



# Health in all policies in a local context

## The Municipal Master Plan as a strategic tool to promote public health and health equity

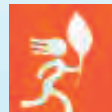


Dina von Heimburg, Public Health Coordinator in Innherred samkommune (joint municipality)

# WHO Healthy Cities

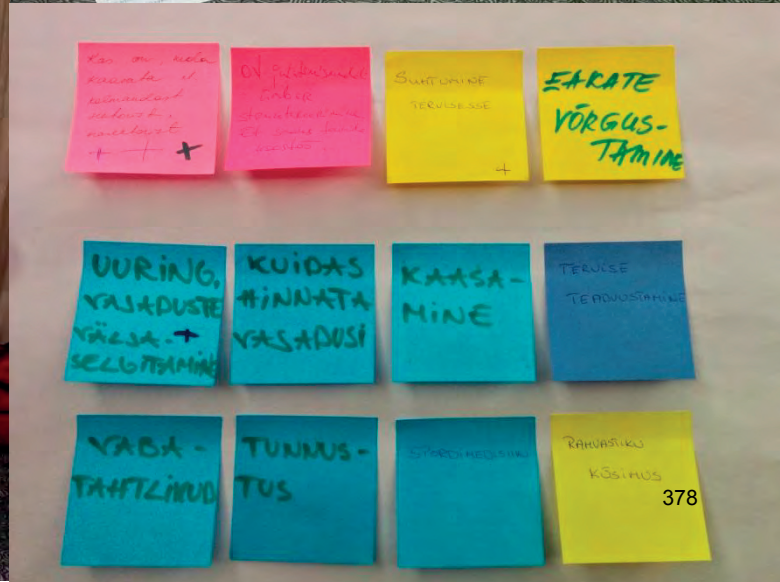
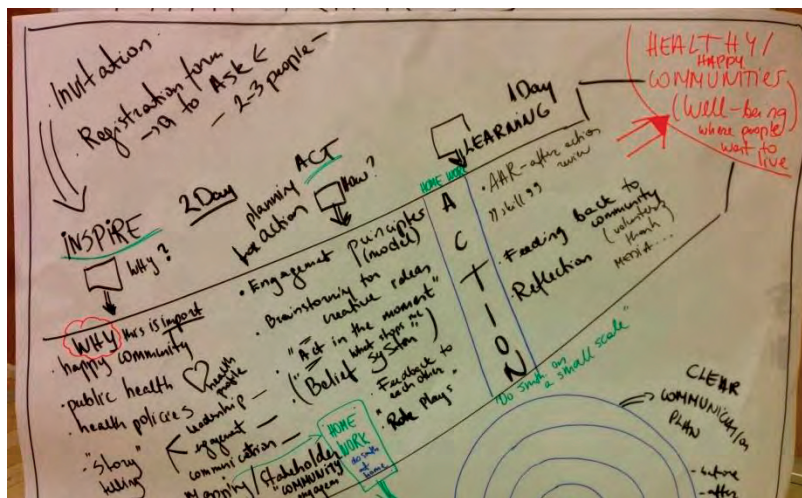


- » Euro Healthy Cities network
  - » National network in Norway
  - » Verdal and Levanger are proud members
- 
- » «Laboratory»: Develop and share «best practice» of public health work at the local and regional level.





# Seminar in Estonia 2014





# Study trip to Poland 2015





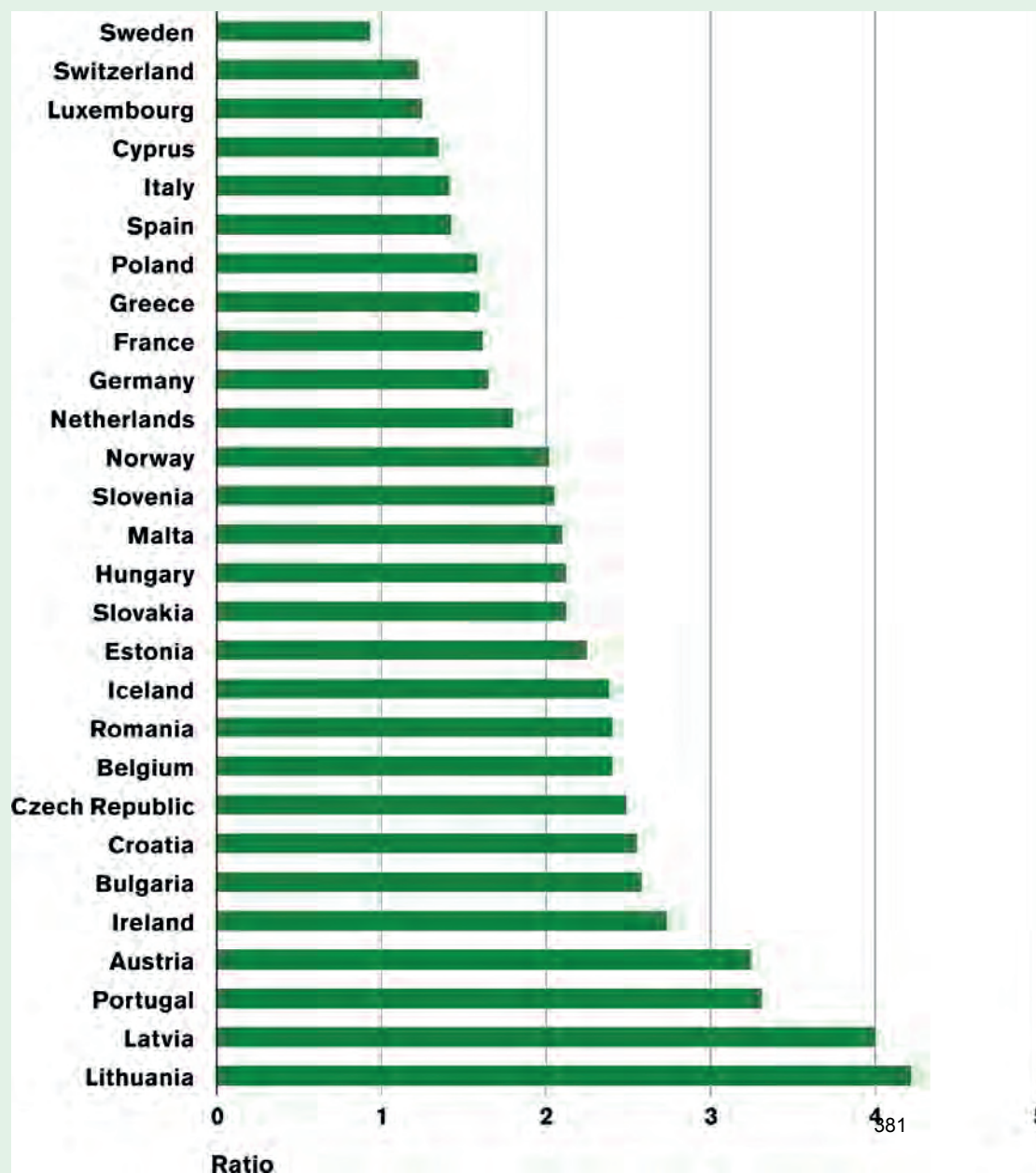
# Review of social determinants and the health divide in the WHO European Region



Professor Peter Goldblatt, UCL,  
Presentation in Levanger 2014



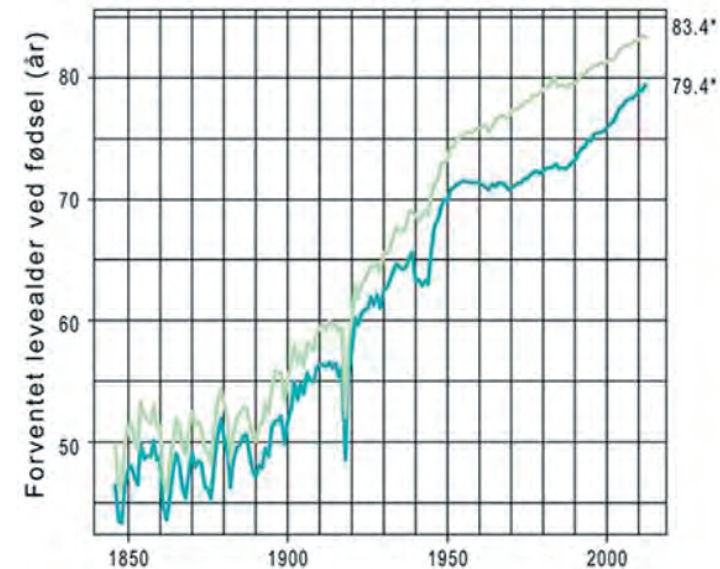
**Ratio of poor health among people with primary-level education (level 1) to poor health among those with basic tertiary education (level 5) in selected European Region countries, 2010**



Source: EU-SILC

# Public health in Norway

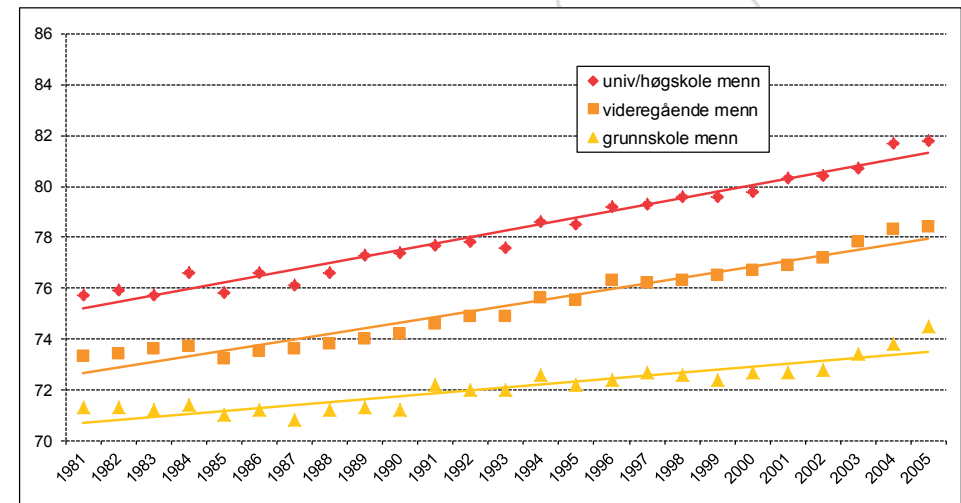
In general, Norwegians have good health, but we still face major challenges....



Figur 2.2 Utvikling i forventet levealder  
Kilde: Statistisk sentralbyrå

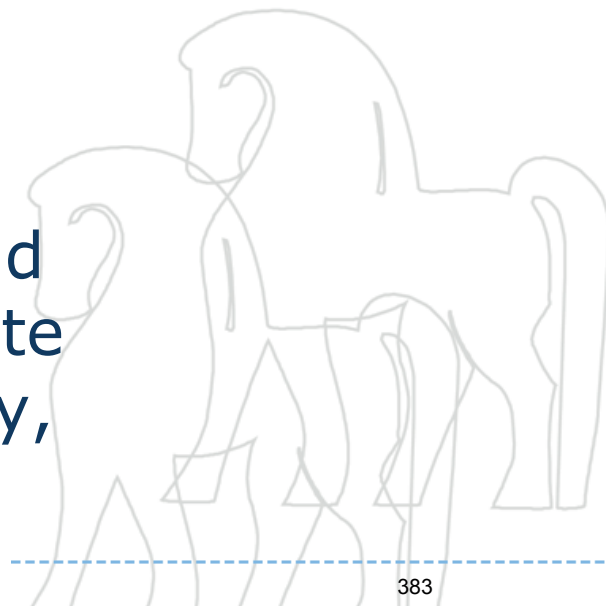
1. Social inequalities in health is increasing
2. Demographical changes in the population
3. Changes in lifestyle caused by societal structures
4. NCD's and mental health

## Life expectancy – men by educational level

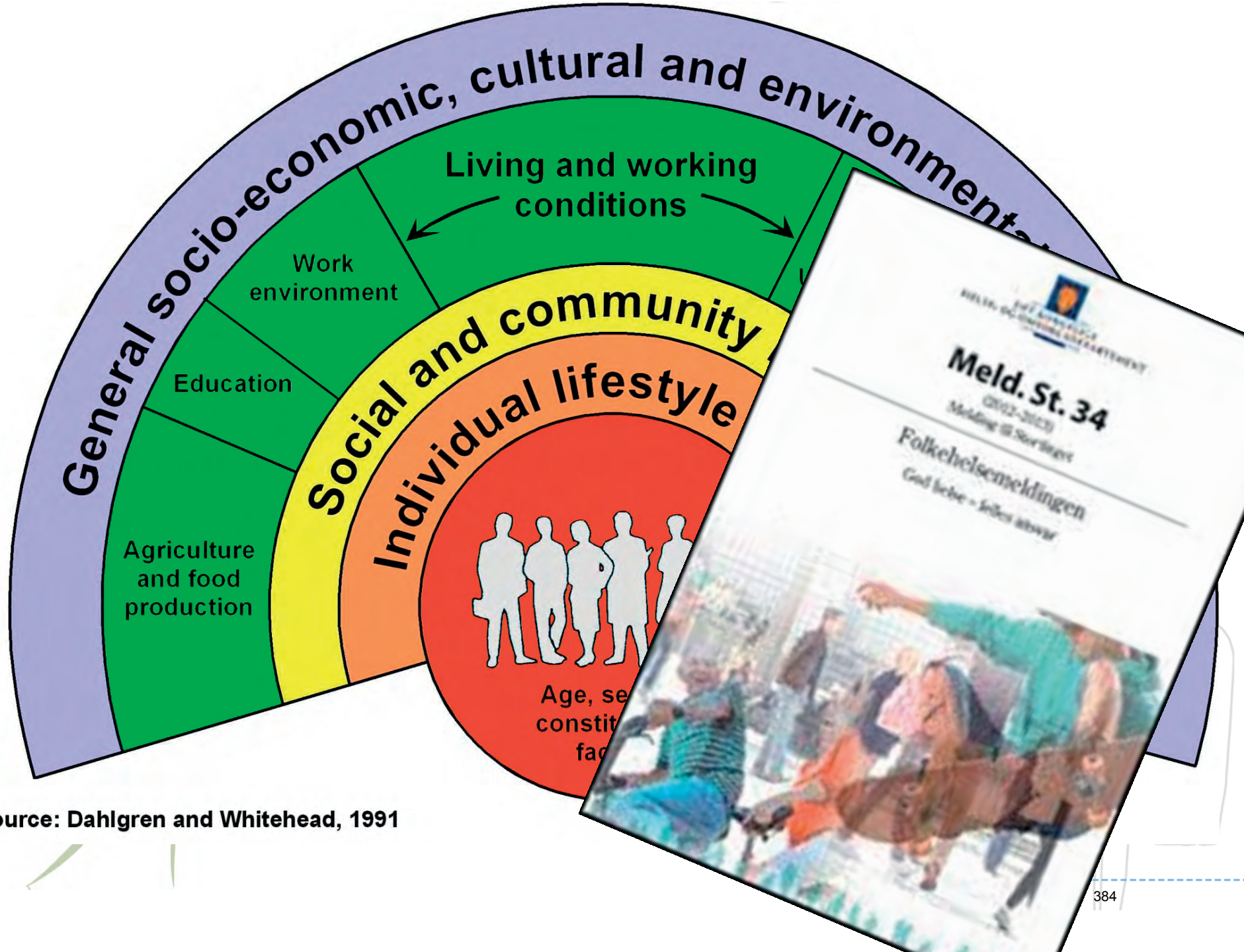


# The «new» Public Health Act

- New challenges in public health
- Previous legislation had not worked out as intended
- «Bottom up» - public health advocacy from municipalities and counties
- The *coordination health reform of 2012* points out the need for strengthening health promotion and early prevention in order to facilitate a sustainable development – locally, nationally and internationally





