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MINISTRSTVO ZA ZDRAVJE

# **Positioning health equity and the social determinants of health on the regional development agenda**

## **Investment for health and development in Slovenia**

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Directorat for Public Health  
Ministry of Health, Slovenia



# Outline

- **Some figures about Slovenia**
- **Health status and health inequalities**
- **Positioning health equity and social determinants of health**
- **Top down and bottom up approach**
- **Future challenges**



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# Slovenia: the beauty of diversity



Area: 20,273 km<sup>2</sup>

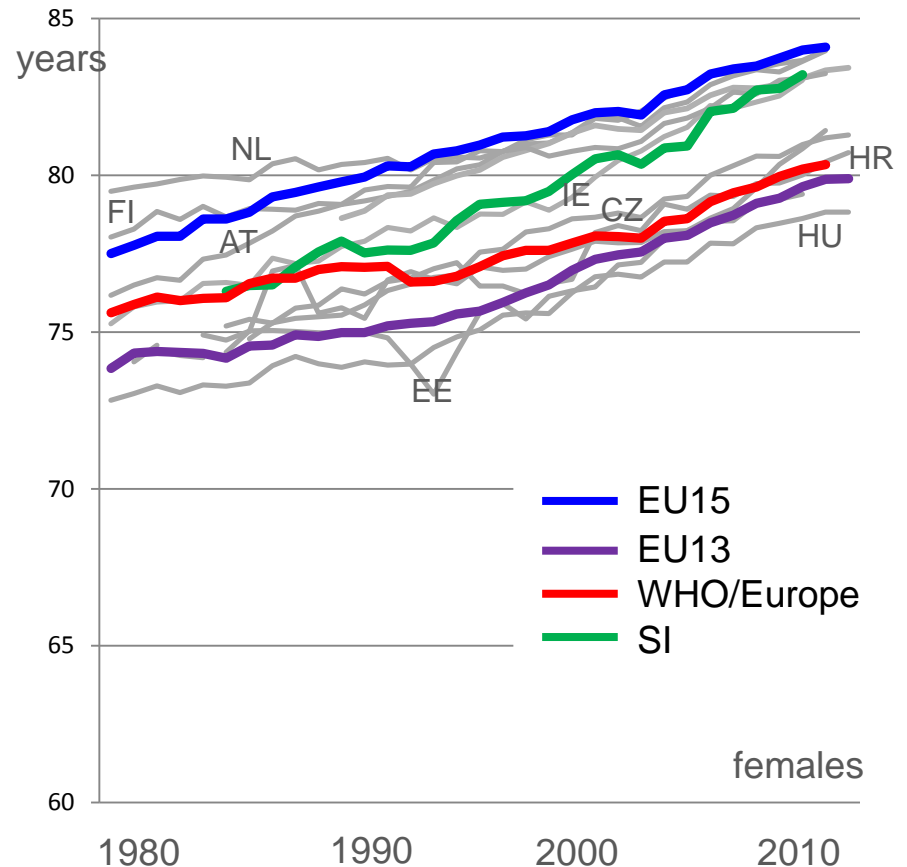
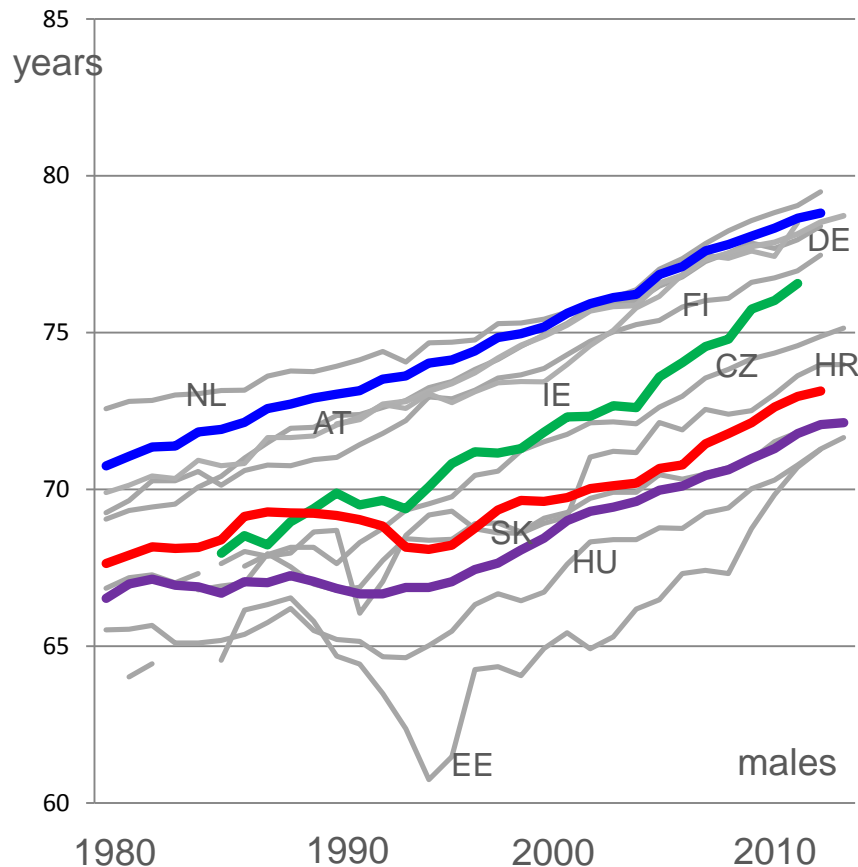
Pop.: 2 million  
25% live in  
urban area  
215 municipalities



