



TERVEYDEN JA HYVINVOINNIN LAITOS

Health in All Policies, social determinants of health and health inequalities

Meri Koivusalo, LT, MSc
Senior Researcher

Health inequalities and HIAP

- Reduction of regional health inequalities has been partly successful as part of longer-term policies
 - North Carelia project
 - National policy emphasis in development of public services, broad social and health programmes
 - Cross-subsidisation and direct funding
- Social distribution of consumption of alcohol and tobacco
- Social inequalities and child poverty low, though increasing in the 1990s



Life expectancy of men and women aged 35 by income quintile in 1988-2007

Association between income and mortality has strengthened in the past 20 years

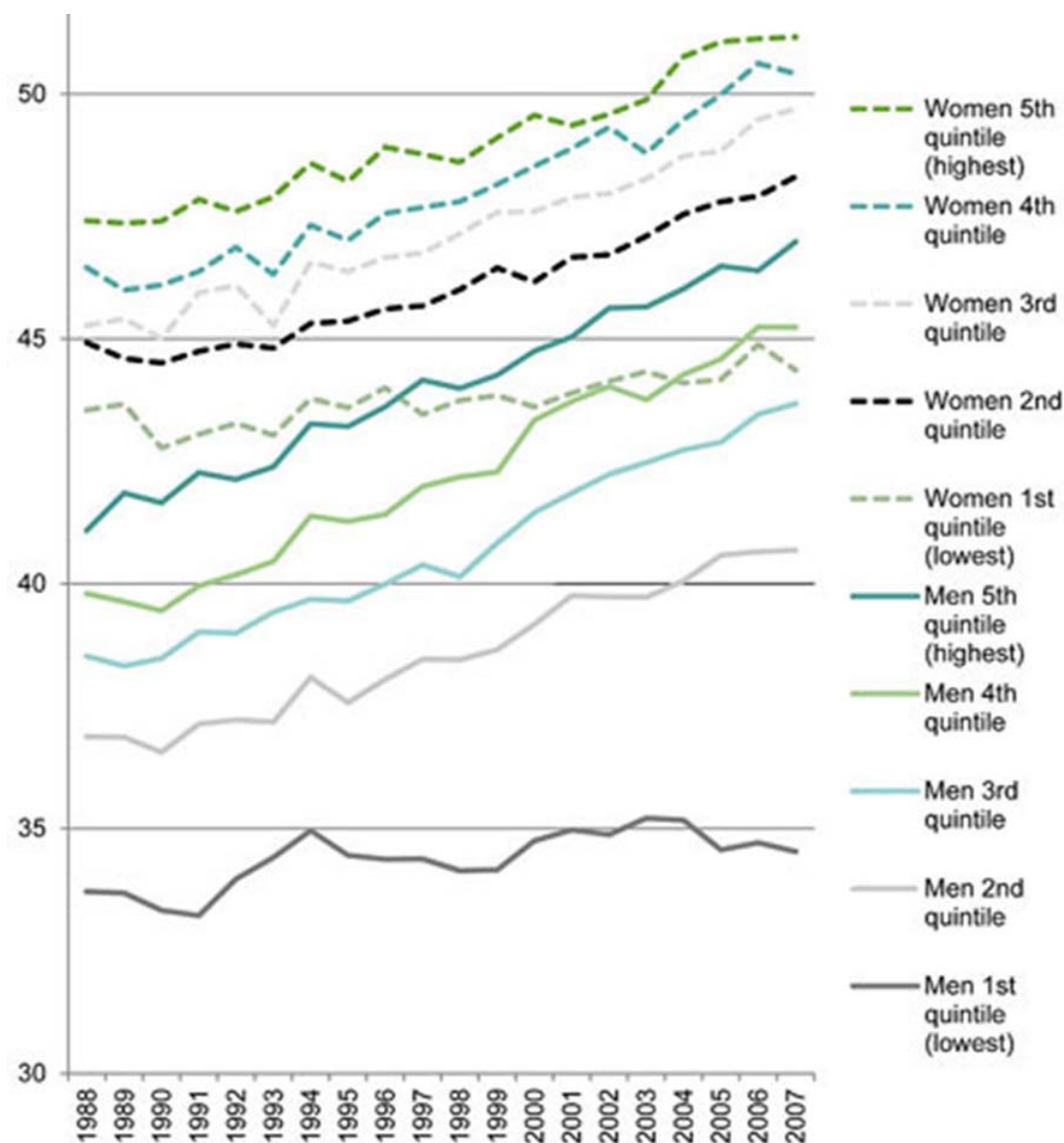
Increasing proportion of adverse socio-demographic characteristics in the lowest income quintile and the increasingly harmful effects of having a low income are likely to be behind the increasing disparity

