Civil Society and Health

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Overview

• What is Civil Society?
• Why discussing Civil Society
• What are the benefits of Civil Society
• Types of Civil Society and the health and health system related actions it can produce
Examples of civil society organizations:

Activist groups, charities, civic groups, campaigns, sports clubs, social clubs, community foundations, community/local associations, consumer organizations, cooperatives, churches, cultural groups, environmental groups, foundations, lobbies, men’s groups, policy institutions, political parties, private voluntary organizations, professional associations, religious organizations, social associations, social enterprises, support groups, trade unions, voluntary associations, women’s groups.
What is Civil Society

- Negative definition: Neither state nor market (nor Family)
  - Civil Society Organizations working at the interface of states and markets

- Positive definition: Autonomy and constituency
  - Who has the power to choose and dismiss its leader
  - Who has the power to stipulate its statutes and operating by-laws?
  - What is its economic base?
  - Who has the power to determine its mandate?
Why researching and discussing Civil Society
What are the benefits of Civil Society?

- Empowerment
- Service delivery
- Commitment
- Flexibility
- Participation in policy
- Credibility
## Types and Actions of Civil Society Organizations

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<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Interest groups</th>
<th>Constituency</th>
<th>Communities</th>
<th>International</th>
<th>Other</th>
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<td>Causes</td>
<td>Economic</td>
<td>Faith-based</td>
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<td>Services to public</td>
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<td>Social partnership</td>
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Source: Authors’ elaboration
Case studies

• Tobacco control in Russia
• Pharmaceutical decision making EU-level
• Food banks in Cyprus
• Asylum seekers and Refugees in Turkey
• HIV/AIDS in the Russian Federation
• Social Partnership in Austria
• The Dutch ‘whole-of-society’ approach

Mini-case studies

• Tobacco control in Slovenia
• Corporal punishment in
• Global access to pharmaceutical from Belgium
• Health research in the EU
• Malta Hospice movement
• Refugees crisis in Germany
• Obstetric care in Poland
• Fighting Stigma and empowering disabled persons in Bosnia and Herzegovina
Programme

• **Welcome**, Clemens Auer and Josep Figueras
• **Rules of the Game**, Josep Figueras
• **The role of CSOs in health promotion, prevention and protection**, Vytenis Andriukaitis
• **Keynote**, Matthias Wismar
• **CSO-stories**, Wanjiku Kamau, Wendy Yared, Freek Spinnewijn, 1) Kiti Kajana Phillips
• **Adding the state**, Natasha Azzopardi-Muscat
• **Vesna-Kerstin Petric**
• **Round table/group discussion**
• **Plenary and wrap-up**
Round table discussion

• Please agree on a facilitator and a rapporteur at your table.

• Please discuss at your table:
  – Examples for the role of civil society for health and health systems in your country
  – Is the context in your country conducive to working with civils society (registration, regulation, transparency etc.)
  – What are the Instruments for engagement between the government/state and Civil Society Organization (CSO platforms, contracts, grants, projects etc.)

• Please report back to the plenary