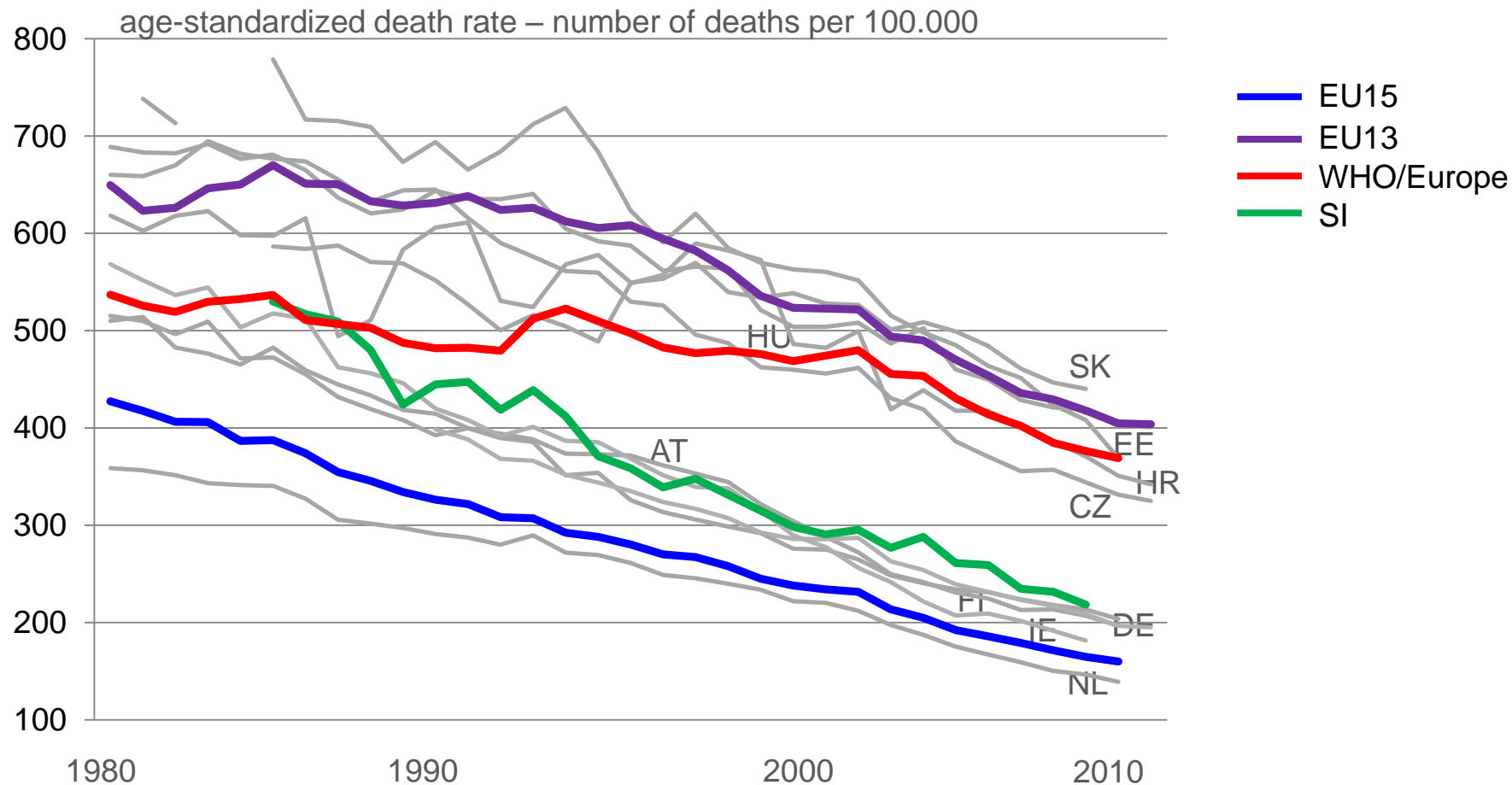
# Health status and health inequalities

- Rapidly rising percentage of aged 65+
- Life expectancy is increasing and the gap between Slovenia and EU15 is closing
- Premature mortality in Slovenia is decreasing
- Mortality due to diseases of the circulatory system have been effectively reduced in Slovenia

# Life expectancy is increasing and the gap between Slovenia and EU15 is closing!



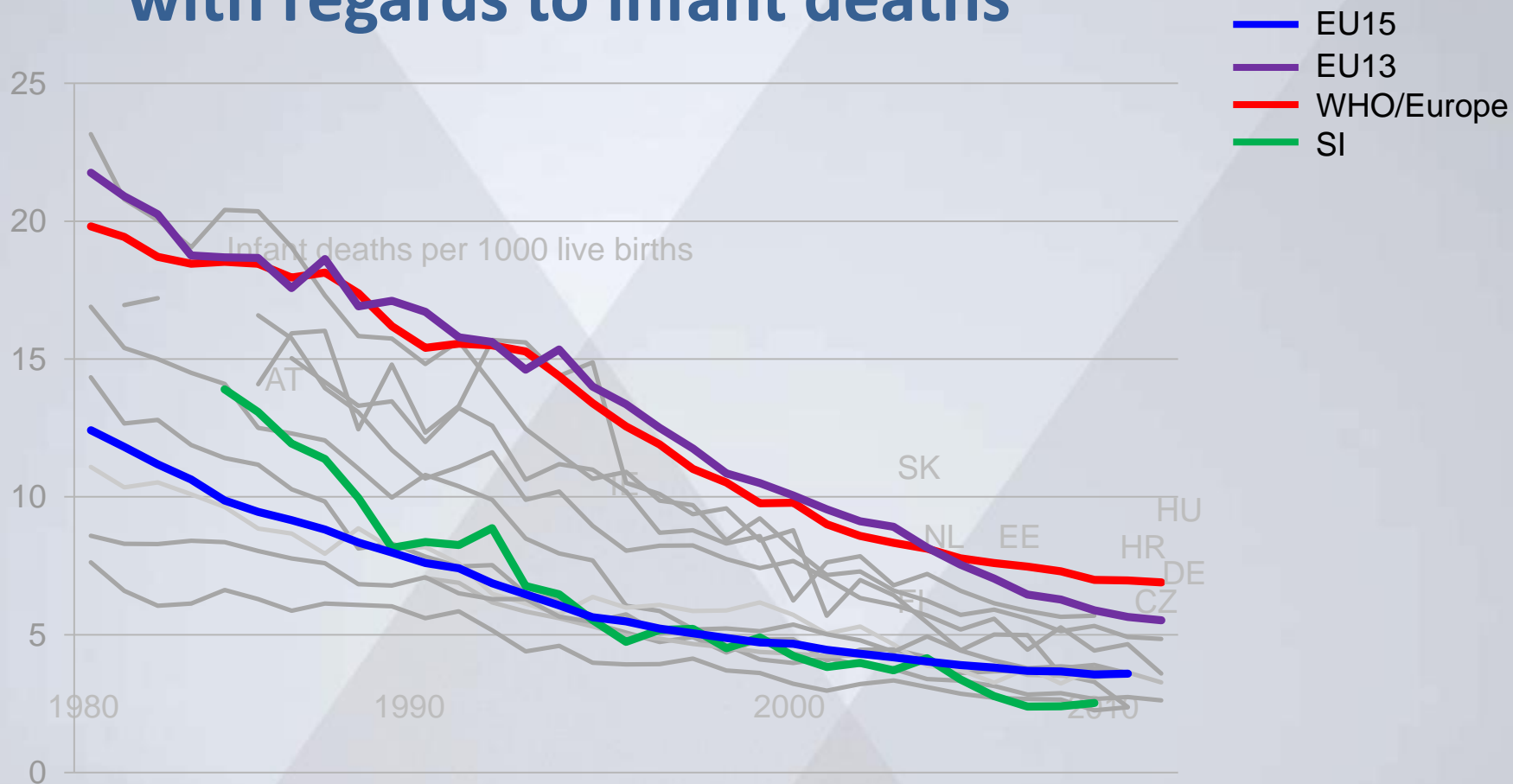
# Mortality due to diseases of the circulatory system have been effectively reduced in Slovenia





