

## INVITATION

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# Tackling health inequalities in Europe – What can the EU do to support the work done at local and regional level?

Health is a value in itself as well as a prerequisite for the achievement of the EU 2020 objectives of smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. People's health influences economic outcomes in terms of productivity, labour supply, human capital and public spending.

In many of the member states of the European Union, however, health inequalities are increasing. This is a joint challenge for society that needs to be addressed and tackled by all levels of government.

This seminar will focus on the role of local and regional authorities, the need to recognize the EU-level and its impact, possibilities and obstacles when it comes to tackling health inequalities in Europe.

Building on local and regional examples from Europe, the seminar will seek to identify and discuss how existing EU tools can support, as well as recognize and bridge the gaps between what is needed by the EU and what can be provided by local and regional authorities in tackling health inequalities.

The target audience of the seminar are decisions makers and officers in the European Parliament, European Commission and organizations representing local, regional and national authorities and organizations involved in public health, health promotion and sustainable development.

The seminar is arranged by the Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SALAR), EuroHealthNet and European Regional and Local Health Authorities (EUREGHA).

<b>Date</b>	Wednesday the 5 <sup>th</sup> of November 2014 from 10.00 AM until 13.30 PM
<b>Venue</b>	Permanent representation of Sweden to the European Union, Square de Meeûs 30 - 1000 Bruxelles
<b>Registration</b>	The seminar is free of charge.

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## PROGRAM

10.00 – 10.30	<b>Registration</b>
10.30 – 10.50	<b>Introduction</b> <i>Ms. Catarina Segersten Larsson, 1st Vice President Region Värmland and representative for Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions</i> <i>Mr. Jonas Frykman, Senior Advisor, Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions</i>
10.50 – 11.05	<b>Health inequalities in the European Union. From a local and regional perspective</b> <i>Ms. Constance Hannify, Rapporteur on the draft opinion "Report on health inequalities in the European Union", Former member of the Committee of the Regions</i>
11.05 – 11.55	<b>Panel Discussion</b> <b>What is needed by the EU to effectively address equity in health at the local and regional level?</b> <i>Ms. Maria Berhe, Senior officer Public Health, Region Västra Götaland, Sweden</i> <i>Dr. Carol Tannahill, Director of the Glasgow Centre for Population Health, Scotland</i> <i>Ms. Magda Michalek, EU Policy Officer at Regional Office of the Lodzkie Region, Poland</i> <i>Moderated by Ms. Elisabeth Bengtsson, Director of Public Health, Region Skåne, Sweden</i>

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11.55 – 12.25 **Coffee**

12.25 – 13.25 **Panel Discussion**

**Which EU tools and mechanisms can more effectively contribute to health and health equity?**

*Ms. Caroline Costongs, Managing Director, EuroHealthNet*

*Mr, Wolfgang Bücherl, Team leader "Health strategy", Strategy and International, EC/DG SANCO*

*Ms Marie-Anne Paraskevas, Senior Expert, Policy and Legislation, EC/DG EMPL*

*Mr Andor Urmos, Political analyst, Regional and Urban Policy EC/DG REGIO*

*Mr Francesco Zambon, Policy Development Officer, WHO Regional Office for Europe*

13.25 – 13.30 **Conclusive remarks**

*Ms. Catarina Segersten Larsson, 1st Vice President Region Värmland and representative for Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions*