

CEH policy indicators

A case study of UV radiation


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Action items in CEHAPE RPGs

- ENHIS indicators enable monitoring of action items of the RPGs in CEHAPE
 - RPGIV action b) *"...implementing policies to raise awareness and endeavour to ensure reduction of exposure to UV radiation, particularly in children and adolescents"*
-  Covered by CEH policy indicator on UV exposure reduction

Policy analysis approaches in ENHIS

- Qualitative research approach
 - Symposium Children's environmental health policies
Tuesday 12 June 16:45h – 17:00h
- Quantitative indicator approach
 - Action indicators calculate composite index of policy action items such as... among others:
 - Legislative regulation, such as laws to regulate sun bed usage by children and teenagers
 - Non-legislative preventive measures, such as sun protection programmes in schools
 - Information campaigns, such as state campaigns in tourist agencies to raise tourists' awareness of dangers from UV exposure

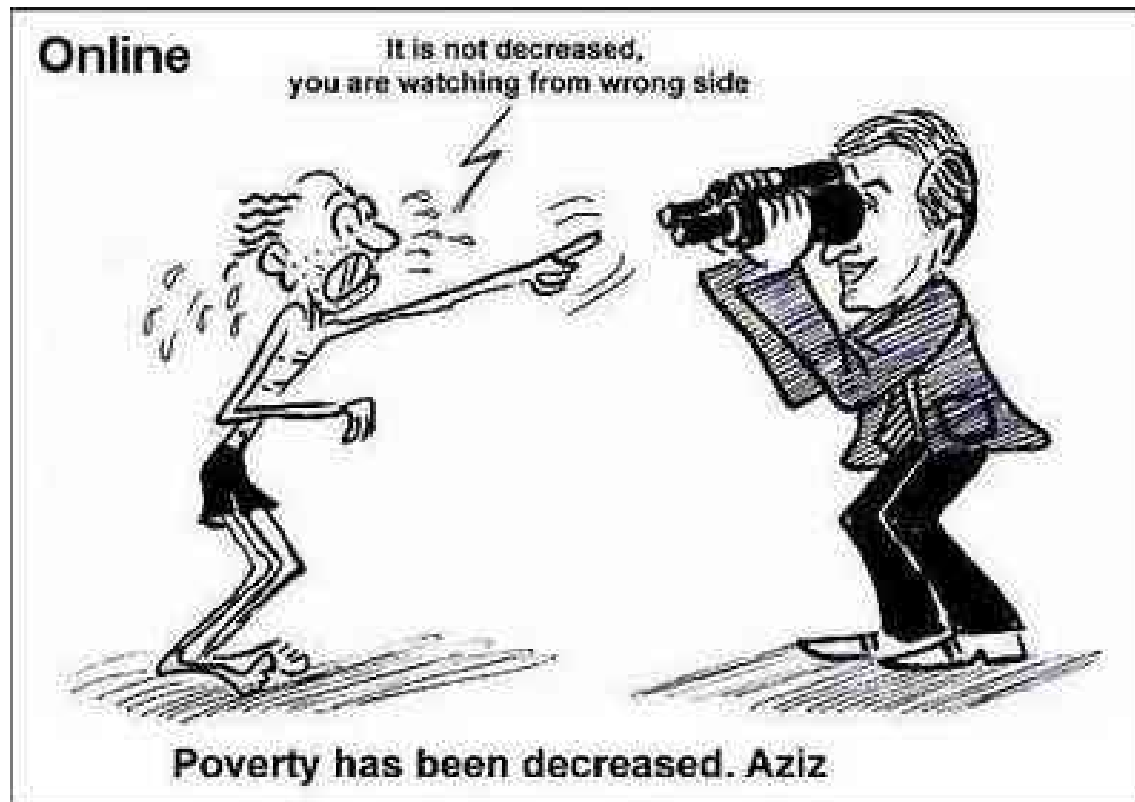
Conception of CEH policy indicator

- Intention of policy indicators:
 - Communication and illustration of national CEH policy situation
 - Comparative assessment indicates challenges for policy improvement and potential for (improved) European policy harmonization
- Policy indicator assessment: Comparison of policy scope and level of implementation for national CEH policies
- Policy indicator methodology: Composite index of policy action items
 - Score 0: not existing
 - Score 1: partially implemented
 - Score 2: fully implemented

Indicator pitfall

The increase in per capita income is a clear indicator that poverty is decreasing?

Is it really??