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# Slovenia is among countries with best result with regards to infant deaths

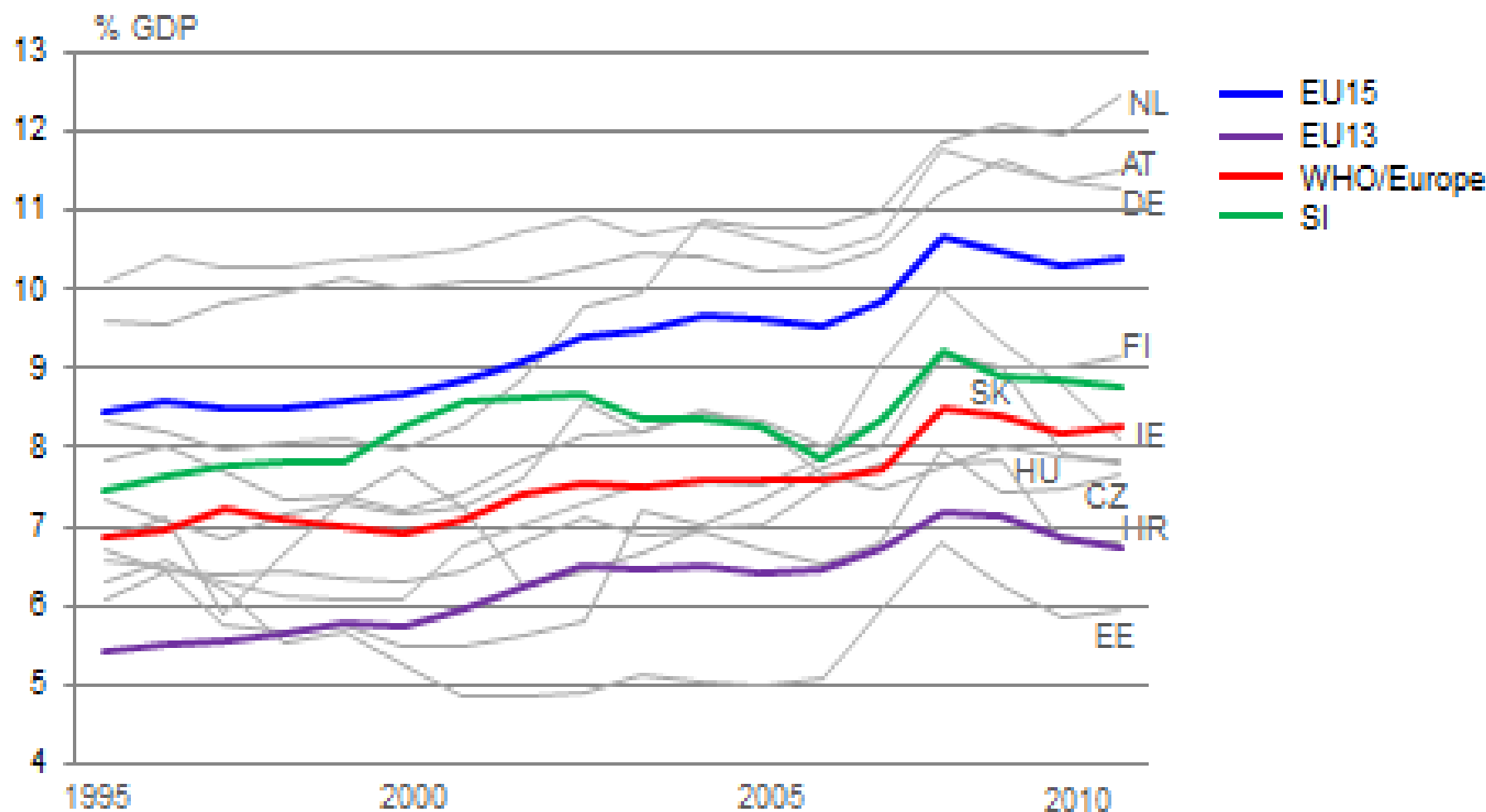




- Cancer mortality is high
- Alcohol consumption remains a big problem
- Comprehensive tobacco-control legislation is needed – **the law was adopted by the GOV**
- Overweight and obesity
- Mental health issues and suicide



