

MEN'S HEALTH ACROSS EUROPE

The first report on the state of men's health across 17 European countries was launched today by the European Men's Health Forum in Brussels. The report brings together the latest mortality and morbidity figures on men's health for the current European Union member states (Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Germany, France, Finland, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom), plus Norway and Switzerland. Health issues covered by the report include men's perceptions of their health, life expectancy, cause of death due to specific disease states, and lifestyle issues.

The report reveals startling differences between men and women in a number of disease areas, and demonstrates differences in men's life expectancy of over 5 years between some countries. Dr Alan White and Prof. Keith Cash of Leeds Metropolitan University in the UK presented the report at the launch event, entitled "Men's Health: Europe's forgotten challenge". The event was co-chaired by Mr John Bowis MEP and Dr Ian Banks, President of the European Men's Health Forum. Also speaking at the event was Dr Wolfgang Rutz of the World Health Organisation, who stressed the need to encourage men to seek help.

The findings of the report clearly demonstrate worrying health inequalities, both between men from different countries, as well as between men and women. Urology expert Dr Guy Yeoman underlined the need for further research, whilst Dr Anne Maria Möller-Leimkühler of the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Munich stressed the importance of awareness campaigns and educational programmes for physicians, politicians, schools, colleges, and working places. The report highlights the need for health policy, health research and health care to all relate more closely to the needs of both men and women.

Most of the inequalities highlighted are within the scope of policy makers to improve. Dr Tapani Piha from DG Health and Consumer Protection in the European Commission spoke about the opportunities for action at EU level. Having highlighted the importance of these issues, the report calls for additional research to document the reasons for these inequalities and to urgently address them at the European Union level.

For more information, including the full report, please contact EMHF: