

**SOLIDARITY IN HEALTH - REDUCING  
HEALTH INEQUALITIES IN THE EU:**

**Possible contributions from  
Health Promoting hospitals  
and Health Services**

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# Communication from the EC (2009)



- SOLIDARITY IN HEALTH:  
REDUCING HEALTH  
INEQUALITIES IN THE EU



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# Inequalities in Health



- health differences between and within countries persist



# Disparities in health are also found

- between social groups
- between regions, rural and urban areas
- other vulnerabilities such as childhood or old age, disability or minority background



# Health inequalities need to be tackled



- Reducing health inequalities means having an impact on the health of people in their everyday lives, at work, at school, and at leisure in the community.



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# Addressing health inequalities effectively requires policies which include both



- actions to address the gradient in health across the whole society as well as;
- actions which are specifically targeted to vulnerable groups



# HPH actions



- across the whole society

HPH -WG

smoke free, alcohol free,

- targeted specifically to vulnerable groups

HPH -TF

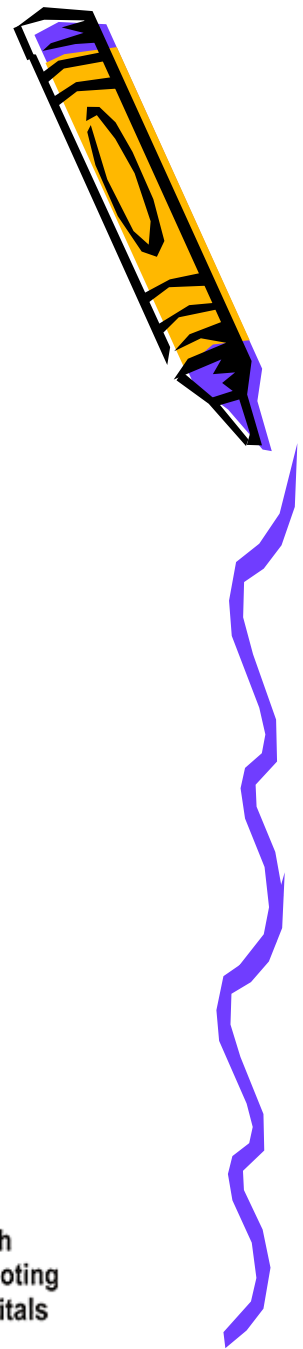
children, migrants, mentally ill,



# Inequality in accountability for health

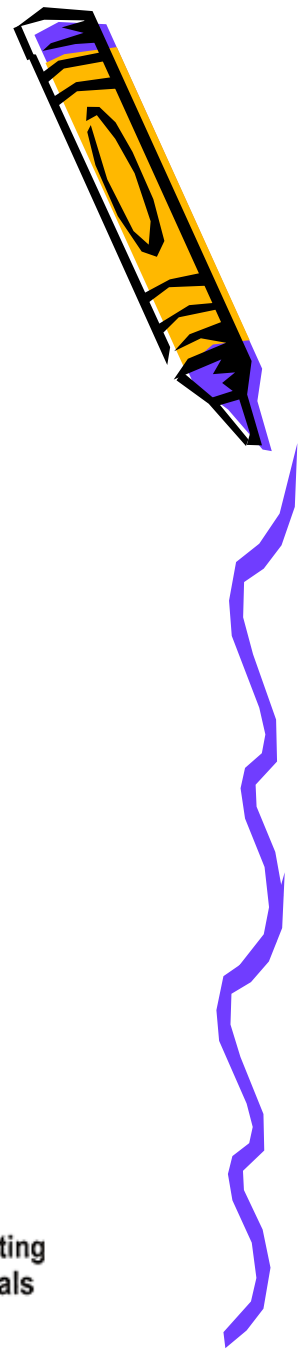
- governmental
- personal

**HPH** -initiate the transfer of information from health promotion into society and therefore contribute to responsibility for health



# Inequalities in acceptance of

- rights
- responsibilities (*disrespect*)  
*to the health*



# Tackling health inequalities is a long term process



- Closing health gaps means helping those regions and populations with worse health to make faster improvements in order catch up



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URGENTNÝ PRÍJEM ↑

PACIENTI NA LÔŽKU





## Requirement - a cross sectoral policy

- health sector has a leading role to play

HPH- in ensuring equitable access to health care

in supporting knowledge and training to health professionals as well as to other sectors



# EU policies which affect health -

- either directly (e.g. health and safety at work, consumer protection, public health policies)
- or indirectly (e.g. economic, regional, equal opportunities policies)

HPH - projects are similarly focused and they facilitate strategies aimed at improvement of health output.



# Health Promoting Hospitals and Health Services



- allow countries to learn from each other
- support local economy by preferring local products
- engage in lobbying and alliance-building for equity in health



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# Health Promoting Hospitals and Health Services



- contribute to collection of health data and its interpretation
- utilize the knowledge and potential of health professionals
- give influence to change of attitude of the general public to its health, life style, and impact on their neighbourhood.



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# Summary

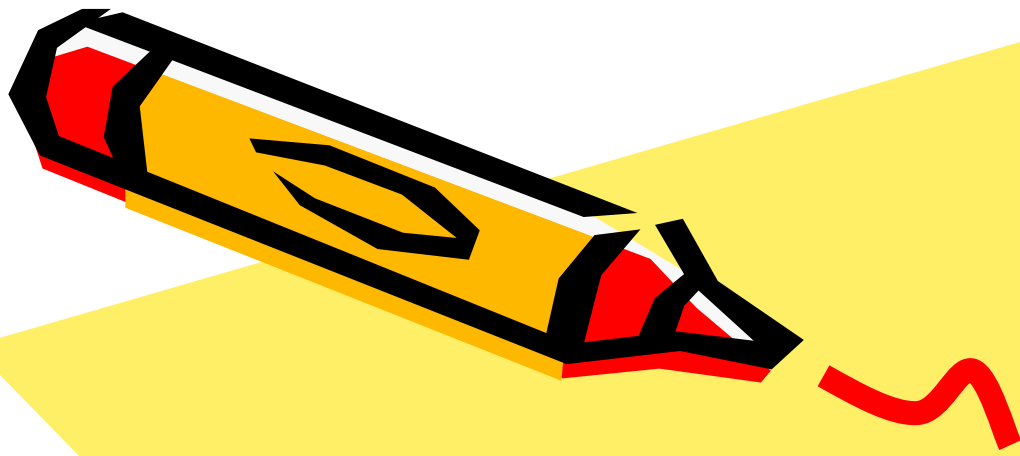
## HPH

- strongly contribute to responsibility for health
- helping to make faster improvements and reduce health inequalities



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Thank You for  
Your Attention

Manchester (UK), April 15th 2010