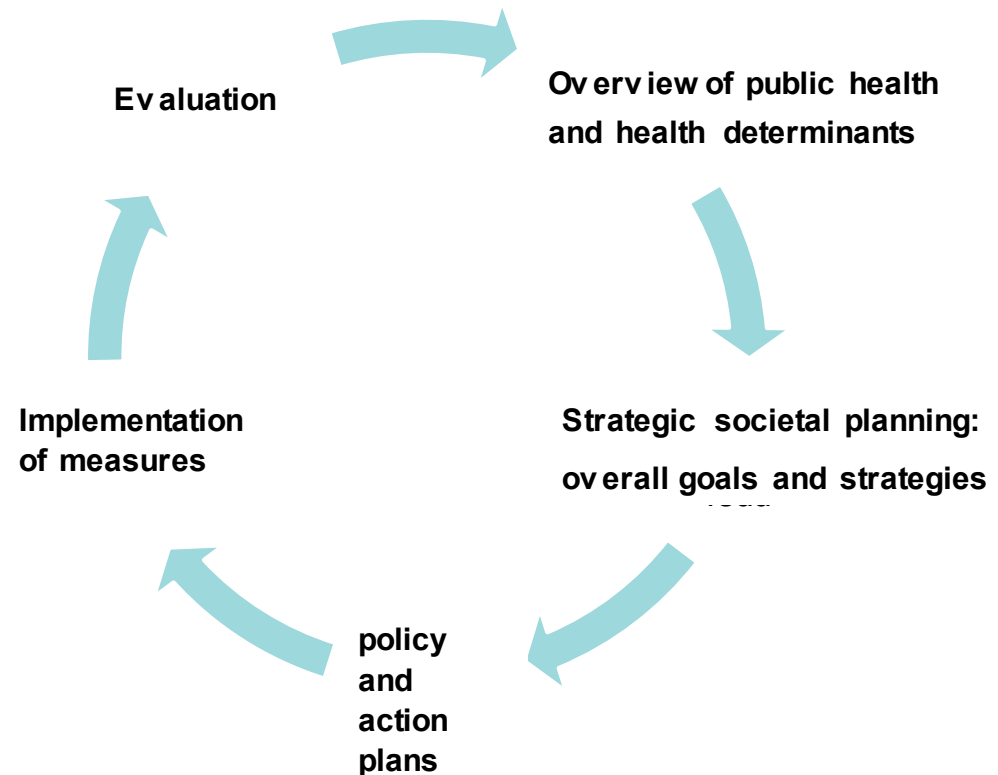


Source: Dahlgren and Whitehead, 1991

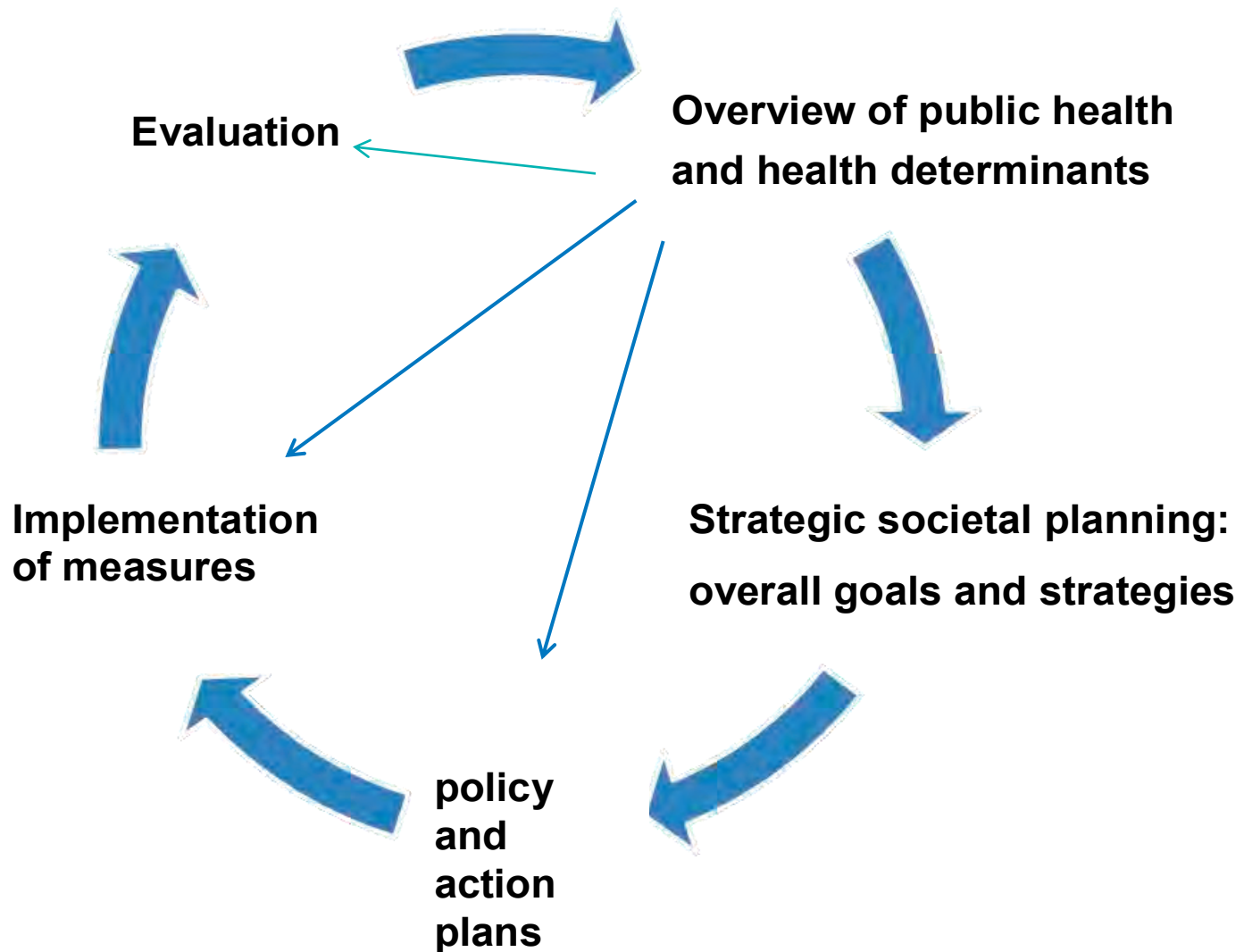
# Empowering communities through The Public Health Act

## Main objective:

Societal development in order to promote public health and reduce health inequalities







# Underpinning principles – Public Health Act

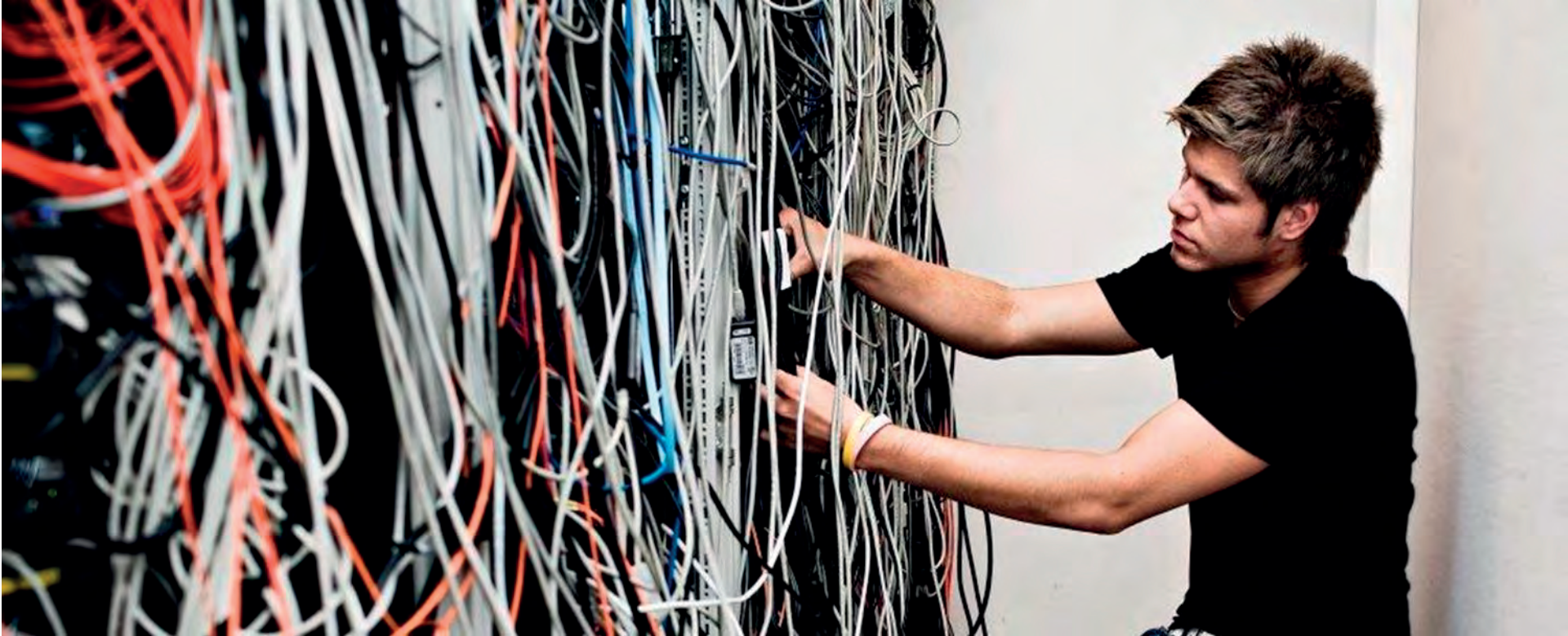


- 1. *Health equity:*** Health inequities arise from the societal conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age – the social determinants of health. Social inequities in health form a pattern of a gradient throughout society. Levelling up the gradient by action on the social determinants of health is a core public health objective. A fair distribution of societal resources is good public health policy.
- 2. *Health in all policies:*** Equitable health systems are important to public health, but health inequities arise from societal factors beyond health care. Impact on health must be considered when policies and action are developed and implemented in all sectors. Joined up governance and intersectoral action is key to reduce health inequities.

# Principles of public health cont.



3. ***Sustainable development:*** Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Public health work need to be based on a long term perspective
4. ***Precautionary principle:*** If an action or policy has a suspected risk of causing harm to the public or to the environment, the absence of scientific consensus that the action or policy is harmful, cannot justify postponed action to prevent such harm
5. ***Participation:*** Public health work is about transparent, inclusive processes with participation by multiple stakeholders. Promotion of participation of civil society is key to good public health policy development



## **Health promotion requires systematic wiring**

However, organizing tons of wires to get the machinery working, is not an easy task...

# 3 Main messages from Verdal and Levanger:

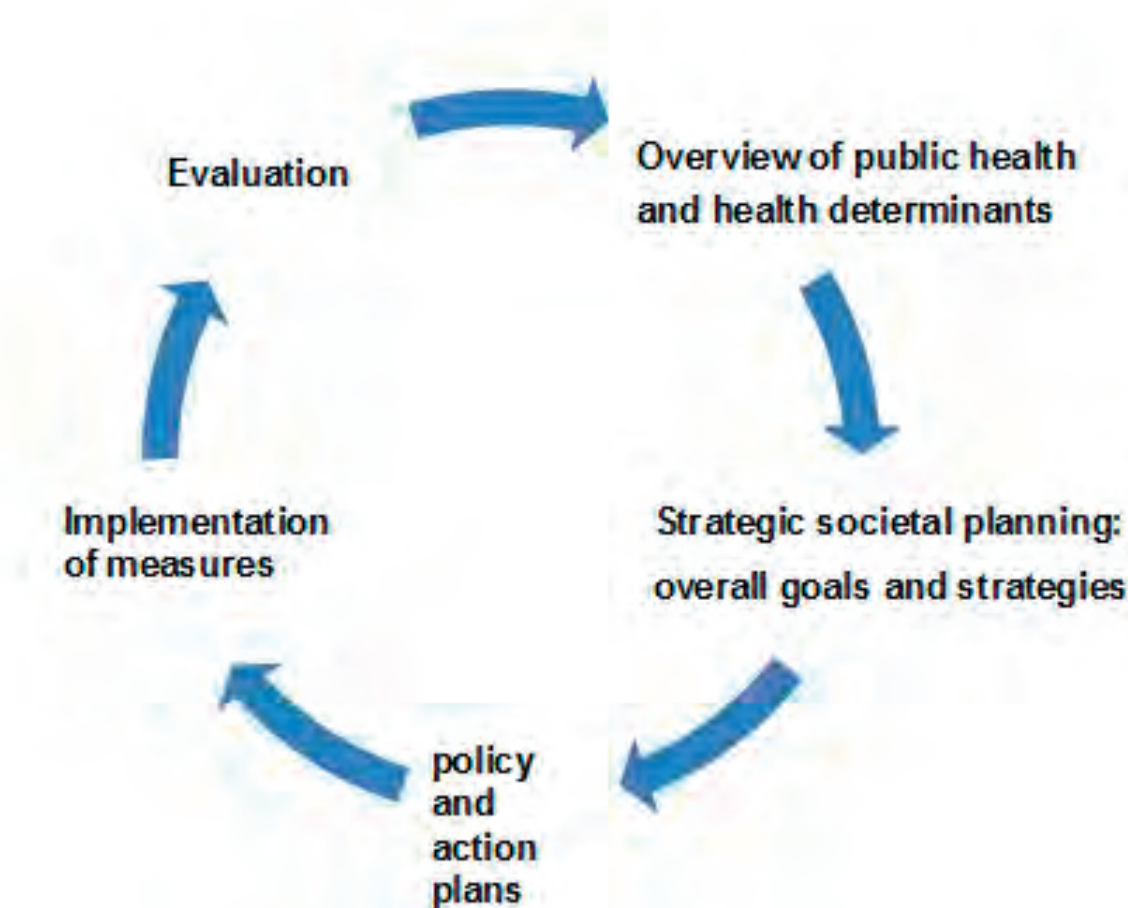


- Public Health Strategy = Municipal Master Plan.  
A holistic approach to HiAP.
- Local knowledge and research-based arguments have been extremely important
- Sufficient anchoring in the political and administrative leadership has been crucial to success.





... Verdal and Levanger try our very best to fulfill the systematic public health circle....



# Central principles in Verdal and Levanger:



- Public health and equity are political choices. The Mayors are our «public health leaders», and the chief of administration and all the rest of us support them in this task.
- We develop our work through processes anchored within the municipality organization prior to loosely connected projects.
- Strategic development of services and communities with a focus on overall planning, co-creation and leadership

...Policy and governance must be conducted on the basis of procedures that unites knowledge, goals, strategies, actions and priorities, so that we can deal with a complex world ...



Yes!  
I have a plan  
(which handles  
complexity and  
wholeness!)

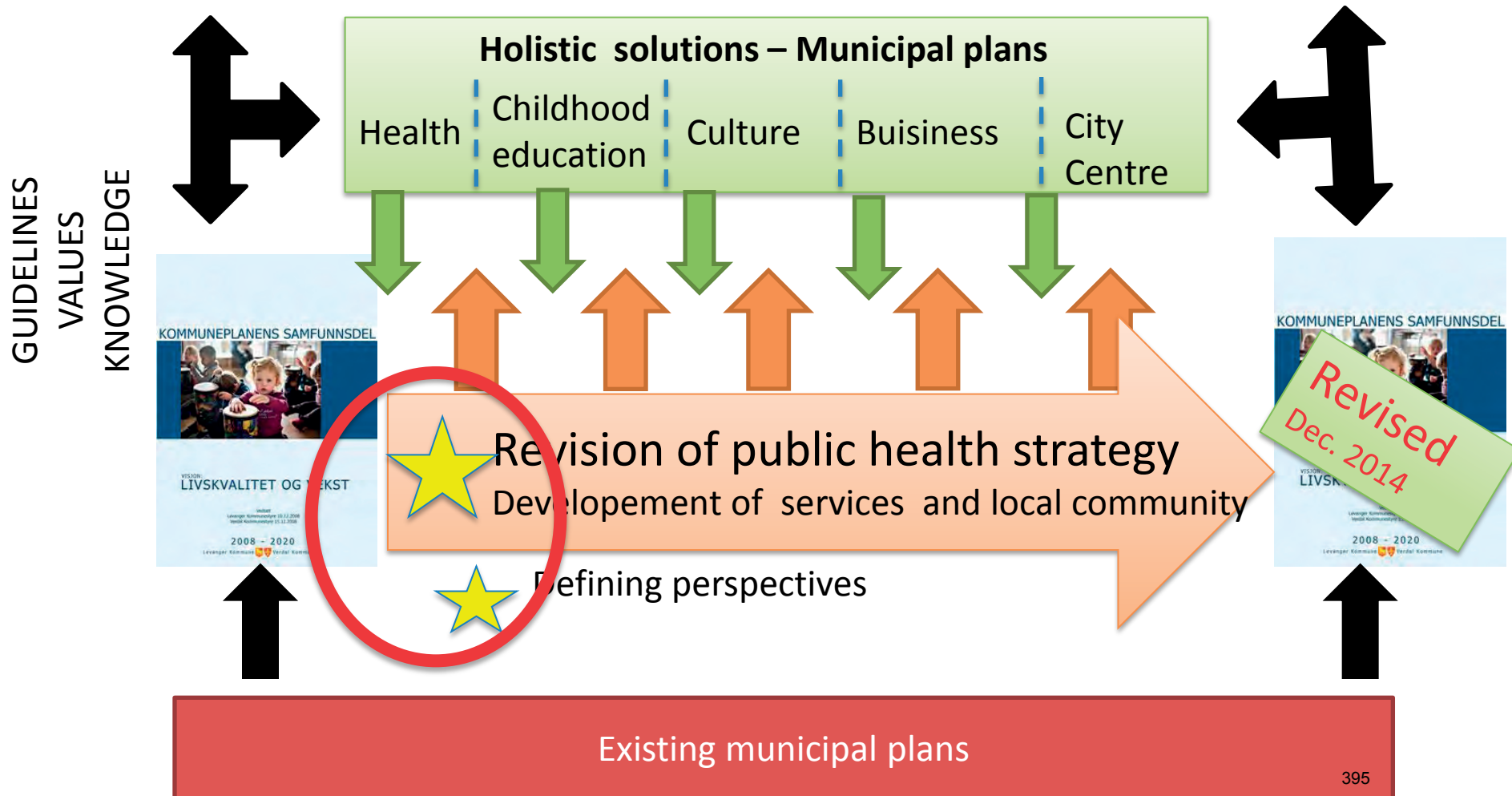
Robert Svarva  
Mayor ISK





# Municipal plan – public health strategy

Process 2014





Municipality of Levanger



Municipality of Verdal

# Municipal Masterplan 2015-2030

**Vision: Quality of life and growth**

sustainable societies - a good start and coping throughout the lifespan - generous and robust life environments