(Tarkiainen et al. 2012)

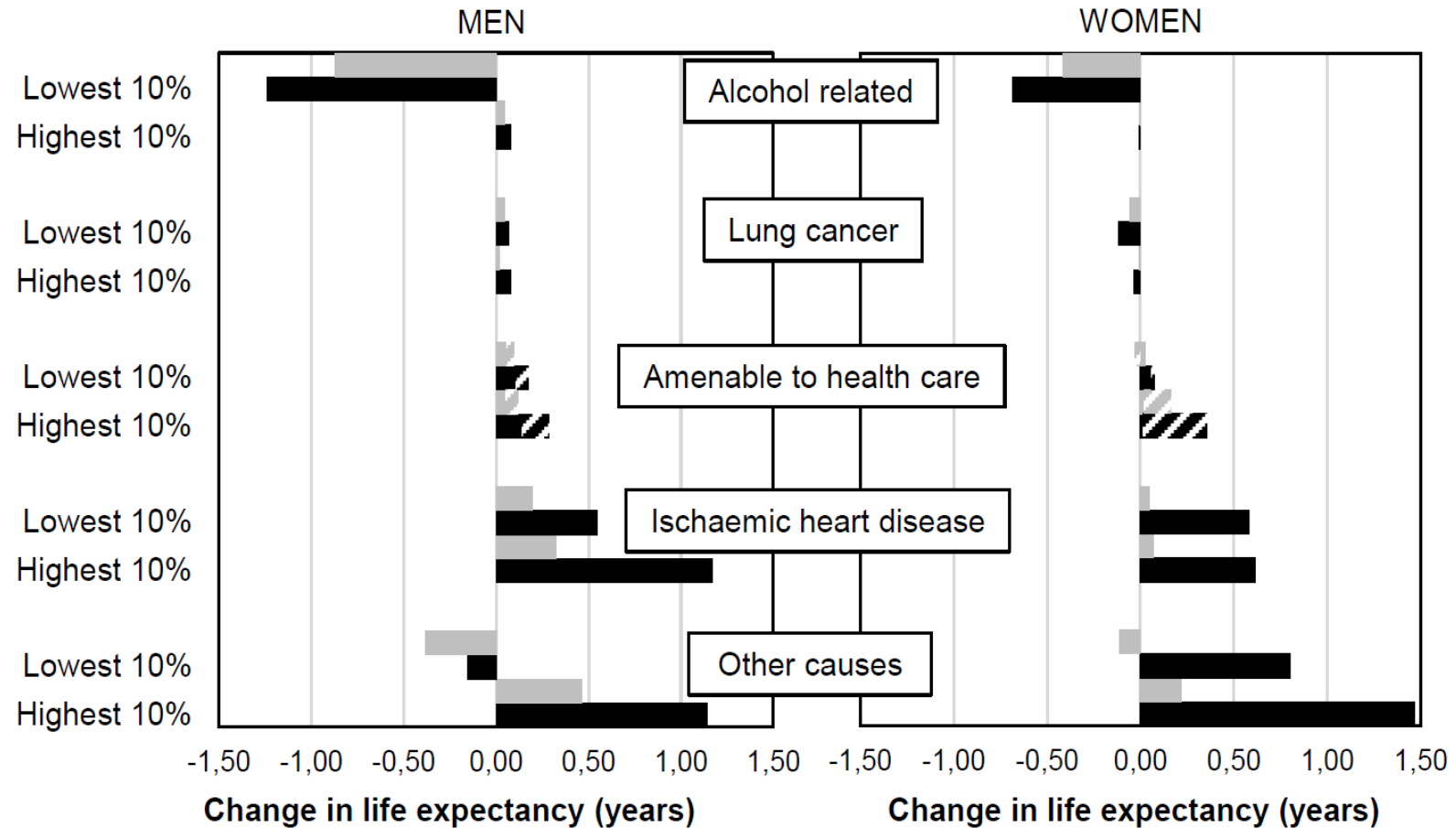
<http://jech.bmj.com/content/67/1/21.full.pdf+html>

http://www.thl.fi/en_US/web/kaventaaja-en/health-inequalities-in-finland/life-expectancy

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Manderbacka et al (2013) The contribution of cause of death groups to change in life expectancy by income.



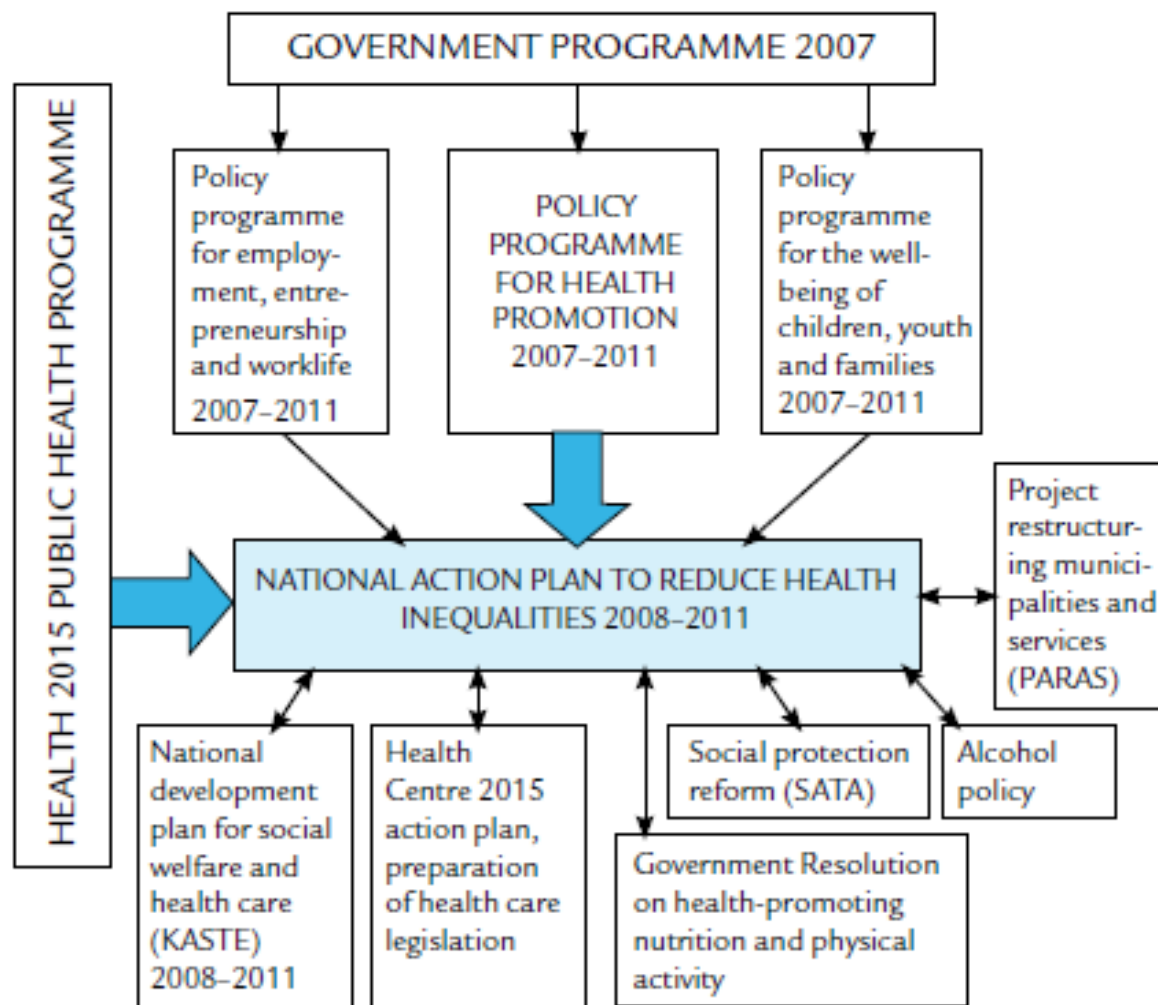
Causes amenable to health care were divided to those amenable to primary care (pattern fill in stacked bars) and specialised care (solid fill)

