



INHERIT

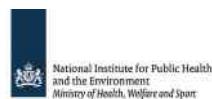
EVENT REPORT

A Future for All to INHERIT: Taking Action Now

10 December 2019, Brussels

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The INHERIT project (www.inherit.eu), coordinated by EuroHealthNet, has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme under grant agreement N° 667364.



On 10 December, the Horizon 2020 INHERIT initiative held its final conference, bringing together over 150 stakeholders in the Royal Flemish Theatre in Brussels. This report brings together the key points of the discussion. Further information on the conference, including photos, videos and speakers' slides, are available [here](#). More information on INHERIT is available [here](#).

1. OPENING STATEMENTS: Setting the scene

The environmental crisis and urgent need for widespread change

- **Prof. Andy Haines, Professor of Environmental Change and Public Health, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine**

Professor Haines spoke about the imperative to take urgent action regarding climate change, highlighting fast-approaching climate tipping points, and drawing attention to the health impacts of climate change. He reflected on a number of policies already in place which can help to protect health – accessible public transport, access to clean low-carbon energy and green space – and reinforced the need for further implementation and political will.



The impact of inequity

- **Sir Michael Marmot FRCP, Director, Institute of Health Equity, Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, UCL**

Professor Marmot highlighted the dramatic inequalities in health which exist even at a very local level, between different neighbourhoods in a same city. He called on participants to consider the gradient of inequalities, rather than only absolute deprivation. In February, a new Marmot Review on health inequalities will be published, ten years on from the original one.



INHERIT's approach

- **Caroline Costongs, EuroHealthNet Director, INHERIT Consortium Coordinator**

Caroline Costongs presented an overview of the work carried out during the four years of the research initiative INHERIT, thanking the European Commission for their support. Her top tips are as follows: apply the triple-win mindset (jointly considering health, equity and environment); embrace positive visions and feedback loops; secure policy support that can spark action; ensure that everyone can benefit; and educate and advocate.

2. NATIONAL-LEVEL DEBATE: A whole-of-government approach to achieving the SDGs from a national perspective

- **Saila Ruuth, State Secretary to Minister of Social Affairs and Health, Ministry of Social Affairs and Health, Finland (EU Presidency)**
- **Giuseppe Ruocco, Director General Ministry of Health, Italy**
- **Prof. Stanislav Špánik, State Secretary of the Ministry of Health, Slovak Republic**

The three speakers presented initiatives taking place in Finland, Italy and Slovakia in the fields of sustainability and healthcare. They exchanged on the concept of the Economy of Wellbeing, launched by the Finnish Presidency of the EU, and highlighted that in order to achieve any agenda such as the Sustainable Development Goals, countries need to work together. They also spoke about the challenges of working across sectors – social, health, food, education, environment – and of funding health prevention and promotion.



3. SPOTLIGHT DEBATE: Environmentally, socially and economically sustainable growth – an achievable aim?

- Philippe Lamberts, MEP and Co-president of the Greens/EFA Group
- Nick Meynen, Policy Officer for Environmental and Economic Justice, European Environmental Bureau
- Eelco Smit, Senior Director Sustainability, Group Sustainability, Philips International B.V.

During this debate, Philippe Lamberts argued that what is needed to reduce inequalities and environmental damage is a paradigm shift away from our current ways of thinking in which the economy is everything, and society is a sub-set of this. Eelco Smit agreed that we are clearly facing a challenge, and highlighted Philips' work on the circular economy. Nick Meynen argued that "green growth" is not working, and that we need to downscale extraction and production across many different sectors. The speakers also exchanged on issues such as international trade, externalities and subsidies.



4. EU-LEVEL DEBATE: EU action on more systemic, integrated measures for more sustainable, healthier and equitable societies

- Katarina Ivankovic-Knezevic, Director Social Affairs, Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion (DG EMPL)
- John Ryan, Director Public Health, Directorate-General for Health and Food Safety (DG SANTE)
- Astrid Schomaker, Director Global Sustainable Development, Directorate-General for Environment (DG ENVI)

The three Directors discussed progress made towards greater cross-sectoral collaboration between Commission DGs, as well as some of the challenges that are remaining. They reflected on a number of EU initiatives, such as the European Green Deal, the European Pillar of Social Rights, the New Skills Agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals, the European Semester, the Multi-Annual Financial Framework, and the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived.



5. BREAKOUTS: ACTING FOR THE TRIPLE-WIN



1. Ensuring healthy, sustainable affordable food

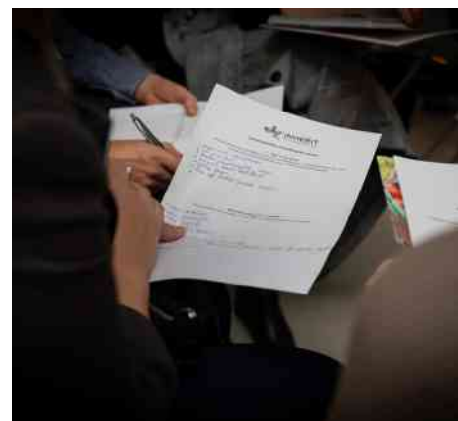
- Nina van der Vliet (Netherlands National Institute for Public Health and the Environment), Sibila Marques (Lisbon University Institute), Nick Jacobs (IPES-Food)

Presenters explained the INHERIT Model and its application in the field of healthy, sustainable consumption, and provided an overview of EU food policy. Participants discussed promising developments in terms of “good” food, and how to upscale and mainstream, and address barriers – they focused for instance on community food gardens, local production, behaviour change, food in schools, education, and policy support.