# What are we really planning for??





# Health in All Policies!



# OTTAWA CHARTER FOR HEALTH PROMOTION 1986

*Livskvalitet og vekst*



- **STRENGTHEN  
COMMUNITY  
ACTION**

- **DEVELOP  
PERSONAL  
SKILLS**

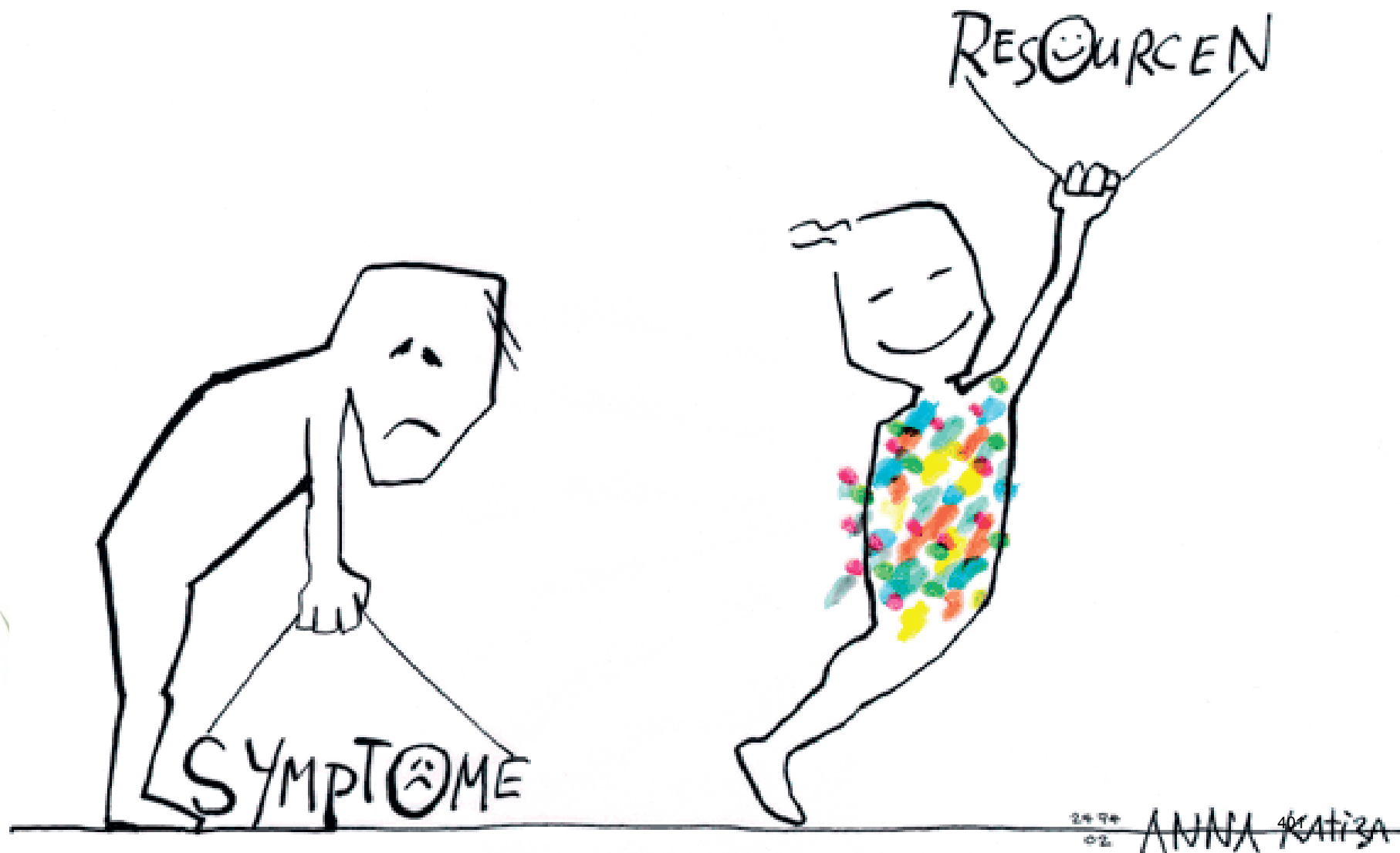
- **ENABLE  
• MEDIATE  
• ADVOCATE**

- **BUILD  
HEALTHY  
PUBLIC  
POLICY**

- **CREATE SUPPORTIVE  
ENVIRONMENTS**

- **REORIENT HEALTH  
SERVICES**

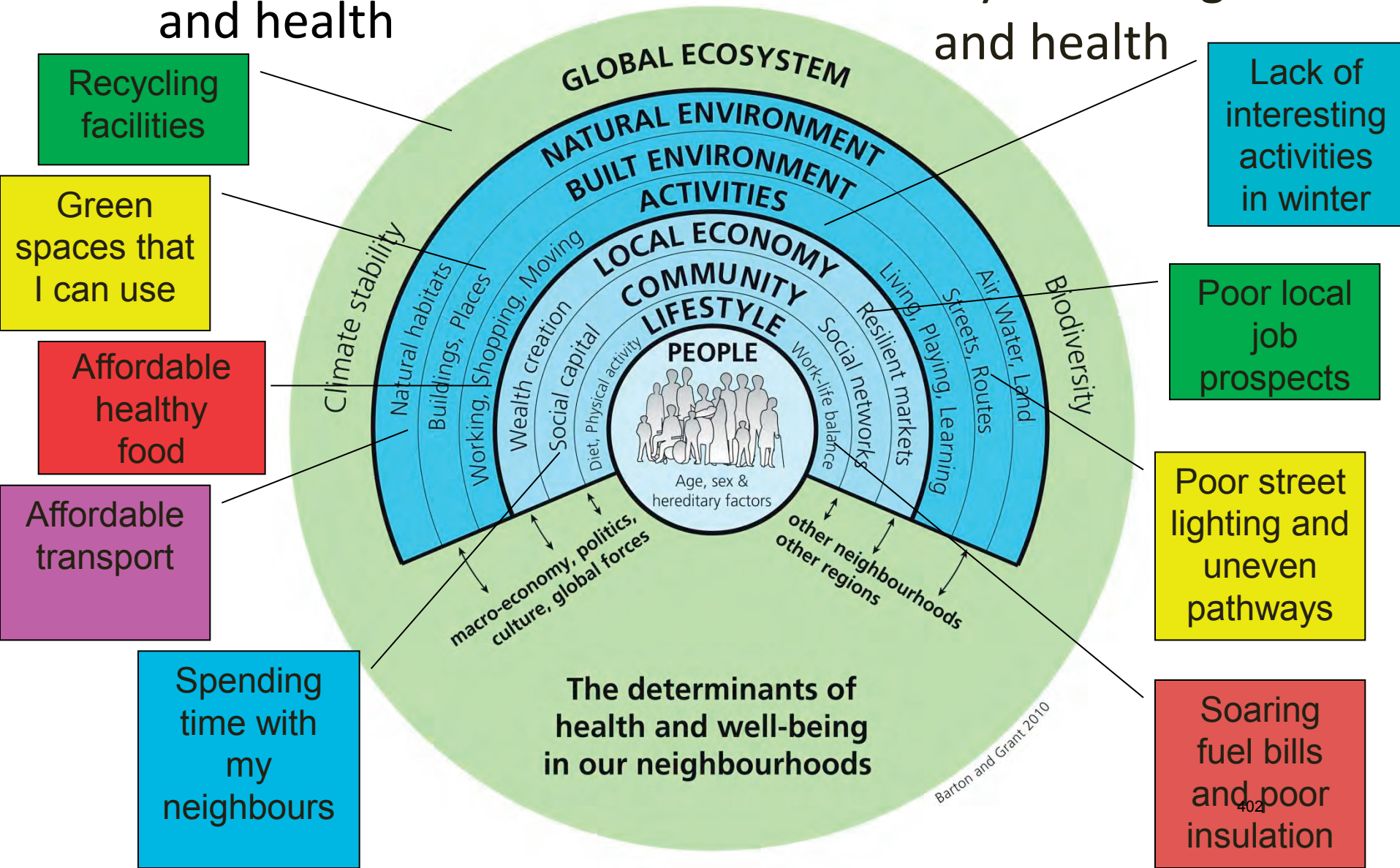
# Redefine our perspectives: What creates health, well-being and resilience?





What is detrimental to my wellbeing and health

What enhances my wellbeing and health



# Half full or half empty?

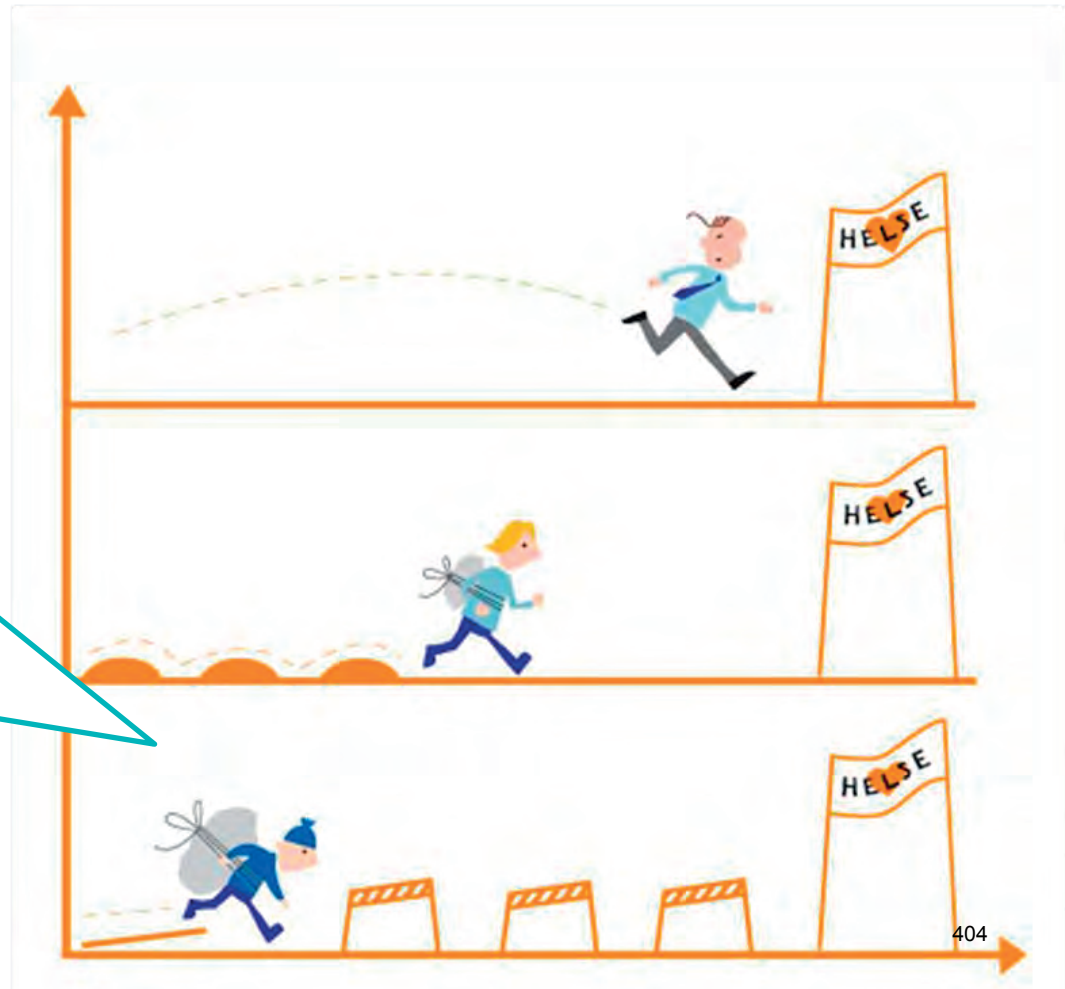


<http://www.abcdinstitute.org>

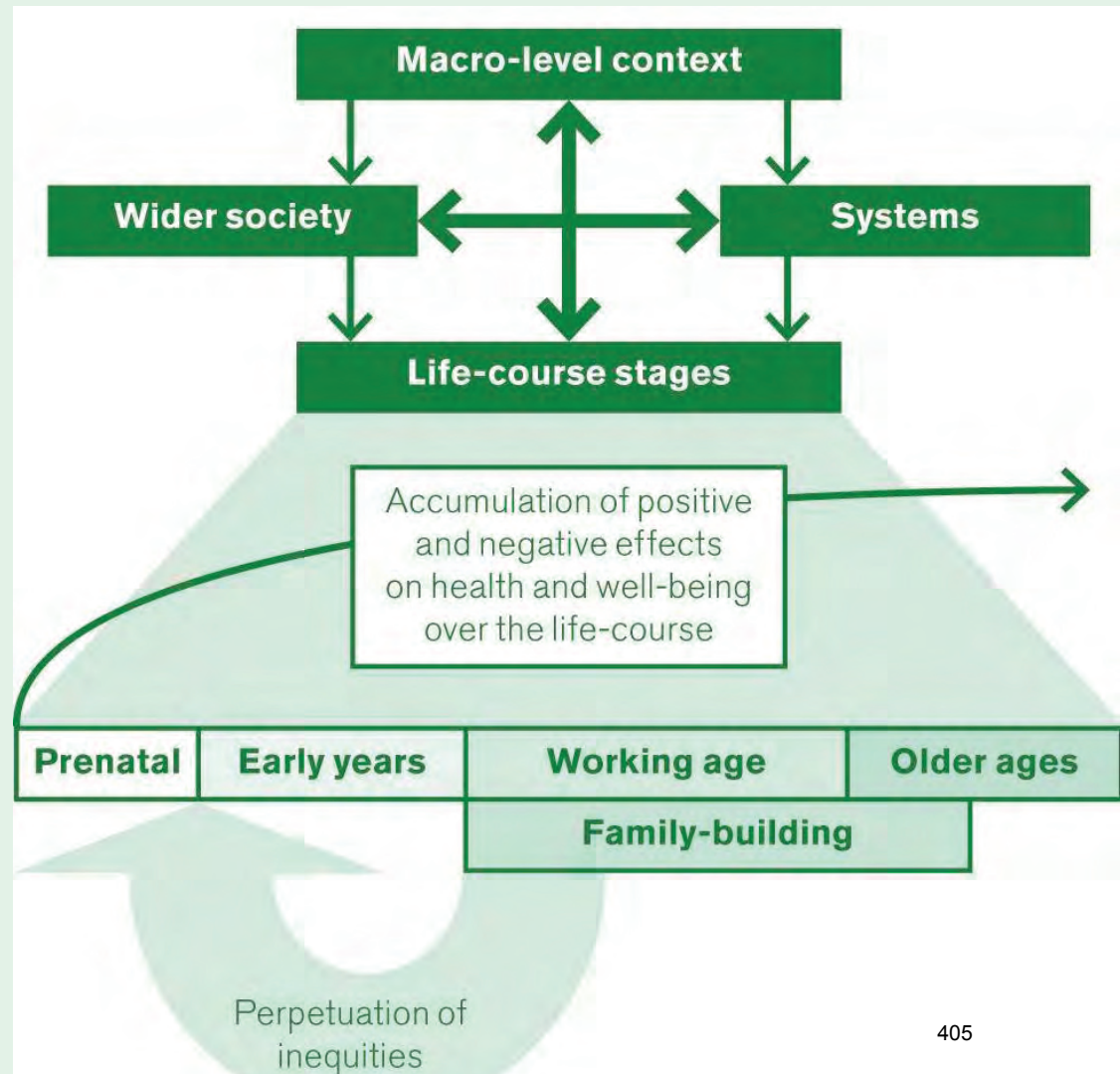
# Social inequalities in health is unfair and unavoidable



I can get strong and resilient by carrying this burden, but it basically depends on my social conditions, and if I learn proper techniques to carry these stones on my back...

