



# EU-LAC Health 1<sup>st</sup> Roadmapping Workshop

Prevention of diseases and  
promotion of well-being

A. Giulio de Belvis – Catholic University “Sacro Cuore”, Italy  
M. Rojas Chaves - Instituto Tecnológico de Costa Rica

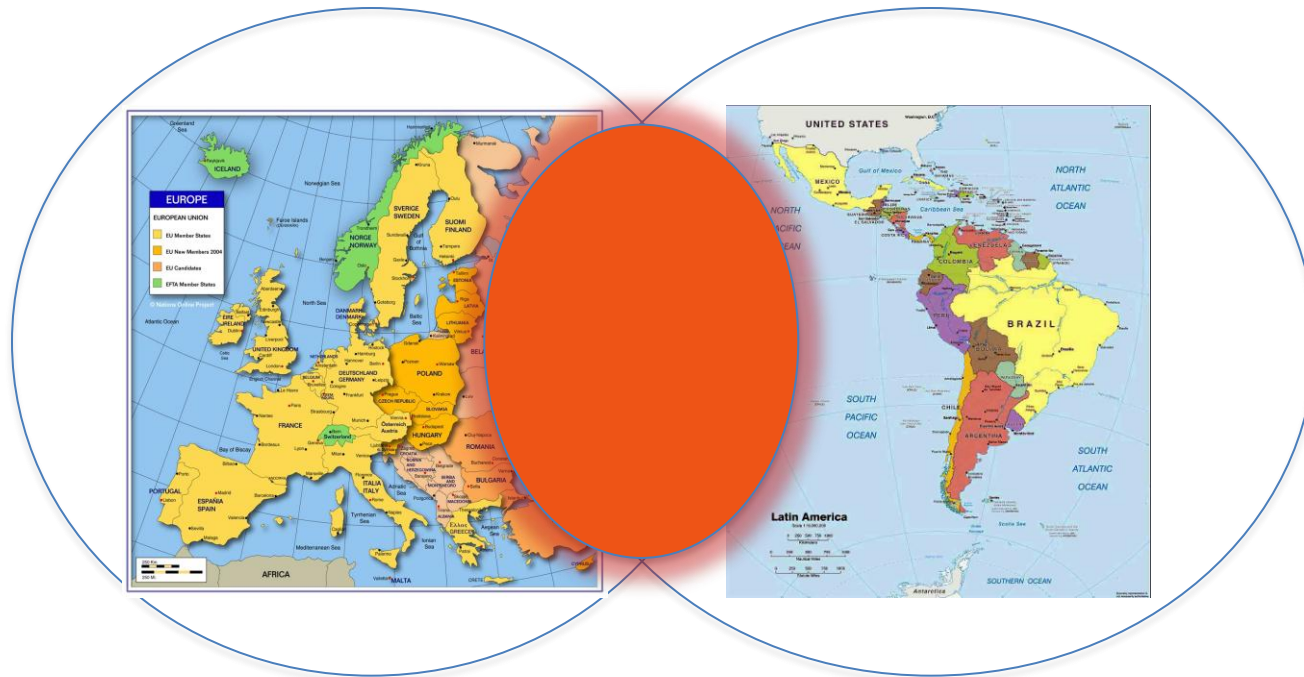
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# Research challenges



- Universal coverage is a broad category that encompasses many aspects of health care.
- Healthier lifestyles and environmental control are the most relevant categories.
  - Such a research field should include the effective and responsible translation of research (eg genomics, proteomics,..) into population health benefits and the integration between knowledge and applications into health promotion and disease prevention.
- One highly relevant issue seems to be the introduction of new vaccines, as well as early diagnosis and treatment of chronic diseases and cancer, mental health, drug addictions and improved strategies
  - Such an introduction ought to undergo robust and rigorous HTA processes, as it happens in Europe.

# Main challenges in Europe and in Latin America



# Why a global health perspective and a systems thinking and analysis are needed?



- **Many of the most pressing policy challenges affecting public health involve addressing complex problems**
  - health inequities, climate change, obesity,...
- **They transcend the capacity of any one organization to comprehend or address, require joint working and a system thinking and analysis**
- **Global health would represent a sustainable way to tackle social inequalities**
  - they caused much of the disease burden even in the European Region, where the lowest and highest life expectancy at birth in the Region differ by 16 years.
  - Health inequalities are also linked to health-related **behavior**, including tobacco and alcohol use, diet and physical activity, and mental health disorders.