# Total health expenditure (as % of GDP) is lower in Slovenia than of the EU15 average



# Two important measures for UHC



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## UNMET NEED

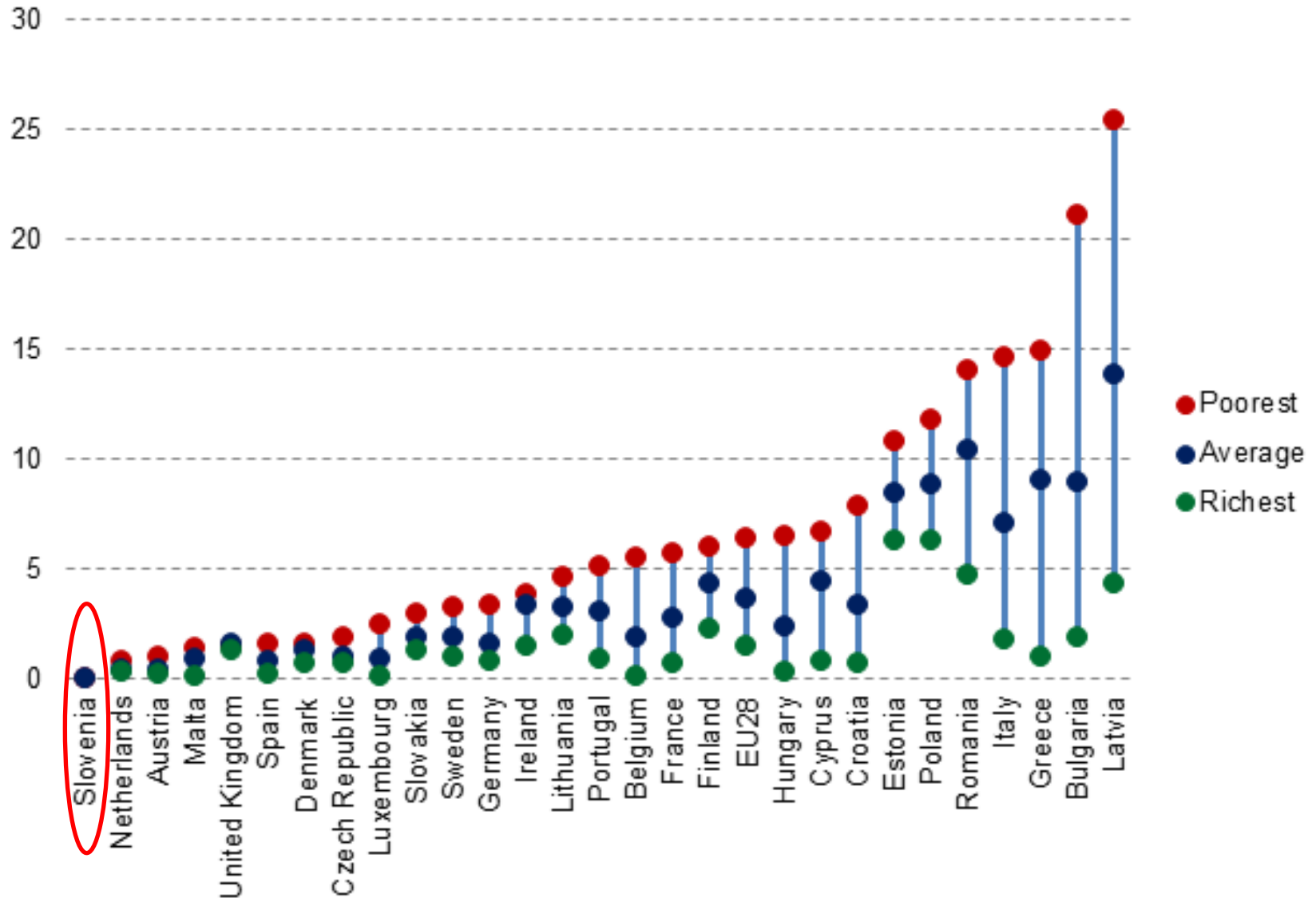


## Financial protection against the cost of ill health



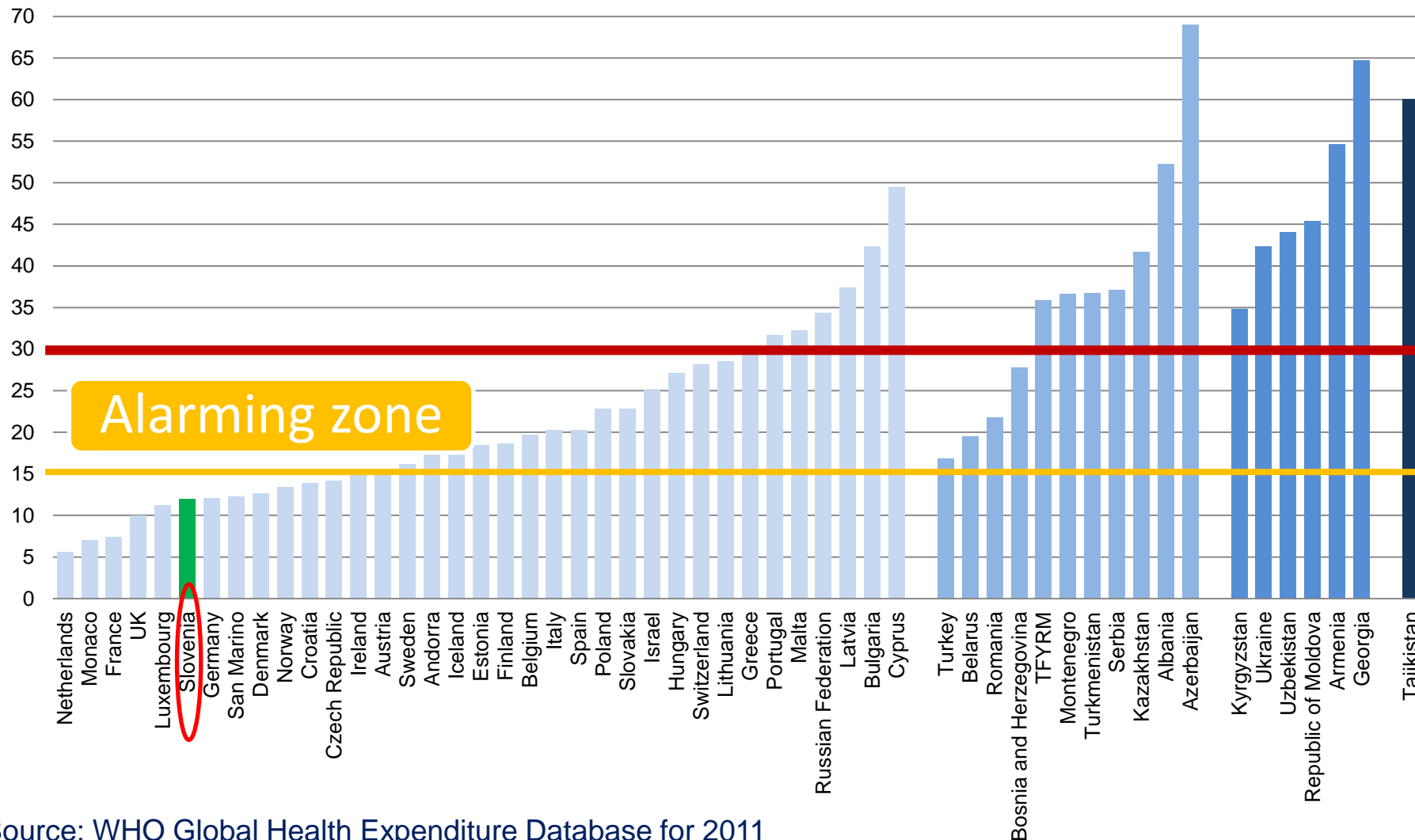
# Slovenia is a top performer in UHC

Unmet need for a medical examination for financial or other reasons by income groups in the European Union, EU-SILC data for 2012