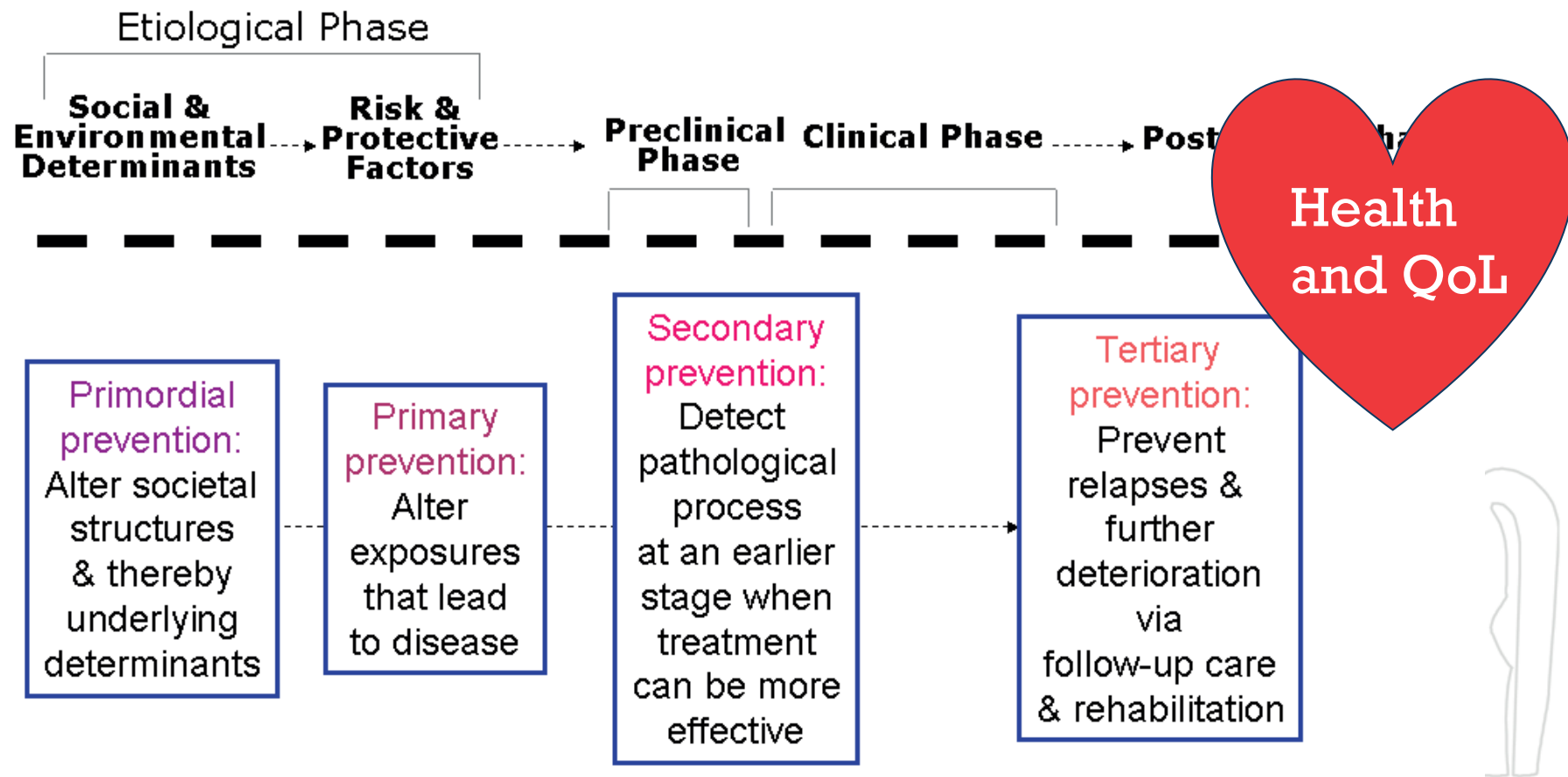


# Life course and generational perspective

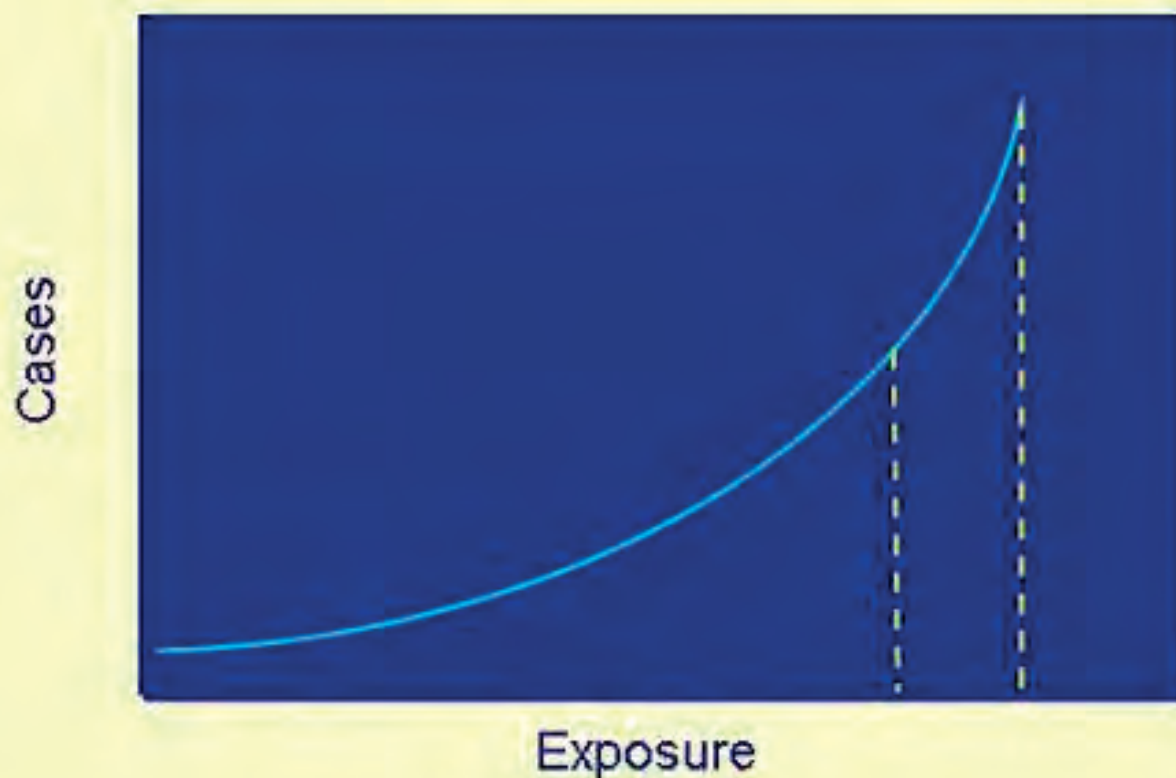




# Clinical Course of a Disease, linked to prevention stages



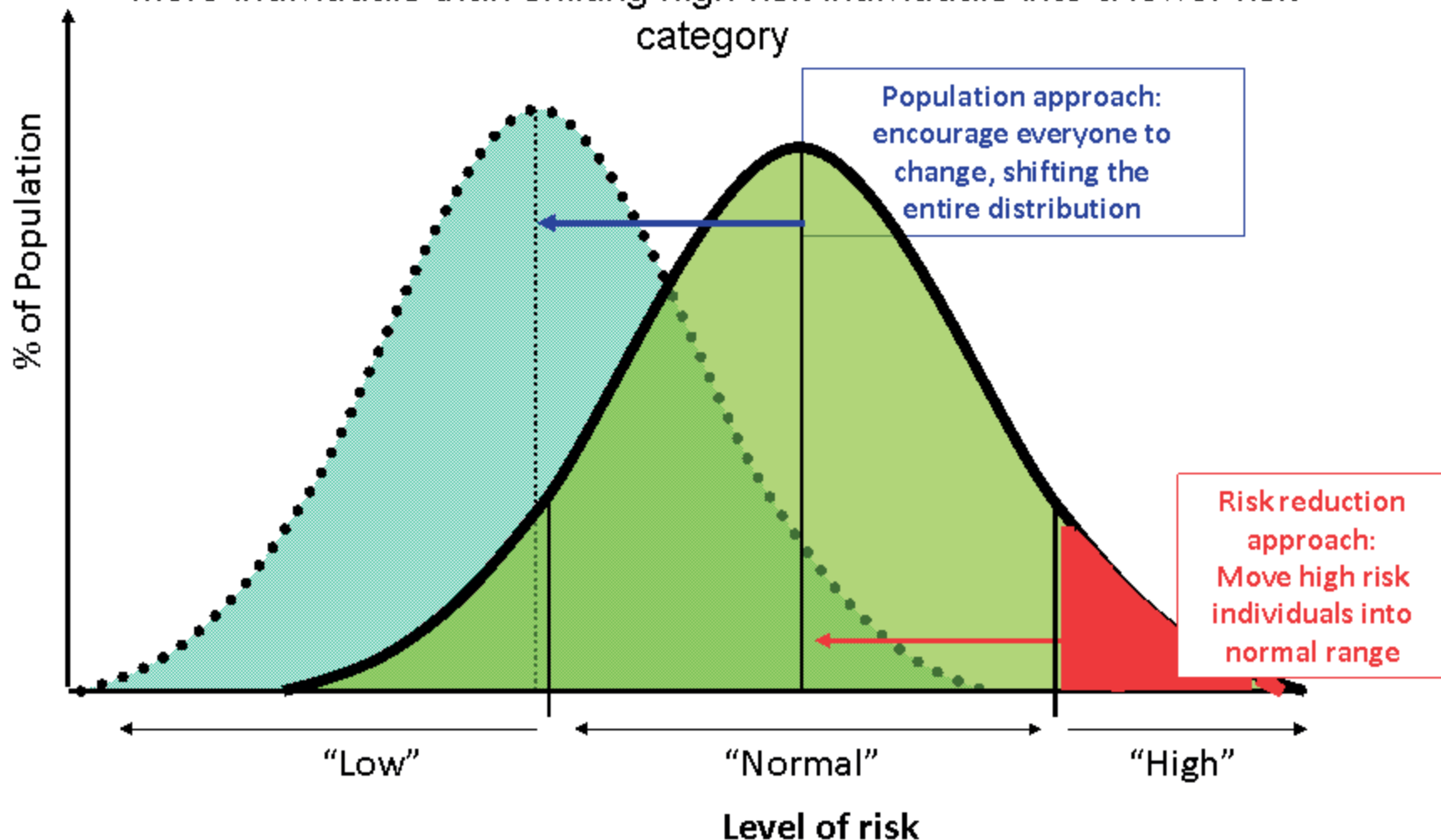
# The Prevention Paradox



A large number exposed to a small risk generate more cases than a small number exposed to a large risk

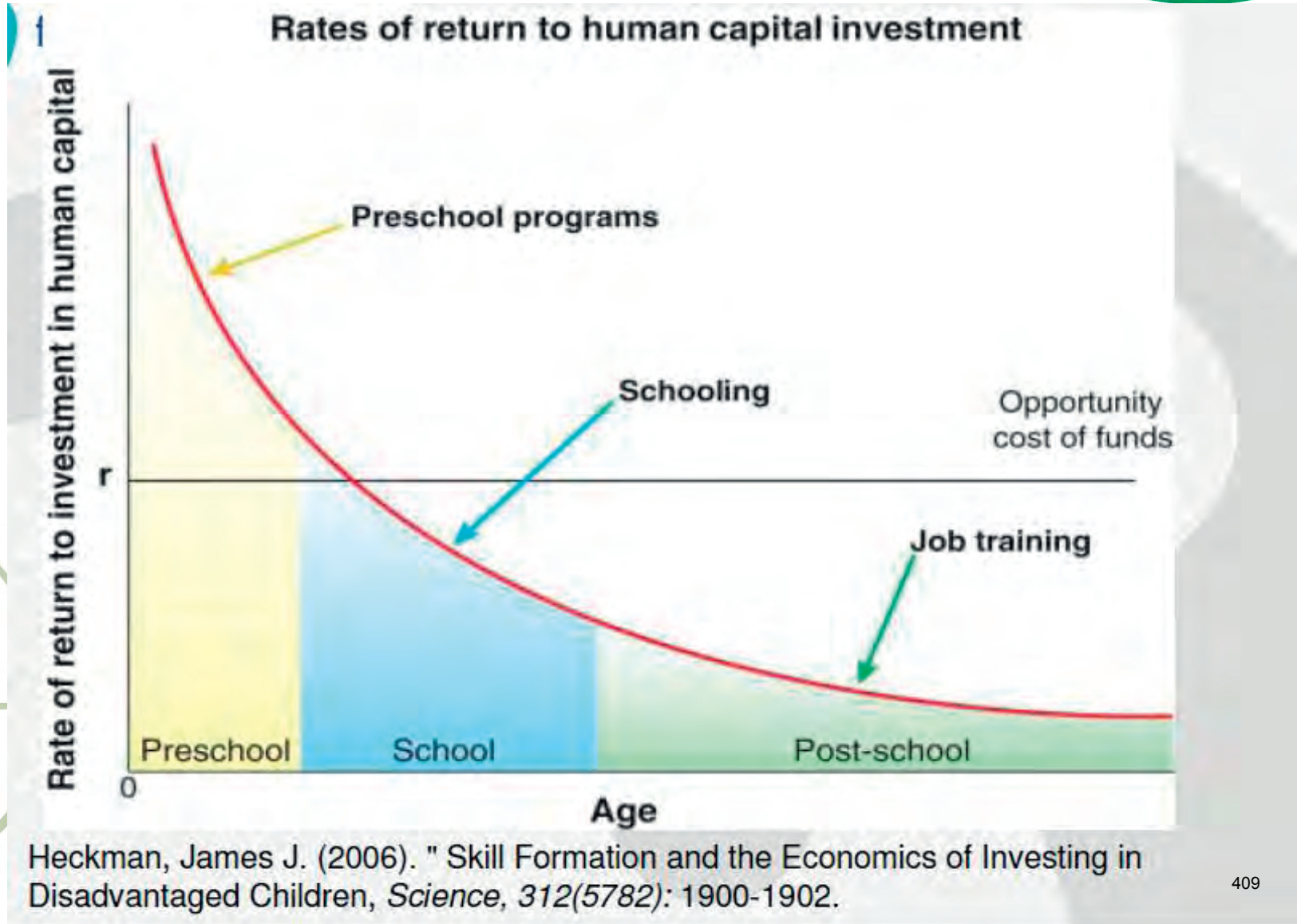
# The Bell-Curve Shift in Populations

Shifting the whole population into a lower risk category benefits more individuals than shifting high risk individuals into a lower risk category



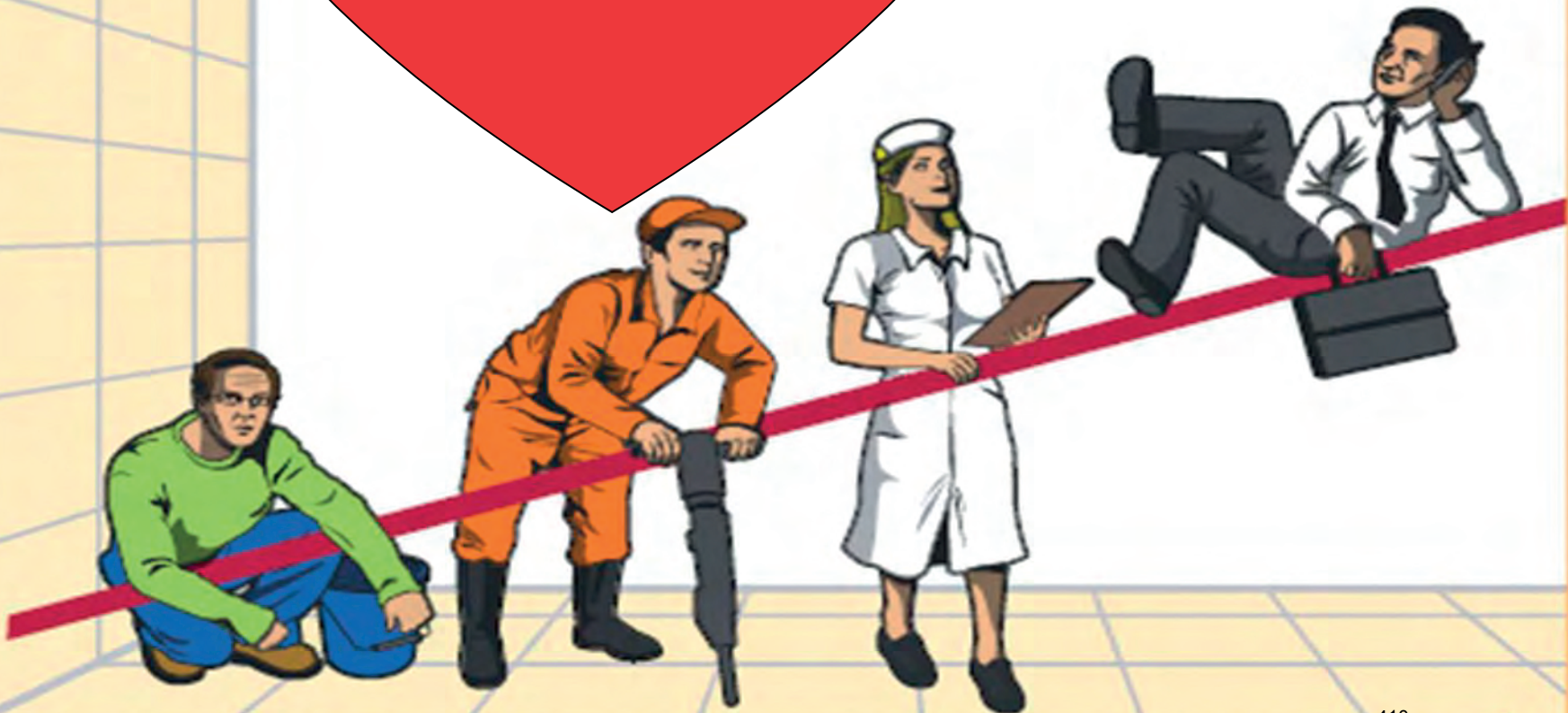
Source: Rose G. Sick Individuals and sick populations. *Int J Epidemiol*. 1985; 12:32-38.

