Trends of evolving concept and instruments of HL

- Broadened understanding of HL
  - Disease & positive health & wellbeing
  - "Literate" = HL & other cognitive information /comunication competencies
- Roles & tasks: Patient role & other roles in everyday life
- Internal differentiation of HL for specific contexts & contents
- Relational / interactive /contextual / dual understanding of HL > measure and develop also organizational HL

Different approaches to measure HL
- Personal vs. systems HL
- Individual vs. population HL
- Functional vs. interactive vs. critical vs. comprehensive HL
- General vs. specific HL
- Performance based tests vs. perception based questionnaires
- Measurement of population HL in Europe rather late and sporadic, e.g. HLS- CH (2006), before HLS-EU

The HLS-EU Consortium ...

- provided an integrated comprehensive model and definition of personal HL based on existing models and definitions
- developed an instrument to measure personal HL (HLS-EU-OAT) and relevant determinants and consequences of health literacy (HLS-EU-OBD)
- measured HL in 8 European countries (AT, BG, DE, EL, IE, NL, PL, ES) using probability samples of each 1000 EU citizens aged 15+ by personal interviews
- distributed results by a Comparative Report, journal articles and numerous presentations

Recommendations

For regular measurement of HL
- "The European Health Literacy Survey should be sustained, have dedicated funding, be applied to more countries and be conducted at regular intervals through the continued support of the European Union, the WHO and countries." (p.71)
- For also measuring organizational HL
  - "Existing measures of health literacy are still too oriented towards the individual and must be expanded to include the collective level (including communities) and to assess the literacy friendliness of materials, organizations and environments." (p.71)

Main results of HLS-EU

- Considerable proportions 1/3 to 2/3 of EU citizens have limited HL
- There is a social gradient of HL
- HL is associated with healthy life styles (mainly physical exercise and BMI)
- HL is associated with self-reported health
- HL is associated with extent of use of health care services


The Solid Facts – Health Literacy

- Model and definition of HLS-EU highlighted results of the HLS-EU survey took the ICO concept of Health Literate Health Care Organization and applied it to other health literacy friendly settings
- Sampled interventions & measures to improve HL in different settings provided recommendations for developing policies for HL at the local, national and European Region levels (→ were already translated into German, Mandarin, Russian.

Organizational health literacy / health literate organizations

- Milestones
  - 2006 Rudd & Anderson
  - 2009 Parker (dual character of HL)
  - 2012 Brach et al 10 Attributes
  - 2013 WHO The Solid Facts – Health Literacy
  - 2015 Dietscher & Pelikan; Pelikan & Dietscher: Vienna Model of HL-HCO
  - 2016 Reviews: Palumbo
  - 2017 Reviews: Brach; Meggetto et al
  - 2018 Reviews: Farmanova et al; Lloyd et al; Scholl et al; Trezina et al: health literacy responsiveness (Org-HLR) framework

EHII Action Network on Measuring Population and Organizational Health Literacy (M-POHL)

- Recommendation for regular HL measurement by WHO’s Solid Facts – Health Literacy
- Letter to Ministers of Health of AT, CH, DE asking for their support
- Carum Dialogue: commitment of WHO Europe to facilitate a HL measurement network within European Health Information Initiative (EHII)
- Suggestion to initiate M-POHL of Quintet countries to EHII
- Invitation of M-POHL to WHO-Europe
- AT is requested and accepts to take the lead of M-POHL for initial two years
- Presentation at Regional Meeting WHO-Europe
- Confirmation of “Concept Note” on M-POHL by EHII
- Invitation to all EHII member states and HLS-EU participating countries to join M-POHL

Characteristics of M-POHL

- Goals: Measurement of HL to advise evidence-informed HL policy
- Structure
  - Participants: One policy (PI) & one research expert (RE) per participating member state
  - Executive committee: 徵加 initiating AT, CH, DE
  - Flattery: So far delegations from all 22 participating member states (AT, BG, BE, CH, CZ, DK, DE, EL, ES, FI, IT, LT, LU, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, SE, SK, UK) and are open for further members.
  - National committees in each participating member state
- Milestones
  - 2018-02 Kick off meeting with Vienna Statement in Vienna / AT
  - 2018-06 2nd meeting on Terms of Reference & Study Protocol for HLS-EU, in Berne / CH
  - 2018-09 Technical Briefing at 6th session of the WHO Regional Committee for Europe in Rome / IT
  - 2018-12 Constitution of HLS-EU project consortium
- 2019-03 3rd meeting, finalisation of HLS-EU study protocol in Dublin, IR

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