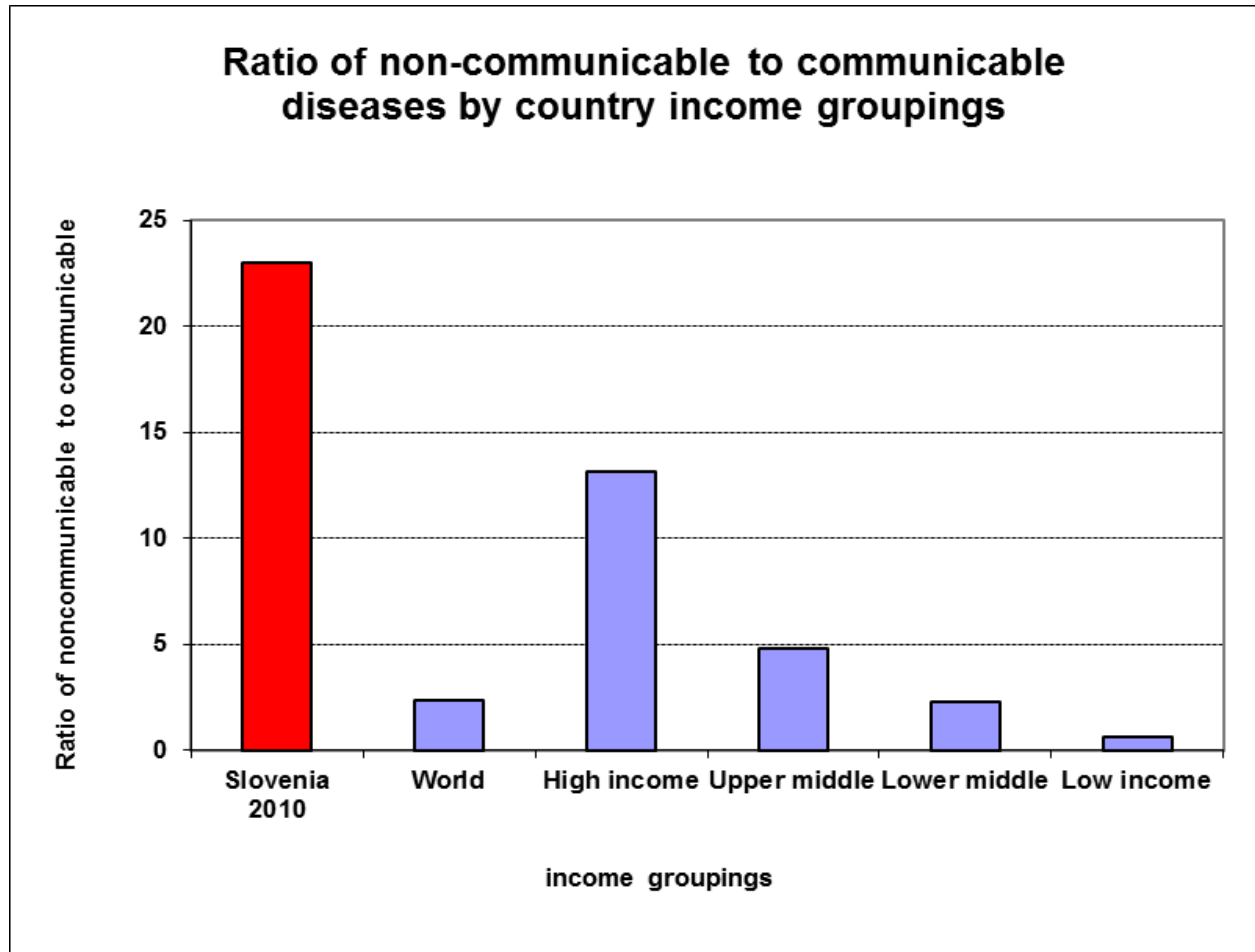


# Financial protection is good: OOPs below 15%

OOPs as a share (%) of total expenditure on health ranked from low to high by income country groups (high, upper-middle, lower-middle and low)



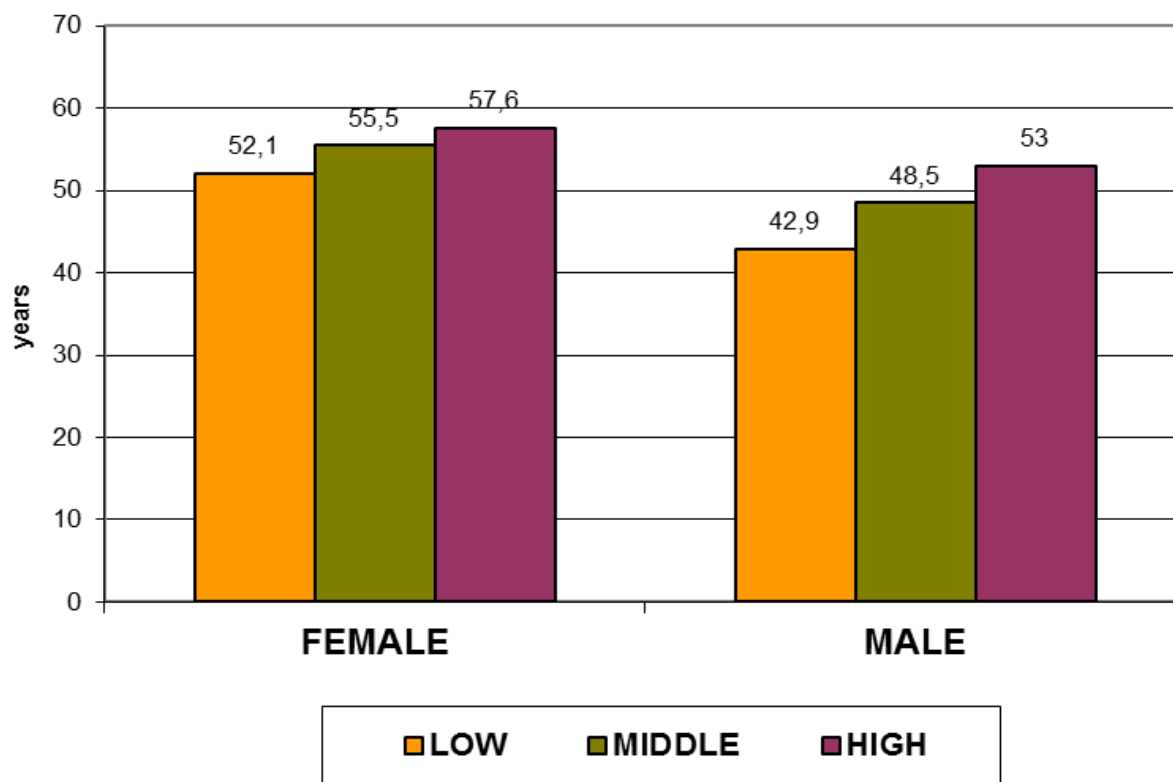
# NCD, which is by far the greatest cause of mortality, is the key challenge in Slovenia