# Early Childhood = investment





# Proportionate universalism



# WHO Health 2020



## HEALTH 2020

A European policy framework  
supporting action across government  
and society for health  
and well-being



Health 2020 recognizes that successful governments can achieve real improvements in health if they work across government to fulfill two linked strategic objectives:

- *improving health for all and reducing health inequalities*
- *improving leadership and participatory governance for health.*

# The Trondheim Declaration (2014):

## Fair distribution of health and well-being - a political choice



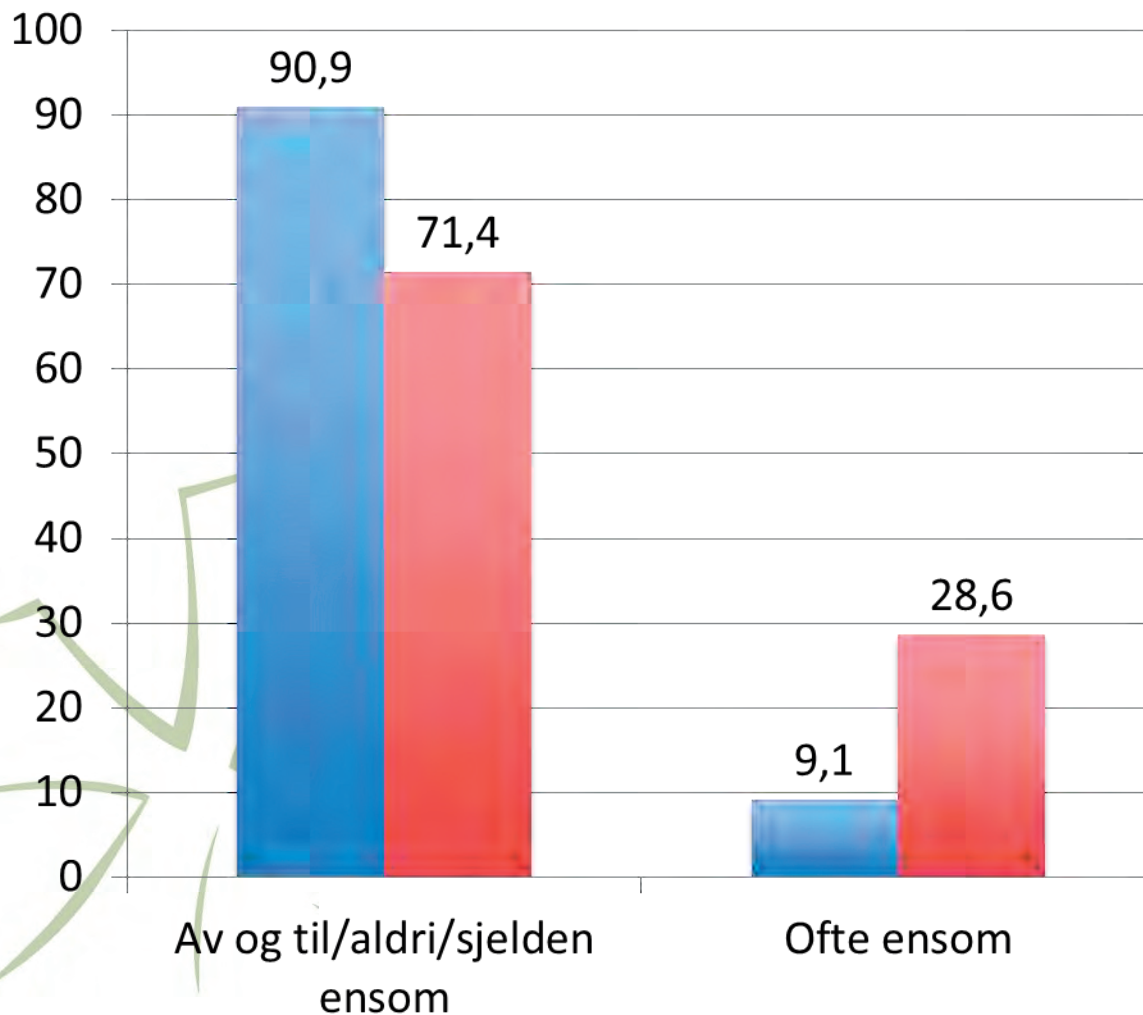


# Local empirical data on population health and determinants





# UNG-HUNT 3: Social inequalities – loneliness amongst youth in Levanger

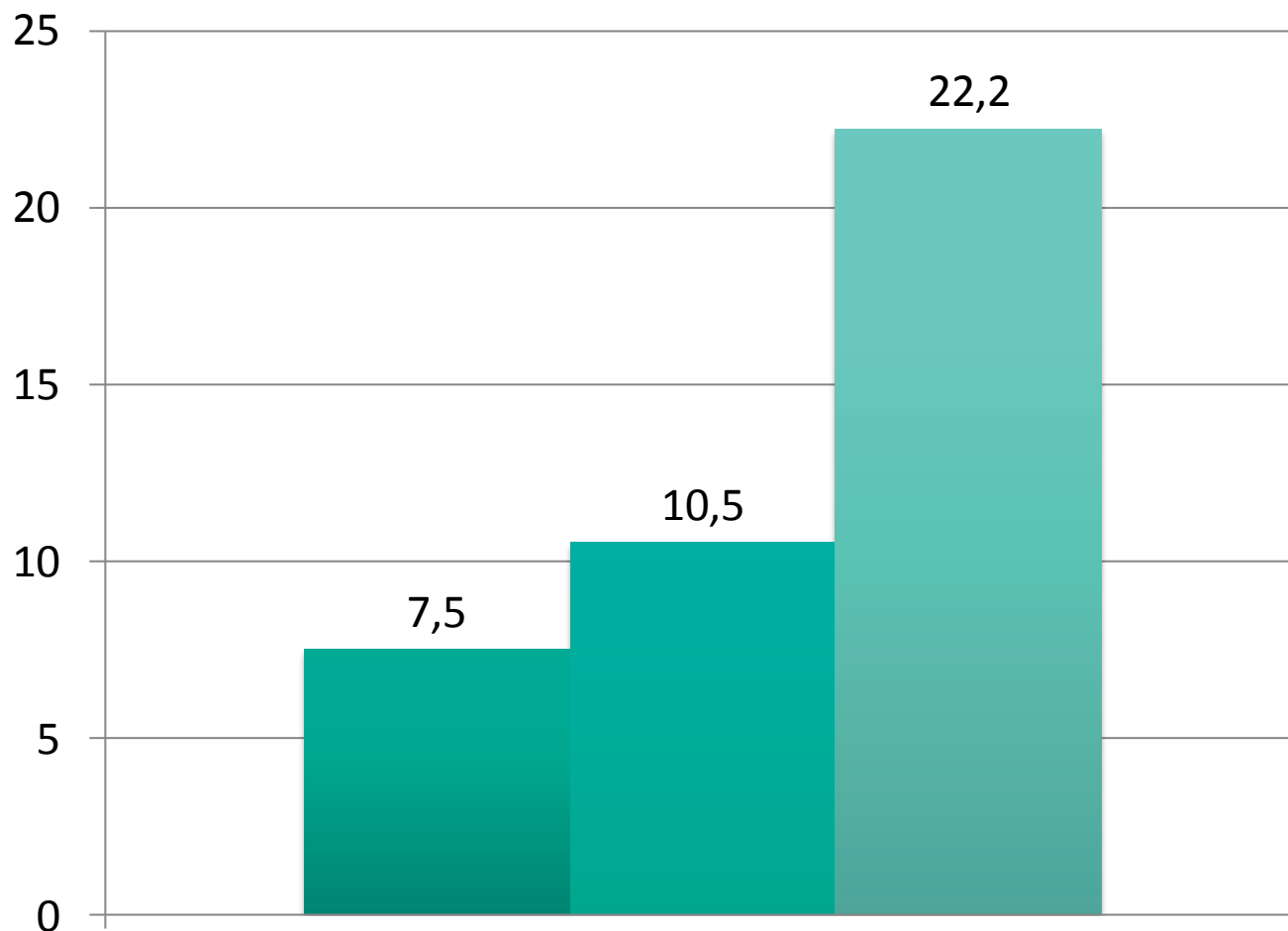


■ God familieøkonomi

■ Dårligere familieøkonomi enn andre

# Ungdata 2012 – Levanger

«feels like everything is a struggle» -  
Family economic resources



«Har familien din hatt god eller dårlig råd/økonomi de siste to årene?»

- God råd
- Hverken god eller dårlig råd
- Dårlig råd

Andel ungdommer (%) som i løpet av siste uke har vært veldig mye plaget med følelsen av at alt er et slit

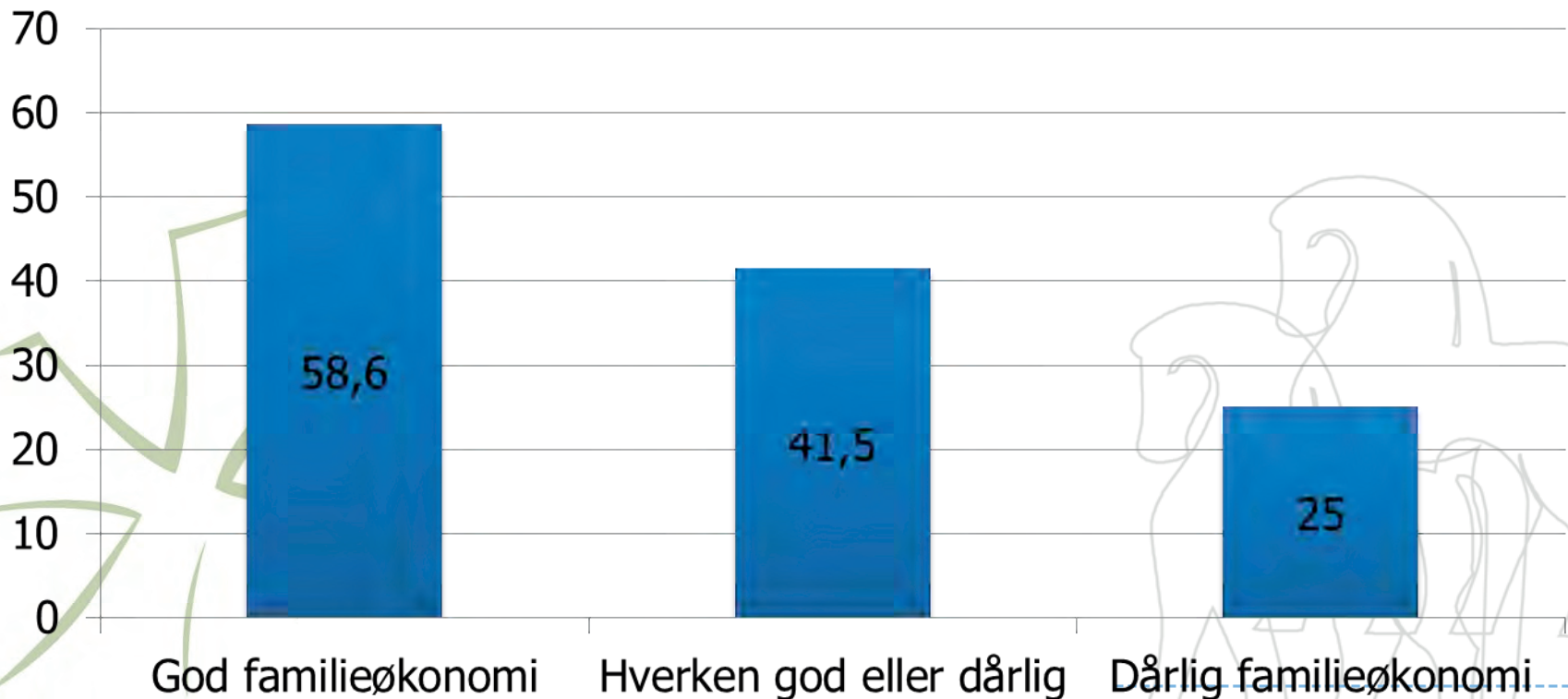


# Ungdata Verdal 2013

## Percentage of young people who thrive very well in the community – family economy



**Andel (%) som trives svært godt i nærmiljøet der de bor (N=798)**



Paradigm shift???

# FROM DISEASE PREVENTION TO SOCIETAL DEVELOPMENT!



# The power of definitions and «framing»



We chose the definition of health provided by Peter F. Hjort as the basis for the development of our goals and strategies:

"Good health is what a person has when he has the ability and the capacity to cope with and adapt to life's inevitable difficulties and day-to-day requirements."



# Definitions and perspectives provided in the MMP



We shall therefore focus our work on community development that promotes public health and reduces social inequalities in health and conditions of life. The focus on the residents will give everyone the opportunity to participate in the community regardless of age, gender, orientation, social and cultural background and disability. Public health is affected by all social sectors, as shown in Figure 1. That is why public health strategy is woven like a red thread through the entire local government plan, in which quality of life, health and control are key concepts.

We have chosen the definition of health<sup>1</sup> provided by Peter F. Hjort as the basis for our goals and strategies for the community: "Good health is what a person has when he has the ability and the capacity to cope with and adapt to life's inevitable difficulties and day-to-day requirements."

## *What affects health and quality of life?*

*The factors affecting quality of life and health may be presented in a causal chain that stretches from the general community situation to the characteristics of the individuals. This is illustrated in Figure 1<sup>2</sup>.*

*Although social networks and living habits have a more immediate impact on health and quality of life, they are also greatly affected by underlying factors in which all the social sectors play an important role.*

*We must therefore consider the consequences for health, quality of life and a fair distribution of the conditions of life in everything we do.*



*Figure 1 Public health is affected by all sectors*





**ORGANIZING +  
MOBILIZING**

**=**

**SOLUTION**



# Creating solutions together



# «Health in all policies»

Process 2014



Municipality of Levanger



Municipality of Verdal

# Municipal Masterplan 2015-2030

**Vision: Quality of life and growth**

sustainable societies - a good start and coping throughout the lifespan - generous and robust life environments



## GOALS

We are working to achieve the following objectives:

- Our municipalities are good communities to live in for a whole lifetime, and everyone feel as a valued part of the community
- All children must be given the best possible start in life
- All the inhabitants feel secure, they have control of their everyday life and they have added several active years of life with good health and well-being
- Our municipalities are a force for development in a sustainable and robust part of Central Norway







