Right to Health and access to health care, *STACS 2007*

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Global Health and Human Rights: Process

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Outline of presentation

- EPHA

- Health as a fundamental and human right

- STACS 2007

- Conclusions

About EPHA

- The largest network of more than 100 **non governmental and not-for-profit organisations across Europe** working on health and health-related issues

- EPHA's mission is to **promote and protect the health of all people living in Europe** and increase the **participation of citizens** in health-related policy making at European level.

EPHA members

? International Networks:

   - World Cancer Research Fund, International Obesity Taskforce,...

? European Networks:

   - European Heart Network, European Cancer League, …

? National Organisations:

   - Royal College of Physicians UK, Cancer Research UK, University of Nijmegen,…

? Complete list of EPHA members: http://www.epha.org/r/14

What are the goals for EPHA

? Develop a key consultative role for Civil Society as partners in health

? Promoting healthy public policies across the EU activities

How does EPHA work

- ? Advocacy: EU institutions

- ? Networking:

    - ? Other health NGO's or thematic NGO's

    - ? Information exchange (working groups, PCM)

- ? Tracking policy issues

    - ? Day to day analysis

    - ? Mailings - briefings

- ? Representation of NGO and citizens interest

Role of NGO's: advocacy

- **Monitor, analyse and inform** - overview of EU institutions, tracking policy and political events

- **Awareness raising** policy-makers (EU-local)

- **Networking** - engage and consult (today)

- **Visibility** - raising the profile of your organisation, ensuring that your voice is heard

- **Lobbying** - getting your viewpoints across and providing detailed expertise (amendments for legislation, data and statistics, writing reports)

What does EPHA stand for

- Health protection as a goal in all EU policy making such as Health impact assessment for all proposed legislation
- Involvement of citizens in decision making related to their own health
- **Equal access to good healthcare**
- **Health inequalities**
- Ensuring that all EU policies contribute to better health

What does EPHA stand for

? **Equal access to good healthcare:**

   ? Draft: Health Services cross border care:

      ? First proposal of Internal market (freedom of services)

      ? Health Services is a competence of MS BUT what about border cities, expertise, need for info, procedures to seek treatment abroad

           => going beyond patient mobility

_____=>interaction between health systems

For EPHA: input in views of the patient and health professionals !!

How to input: engage with members: bring CSO's together with researchers

What does EPHA stand for

? **Health inequalities:**

> ? New EU Health Strategy (4 principles):
>
> > 1. Value driven:
> >   - Health as a fundamental right
> >   - Engaging with citizens,...
> >
> > 2. Health is Wealth:
> >   - Lisbon Agenda
> >
> > 3. Health in all policies
> >
> > 4. Global Health:
> >   - Strengthening EU voice

Health as a Human and Fundamental right

- ? **Health as a Human Right** (Art 25 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, UN, 1948)

- ? Human rights and fundamental rights and the protection of these rights have become a focal point of attention of society

- ? EU: Charter of Fundamental Rights (Nice, 2000)

- ? **Fundamental Rights (European Charter)** are more than human rights:

    - constitutional traditions and international obligations MS

    - Treaty of EU

    - Community Treaties

    - European Convention for the protection of Human rights and fundamental freedoms

    - Social Charter

Health professionals as revolutionaries

? Ernesto Che Guevara proposed the training of all health-care professionals, including physicians, in the social origins of illness and the need for social and political change to improve health conditions.

? This approach was influential in reforming health and education systems in Nicaragua, Chile and Cuba.