With continued good work in the field of monitoring communicable diseases it is necessary to strengthen the efforts of all sectors dealing with non-communicable diseases, especially cancer, suicide, injuries.

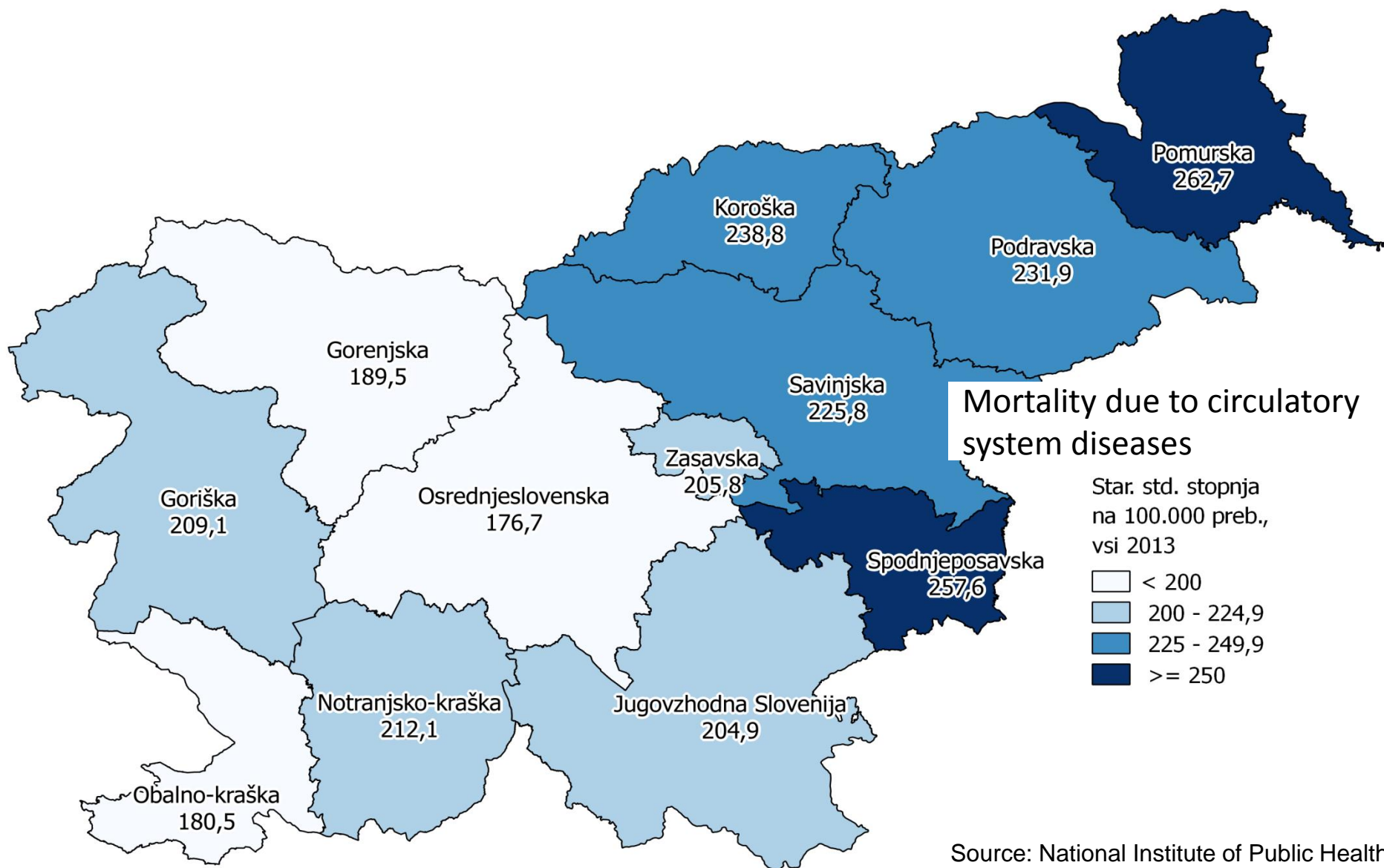


## Gaps in life expectancy at 30 years of age by education level, Slovenia, 2010



Source: NIPH-SI, Database of deaths 2010; SORS, Population census 2011

# East-west: gap in mortality





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# Positioning health equity and social determinants of health

## INVESTMENT FOR HEALTH IN SLOVENIA



DRŽAVNI ZBOR  
REPUBLIKE SLOVENIJE

Report of a Team from WHO Regional Office for Europe  
and the  
European Committee for Health Promotion Development