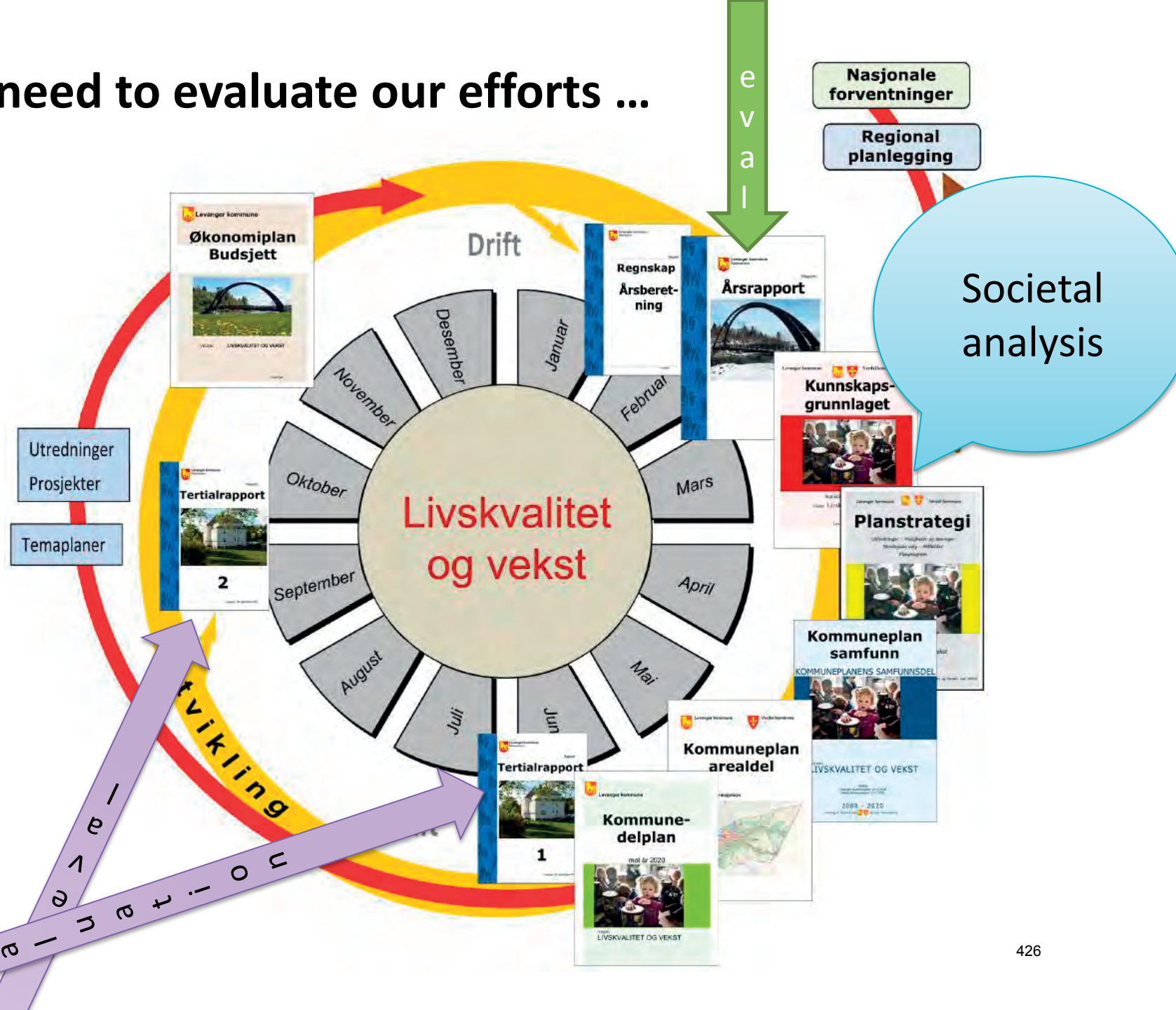
- A) ensure sustainable societies
- B) give priority to a good start and coping throughout the lifespan
- C) create generous and robust living environments

*societies, B) give priority to a good start and coping throughout the lifespan, C) create generous and robust living environments. The blue text boxes*

#### A) Ensure sustainable societies

- Prioritising the needs of the most vulnerable
- Prioritising the needs of the most vulnerable
- Ensuring that the needs of the most vulnerable are met
- Arranging for an inclusive and sustainable world and increased food production
- Taking still clearer responsibility for climate challenges
- Mobilising local community resources through transparency, the involvement of citizens and collaboration and alliances with knowledge institutions, business, the cultural and the voluntary sector and public players
- Ensuring holistic solutions, coordinated work processes and future-oriented and knowledge-based services
- Reconciling policy and service provision through binding, coherent and economically sustainable planning
- Contribute to a sustainable development in the region with emphasis on infrastructure, business and cooperation with other municipalities

...We need to evaluate our efforts ...



## INDICATORS AND PERFORMANCE REVIEW

The target indicators shown below are assessed for the assessment of the results in the annual report. The assessment is performed in the light of the principal objectives and is intended to give an indication of whether the development is in line with them. Where possible, the assessment must be based on a breakdown by geography, age, gender and social status. It must presuppose the ambition for the situation to be improved for all and for inequality to be reduced.

- Life Expectancy (Public Health Institute of Norway)
- Self-reported health and quality of life (HUNT4)
- Years of life with good health (HUNT4)
- Access to trusted friends/networks with good health (HUNT4)
- Participation in further education (CoS)
- Long-term unemployment (Nav)
- Disability (Nav)
- Households with persistent poor health (HUNT4)
- Participation in cultural activities (HUNT4)
- Physical activity (bicycling and walking) (HUNT4)
- Infrastructure for walking and bicycling (HUNT4)
- Traffic (number of passengers using public transport) (HUNT4)
- Civil Index (The Civil Survey)
- Democracy Index (The Civil Survey)
- The Municipal Barometer (Municipal accounts)
- Source Separation (Innherred Renovation)
- The Industrial Index (Central Industrial Organisation)
- Commercial Institutions (Innovation Norway)
- Net and gross operating profit as a percentage of operating revenue (Municipal accounts)
- Provision reserve as a percentage of operating income (Municipal accounts)

A lot of public health-related indicators!

Where possible, the assessment must be sorted by geography, age, gender and social status. Ambition: improve situation for all and reduce inequality



# Direct links between strategies, measures and (joint) budgeting

## 8.3 Driftstiltak

| Strategier i Kommuneplanens samfunnsdel                 |  |                                    | Tiltak   | Kostnad (mill. kr.) |      |      |      |            | Finansiering av helårsvirkning |                 |                             |
|---|--|------------------------------------|--|---------------------|------|------|------|------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Sikre en bærekraftig politikk                           | Prioritere en god start og mestring hele livet | Skape rause og robuste livsmiljøer |  | 2015                | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 -2022 | Omlegging drift                | Ekstern finans. | Nye midler i økonomi-planen |
| Strategi 1: Forebyggende, tidlig og tverrfaglig innsats |  |                                    |  |                     |      |      |      |            |                                |                 |                             |
| x   | x  |                                    | Styrking av ordinær opplæring gjennom kompetanseutvikling, bevisstgjøring av lærere. | x                   | x    | x    | x    | x          | x                              |                 |                             |
|   | x  |                                    | Økt pedagogtetthet. Statlig satsing i to av ungdomsskolene våre (2013 – 16).         | x                   | x    |      |      |            |                                | x               |                             |
| x   |  |                                    | Realisere Familiens hus.   | x                   | x    | x    | x    | x          | x                              |                 |                             |
| x   | x  |                                    | Styrke skolehelsetjenesten opp mot nasjonal norm (Helsedir. IS-1798).                | x                   | x    | x    | x    | x          |                                | x               | x                           |
| x   | x  |                                    | Etablere to 100%-stillinger for kommunepsykologer                                    | x                   | x    | x    | x    | x          |                                | I 2015          | Fra 2016                    |



# ...With a little help from our friends....



Vital to reach out for help (to our friends) in order to create the skills, the willingness and the abilities needed to implement and evaluate HiAP efforts and effects of interventions.

- People, neighbourhoods, NGOs, public and private organizations and businesses everyone that might contribute in the local community
- The Norwegian Healthy Cities Network (WHO)
- Partnership with University College of London/Marmot Review Team
- HUNT, University College of Nord Trøndelag, local hospital (HNT), KS, NT County government, National centre of arts and health
- Other local, regional, national and international resources



# «How can it be organized?»

Process 2014



# 3 Main messages from Verdal and Levanger:



- Public Health Strategy = Municipal Master Plan.  
A holistic approach to HiAP.
- Local knowledge and research-based arguments have been extremely important
- Sufficient anchoring in the political and administrative leadership has been crucial to success.





A photograph of two children in a slum setting. A boy in a grey and black patterned jacket is running towards the camera, while a girl in an orange shirt and dark pants is crouching behind him. The background shows simple, weathered buildings with red-tiled roofs and a muddy, unpaved ground.

**Health is a human right**  
**Do something**  
**Do more**  
**Do better**



# Thank you for listening!!



Contact information:

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Phone: +47 93043714



Nord-Trøndelag  
fylkeskommune



SØR-TRØNDELAG  
FYLKESKOMMUNE



Regionförbundet  
Jämtlands län



NTNU  
HUNT forskningssenter



Senter for helsefremmende forskning  
HIST/NTNU



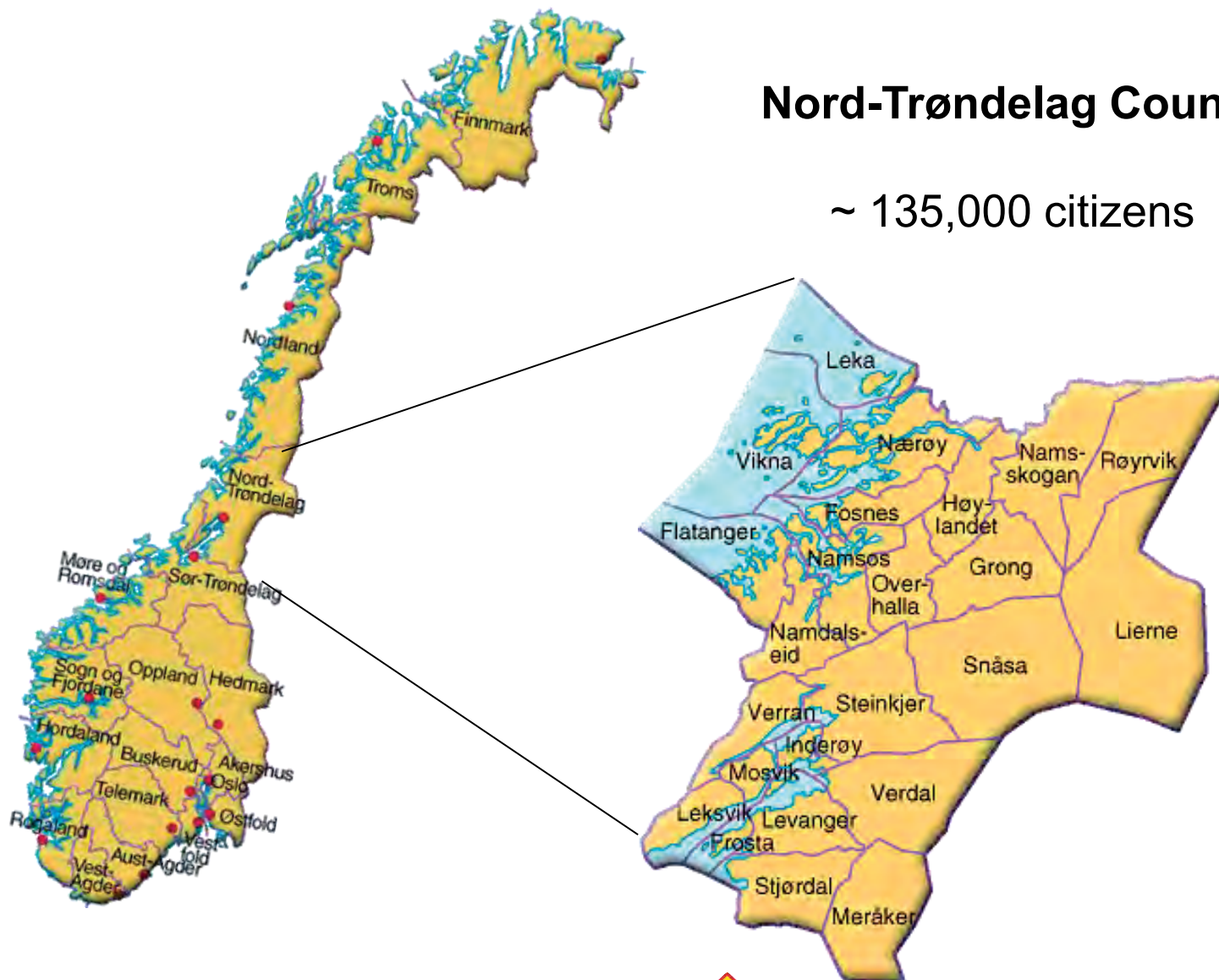
# The HUNT Study



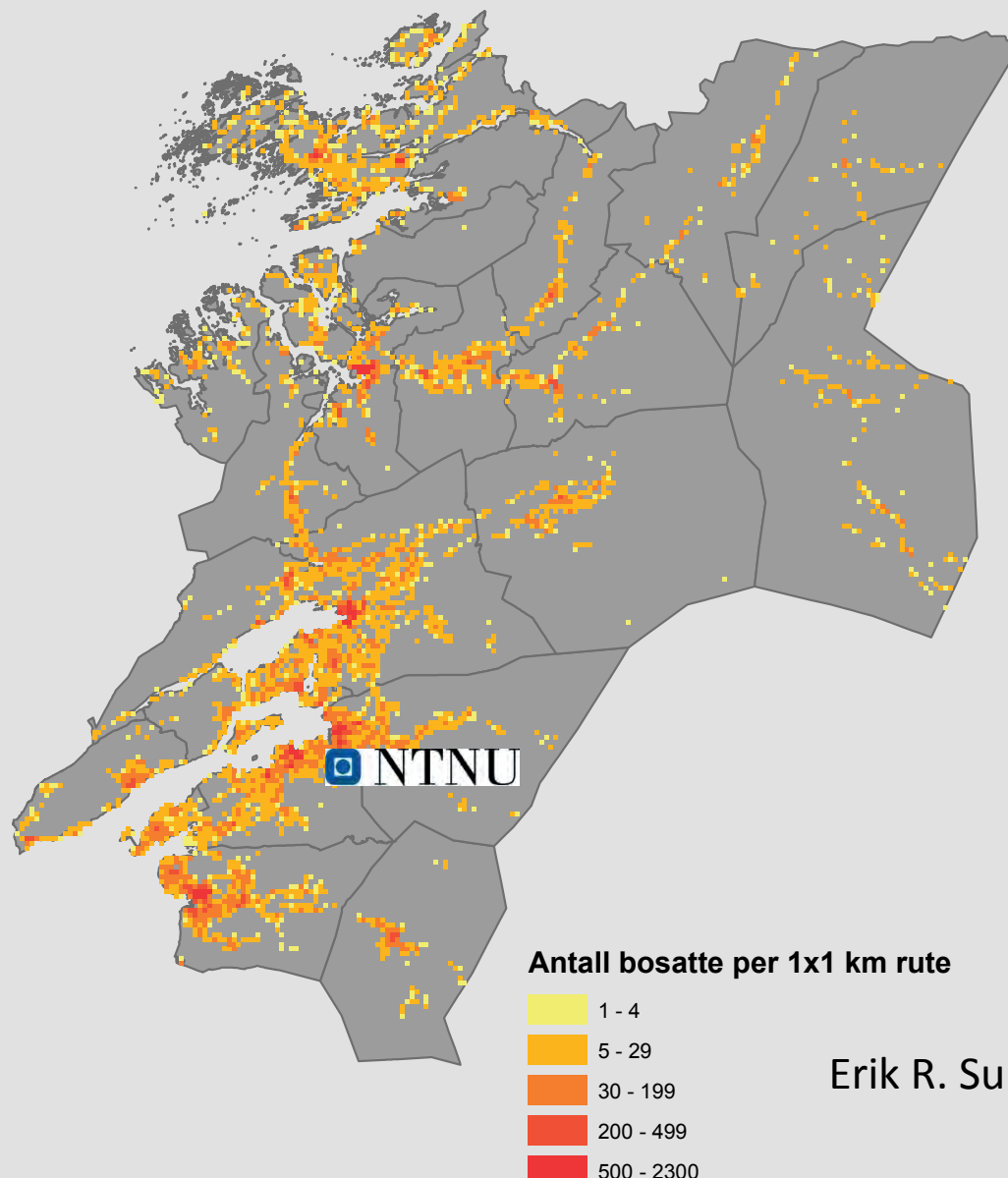


## Nord-Trøndelag County

~ 135,000 citizens



## Where people live



Erik R. Sund



**1984-86**  
88%

**1995-97**  
70%

**2006-08**  
60%



Nord-Trøndelag  
fylkeskommune



SØR-TRØNDELAG  
FYLKESKOMMUNE



INTERREG  
SVERIGE-NORGE



EUROPEISKA UNIONEN  
Europeiska regionala utvecklingsfonden  
En investering för framtiden



Region  
Jämtland

## Health data from 120,000 individuals





## Measuring health



**F** Hvis du bruker eller har brukt både sigaretter og snus, hva begynte du med først?

Snus ☐ Sigaretter ☐  
Omtrent samtidig ☐ Huset ikke ☐  
(innenfor 3 måneder)

Da du begynte å bruke snus, var det for å prøve å slutte å røyke eller for å redusere røykinga?

Nei ☐ Ja, for å ☐  
Ja, for å slutte å røyke ☐ redusere røykinga ☐

#### MATVARER

**2** Hvor ofte spiser du vanligvis disse matvarene?

(Slett ett kryss pr. linje)

|   | 0-2<br>ganger<br>pr. uke | 3-5<br>ganger<br>pr. uke | 4-6<br>ganger<br>pr. uke | 1 gang<br>pr. dag        | 2-3<br>ganger<br>pr. dag |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Frukt/bær   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Grunnsaker  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Sjokolade/sjokolade                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Kokte poteter                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Pasta   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Pølser/hamburger                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Fett fisk   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Gull, øret, sild, makrell,<br>sær som pålegg/måltid | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**3** Bruker du følgende kosttillskudd?

(Slett ett kryss for hvert kosttillskudd)

|                                    | Ja,<br>daglig            | Ja,<br>og til            | Nei                      |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Tran                               | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Omega-3-kapsler                    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Vitamin- og/eller mineraltillskudd | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**4** Hvor mange glass drikker du vanligvis av følgende?

(1 liter = 3 glass (Slett ett kryss pr. linje))

|                         | Sjelden<br>eller<br>aldrig | 1-2<br>ganger<br>pr. uke | 3-4<br>ganger<br>pr. uke | 5-6<br>ganger<br>pr. uke | 7-8<br>ganger<br>pr. uke |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Vann (færre og mer)     | <input type="checkbox"/>   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Hvitt/brunt kaffe       | <input type="checkbox"/>   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Alkohol med/uten sukker | <input type="checkbox"/>   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Drus/saft uten sukker   | <input type="checkbox"/>   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Juice eller nektar      | <input type="checkbox"/>   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**5** Hvor mange kopper kaffe/te drikker du pr. dag?

(Slett 0 dersom du ikke drikker kaffe/te daglig)

|               | Kaffe<br>kaffe           | Te<br>kaffe              | Te                       |
|---------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Antall kopper | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**6** Hvor mange kopper kaffe drikker du om kvelden (etter kl 18)?

Antall  
kopper ☐

#### ALKOHOLBRUK

**7** Omtrent hvor ofte har du i løpet av de siste 12 månedene drukket alkohol? (Regn ikke med lenge)

|                      |                          |                          |                          |
|----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 4-7 ganger pr. uke   | <input type="checkbox"/> | Ca 1 gang pr. måned      | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2-3 ganger pr. uke   | <input type="checkbox"/> | Nei, 12 ganger pr. år    | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ca 1 gang pr. uke    | <input type="checkbox"/> | Ingen ganger siste år    | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2-3 ganger pr. måned | <input type="checkbox"/> | Alkohol drukket skillett | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**8** Har du drukket alkohol i løpet av de siste 4 uker?

Ja ☐ Nei ☐

Hvis ja:

Har du drukket så mye at du har kjent deg sterkt beruset (full)?

Nei ☐  
Ja, 1-2 ganger ☐  
Ja, 3 ganger eller mer ☐

**9** Hvor mange glass øl, vin eller brennevin drikker du vanligvis i løpet av 2 uker? (Regn ikke med lenge)

(Slett 0 hvis du ikke drikker alkohol)

|              | Øl                       | Vin                      | Brennevin                |
|--------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Antall glass | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**10** Hvor ofte drikker du 5 glass eller mer av øl, vin eller brennevin ved samme anledning?

Alkohol ☐ Ukenlig ☐  
Månedlig ☐ Daglig ☐

#### MOSJON/FYSISK AKTIVITET

Med mosjon mener vi at du føles gleder, gir på skil, svømmer eller driver trening/idrett.

**11** Hvor ofte driver du mosjon? (Ta et gjennomsnitt)

Alkohol ☐  
Sjeldnere enn en gang i uke ☐  
En gang i uke ☐  
2-3 ganger i uke ☐  
Daglig ☐

**12** Dersom du driver slik mosjon, så ofte som en eller flere ganger i uke, hvor hardt mosjonerer du? (Ta et gjennomsnitt)

Tar det någynen å bli andpusten eller svett ☐  
Tar det skillett å bli andpusten og svett ☐  
Tar meg nesten helt ut ☐

**13** Hvor lenge holder du på hver gang? (Ta et gjennomsnitt)

Mindre enn 15 minutter ☐ 30 minutter - 1 time ☐  
15-29 minutter ☐ Mer enn 1 time ☐





23 municipalities





## Height, weight



**Blood pressure**

**Lung function**

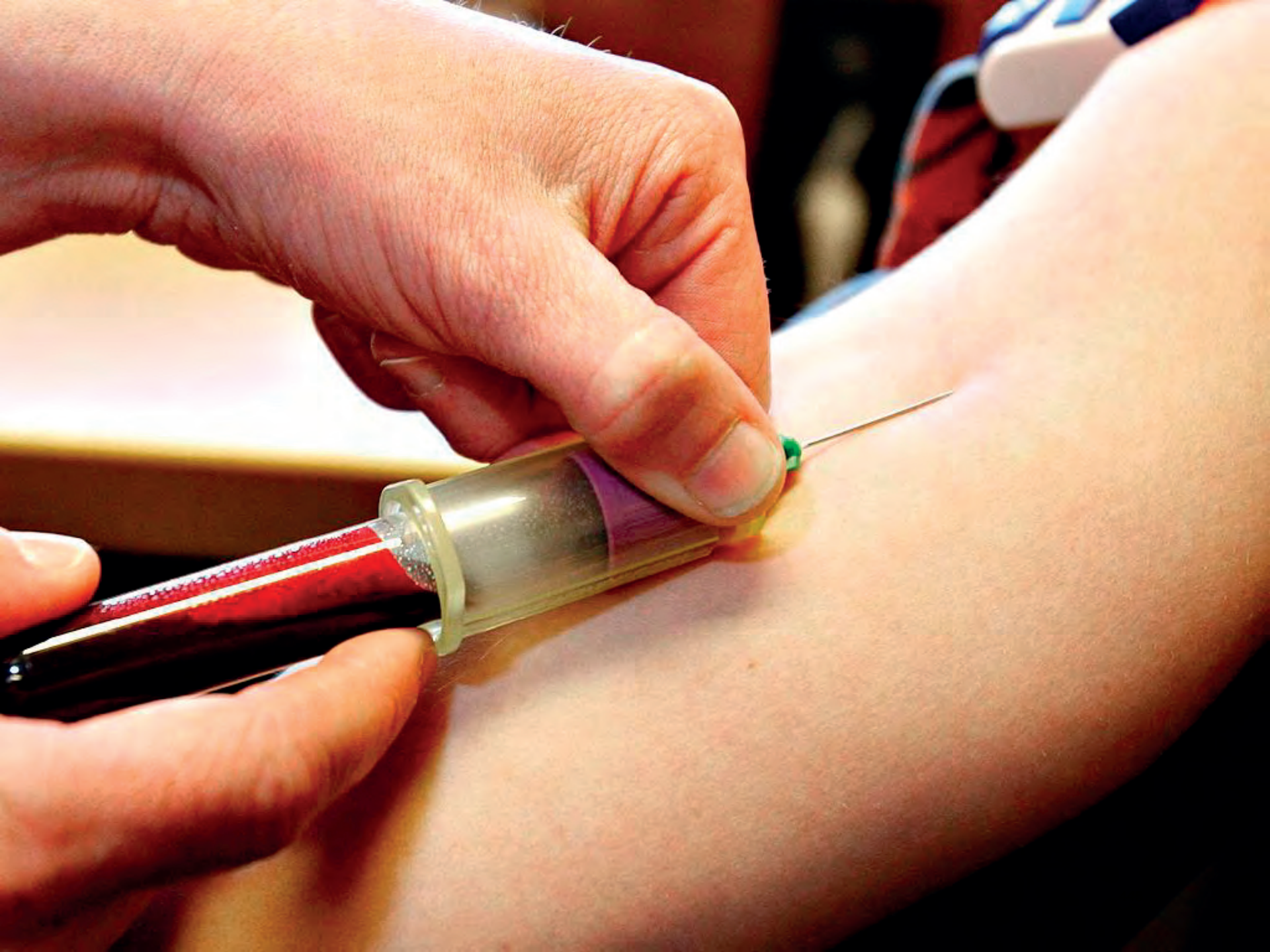




# Bone scan











**Transportation of blood samples,  
cooled, same day**

# HUNT

## Research Centre,

### Nord-Trøndelag





**HUNT 3:**

**30 small tubes per person**





A photograph of a cryogenic storage facility. The image shows a long, narrow aisle formed by tall, blue metal racks with a grid-like pattern. In the center of the aisle, a red robotic arm or crane is positioned, extending from the top of the racks. The floor is made of metal grating. The lighting is bright, and the overall atmosphere is industrial and cold.