? *"It is impossible to give health and knowledge to a people who are malnourished, who wear rags, and who work at a level of unmerciful exploitation."* Salvador Allende, Chile

Health Professionals (NGO') as agents of change

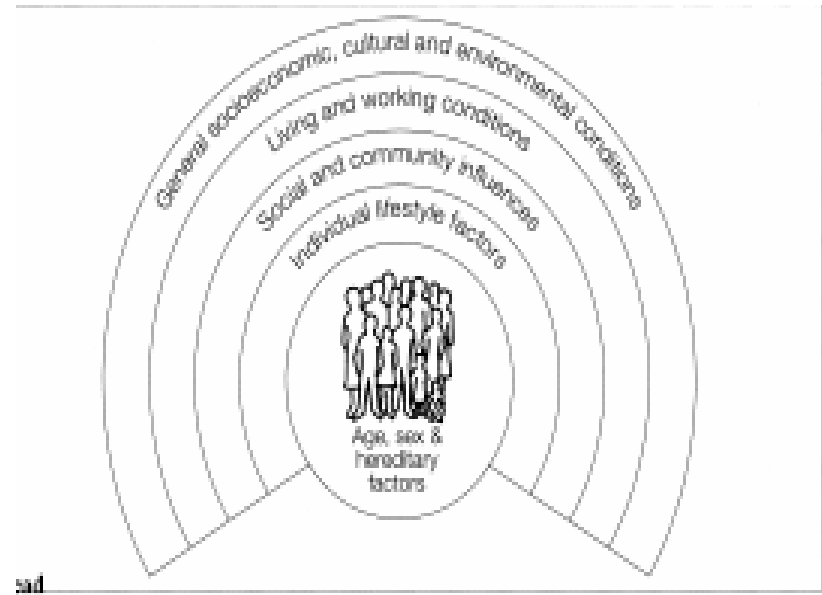- **Rudolf Virchow**, father of social medicine. Identified that a typhus outbreak could not be solved by treating individual patients with drugs or with minor changes in food, housing, or clothing laws, but only through radical action to promote the advancement of an entire population.

- *"Medicine is a social science, and politics nothing but medicine on a grand scale"*.

- *"Doctors are natural advocates for the poor and social problems are largely within their jurisdiction."*

- *"If disease is an expression of individual life under unfavorable conditions, then epidemics must be indicative of mass disturbances of mass life."*

Addressing barriers to health

Policies need to aim at reducing the overall burden of disadvantage. This means linking health policies with initiatives on employment, income maintenance and social welfare, housing and education.

Emphasis on empowering individuals to make lifestyle choices and changes in their lives. Welfare policies need to provide not only **safety nets** but **springboards** to offset earlier disadvantage.

STACS 2007 - FP7

- **STACS: Science, Technology and Civil Society**
  - Increase the societal relevance of research

  - Funded by DG Research, FP 6

  - Consortium of members coming from CSO's (EPHA, World Wildlife Found, Green 10, Friends of the Earth, ...) and associated partners coming from public research institutions.

STACS 2007 - FP7

- ? Objectives:
  - give CSO's possibility of attending and contributing to training sessions
  - Drafting common resarch projects
  - Create interactive European Platform: website: www.peopleandscience.org

  - Improve CSO's understanding of FP7
  - CSO's contribute to European Research Area

STACS 2007 - FP7

- Activities to reach objectives:
  - Capacity building through training and exchanges of information: identify research themes
  - Good practices and personnel
  - Networking
  - Setting up of common information systems

STACS 2007 - FP7

- To achieve the objectives, the activities will be implemented through five work packages each relating to one objective
- Edinburgh - 16 November 2007 - WP 2:
  - Explore the possibilities to draft common research projects between CSO's and public research laboratories:"Right to health and access to health care"
    - Deliver an opportunity for CSO's and researchers to meet
    - Exchange on research needs by CSO's and researchers
    - Start reflection and/or cooperation on common research projects

STACS 2007 - FP7

? FP7: Capacities => Science and Society

? FP7 will support activities that:

" Broader engagement of researchers and the public at large, including organised CS, on science related questions, to anticipate and clarify political and societal issues, including ethical issues".

? STACS will deliver experiences and develop arguments to facilitate the involvement of CSO's in research in order to fully develop the European knowledge society.

STACS 2007 - 16 November 2007

? Explore the possibilities to draft common research projects between CSO's and public research laboratories:"Right to health and access to health care"

- ? STACS
- ? Conclusion of 15 November 2007
- ? FP7: brief introduction in themes and funding
- ? Project proposals
- ? Exploring proposals for research projects on health and human right

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