How to reduce the Health Gap
Maastricht, 28.11.2014

Helmut Brand, Jean Monnet Chair of European Public Health

with the support of the LLP programme of the European Union
Life Expectancy in Germany: 1952 - 1990

- **Frauen** (Women)
- **Männer** (Men)

Lebenserwartung bei Geburt (Life expectancy at birth)

- **W** (Women)
- **E** (Men)

Years:
- 1950
- 1955
- 1960
- 1965
- 1970
- 1975
- 1980
- 1985
- 1990
- 1995

Number of years:
- 55
- 60
- 65
- 70
- 75
- 80
- 85
Life Expectancy in Germany: 1956 - 2007

The graph shows the life expectancy at birth for males and females in Germany from 1956 to 2004. The life expectancy has increased steadily over the years, with females generally having a higher life expectancy than males. The graph is color-coded, with yellow representing males and red representing females.
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Females

Life Expectancy at Birth

- East Germany
- West Germany
- Lee–Carter

Gain: 4.17 years

Years


T. Vogt, MPI Rostock, 2014
HEALTH INEQUALITIES ACROSS LONDON TRANSLATE IN LOST YEARS OF LIFE EXPECTANCY

Travelling east from Westminster, each tube stop represents nearly one year of life expectancy lost.

Electoral wards just a few miles apart geographically have life expectancy spans varying by years. For instance, there are eight stops between Westminster and Canning Town on the Jubilee Line – so as one travels east, each stop, on average, marks nearly a year of shortened lifespan.  

Life expectancy

Source: WHO European Health for all Database [http://data.euro.who.int/hfadb/], April 2014
Healthy life years

Infant mortality

Source: WHO European Health for all Database [http://data.euro.who.int/hfadb/], April 2014
Avoidable Mortality (Simonato et al.)

Health system

Primary Prevention
- Liver cirrhosis

Secondary Prevention and Early detection
- Breast cancer

Treatment and medical care
- Hypertension (cerebrovascular disease)
Primary Prevention

Source: WHO European Health for all Database [http://data.euro.who.int/hfadb/], April 2014
Secondary care and early detection

SDR, malignant neoplasm female breast, 0-64 per 100000

Source: WHO European Health for all Database http://data.euro.who.int/hfadb/, April 2014
Treatment & medical care

Source: WHO European Health for all Database [http://data.euro.who.int/hfadb/], April 2014
Access to health: self-reported unmet needs for medical examination

Source: SILC data, Eurostat
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GDP per person
2013, €'000

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<th>Country</th>
<th>Euro area</th>
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The Economist 2014
Annual GDP forecast
2015, % growth on a year earlier

- 3.0 and above
- 2.0 to 2.9
- 1.0 to 1.9
- 0.0 to 0.9
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Budget balance
As % of GDP, 2015 forecast

- Above 0.0
- 0.0 to -0.9
- -1.0 to -1.9
- -2.0 to -2.9
- -3.0 to -3.9
- Below -4.0

The Economist 2014
“Eastern Europe” Wrongly labelled
The economic downturn has made it harder to speak sensibly of a region called “eastern Europe”

The Economist, 7 Jan 2010
Infant deaths per 1000 live births

Min-Max EU <2004 [2007]
Luxembourg 1,83‰ – UK 4,84‰

Min-Max EU >2004/2007 (east) [2007]
Slovenia 2,78‰ – Romania 10,97‰

European HFA-DB, July 2010
Life expectancy at birth, in years, female

Min-Max EU <2004 [2008]
Greece 82,49 – Spain 84,67

Min-Max EU>2004/2007 (east) [2008]
Bulgaria 77,11 – Slovenia 82,7

European HFA-DB, July 2010
Statements:

- The [east-west] dividing line certainly seems to be shifting eastwards.
- Four countries in Europe – Russia, Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova – are increasingly lagging behind.

Why did e.g. Slovenia perform so good?

• Good economic development
• Re-organisation of health system

Management of new/old problems

• e.g. premature mortality – new concepts necessary
  – Premature mortality due to alcohol and injuries (including self-inflicted = suicides)
  – Late detection of certain preventable diseases like cancer
  – Life style issues in children (esp. alcohol, obesity, smoking and insufficient physical activity)
  – Socio-economic differences in health

Tit Albreht, Institute of Public Health of the Republic of Slovenia
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... see you in Europe

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