INVESTMENT IN HEALTH



REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH



## Health INEQUALITIES in Slovenia

January 2011



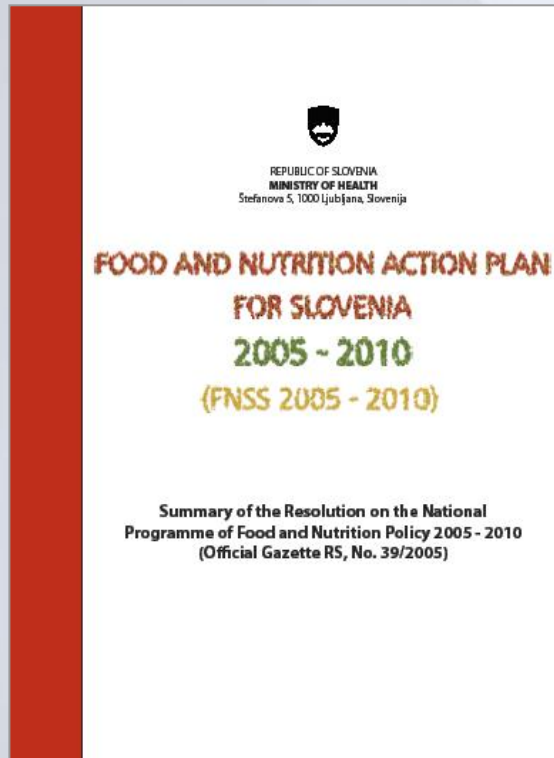


# Top down – national level

- Population based cancer screening programmes
  - Cervical cancer screening started in 2001
  - Breast cancer screening started in 2008
  - Colorectal cancer screening in 2009
- National CVD prevention programme in primary health care in 1990 ( GPs team )
- National program on diabetes 2010-2020
- National cancer care plan 2010-2015 and 2017-2022



# Food and nutrition action plan 2005-2010



**Pilar 1:** Food Safety

**Pilar 2:** Well- balanced and healthy nutrition

**Pilar 3:** Sustainable local food supply



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DÖBER TEK  
Slovenija

Zdravo uživaj & več gibaj.

DÖBER TEK  
Slovenija

Nacionalni program o prehrani in telesni dejavnosti za zdravje 2015–2025

# National program on nutrition and physical activity for health 2015-2025 with 10 pillars



## 1. nacionalna konferenca o prehrani in telesni dejavnosti z mednarodno udeležbo

# S POVEZOVANJEM DO SKUPNIH CILJEV





# Norwegian financial mechanism 2009- 2014 used for strengthening PH and addressing HI

## Objectives

- to reduce inequalities in health between user groups
  - prevention of life-style related diseases
  - improved mental health services
- in cross- sectoral partnerships.**
- Predefined project implemented by NIPH in cooperation with primary health care **on mainstreaming health equity principle into prevention programs**
  - 18 projects – 10 mio EUR



# Health in EU Operational programme – structural funds: Social inclusion, combating poverty & health

- Social activation and tackling health and social inequalities
- Active and healthy aging
- Deinstitutionalisation and community care for elderly, people with mental illness, disabled and vulnerable groups, palliative care
- Strengthening primary care and public health, development of integrated social and health services with strengthening of cross-sectoral provider's networks  
e- health

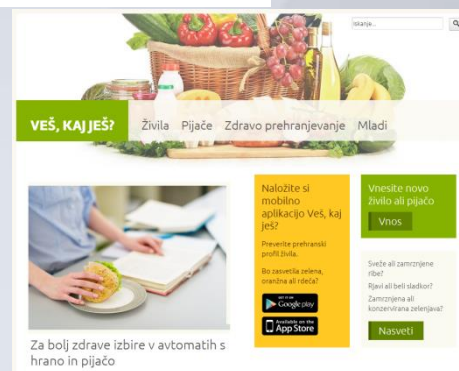
# Financial support for inovative projects



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## ZDRAV ŠOLAR SI

Razgibajmo pot v šolo!



- Zdrav šolar
- Šola zdravja
- Veš kaj ješ?
- Kuhna pa to

# Intersectorial actions

- EU sustainable mobility week
- National food week with traditional school breakfast
- EU sport week





# Health in municipalities – Health profiles

## - 25 different indicators



## Slovenian Development Strategy 2030

### Positioning

- **Health as an outcome**
- **Investments in health as a driver for economic and social development**

## National Health Plan 2016- 2025

- optimization of health service delivery
- improvement of health system performance
- securing just and sustainable financing, and
- **strengthening of health promotion and disease prevention**

**HIAP approach**



# and bottom up – „regional“ and local level

# Clear vision of Program Mura - Tackling inequalities in Health

to achieve better health and quality of life for the people in the Pomurje region

to achieve the understanding of **health as a development potential of the region and vice-versa:** development as the basis for better health

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN as a framework for **policies, programs and projects** which relate to social and economic determinants of health

<http://czr.si/files/murahealthinvest---arhiv.pdf>



## Pomurje in brief

- Population: 119.146 – micro region
- SDH:
  - Unemployment 18% (SI 13%)
  - GDP 65% of SI, 55% of EU
  - 28,6% of population only primary school or less (SI 20,8%)
  - 10,5% in life long learning (SI 16%)
- Brain drain
- Life expectancy lower than SI avg (for men 3 and women 2 years)
- Highest premature mortality for men 32,4% (SI 29,4%. )
- Limited data about HI within the region
- CINDI lifestyle surveys show HI



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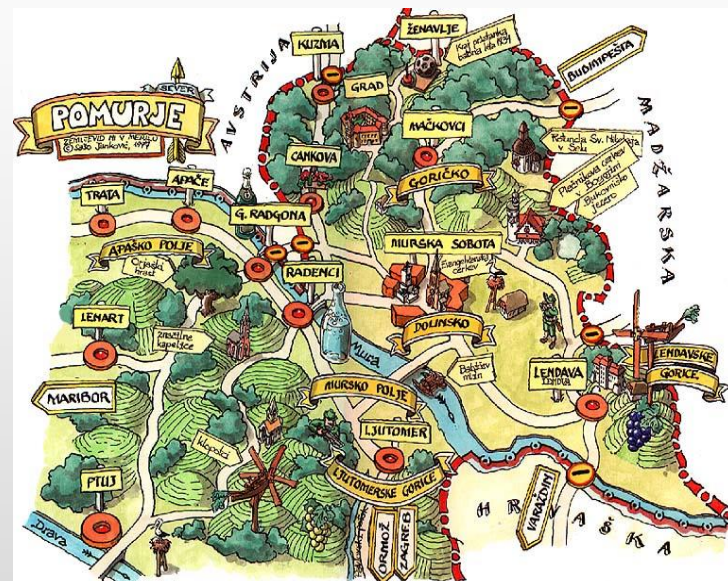
## Pomurje in brief

