation in the European Region through publications, such as the European Core Health Indicators and the European health reports, and comparative health situation and trend analyses, including country health profiles and Highlights on health, and on providing tools such as the European Health Information Gateway and the European health statistics app; and

(g) develop and promote new data and information sources, including on well-being and the cultural context of health, new strategic areas, such as the use of social media in health, and big data, and further the integration and linking of existing information to gain new insights.
The European health reports

• WHO Flagship corporate publication every 3 years;
• Reporting on implementation of Health 2020 for health & well-being;
• **2018 report will report on progress with new concepts, including community resilience.**
• Paradigm shift from purely quantitative to inclusion of qualitative evidence to report progress;
• ‘**New evidence for the 21st century**’ – a mixed methods approach.
The European Health Information Initiative is committed to improving the evidence on which policy is based.
EHII participants: 35

.. and growing

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Croatia
Czechia
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Georgia
Germany
Greece
Italy
Kazakhstan
Kyrgyzstan
Latvia
Lithuania
Malta
Netherlands
Poland
Portugal
Republic of Moldova
Romania
Russian Federation
Slovenia
Sweden
Switzerland
fYR Macedonia
Turkey
United Kingdom
Thank you
Спасибо
Merci
Danke

Measurement  Access  Capacity Building  Networks  Strategy  Communication

The European Health Information Initiative is committed to improving the evidence on which policy is based
Any questions?

We WILL send you these biscuits... 😊