INEQUALITIES AND GOVERNMENT ACTION

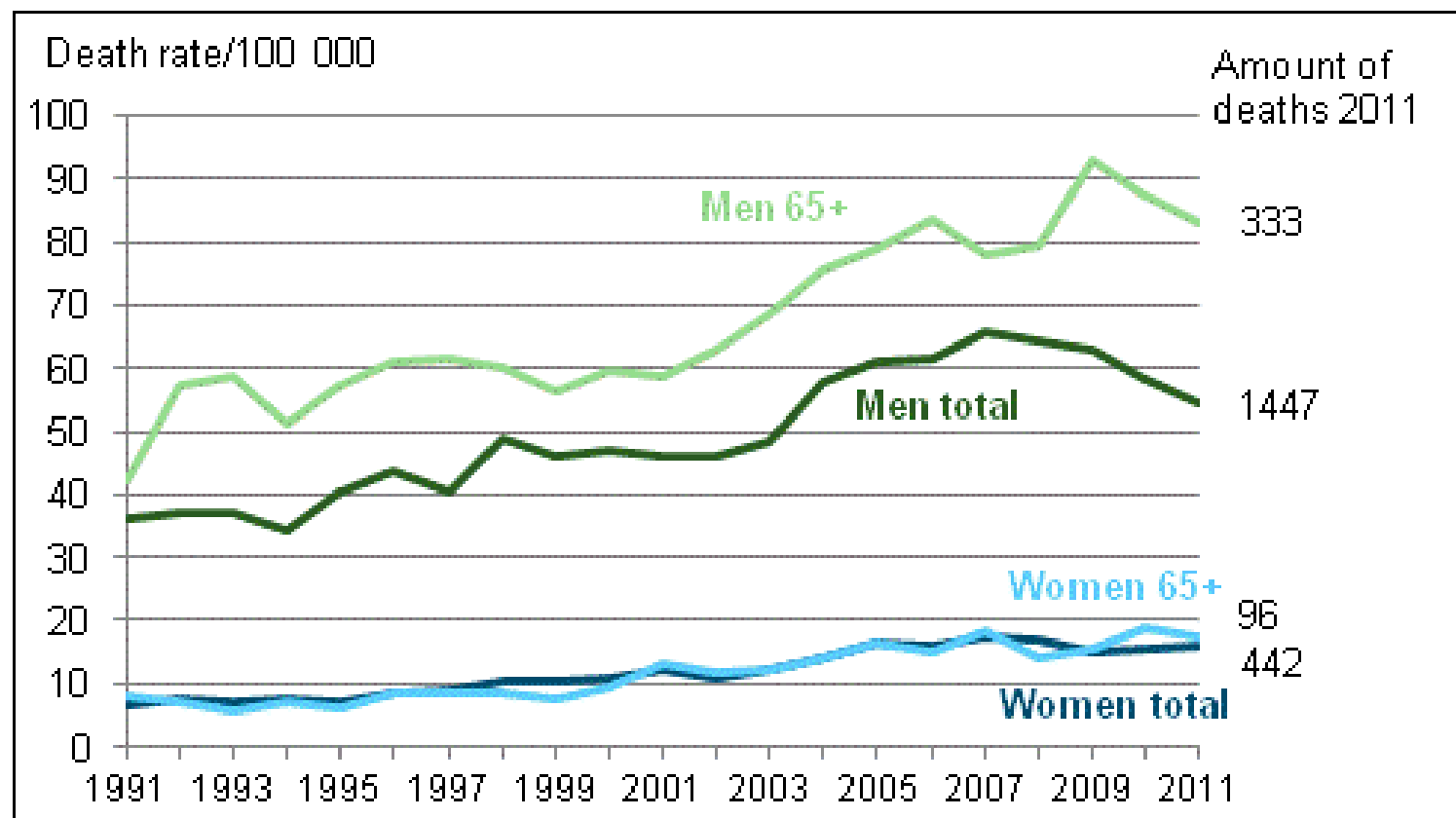
- High-level of recognition of the problem and importance of HIAP since early 2000's, but more explicitly in 2003-2011
 - Willingness to reduce health inequalities not the problem, but challenges remain in **how** this is sought
 - More programme focus through Ministry of Health and Social Affairs than HIAP
 - Decentralisation and local government independence affects implementation
 - Information steering without additional resources or other incentives not sufficient for change at local level
 - Inequalities not only a result of local policies, but affected by European and national level policy choices



