

## European health policy frameworks in context

Three main frameworks monitor progress on health and well-being in the European Region: the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) outlined in the 2030 Agenda, which frames global sustainable development; the Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases 2013–2020; and the European regional health policy framework, Health 2020. The latter is the central health policy for the European Region. It was adopted by all 53 Member States in September 2012 after an intensive two-year consultation process and aims to establish equitable, sustainable and universal health-care systems in Europe, in order to give Europeans control over the decisions that most affect their lives.

Health 2020 set the following six key targets:

1. Reduce premature mortality in the European Region by 2020
2. Increase life expectancy in the European Region
3. Reduce inequalities in health in the European Region (social determinants target)
4. Enhance the well-being of the population in the European Region
5. Ensure universal coverage and the right to the highest attainable level of health
6. Set national goals and targets related to health in Member States.

This year marks the halfway point for collection of data relating to Health 2020 indicators and targets. European Member States have shown a high level of commitment by bringing many of their own national policies and strategies into alignment with Health 2020 policy, most commonly a whole-of-government approach and improved governance for health, and improved progress towards universal health coverage. This has taken place in tandem with general improvements in health status in the European Region in recent years. In addition, 88% of European countries responding to a 2017 WHO survey reported that they had either set targets for health and well-being or were planning to in the near future. Moreover, the majority of respondent countries had developed, or planned to develop, a health policy aligned with Health 2020 (95%), an implementation plan (86%) or an accountability mechanism (88%). European Member States have also recently adopted a number of regional action plans and strategies.

With Health 2020, European Member States explicitly put the core ideals of “fairness, sustainability, quality, transparency, accountability, gender equality, dignity and the right to participate in decision-making” at the centre of public health policy-making, almost pre-empting the value base of the SDGs outlined in the 2030 Agenda. In addition, by embracing Health 2020’s principles and targets, Member States have put themselves in a strong position to meet both the SDG targets and the goals of the Global Action Plan for the Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases 2013–2020.

**For further information, visit:** <http://www.euro.who.int/en/ehr2018>