# Main goals of the collaboration



- In many fields in prevention and health promotion we know what works and what to do.
- Research results have to be taken indeed as sound evidence for decision making and translate them into better policies, programmes and decisions.
- In many ways the Caribbean and adjacent Central and South America are a “reflection” of Europe with similar diversity, resulting from the former colonization of many of these countries by European countries
- Research ought to be focused on the new role of stakeholders (e.g. citizens), as well for other non health stakeholders .
  - agriculture and food security, housing, local government, town planning, education, health NGOs, industry and business

# D) Specific objectives



- General goals to guide policy makers and other stakeholders on future actions (thus including translational research):
  - to improve overall population health and healthy life years
  - to increase equity and access in health and reduce health inequalities
  - to strengthen and increase effective public health and research in public health capacity and cooperation.
- Such goals should include specific objectives and targets (reduction in certain biological, clinical or epidemiological determinants - nutritional status, other risk factors and/or increasing in certain behaviours).
  - a quality requirement in such an issue is to provide health research protocols with useful, valid and suitable data in both the planning and the evaluation phases.

# E) Type of activities-1



## 1) Improve overall population health and healthy life years:

- To address disease prevention and healthy ageing - especially cancer and other chronic diseases – with specific comparative research initiatives, starting from the key causal factors of diet, alcohol consumption, physical activity and smoking.
- To use innovative and integrated approaches to deal with behavioural, environment and health care determinants, by promoting healthy eating patterns (as regards the risk factor “inappropriate diet”), counteracting smoking (as regards the “smoking” risk factor), counteracting alcohol abuse (as regards the “alcohol” risk factor) and promoting exercise (as regards the “sedentary lifestyle” risk factor).
- To bring evidence from the effective partnerships with citizens and communities, as well as with public and private stakeholders held at local/community level, through the evaluation and dissemination of initiatives on empowerment of citizens and patients.

# E) Type of activities-2



## 2) Increase equity and access in health and reduce health inequalities:

- To support EU-LAC countries and stakeholders with field-comparative researchers to identify and implement what works best and how to put this into practice, through the application of Health Technology Assessment and evidence based care/management.
- To assess the potential impact on health inequalities and the quality and sustainability of healthcare by monitoring relevant normative initiatives and policy developments and by sharing best practice
- To develop and carry out health related evaluations on the impact of policies on health inequalities among the EU-LAC countries, through staff exchanges.
- To regularly produce joint reports on the main features of inequality and on successful strategies to reduce it.
- To support with on field essays the decision-makers to improve the health of the worst off and reduce inequality in health between areas and inside countries (health promotion and primary care facilities, water safety and sanitation,...)



# E) Type of activities-3



## 3) Strengthen and increase effective public health and research in public health capacity and cooperation:

To promote communication and integration, by:

- providing virtual spaces to exchange knowledge and best practice in the field of public health (forums,..);
- building up initiatives of participating in research exchanges and scientific dialogues;
- creating networks and promoting links among European and Latin American Public Health organisations and Schools of public health and economics.

To train, by:

- developing platforms and/or directly providing training initiatives;
- promoting knowledge development, on site research outcomes and best practice at a EU-LAC level (eg design, implementation and evaluation of curricula that may produce high quality general practitioners)

To disseminate information, by improving communication and sharing best practice.

# Partners



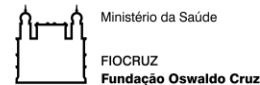
**Dr. Carlos Segovia (Coordinator)**  
ISCIH, Instituto de Salud Carlos III, Ministerio de Economía y Competitividad, Spain



**Dr. Stephanie Splett-Rudolph**  
DLR, Deutsches Zentrum für Luft- und Raumfahrt e.V., Germany



**Dr. Luis Tacsan Chen**  
RIMAIS, Red Iberoamericana Ministerial de Aprendizaje e Investigación en Salud, Ministerio de Salud, Costa Rica



**Dr. Paulo Buss**  
FIOCRUZ, Fundação Oswaldo Cruz, Brazil



**Dr. Joaquin Guinea**  
INNOVATEC, Sociedad para el Fomento de la Innovación Tecnológica, Spain



**Eng. Águeda Menvielle**  
MINCYT, Ministerio de Ciencia, Tecnología Argentina e Innovación Productiva

The COHRED Group



**Dr. Francisco Becerra**  
COHRED, Council on Health Research for Development, Switzerland /Mexico



**Dr. Diassina Di Maggio**  
APRE, Agenzia per la Promozione della Ricerca, Italy



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