



Seminar on  
Inequality in health – health  
challenges in the near future

September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009  
Brussels

The Swedish Council for Working Life and Social Research initiates and supports basic and applied research with a view to improving our knowledge about working life, public health and welfare.

# Seminar on “Inequality in Health”

## General information

- Title:** “Inequality in health – Health challenges in the near future”
- Date:** September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2009
- Place:** Permanent Representation of Sweden to the European Union Square de Meeus 30, B-1000 Brussels
- Organiser:** Swedish Council for Working Life and Social Research, FAS

## Context of seminar

**Inequity in health** has been pointed out as a major global and European problem by the WHO. Equity in health can only be achieved by addressing and influencing the social determinants of health. EU could and should take the world lead in this field. The European social model, combining market and social protection, has proven successful for this purpose. A major reduction of health differences between European countries as well as within countries could be achieved by programs to improve the health, in particular, of disadvantaged groups and countries in Europe. National and European policies and programs should therefore address the social determinants of health and use the diverse experience of Europe to do this successfully.

## Purpose and aim

Since 2000 a core objective of the European Research Area (ERA) has been to ensure coherence of national and regional research programmes and priorities of European interests. One topic today, is the discussions between several member states and associated states on the topics of joint programming and opening of national programmes, in certain areas to strengthen national as well as European competitiveness. Inequity in Health has a high relevance due to the complementarity to the content of the Framework Programme Seven (2007–2013). **The purpose of the seminar is to highlight the need of a paradigm shift in the health research to a prevention focus and to achieve increased European cooperation by a Joint Programming initiative.**

The need for well functioning Research Infrastructures with aggregated data in Social and Health sciences is a crucial question, in this discussion.

## Targeted participants

The Seminar aims at targeting the following participants:

- Research Councils
- Research funding organisations
- Researchers
- Representatives of governments and policy makers
- The Commission and The European Parliament

## Programme

- 11:30–13:00 Buffet lunch and registration
- 13:00–13:15 **Introduction**  
*Erland Hjelmquist, Secretary-General, FAS*
- 13:15–14:25 **Speakers**  
*Professor Sir Michael Marmot, University College London, (UCL)*  
*Dr Pirooska Östlin, Dept of Health Sciences, Karolinska Institute*  
*Professor Karien Stronks, University of Amsterdam*
- 14:25–14:45 **Coffee**
- 14:45–15:15 **Speakers**  
*Kevin McCarthy, European Commission – Directorate General for Research, Health Directorate*  
*Charles Price (tbc), European Commission – Directorate General for Health and Consumers (DG SANCO)*
- 15:15–16:00 **Panel discussion**

## Participation

The seminar is free of charge.

Please confirm your participation to [cecilia.grevby@fas.se](mailto:cecilia.grevby@fas.se) before September 7<sup>th</sup>.

More information on the seminar will be available at: [www.fas.se/en](http://www.fas.se/en).