

THE IMPORTANCE OF A MULTISECTORAL APPROACH IN REDUCING THE BURDEN OF CHRONIC NON-COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

*(Organised by the Croatian Institute of Public Health and the Ministry of Health of Croatia,
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BACKGROUND

According to mortality and morbidity indicators, chronic non-communicable diseases are most common diseases in Croatia. According to the WHO, 50% of the disease burden in Croatia, measured by the DALY (disability adjusted life years), is caused by three leading risk factors: malnutrition, high blood pressure and smoking, followed by increased body mass index, harmful alcohol consumption and insufficient physical activity.

In response to the epidemiological situation, among other strategic documents adopted and implemented, Croatia is in a final adoption phase of Action Plan for prevention and control of non-communicable diseases 2019-2025. The National Public Health Institute acknowledges that it is necessary to strengthen existing and initiate new cross-sectoral cooperation to achieve the implementation of the Action Plan.

OBJECTIVES

To explore with a group of national experts and stakeholders how to improve activities to reduce the burden of chronic diseases through intersectoral cooperation in order to reach the Sustainable Development Goal 3.4. (30% reduction in premature mortality from chronic non-communicable diseases).

More specifically, the organisers aimed to achieve a consensus regarding the implementation of the Action Plan in all sectors of society. This would include identifying roles for different sectors in the prevention and reduction of the burden of NCDs and define how better co-operation between departments/sectors can be established.

CONCLUSIONS AND MAIN ACTION POINTS

All organisations have agreed to participate in the future working group - national intersectoral committee to monitor and coordinate the implementation of the Action Plan. They have also agreed on the need to intensify cooperation and activities in the field of NCDs prevention. To overcome perceived barriers, capacities need to be strengthened in all sectors.

Main Action Points:

- To establish a multisectoral working group to monitor the implementation of the Action plan.