NATIONAL ACTION PLAN (2008-2011)



Mortality from alcohol-related diseases and accidental poisoning by alcohol in 1991 to 2011



https://www.tilastokeskus.fi/til/ksyyt/2011/ksyyt_2011_2012-12-21_tie_001_en.html



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STATE OF ACTION

- Governments pushed towards more choice and “nudge”, than public policies with focus on reduction of inequalities
- Self-improvement and “fitness and health” in media
- Challenges with alcohol consumption
- Health systems change with improved access through occupational health services associated with increased distance to health centres and user cost-sharing likely to contribute to inequalities
- Some progress through focus on specific groups: prisons, unemployed



HIAP AND INEQUALITIES

“The poor results in the reduction of health inequalities do not mean that HIAP is not the right approach. Although health-targeted measures have been introduced they have not been the main factors affecting social determinants. After the economic recession of the 1990s, an economic policy with neoliberal attributes has been practiced in Finland. This has led to a rapid increase in differences in income and, to some extent, a contraction of public services”.

- Tapani Melkas, Analysis on the role of HIAP in Finnish health policy (2013)

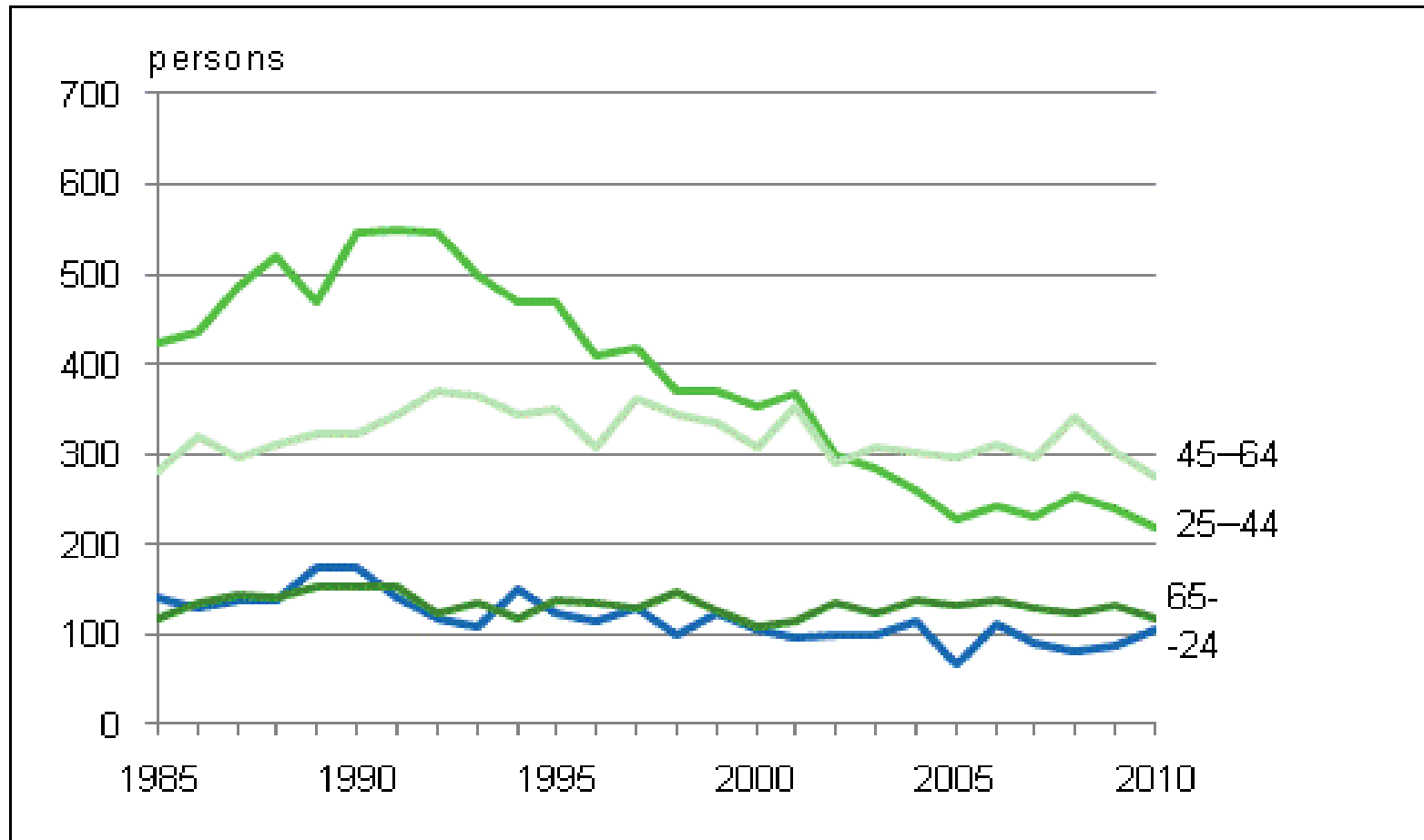


CRISIS, AUSTERITY AND HEALTH

- Starting point :social spending with relatively low socioeconomic inequalities
