



ULKOASIAINMINISTERIÖ
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**“MOVING FORWARD EQUITY IN HEALTH”
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Background

- Main concepts
- EU and health equity
 - How did it come on the agenda
 - Main policies with an equity lens
- WHO and health equity
- Conclusion



Health Inequities

Social inequities in health are systematic differences in health status between different socioeconomic groups.

These inequities are socially produced (and therefore modifiable) and unfair.

Source: Whitehead M, Dahlgren G. *Levelling up (part 1): a discussion paper on concepts and principles for tackling social inequities in health*. Copenhagen, WHO Regional Office for Europe, 2006

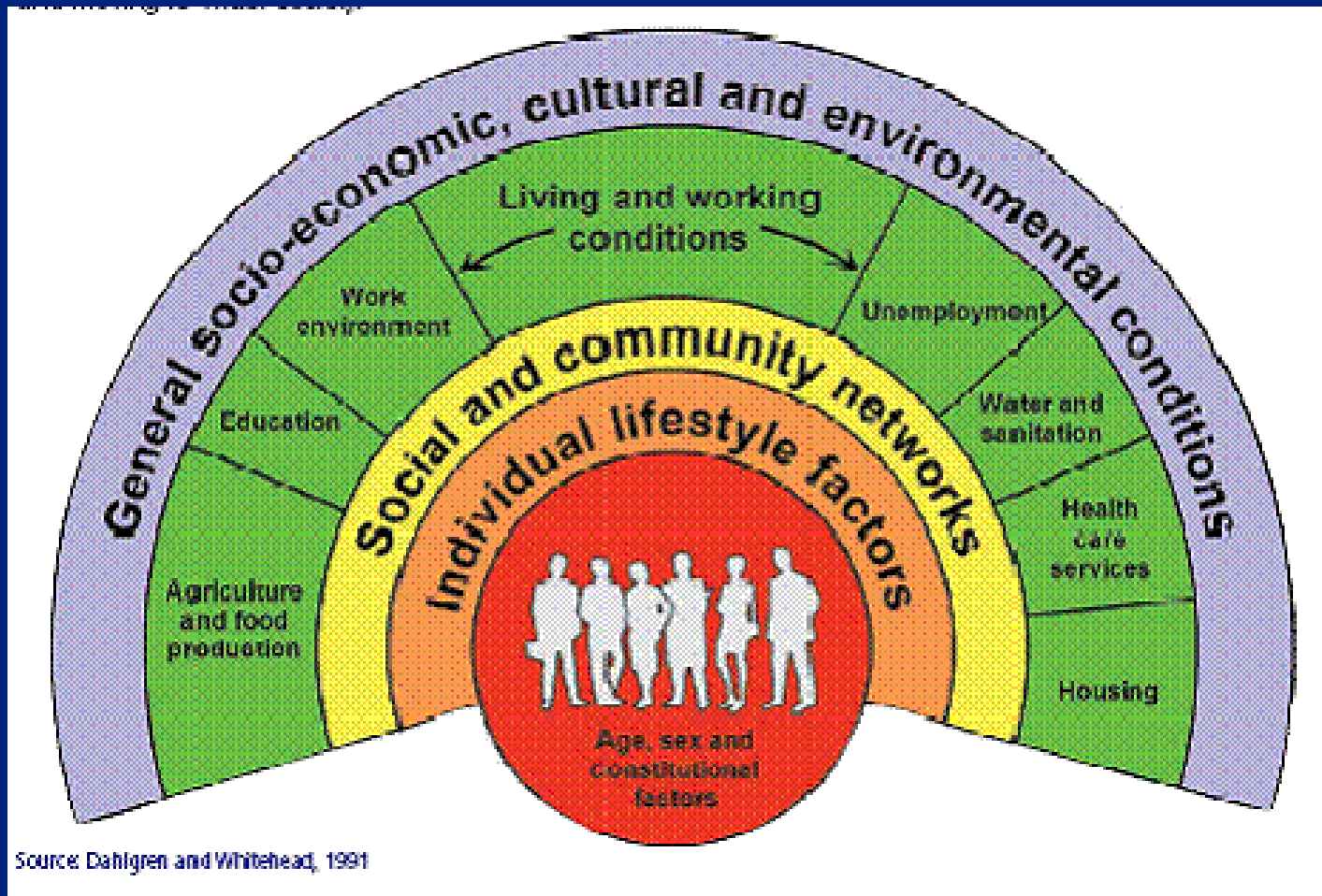


Social Determinants of Health

Determinants of health are factors that influence health positively or negatively and that can be influenced by political, commercial and individual decisions, as opposed to age, sex and genetic factors, which also influence health but are not, on the whole, open to influence by political or other types of policy.

Source: Whitehead M, Dahlgren G. *Levelling up (part 1): a discussion paper on concepts and principles for tackling social inequities in health*. Copenhagen, WHO Regional Office for Europe, 2006

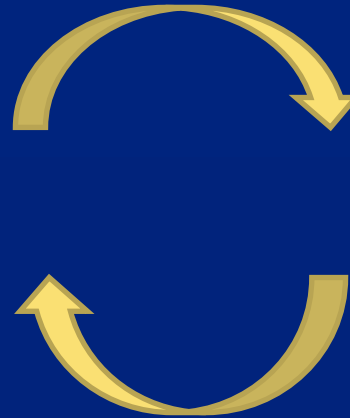




How did health equity come on the EU agenda?

EU Presidencies

Conferences
Publications
Council conclusions



Commission

Communications
Strategies
Expert working groups
Funding programmes
Projects



Health Equity in EU policies

- Barcelona Summit in 2002 (and Health Council in 2006):
universality, equity, solidarity and quality
- Health programmes and funded projects
- Employment and social solidarity programme
- Social OMC on Social Protection and Social Inclusion (2008-)
- Solidarity in health: Reducing health inequalities in the EU (2009)

- Economic policy – Lisbon Agenda – Healthy Life Years
- Sustainable development (2006)
- Policy process in general – Impact Assessments



Health Equity and the WHO

- Constitution of the WHO
- WHA resolutions: HFA (1979, 1981)
- Strategic objective 7 (2008) "*to enhance health equity*"
- Commission on Social Determinants of Health (2005-2008)

- WHO/EURO HFA (1982, 1985, 1991, 2005)
- Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion (1986)
- Resolution on Poverty and Health (2002)
- Tallinn Conference on Health systems (2008): *Wealth from Health*



Conclusion

- Health Equity is strongly on the EU agenda
- The agenda setting reflects a broader change in the discourse on Public Health > new era of collectivism in public health?
- Improving population health significantly requires the improvement of the health of those worst-off
- Closing the gap between socioeconomic groups is not possible by the action of health sector alone
- Mainstreaming health equity considerations in health policy and health considerations in other policies is the main challenge
- Changing the words into concrete action requires data

