

Outside session 2

How to improve the health of at-risk populations

Date & Time

Tuesday, 12 June, 15:00 – 17:00

Location

Bilborock Hall

Description

Please note that for this session pre-registration required – limited to 50 participants maximum, transportation to and from locations is included.

For many years, overall health has been improving in Europe. However, significant differences in health persist across the region, both between and within Member States. For example, there is a gap in life expectancy of about 16 years between some countries and the differences are even greater when gender and other inequalities are taken into account.¹ Income and wealth disparities lead to differences in the “[social determinants of health](#)” as well as the direct health care that individuals receive.

Policy frameworks and programmes such as the [World Health Organisation \(WHO\) Health 2020](#) and the [EU Health Programme](#) aim to make safe, high quality, efficient healthcare services available to all and to reduce avoidable diseases and deaths that are attributed to health inequalities. In order to promote wellbeing, improve health and break the vicious cycle of poor health-poverty-exclusion, better cooperation between social and healthcare services is necessary, as are policies that address risk factors, challenges and barriers to access for all members of society.

Local government, as a provider of education, housing, and other social and care services, is well-equipped to put in place preventative measures and to tackle the consequences of health inequalities.

This session will explore the strategies local governments are putting in place to improve the health of citizens, in particular those who are at heightened risk of exclusion. Speakers will also highlight the necessity of partnerships and cooperation with civil society and other actors to improve health and reduce health inequalities.

Format

1. Departure from Euskalduna conference centre to Bilborock Hall – travel time 15 minutes by coach.
2. Short presentations

¹ http://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0020/235712/e96954.pdf, p. 3

3. Debate and exchange of experiences

Languages foreseen

English, Spanish

Contacts

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Bilborock Hall

Bilborock is located in the historic heart of the city, next to the Casco Viejo, in one of the busiest districts of Bilbao. It is a place full of life and a centre of constant synergies, ready to welcome, in addition to music, all many activities of interest to young people: cinema, theatre, dance, installations, experimentation laboratories, conferences, and presentations.

Módulo Auzolan

The [Módulo Auzolan](#) was created in 1982 in Bilbao's Irala neighbourhood (*Iralabari*), boosted by Neighbourhood's associations and Women's Groups, with the aim of improving the health and life conditions in areas not covered by the public health network. In 1995, it moved to a more central venue which is provided by the City Council of Bilbao and where it continues its activities today. Its mission is to reduce inequalities due to gender, age, origin or social exclusion reasons in the framework of a bio-psychosocial assistance.

Some of the services that Módulo Auzolan offers:

- Reproductive and sexual health
- Psychological assistance for women
- Legal advice
- Mental health services for youth and adults

WHO European Healthy cities network

The [WHO European Healthy Cities Network](#) consists of cities around the WHO European Region that are committed to health and sustainable development: nearly 100 cities and towns from 30 countries. They are also linked through national, regional, metropolitan and thematic Healthy Cities networks.

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