**DNA storage**  
**Cherrypicking at minus 20 Degree C**



## Cryo tubes at - 196°C

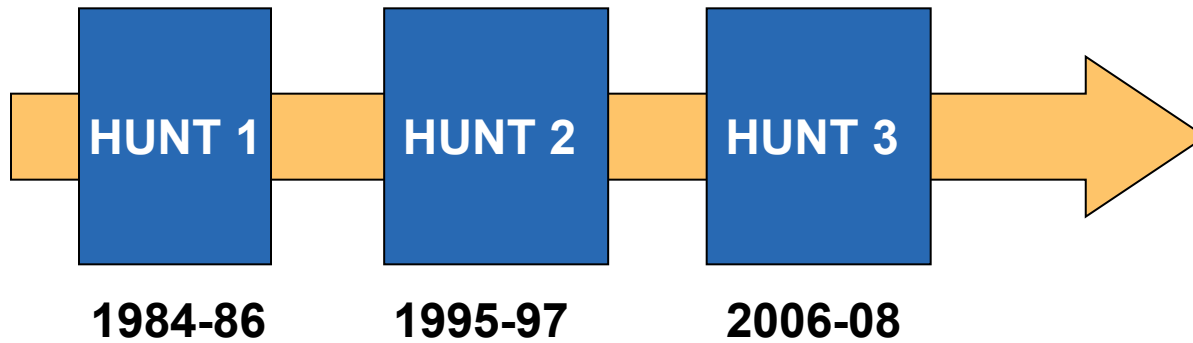








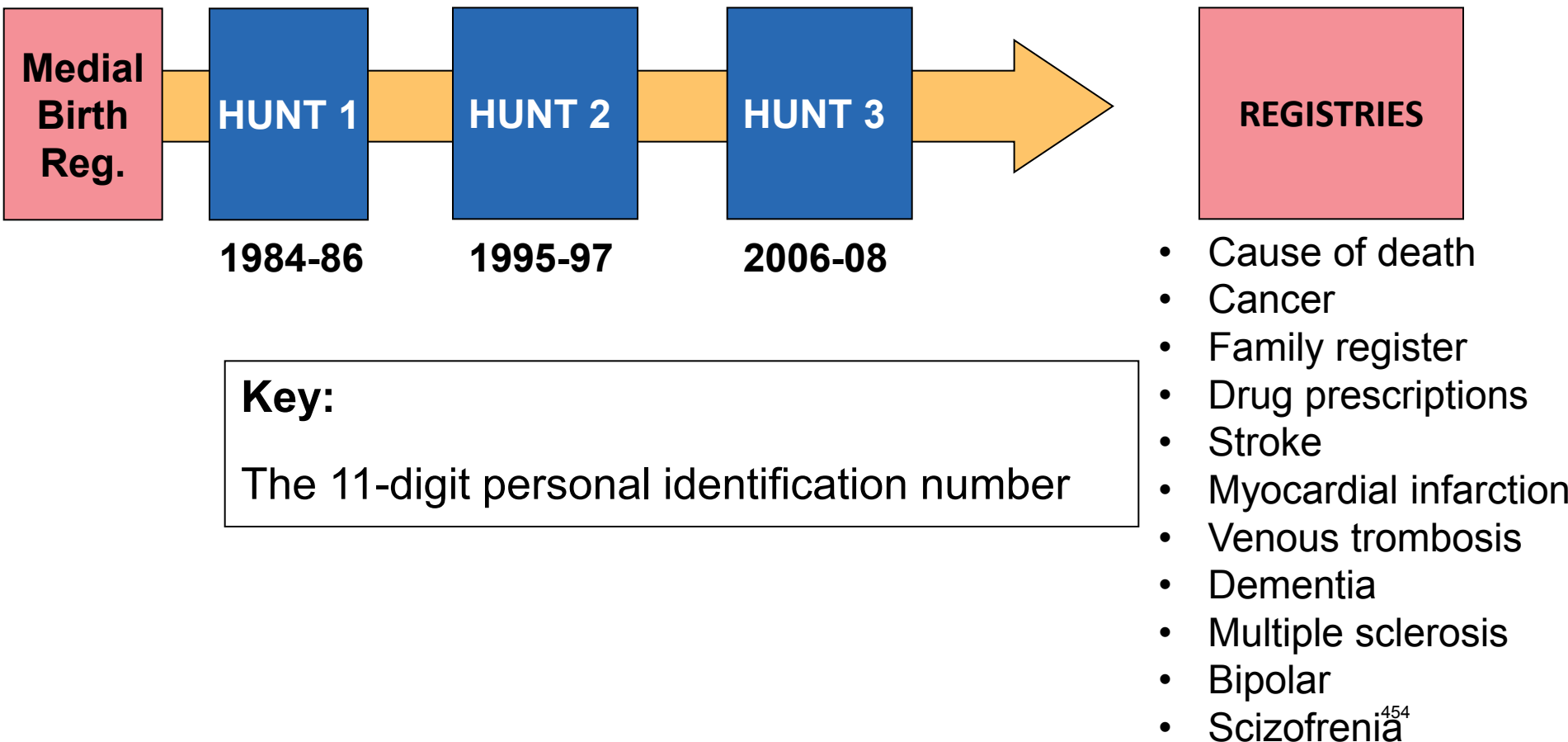
## DNA-extraction Genotyping



**Key:**

The 11-digit personal identification number





**Scientific papers:**

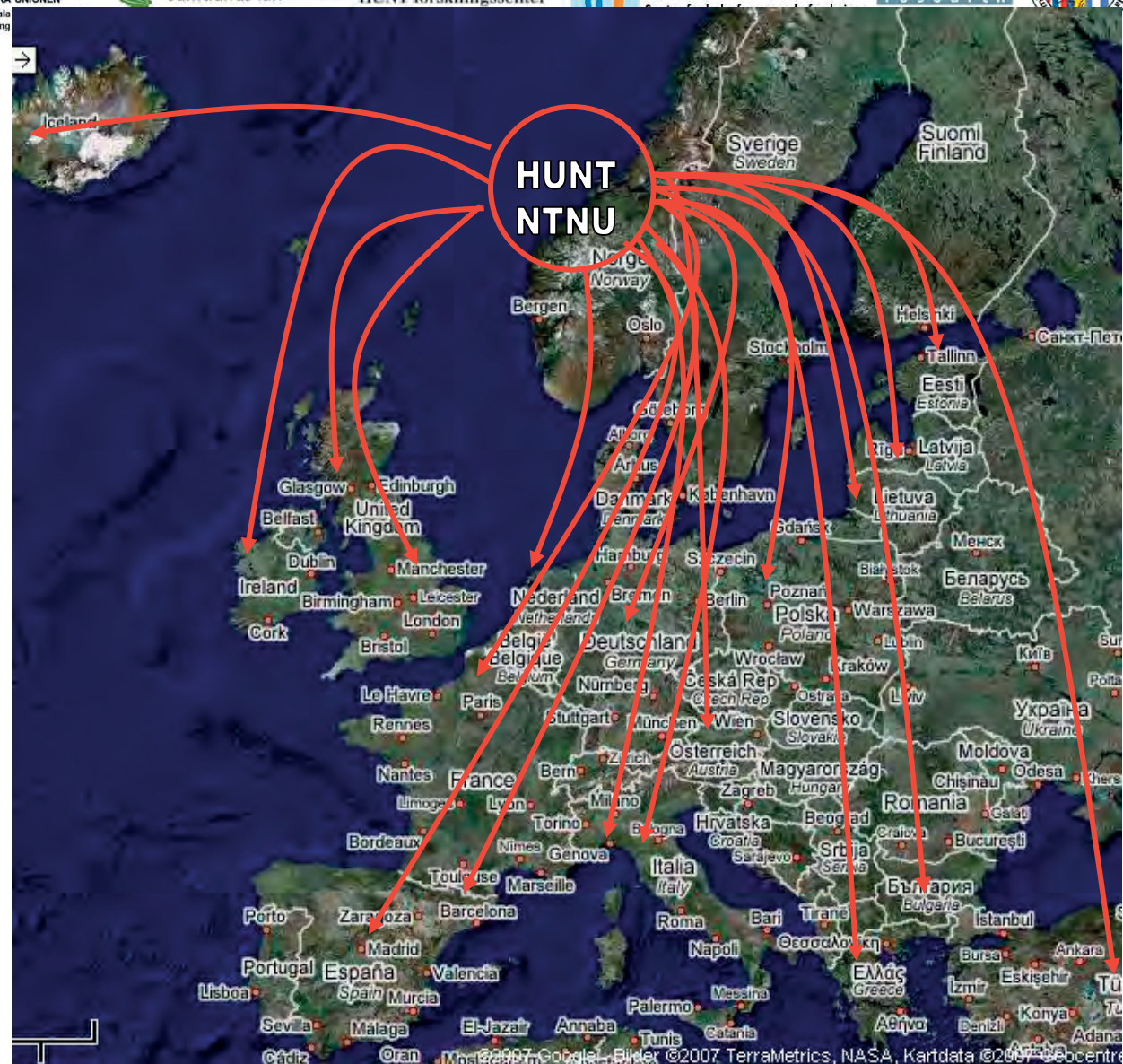
~ 60-70 each year

Totally ~ 700

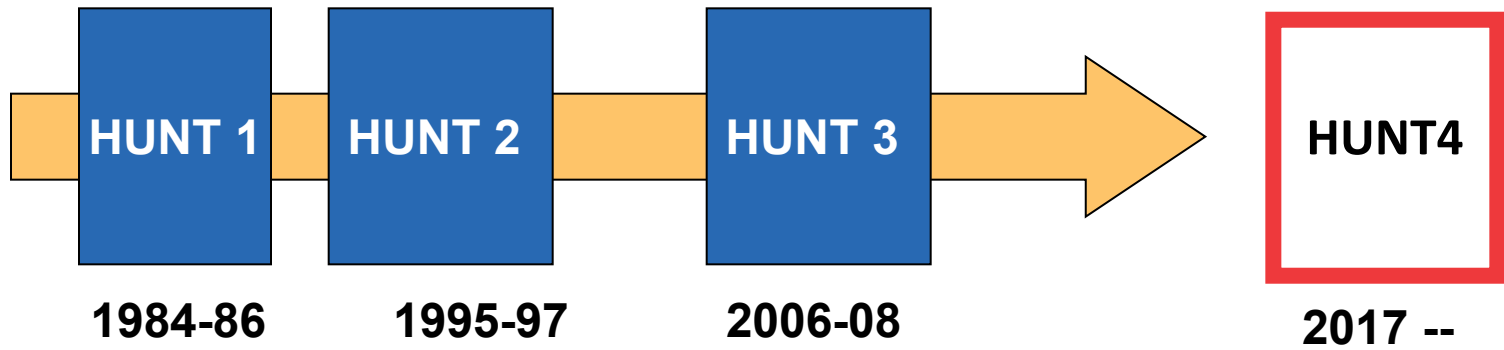
**130 PhD degrees**



## European collaboration







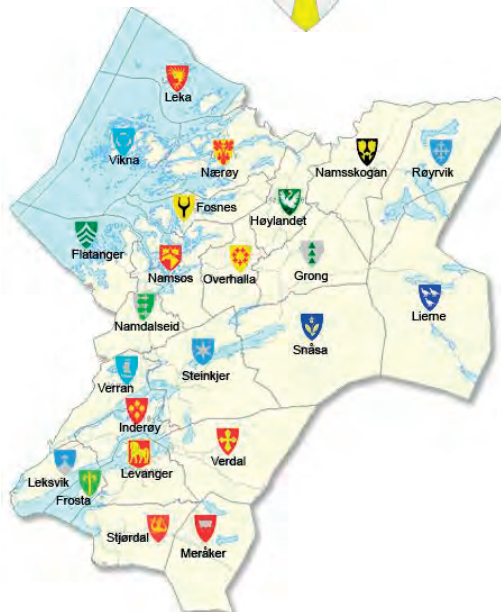
**Political support**



The Norwegian government



The County Council



The 23 municipalities



Nord-Trøndelag  
fylkeskommune



SØR-TRØNDELAG  
FYLKESKOMMUNE



Regionförbundet  
Jämtlands län



NTNU  
HUNT forskningssenter



Senter for helsefremmende forskning  
HIST/NTNU



# TRUST



PODD-RA





**Viking spirit**

**The aim:**

**Longer -  
and better life**

**<http://www.ntnu.no/hunt>**





### The Nord-Trøndelag Health Study (HUNT)

HUNT is one of the largest and most comprehensive population-based health surveys ever performed. HUNT is a unique databank of personal and family medical histories, clinical measurements, exposure variables and biological material collected in three consecutive studies from 1984–2008. In total, more than 100,000 persons from the County of Nord-Trøndelag in Norway have participated.

**HUNT collaborates with national and international research groups on some of the most important health challenges facing our world today, such as diabetes, cancer, musculoskeletal disease, mental illness, migraine, prostate problems, urinary incontinence, reproduction, weight and cardiovascular disease.**

### Built on trust

The fundamental strategy of HUNT is to earn and maintain the confidence of the population we work in and with. This strategy has been successful and has resulted in extraordinarily high participation rates. There is enthusiastic public and political support for HUNT and for the HUNT Research Centre. This has created a good basis for further health surveys in the County and an excellent research environment.

### Extensive data

The HUNT studies have compiled extensive medical, lifestyle and environmental data associated with each biological sample, comprising in total about 800 exposure variables and nearly 3000 different variables per individual. These datasets allow for prospective correlations to be made between genetic, epigenetic, lifestyle, environmental and health/disease profiles. Through an individual personal identifier (PIN) linkage to registries at the national level can be established to access additional information. Participants have provided very detailed information through the HUNT surveys. This has been validated in several studies based on HUNT data and has greatly contributed to the overall value of the HUNT Biobank for research projects.



The Nord-Trøndelag Health Study, HUNT

### Contact information

HUNT Research Centre is part of the Faculty of Medicine at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), Trondheim, Norway. HUNT Research Centre is located in Verdal in the County of Nord-Trøndelag.

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Professor Kristian Hveem  
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### Selected publications

Close to 500 publications and 40 PhD's, based on HUNT data, are an important part of our scientific output.

Dale AC, Vatten LJ, Nilsen TI, Midthjell K, Wiseth R. Secular decline in mortality from coronary heart disease in adults with diabetes mellitus: cohort study. *BMJ*. 2008 Jul 1;337:a236.

Rayjean J. Hung, James D. McKay, Valerie Gaborieau, et al. A genome-wide association study identifies a susceptibility locus for lung cancer encompassing nicotine acetylcholine receptor subunit genes at 15q25. *Nature*. 2008 Apr 3;452(7187):633-7

Eleftheria Zeggini, Laura J Scott, Richa Saxena, Benjamin F Voight, Jonathan L Marchini Tianle Hu, Paul IW de Bakker et al . Metanalysis of genome-wide association data and large-scale replication identifies additional new susceptibility loci for type 2 diabetes. *Nature Genetics* 40, 638 - 645 (2008). Published online: 30 March 2008

Johansson S, Raeder H, Eide S, Midthjell K, Hveem K, Sovik O, Molven A, Njølstad P. Studies in 3,523 Norwegians (HUNT2) and Meta-Analysis in 11,571 Subjects Indicate that Variants in the HNF4A P2 Region are Associated with Type 2 Diabetes in Scandinavians. *Diabetes*. 2007 Dec;56(12):3112-7.

Hallan S, Astor B, Romundstad S, Aasarød K, Kvenild K, Coresh J. Association of kidney function and albuminuria with cardiovascular mortality in older vs younger individuals: The HUNT II Study. *Arch Intern Med*. 2007 Dec 10;167(22):2490-6.

Mykletun A, Øverland S, Dahl AA, Krokstad S, Bjerkset O, Glozier N, Aarø LE, Prince M. A population-based cohort study of the effect of common mental disorders on disability pension awards. *Am J Psychiatry*. 2006 Aug;163(8):1412-8

Aegidius K, Zwart JA, Hagen K, Schei B, Stovner LJ. Oral contraceptives and increased headache prevalence: the Head-HUNT Study. *Neurology* 2006; 66: 349-353

Krokstad S, Westin S. Disability in society. Medical and non-medical determinants for disability pension in a Norwegian total county population study. *Soc Sci Med* 2004;58:1837-48

Romundstad S, Holmen J, Hallan H, Kvenild K, Ellekjaer H. Microalbuminuria and all-cause mortality in treated hypertensive individuals: does sex matter? The Nord-Trøndelag Health Study (HUNT), Norway. *Circulation* 2003; 108: 2783-2789

Nilsson M, Johnsen R, Ye W, Hveem K, Lagergren J. Obesity and estrogen as risk factors for gastroesophageal reflux symptoms. *JAMA* 2003; 290: 66-72

Rørtvet G, Daltveit AK, Hannestad YS, Hunsår S. Urinary incontinence after vaginal delivery or cesarean section. *N Eng J Med*. 2003 Mar 6;348(10):900-7



HUNT Biobank in Levanger

Utdanning og trykk: Tapir Uttrykk 2008



[www.hunt.ntnu.no](http://www.hunt.ntnu.no)



# HUNT 1-2-3

In 1984, a population-based health study was launched in the central Norwegian region of Nord-Trøndelag. The study was intended to stimulate epidemiological research and to provide a new basis for clinical and preventive medicine projects. The study was named the HUNT Study.

The County of Nord-Trøndelag has a scattered rural population of about 130,000, which can be characterized as stable and homogeneous. Urban centres are small, with fewer than 25,000 inhabitants, and the population is served by two well-established local hospitals. To date, three surveys have been completed.

The **HUNT1** study (1984–1986) recruited 75,000 participants above 20 years of age, with no upper age limit. The participation rate was 88 %, a remarkable result in national and international terms. The survey was based on questionnaires and clinical examination, a capillary glucose test was taken, but no biological samples were stored.

The **HUNT2** study (1995–1997) comprised 74,000 participants, once again achieving a very high participation rate of 72 %. The age group between 13 and 19 was included in a sub-study called *YoungHUNT*. In addition to questionnaires and clinical examination, 65,000 blood samples (serum, whole blood) were collected from all participants aged 20 or older, resulting in the current collection of purified DNA material.

The **HUNT3** study (2006–2008) was completed in June 2008 with a attendance rate of close to 60 %, comprising about 60,000 participants, including the YoungHUNT sub-study. The study introduced a strict protocol for collection, sample handling and storing of blood samples, thus ensuring biological samples of optimal quality.

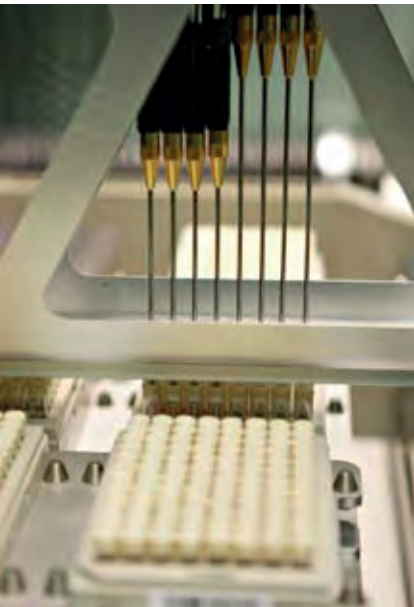
**Covering more than 20 years**  
HUNT offers unique opportunities for longitudinal studies, given that 46,000 individuals participated in both HUNT1 and HUNT2, covering a period of 10 years. Of these, 27,000 have also participated in HUNT3, allowing for 20 years of longitudinal follow-up. In HUNT 3, 37,000 of the participants in HUNT2 were re-examined.

The combination of health data and biological material with a very large number of other exposure variables, is ideal for studies of interactions between genetic variation, lifestyle and environmental factors. The value of HUNT lies also in the possibility of linking to well-classified phenotypic information sources, such as local and national disease registries.



*YoungHUNT: In 1995, YoungHUNT was established covering the age group from 13 to 19 with a attendance rate of 90 % of the invited.*

The homogeneous and stable population of Nord-Trøndelag in Norway is a unique source of health information and biological material



## HUNT Biosciences Ltd

HUNT Biosciences Ltd is the commercial arm of the HUNT Biobank and CONOR. HUNT Biosciences was established in 2007 in order to offer a professional interface with industry and facilitate commercial use of HUNT data, without compromising the trust of the donor population. HUNT Biosciences is publicly owned, and any profits made by the company will be returned to the community as a financial basis for further research.

**Contact information:** Neptunveien 1, N-7650 Verdal, Norway. Tel: + 47 74 07 51 80 Fax: +47 74 07 51 81 www.hunt.ntnu.no

## HUNT Biobank and the National CONOR Biobank

HUNT Biobank is one of the most modern and extensive international biobanks, storing whole blood and DNA from 200,000 individuals, serum and plasma samples from more than 100,000 individuals as well as urine, RNA tubes, cells, buffy coat and Na-heparin tubes for environmental analysis for as many as 50,000 individuals.

All bio-specimens from the HUNT surveys are collected, processed and stored at the HUNT Biobank in Levanger, which was officially opened in March 2007. The Biobank is a new laboratory and storage facility (2000 m²) specially designed for the purpose and equipped with state-of-the-art infrastructure, including a fully automated DNA storage facility, in which all samples are stored at the appropriate temperature.

The National CONOR Biobank is located on the same site, where it serves as a central research repository for DNA samples from all the largest Norwegian health surveys. These make up “the Cohorts of Norway” (CONOR), which include samples from more than 200,000 individuals.

### International collaboration and ongoing studies

The HUNT databank provides data on a large number of diseases observed in the general population. The data have been utilized in more than 250 ongoing or completed research projects, with particular emphasis on major disease areas such as diabetes type 2, cardiovascular, kidney and pulmonary disease, and bone density - as well as in studies on urine incontinence, haemochromatosis, reflux disease/dyspepsia, thyroid disease, headache and skeletal muscular complaints, anxiety and depression.

HUNT is an integral part of several EU projects in the Sixth and the Seventh Framework Programme and its role in EU-funded health research is expected to be further extended in years to come. HUNT also participates in major collaborative transatlantic projects funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the National Cancer Institute (NCI).

HUNT has cooperated actively with the UK Biobank, on the basis of a bilateral national agreement signed in 2005, including the development of integrated solutions for data management and automated sample handling.

In 2007, NTNU and the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC/WHO) signed a memorandum of understanding promoting cancer research, based on HUNT studies.

HUNT Biobank is also collaborating with partners in India to establish population-based health cohorts and biobanks.

## HUNT phenotype, genotype and environmental data support R&D for major disease areas such as:

**Phenotype/medical data:**

- Medical examination results include height, weight, waist/hip ratio, Body Mass Composition, blood pressure and heart rate
- Serum values including total cholesterol, HDL, triglycerides and glucose
- Family medical history include data on diabetes and cardiovascular disease among relatives
- Glucose tolerance test for all those at risk for diabetes
- Self-reported health and disease status
- Crosslink with clinical records and local end-point registries via local hospitals
- Medication via Prescription registry

**Lifestyle & environmental data:**

- Data on smoking, alcohol consumption and drug consumption
- Physical activity
- Personal circumstances
- Housing
- Employment
- Local environment

**Diabetes & Obesity**

**HUNT Diabetes Project:**

- Specific questionnaire
- Individual follow-up study with interventions

**Genotype information:**

- DNA samples for analysis
- Extensive genotyping results will be available from an increasing number of samples in the HUNT Database
- Infrastructure for replication studies in place
- In-house genotyping facility

**Phenotype/medical data:**

- Medical examination results incl. height, weight, waist/hip ratio, Body Mass Composition, blood pressure and heart rate
- Serum values including Total cholesterol, HDL, Triglycerides and Glucose
- Self-reported health and disease status
- Medication from Prescription Registry

**Lifestyle & environmental data:**

- Data on smoking, alcohol and drug consumption
- Physical activity
- Personal circumstances
- Housing
- Employment
- Local environment

**Arthro-sclerosis & Thrombosis**

**Link to local endpoint registries:**

- Venous Thromboembolism with 750 retrospective cases from 1996–2000, and new cases from 2000–2007 to be added.
- Myocardial Infarction with 300–350 incident cases/year, retrospectively for 1996–2000 and prospectively from 2001

**Genotype information:**

- DNA samples for analysis
- Extensive genotyping results will be available from an increasing number of samples in the HUNT Database
- Infrastructure for replication studies in place
- In-house genotyping facility

**Phenotype/medical data:**

- Results from clinical examination and serum analysis
- Family medical history
- Crosslink with National Registries
- Crosslink with clinical records and local end-point registries via hospitals
- Information on medication via National prescription registry
- Serum samples available for additional analyses
- Longitudinal data covering more than 20 years

**Lifestyle & environmental data:**

- Data on smoking, alcohol and drug consumption
- Physical activity
- Personal circumstances
- Housing
- Employment
- Local environment

**Biomarker discovery and validation**

**Subprojects collecting detailed disease specific information**

- Disease-focused questionnaires
- Individual follow-up study with interventions (e.g. diabetes)

**Genotype information:**

- DNA samples for analysis
- Extensive genotyping results will be available from an increasing number of samples in the HUNT Database
- Infrastructure for replication studies in place
- In-house genotyping facility

**Phenotype/medical data:**

- Results from clinical examination and serum analysis
- Family medical history incl. cancer cases
- Crosslink with National Cancer Registry
- Crosslink with clinical records via local hospitals
- Information on medication via National prescription registry
- Serum samples available for additional analyses
- Longitudinal data covering more than 20 years

**Lifestyle & environmental data:**

- Data on smoking, alcohol and drug consumption
- Physical activity
- Personal circumstances, housing and employment
- Local environment
- More than 800 exposure variables

**Oncology**

**HUNT3: subprojects for specific cancers**

- Questionnaires for breast, prostate and colorectal cancer
- Links to clinical biobanks collecting tissue samples of HUNT participants that developed cancer

**Genotype information:**

- DNA samples for analysis
- Extensive genotyping results will be available from an increasing number of samples in HUNT Database
- Infrastructure for replication studies in place
- In house genotyping facility
- Access to tissues possible via clinical biobanks