6.L. Pitch presentations: Impact of health inequalities

Health inequalities reduction in Lithuania: from evidence based practice to policy development
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Problem
Lithuania appears in the range of the countries with the most significant inequalities in health and health care. In 2014, the Lithuanian Parliament approved the Lithuanian Health Program 2014-2025 with strategic goal - to reduce health and health care inequalities in Lithuania.

Description of the problem
In order to facilitate in tackling health inequalities, the project “Development of the Model for the Strengthening of the Capacities to Identify and Reduce Health Inequalities” has been launched. This project is run by Lithuanian University of Health Sciences, Vilnius University, Klaipeda University and the Institute of Hygiene and financed by the Norwegian Financial Mechanism 2009–2014 Program “Public Health Initiatives”. It commenced in 2014 and will be completed in 2017.

Results
The project has three actions. The first - the development of health inequalities identification and monitoring system. This stage is completed, and all municipalities in Lithuania will start using it in 2016. The second - is the development of recommendations for reducing health inequalities in Lithuania. The set of recommendations has been developed and piloted in selected municipalities. The third - the capacity building of public health specialists and policy makers at regional and national level. These training sessions will be run in September – December 2016.

Lessons
It is expected, that outcomes of the project could contribute to the reduction of health inequalities in Lithuania. The monitoring system will ensure the good quality and reliable information on health inequalities in the country. Recommendations for reduction will provide guidelines for evidence-based measures in reducing health inequalities at municipal level. Training will increase awareness and facilitate as accelerating factor for starting other initiatives for reducing health inequalities.

Key messages:
- A new health inequalities monitoring system will be developed
- Critical mass of public health specialists will undergo capacity building training in health inequalities