- Changed balance between social and public policy arguments and those of commercial policy: social and health services as part of commercial policy
- Economic growth from 1990s crisis and austerity may have recovered, but social austerity has remained for longer
- It is not only crisis, but also politics towards recovery that are important: “leaner and meaner policies”
- Countries are different and context of economic and social policies differ – problems may emerge in different areas



Suicides by age in 1985-2010, men



- https://www.tilastokeskus.fi/til/ksyyt/2010/ksyyt_2010_2011-12-16_tie_001_en.html
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Health in All Policies – HIAP

- 2013 8th WHO Global Conference on Health Promotion
 - http://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0007/188809/Health-in-All-Policies-final.pdf
- Tapani Melkas: HIAP as a priority in Finnish Health policy
 - http://sjp.sagepub.com/content/41/11_suppl/3.full.pdf+html
- Hannele Palosuo: Social determinants of health
 - <http://www.thl.fi/thl-client/pdfs/e5e316ea-a39e-4232-84c6-3e89db025f8c>
- 2006 Finnish Presidency focus on Health in All Policies
 - http://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0003/109146/E89260.pdf



THANK YOU

Reducing the gap is a rocky road and remains a challenge.

How we seek to deal with it remains a reflection of facts, politics and values

More information:

www.thl.fi

meri.koivusalo@thl.fi



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