

NON COMMUNICABLE DISEASES AND THE EUROPEAN UNION

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*A relatively small group of health conditions is responsible for a large part of the disease estimated at 86% of the deaths in Europe and represent also a major impact on the EU's economy, and the well-being of its citizens.

Diabetes: We count 60 million people in the European Region

Obesity: Since the 1980s has tripled in many countries of the WHO European region

Cardiovascular diseases: Are major killers in all parts of the world,.

Cancer: The most important cause of death and morbidity in Europe,

Chronic respiratory diseases: A cause of disability and premature mortality

Mental health: 6 of the 20 countries with the highest suicide rates in the world are in the European Region

*All these diseases are often preventable and causes could be avoided by controlling the main risk factors, improving health policies, promoting good health and reducing health inequalities

* Confronted to this situation, the EU, with the contribution of all stakeholders, including patients, professionals, healthcare payers and providers, has begun to reflect on chronic diseases, in order to identify ways to optimize the response by developing an integrated response focusing on prevention, health promotion, disease management, patient empowerment and risk factors including smoking, alcohol abuse, unhealthy diets, pollution, and physical inactivity.

* The fight against NCDs has become a strategic priority worldwide at national, regional and global level,

* The prevention, improving clinical competencies of practitioners, is central to combating the growing global NCD burden.

*There is a clear consensus that effective NCD prevention and control strategies must be 'multi-sectoral', 'multi-stakeholder' and 'multi-level' and It is time for healthcare to have an interoperability

*The role of European institutions has been preventing non-communicable diseases, promoting healthy lifestyle and supporting the modernization of the health system