CEH policy indicators developed in ENHIS project

- Policies to reduce the exposure of children to environmental pollution
- Policies to promote safe mobility and transport for children
- Policies to reduce and prevent excess body weight
- Policies to reduce and prevent selected unintentional injuries
- Policies to reduce the excessive exposure of children to electromagnetic fields

Justification for CEH policy indicator set

- Policy indicator selection based on review of policy needs covered by RPGs
 - Topic areas without clear regulatory framework
- International health regulations e.g. WHO INTERSUN programme provided the rationale for selection of policy actions in each indicator

 Policy indicators can provide a snapshot overview of measures put in place and identify policy gaps

Development of CEH policy indicators

- Name / definition and indicator scope
- Composite index of national policy actions
- Preparation and implementation of metadata file by national experts
- Assessment of metadata
- Display in indicator factsheet
- Formulation of key message and other sections of indicator factsheet

UV policy indicator factsheet

- Policies to reduce the excessive exposure o

- Scope: WHO INTERSUN recommendations including preventive, informative and legislative actions

- Indicator calculation: Score 1 if 'yes' and score 0 if 'no' or 'regional level'
 - Maximum score is eight

Suggestions for improvement of CEH policy indicators

- Policy indicator improvement: Iterative process of validation and adjustment of the scope of action items and composite index calculation
 - Preferably with an international committee of experts

- Policy indicator validation: Comparison of policy indicator with actual exposure conditions e.g. **Incidence of melanoma in people aged under 55 years**

- Policy indicator validation: Additional development of outcome indicators to monitor the actual policy impact
 - *Indicator on sun bed use*
 - *Indicator on attitude and behaviour towards UV exposure*

UV policy indicator

- Name: Policies to reduce the excessive exposure of children to ultraviolet radiation
- Definition: Actions to reduce the excessive exposure of children to ultraviolet radiation
- Scope: WHO INTERSUN recommendations including preventive, informative and legislative actions

UV policy indicator (2)

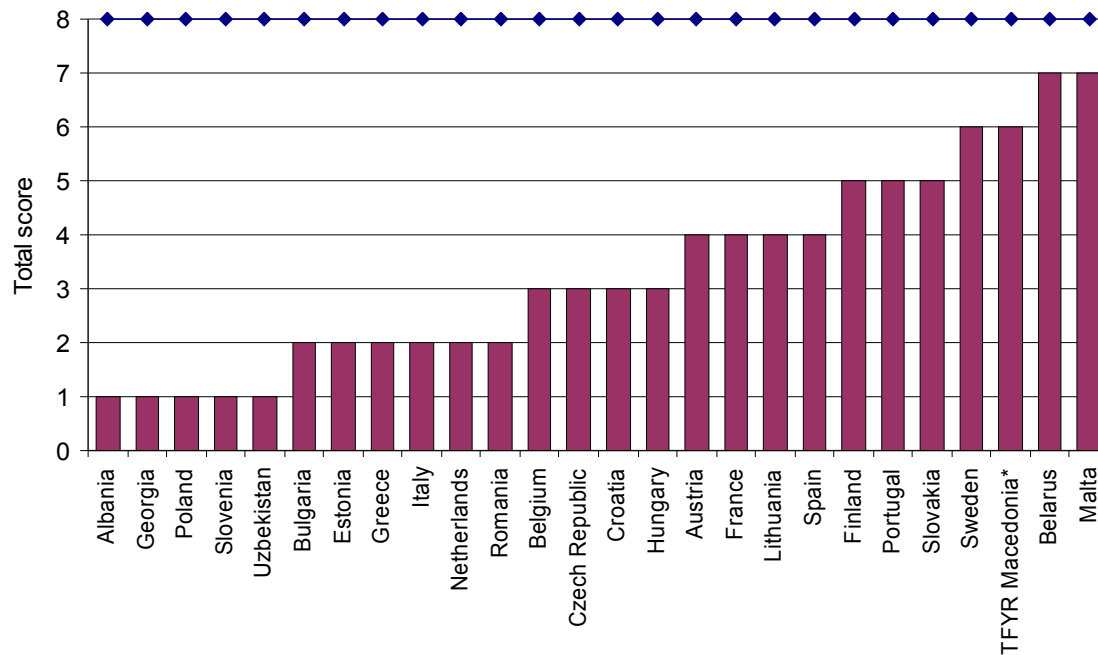
- Composite index: Eight action items
 - E.g. Sun protection programmes in schools at national or regional level
- Indicator calculation: Score 1 if 'yes' and score 0 if 'no' or 'regional level'
 - Maximum score is eight
- Metadata: Excel file lists action items
 - Geographical coverage: 26 countries in WHO European region
 - Period of coverage: situation in 2006

UV policy indicator (3)

