





Bolesław Samoliński

Chairman of the Sub-Committee on Priorities of Polish Ministry of Health during Polish Presidency of the EU Council

Professor and Chairman of the Department of Prevention of Environmental Hazards and Allergology Medical University of Warsaw



Public health programme First Presidency of Trio (PL, DK, CY)

- Non-communicable diseases and healthy ageing
- Diseases without borders
- Innovation and best practice



Public health programme Public health priorities

• Closing the gaps in health status of the European Union's population

• The prevention of brain diseases and neurodegenerative diseases, including Alzheimer's disease



Public health priorities Closing the gaps in health status of the European Union's population

- 'Closing the Health Gap' Concerted action for decreasing premature mortality between EU Member States through public health measures aimed at reducing harm caused by smoking, hazardous alcohol drinking, inappropriate diet and lack of physical activity
- Council conclusions
- Health Solidarity closing the gap in health among the UE countries
- Ministerial conference, November 7th-8th 2011, Poznań



Public health priorities Closing the gaps in health status of the European Union's population

- The prevention and control of respiratory diseases in children
- Council conclusions
- Prevention and Control of Asthma and Allergies in Children as the public health issue, urgent necessity to mitigate inequalities
- Expert conference, September 21st -22nd 2011, Warsaw





Public health priorities Closing the gaps in health status of the European Union's population

- The prevention and treatment of communication disorders in children, including the use of e-health and innovative solutions
- Council conclusions
- European consensus on hearing, sight and speech screenings for children beginning the school education
- Expert conference, June 22nd 2011, Warsaw



Public health priorities

The prevention of brain diseases and neurodegenerative diseases, including Alzheimer's disease

First European Day of the Brain. Ageing, Stroke and Alzheimer's Disease – finding innovative solutions

- Expert conference, November 18th 2011, Warsaw
- post conference conclusions

Characteristics of the priority

Brain diseases of the elderly are a particular type of health problem, since they affect all aspects of life of the patients, their families and the society.

- Demographic indicators "old age time bomb," "old age epidemic" faced by Europe is a threat for public finance;
- Costly and complicated diagnostics of brain diseases of the elderly (Alzheimer disease and other dementias, neurodegenerative diseases, cerebral strokes, epilepsy);
- Costly and not fully efficient treatment;
- Significant impact of the diseases on disability of patients;

Characteristics of the priority cont.

It is a particular type of health problem due to its impact on all aspects of the life of patients, their families and the society.

The following measures are necessary to ensure the longest as possible independent life:

- Involvement of the state in the organisation of the appropriate care system (system solutions concerning the assistance for carers, increased role of the family, development of home-based care and rehabilitation services);
- Promotion of active old age;
- Introduction of early prevention and education concerning brain diseases of the elderly.

Characteristics of the priority cont.

Inclusion of guidelines on the following issues in the European Union documents:

- Improvement of care for patients with brain diseases, requiring interdisciplinary, professional and multisectoral approach, integrating health and social assistance;
- Conducting and coordinating scientific research in the entire EU;
- Introduction of additional services to better meet the needs of patients and their carers;
- Promotion of integration and counteracting social exclusion;
- Identification of needs and collection of reliable epidemiological data on the diseases and improved possibilities for using the data;
- Enhanced legal protection of patients affected by those diseases.



Polish Presidency 2011

The prevention and control of asthma and allergies in children from the point of view of public health: the urgent need to eliminate inequalities,"

21st and 22nd of September 2011.

The aim of the meeting is to present the subject matter of allergies and asthma as the most common diseases of early age, which have a considerable influence on health in the later periods of life.

The conference will be complemented by preparing Council Conclusion concerning the early detection, prevention, and monitoring of non-infectious respiratory diseases, particularly among the population of children and young people.





Polish Presidency 2011 There is important influence of respiratory diseases in childhood on healthy aging

•Rhinitis, Allergic rhinitis and asthma are the most common chronic noncomunicable diseases in children with average prevalence 10-40%, 10-30%, 5-20% in European populations respectively

•Allergic rhinitis is the highest risk factor for asthma development (OR=8)

•Any respiratory diseases in early life are risk factors for COPD (OR>2.3)



Polish Presidency 2011 There is important influence of respiratory diseases in childhood on healthy aging

•COPD affects 44 million people in Europe, and is fourth leading cause of death and it will become the third leading cause of death by 2030.

•Early prevention of allergic rhinitis prevents asthma developments

•Finnish Asthma Programme proved cost, social and mortality effectiveness of early treatment asthma.



Polish Presidency 2011 There is important influence of respiratory diseases in childhood on healthy aging

•Allergic rhinitis, asthma and rhinosinusitis in childhood are responsible for cardiovascular diseases:

•asthmatics are 1.4 times more likely to have heart diseases , and

•1.3 times more to have high blood pressure than nonasthmatics.

•Seasonal and chronic rhinitis have on average a 3.5 Hg higher systolic blood pressure than those without allergic rhinitis.

•An early life history of respiratory diseases is associated with higher mortality and morbidity risk in adulthood in men, the associations being seen particularly for respiratory and cardiovascular deaths among those with history of bronchitis.

•The cost of treating respiratory diseases in Europe is 100 billion Euro annually and is still rising.



Public health priorities Council Conclusion

A key role in preventing the occurrence and development of diseases and disorders in children is played by prevention and monitoring of the health status, therefore it is important to strengthen the role of prevention and health education fostering the formation of health awareness and pro-health attitudes in the society



Public health priorities Council Conclusion

Early detection and diagnosis of respiratory diseases and then undertaking the appropriate therapy may determine the proper development of the child and have an impact on the quality of his/her life and on the future socio-economic and health situation



Public health programme There is important influence of respiratory diseases in childhood on healthy aging

Healthy aging depends on children health