### Assets

- Natural resources (thermo-mineral and mineral waters, arable land, water and sun - energy)
- Tradition in health tourism, agriculture, handcraft
- Location & infrastructure (30 min to AT, HU, HR, 5 large cities within 250 km, connected with highway, railroad)

### Capacity for tackling HI and SDH

- Partnership
- Understanding health as development potential and vice versa



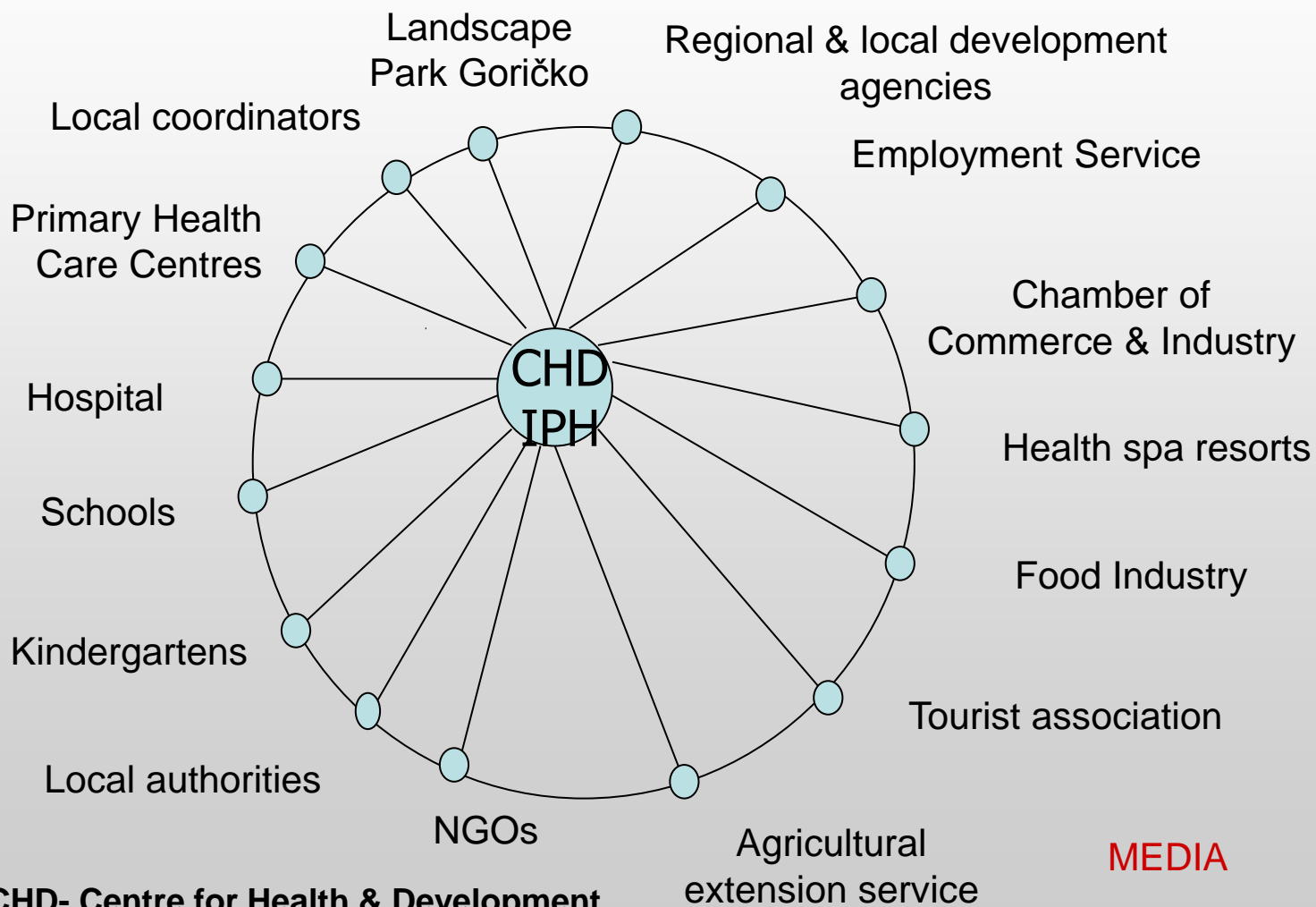
Vir: Statistični urad RS





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# Investing in Regional Partnership



**CHD- Centre for Health & Development**

**IPH- Institute of Public Health Murska Sobota**



**CZR CHD**  
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## Health 2007-2013

### **Health inequalities**

- Tackling inter- and intra- regional inequalities in health
- Increasing social inclusion

### **Healthy food, culinary and development of the countryside**

- Fruit and vegetable
- Organic Farming
- Short food supply chains
- Safe food from farm to fork

### **Healthy tourist offer**

- Healthy and traditional offer in gastronomy
- Recreational programmes
- Prevention programmes in spas
- Ecotourism

### **Nature, environment and health**

- Natural living
- Sustainable mobility
- Water
- Biodiversity

**Regional Partnership for Health and Development**





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# Healthy nutrition

- Schools and kindergartens
- Local restaurants
- Health spas
- Shops and markets
- Local communities
- Production site

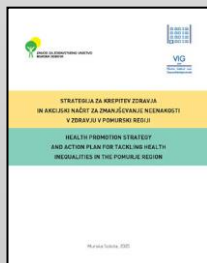




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# Achievements and lessons learned

- ✓ Health is included in regional development program
- ✓ Partnership network with more than 25 local and regional partners
- ✓ Alliances with international partners
- ✓ Capacity accross the sectors in uderstanding the SDH and IFH concept



Regional  
strategy to  
tackle  
health  
inequalities



Regional  
development  
program  
2007-2013

<http://www.zzv-ms.si/si/zdravje-razvoj/Strategija-Neenakosti-v-Zdravju.htm>



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# Transfer of good practices



Source: RIPH MS



- **move from sectoral to broader society objectives**
- **support your arguments with evidence**
- **build partnerships and alliances on different levels (local, regional, national, international)**
- **link with established practices and infrastructure**
- **plan for continuity**
- **evaluate and document progress and failures**
- **allow time and resources for capacity building**



# Future challenges

- Health for all and reducing HI – should be an integral part of **national development strategy** as well as other development documents
- **Regular monitoring of health inequalities !!!**
- Support of **international initiatives** to tackle health inequalities
- **Optimal mix of top down and bottom up approaches with** effective cross- sectoral mechanisms at the national nad local level



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# Thank you for your attention !