- Metadata assessment: Comparison between countries and amongst action items
 - Data quality: Snapshot overview
 - Regular updating necessary
 - Possibility of interpretation bias
- Display in factsheet: (i) Indicator; (ii) Rationale; (iii) Key message; (iv) Presentation of the data; (v) Health and Environment context; (vi) Policy relevance and context; (vii) Assessment; (viii) Data underlying the indicator; (ix) References; (x) Further information

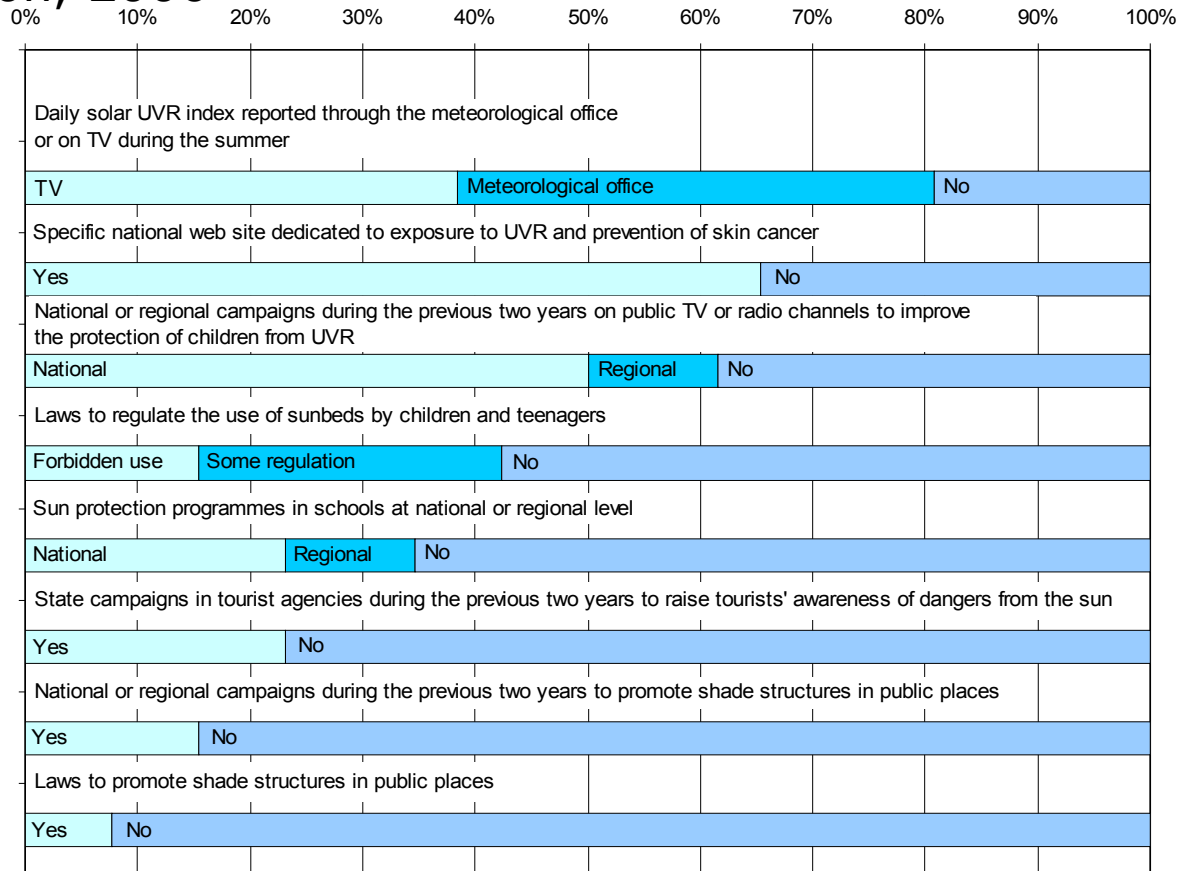
UV policy indicator (4)

Figure 1 Degree of implementation of action to reduce exposure of the population to UVR in 26 countries in the WHO European Region, 2006



UV policy indicator (5)

Figure 2 Actions to reduce the excessive exposure of children to UVR in 26 countries in the WHO European Region, 2006



UV policy indicator (6)

- Key message:☺ The 26 selected countries vary widely in the action they have taken to reduce the excessive exposure of children to UVR. Preventive action ranges from media campaigns encouraging people to protect themselves against UVR and provision of public information about the harmful level and effects of exposure to UVR, to legislation on the use of sunbeds by children and teenagers. There are major opportunities for the development of policies as well as for the harmonization and strengthening of national efforts to reduce the excessive exposure of children to solar UVR.