2. Fostering quality, accessible green spaces

- Ruth Bell (University College London), Kirsti Anthun (Norwegian University of Science and Technology), Lise Gauvin (MUSE project, Canada)

Presenters highlighted the importance of connection with green spaces for health and socialisation, drawing on INHERIT case studies. Participants were invited to consider issues such as lack of accessibility and safety, and reflected on the barriers and triggers to scaling up promising practices. They focused on elements such as funding, community engagement and ownership, accessibility, cross-sectoral work and political support.



3. Ensuring healthy and energy efficient housing for all

- George Morris and Tim Taylor (University of Exeter), Julien Dijol (Housing Europe)

Presenters set out the links between housing and environment, and the historical, social, cultural, and financial links which mediate the relationship between housing and health. They also discussed how to replicate energy-efficient social housing. Participants were invited to use the INHERIT Model to reflect on these issues, and considered elements such as the importance of co-creation.

4. Encouraging active transport across population groups

- Brigit Staatsen (Netherlands National Institute for Public Health and the Environment), Iva Zverinova (Charles University Prague), Piotr Rapacz (European Commission)

Presenters highlighted the potential benefits of active transport, drawing on INHERIT data and case studies, and also reflected on EU sustainable urban mobility policy. Participants were invited to consider their own transport options, and the barriers and opportunities for up-scaling and mainstreaming active transport options, as well as examples of promising practices.



5. Fostering integrated governance to address key challenges

- Ingrid Stegeman (EuroHealthNet), Rosa Strube (Collaborating Centre on Sustainable Consumption and Production), Laurent Bontoux (EU Joint Research Centre)

Presenters provided an overview of the cross-sectoral inter-disciplinary ambition of INHERIT and the INHERIT Model, as well as the four INHERIT future scenarios, and discussed the importance of involving stakeholders and of stakeholder analysis in foresight exercises. Participants were invited to discuss barriers to more integrated governance in the areas of active travel, energy efficiency, and healthy food, and how to overcome them.



6. MUNICIPAL-LEVEL DEBATE: Sustainable changes in an urban context – how can we take it further?

- Hon. Dr. Ricardo Baptista Leite, Former Deputy and current Member of Cascais City Assembly, Member of the Portuguese National Parliament, Head of Public Health, Catholic University of Portugal



- Elisabeth Bengtsson, Senior Officer Public Health Västra Götaland, Consultant WHO Healthy Cities Network
- Dr. Cory Neudorf, Professor, Department of Community Health & Epidemiology, University of Saskatchewan, and Coordinator of the Urban Public Health Network of Canada

The panel focused on concrete examples of promising “sustainable” practices taking place in different contexts – in Cascais (Portugal), through the WHO Healthy Cities Network, and in Canada. Panelists discussed how creativity, data, and participatory processes were key to overcoming intersectoral barriers, and reflected on how to mainstream and upscale solutions across different cities, explaining the importance of building trust through transparency and openness.

7. CLOSING DISCUSSION: Inspiring action for systemic change across generations

- Ewa Rewers (Youth for Climate, Poland) and Dana Seggev (Fridays for Future, the Netherlands) in conversation with Sir Michael Marmot

This final conversation provided an inspiring ending to the conference, testifying to the commitment and drive of young people in the face of climate change. Ewa and Dana spoke of some of the successes as well as the challenges they have faced during their time at the forefront of climate activism in Poland and the Netherlands, highlighting that whilst the task is daunting, hope and optimism remains.



8. AUDIENCE INPUT AND CLOSING REMARKS: ACTIONS FOR A MORE EQUITABLE, HEALTHY AND SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

○ Caroline Costongs, EuroHealthNet Director, INHERIT Consortium Coordinator

○ Ingrid Stegeman, Programme Manager EuroHealthNet

Caroline and Ingrid closed the conference by reflecting on the inspirational discussions that took place over the course of the day, and highlighting some of the commitments that participants made on a conference “Wall of Action”. Participants for instance pledged to:

“Spread the word in the Commission about INHERIT’s excellent work”

“Change old windows and improve insulation in my house, bike to work, take the children out for excursions in nearby green areas more often”

“Design radical policy hand in hand with communities”

“Spend time with my grandchildren encouraging them to live sustainably”

“VOTE! Get involved in politics, and avoid harmful consumerism and markets”

“Put all our efforts into training and advocating in order to contribute to the process of changing mindsets in a triple-win direction”

“Second guess what I consume – its impacts – stay conscious, active, and keep on cycling!”

